



Minutes of Office of Student Life Board meeting

November 9th, 2021

Present: (all via ZOOM) Eamonn Cuggy, Claire Bohan (Chair), Úna Redmond, Fearghal Lynch (immediate past SU President), Terence Rooney (SU President), Kate Goodman (SU VP for Academic Life).

1. Kate and Terence were welcomed by the Chair to their first Board meeting. It was noted that they had completed their director training in June 2021.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as a true record.
3. Matters arising: Non response of CLC to email which the Chair had sent supporting their stance on the lack of consultation about the Bohemians Football Club and DCU partnership was again noted. UR will follow up.
4. Update from OSL Director:
 - a. UR presented the draft budget for 2021-22. This was approved. She also presented management accounts to June 2021. It was noted that based on these accounts that there is likely to be a considerable surplus. This is due to the lack of Clubs and Socs activity over the past year due to COVID restrictions. It was agreed that €500K of this surplus would be earmarked for spending on projects over the next five years which would add value to students. The Board agreed to meet in January 2022 to draw up principles for spending this fund and also to consider some suggestions. UR and EC will meet to discuss the most advantageous way to bank the funds, though it was noted that negative interest rates now apply.
 - b. Staff update:
 - i. Most OSL staff are now working exclusively on campus, though some have availed of the option to WFH 1-2 days as provided for in the agreed Work-Life balance policy. It is organised so that no student facing services are impacted.
 - ii. The student employment programme is operational again, and the Head of Unit is working on the developmental aspects of the roles, which include Helpdesk staff, U crew, Clubs and Socs staff, and occasional events staff.

- iii. The peer mentor pilot programme has been successful to date, and it was suggested that the coordinator present at our next meeting. UR to organise. It is hoped that the current funding arrangement for the post will be continued next year and that the programme could be rolled out to all incoming first year students. FL reminded the Board that it was intended that the university would take on the role after the pilot year. CB advised that this is unlikely to happen and suggested that if OSL has the funding, it should continue to support this very worthwhile programme. This will be finalised at the January meeting.
5. HR update: It was noted that Podge Sheehan had been granted a one year leave of absence and that his role had been filled by Barry Clohessy. Ailsing Fagan had also resigned her role as Communications and Marketing coordinator and it is hoped to have her replacement in post for January 2022.
6. Date and time of next meeting: January 25th @ 4pm.