**Exec 4.**

Full attendance.

Minutes - no matters arising.

Stephen Crosby.

Former education officer, new Returning Officer.

* One by-election seat is officially open, as of tonight.
* In order to actually have a by election, 10 people have to nominate the opening of a seat. And then people need to be nominated to run.
* For your respective colleges - do keep an ear on the ground for candidates to fill in the remaining class rep positions.
* Secondly, exec election requirements. The primary thing to discuss is the requirements to become nominated to run for an executive position. You won’t be able to gather physical signatures in order to become elected. The numbers are amendable, but the RO needs to get it past the IADB. Support from exec for a proposal to change the current number would be very good.
* Referendums - the threshold for triggering one could also be amended and lowered, in light of the corona situation, but support/ guidance from Exec would be needed here too. If you guys want to take this on, as a political decision.

HB - is there any way for students to sign the referendum petitions, and to know how many people have signed it?

SC - if we use google docs, I’m not sure if the number of signatures can be displayed. But with MSL, the company who will be hosting the elections, they can facilitate nomination forms too and we might be able to display the numbers of signatures already gathered. I’ll look into it!

CG - and what are the thresholds for the possible referendum in the pipeline?

SC - 5% of the membership of the Union, so around 1500 signatures.

TM - Can you elaborate on us not being allowed to campaign, as members of exec?

SC - the way this has worked in the past, sabbatical officers would not be able to campaign while they were on the clock. So for other exec officers, you would not be allowed to campaign using your access to SU channels to campaign for a particular vote. Same for class reps, they can and should promote voting among students, but not endorse a specific position. You can do that in a private capacity, but not within your role. This also applies to stuff like deleting comments in groups that you moderate for your peers, when you disagree with them - that kind of thing is also NOT allowed.

RP - Do you have a deadline for when you need to know about amendments to thresholds?

SC - Maybe by Friday the 5th it would be good to know, so I can get the information out for anyone thinking to run for election or to trigger a referendum.

MNF - Are you talking about differentiating numbers of nominations for different kinds of exec officers? As in, sabbats as opposed to college officer and the Oifigeach na Gaeilge?

SC - For the entirety of the elections of the union executive - need to be nominated by no less than 150 students at this point, with some regulations for college officers to stay within their constituencies. I would be inclined to change it across the board. Now, IADB might reject this idea altogether, but let’s see. It’s best to contact me outside of office hours as well, as I’m a full time employee myself.

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**Sabbat updates:**

SM - I’m working away on refreshers day and SHAG week. My main focus now is to push the volunteering program for Empower the Family too. There is an information session in 3 days, so please do push that among your constituencies!

LG - I’ve mostly been dealing with elections, working on a great donate policy, working with LGBTQ soc and on disclosure training, waiting to hear back from the Dublin Renters Union to do a few bits together, and then I’ve been working with Sarah and Ruairí on SHAG week.

CG - So a lot of case work, plagiarism and we have an awareness campaign in the pipeline there, mature student society and homeless period Ireland (which is becoming a 3 day event, which I’m delighted about), the PhD conference fund, and planning for a big event down in Smurfit, some headshots maybe again in March because it can be done with social distancing. And then board meetings, GA, and other usual meetings.

RP - library opening hours issue has been a big one and a lot of students have been in touch. We haven’t gotten much of a response from UCD on it yet, management aren’t showing much willingness to engage on it. We’ll see after the next UMT meeting, but we will also be pushing an online campaign to spam the President and Registrar to increase budgets and capacity for library staff, so that they can be open more. More in the pipeline on STI checks and healthcare and SHAG, and working with Leighton on housing rights too. The right to disconnect issue as well - we’re looking to prepare a communication to lecturers on how to reduce the workload for students where possible and how to manage communications with students in a way that reduces stress. I’ll send you a draft of that via email.

CA - last week was very predictive. Marta and Liam and I had a great meeting of the students who have been involved in campaigning last semester on fees and other demands. Another group of students has also joined, so we have 4 student grass root groups now and a new student who wants to get involved with a campus residences campaign. I’m working on a joint statement with the groups and then we’ll come up with a structure of collecting signatories/ support groups of students for it. If you hear of any students angry about fees, do send them my way!

MNF - I’m currently working on getting the book vouchers out to students, as promised in my campaign. I’ll be getting the vouchers with legalbooks.ie, so now I just need to access my budