Minutes

CRC 3

Semester 2

Date: 24-03-2021

Venue: Online via Zoom

Time: 18:00

Exec Attendance: Fearghal Lynch (SU President), Dylan Mangan (VP Engagement and Development), Chloe McMorrow (VP Education and Placement), Lucien Waugh-Daly (VP Academic Affairs), Dean O’Reilly (VP Welfare and Equality), Edy Nastase (Faculty Rep, Engineering and Computing), Ellen Quinn (Faculty Rep, Institute of Education), Caitlin Grant (Faculty Rep, Humanities and Social Sciences), Kate Goodman (Faculty Rep, Business School), Elliot Grennan (Clubs Officer), Aoife Harte (Societies Officer), Rachel Murphy (Faculty Rep, Science and Health)

1. Minutes and Matters Arising (2 minutes)

   The Chair assumed the minutes as read.

   No questions were asked.

   The minutes were accepted by majority.

2. Officer reports (5 minutes)

   The Chair assumed the Officer Reports as read.

   A) President’s Update

      Fearghal Lynch: Elections are going on at the moment. Fearghal congratulated those campaigning. The SU are trying to extend library and U building opening hours.

      The officer reports were unanimously accepted.

3. Pre - Nominated A.O.B (2 minutes)

   A) Student Teacher Vaccinations - Ava Downey BEd3
   B) Email Correspondence - Conor Cassidy INTB1
   C) Points Scholarship & Hoodies - Adam Daly BPY1
   D) Group Work - Brigitta Curry INTB1
4. **Items for Agreement (30 minutes)**

A) Stop CETA - Adam Fagan PGE1

Lucien (VP for Academic Affairs) discussed the motion.

*Response from Ross Boyd BSSCI3: Also supports this motion. It is detrimental to workers' rights and does not need to be passed. As students, we should take action against it as we will be the ones most impacted by climate change.*

**The motion was accepted by majority.**

B) Subsidisation of Obligatory Music Classes for Music Students on the BAJH Programme - Katie Archer BAJH3

Katie mentioned that some courses receive subsidisation for music classes while BAJH students do not. Mandated the VP for Academic Life next year to support music students and staff in obtaining funding.

*Response from Lucien: Fully supports this motion.*

**The motion was accepted by majority.**

C) Unionisation - Lucien Waugh-Daly VP Academic Affairs

Lucien summarised the motion. Put forward that companies who act in bad faith regarding unionisation, should not receive free publicity from the SU.

*Response from Dylan Mangan VP Engagement and Development: Fully supports this motion.*

*Response from John O'Sullivan CA1: Wonders if the union should decide if the individual should be promoted or should we support businesses even if we do not support them ourselves.*

*Response from Lucien: This motion does not oppose, but rather states that we are not going to assist in promoting this as it would be acting against our own interests.*

*Response from Tadgh BAJP3: Agrees with Lucien. We are not going to be shutting anyone down, but we will not support those who do not share the union's ideals.*

*Response from Adam BPY1: Wonders where the line would be where we decide we can no longer provide a platform for a business for example during society events.*

*Response from Lucien: Usually the SU does not promote society events anyway as the Clubs & Socs Office does that.*

*Response from Adam: And just in terms of where the line would be..*
Response from Lucien: This mandate gives the discretion to the President and Vice President for Community and Citizenship so they, the faculty team and the exec team will be making that decision.

Response from Adam: So they will be responsible for making that decision rather than it being put to a vote?

Response from Lucien: They are directly responsible that this will be upheld but in practice it will be a team decision.

Response from Chloe McMorrow VP Education and Placement: Clarifies that what Lucien meant was that the SU could not possibly promote all events - but will if the SU are involved or if the event is taking place alongside an SU event. This motion is about upholding the standard of what is right for everyone.

Response from Tadgh: Clarifies the last paragraph of the motion.

The motion was accepted by majority.

5. **Items for Discussion** *(0 minutes)*

6. **Items for Information** *(0 minutes)*

7. **A.O.B** *(15 minutes)*

   A) Student Teacher Vaccinations - Ava Downey BEd3
   Ava asked if there is anything being done about student teacher vaccinations.

   Response from Chloe: Unfortunately the plans for the vaccine are not set in stone. Hopes that when teachers in schools are vaccinated, student teachers will also. Will try to find out and will send an email.

   B) Email Correspondence - Conor Cassidy INTB1
   Students are not receiving enough communication from lecturers regarding assignments and course material. Particular difficult for first year students who have only known college through online learning. Students have communicated the mental health issues this is causing. Some students are not receiving responses to emails, and this is the only form of communication possible at the moment.

   Response from Fearghal: Sometimes there is a need to contact the programme chair or a higher authority. If this issue continues, the SU can bring this matter further.

   Response from Chloe: That is not good enough and those issues should be addressed. Do contact the SU.
Response from Sarah Behan BAJH2: Agrees there is a lack of communication with lecturers. Course was told it would have a reading week but did not.

Response from Fearghal: This needs to be highlighted at the highest level.

Response from Chloe: Can understand everyone's frustrations. Have raised issues at all meetings. Not having in-person lectures cut off opportunities for extra information being given.

Response from Caoimhe O’Carroll BCL3: The SU could highlight the issue that sometimes a lecturer may not understand what a class rep is and may wonder why the same students are emailing each time.

Response from Jade McNamee JR1: Had an issue with a lecturer who stated that we are only allowed to ask questions within the class and would not be responding to emails, which caused a lot of stress - so backs Conor’s point.

Response from Adam Daly BPY1: There is a lecturer who has outstanding emails about assignments from Semester 1.

Response from Katie Archer BAJH3: There was a lecturer who chose his own class reps rather than go through SU elections. Agrees to educate lecturers about class reps. Also, educating class reps on how to deal if lecturers do not respond to class emails and how to provide feedback.

Question from Tadgh Jenkins BAJP3: For Dean VP Welfare and Equality. Wants to know about availability of counselling services as the topic of stress was brought up.

Response from Dean: Can email counselling@dcu.ie for an appointment or get in touch with myself. Online supports are also available such as burnout and stress management which can be accessed through Loop in the Develop Module. What is going to resolve the issue is solving the communication and workload problems students are under.

Response from Fearghal: There is additional funding available for the counselling service due to Covid-19 and there is no waiting list at the moment. Will bring up communication problems at the top level of the university.

C) Points Scholarship & Hoodies - Adam Daly BPY1
Some students have gotten in touch about the award ceremony for the 550 points and over scholarship. Would like more information to communicate back to students.

Response from Lucien: The ceremony is organised by the President’s Office but will send an email to find out.

Response from Oisin O’Byrne BEd1: Received an email about scholarship at the beginning of semester 1 and was asked in January to upload bank details. Was also
told that the ceremony would take place sometime at the end of March, but no information if it has been cancelled or when it will be.

Response from Adam: And about the hoodies..

Response from Dylan Mangan VP Engagement and Development: They are in the process of being sent out.

D) Group Work - Brigitta Curry INTB1
Some students have difficulty in contacting and getting other group members to participate. Some reasons are that students are paired up with students from other courses or people from their course who they don’t know.

Response from Lucien: Communicate with the students and if it is not effective, contact your lecturer about the issues.

Response from Sean Smyth BEd4: The group assignment protocol might be worth looking at.

Response from Evan Rooney CAM1: Group contracts are useful to go back to before contacting the lecturer.

Response from Chloe: This will be highlighted to academic staff.

Chloe McMorrow VP Education and Placement: Regarding the €250 refund on fees. That was refunded by the government to students for their second semester fees unless you were in final year and paid all fees at the start of the year. This is not related to the 550 points scholarship.

Response from Lucien VP Academic Affairs: To clarify, those in final year who paid all fees at the start of the year will be receiving the refund in the coming September.

Glen Scanlon Tims EPL1: Have not been added to the class rep council meeting lists.

Response from Dylan Mangan VP Engagement and Placement: Will consult lists and should start getting emails soon.

On that note, CRC3 Semester 2 was adjourned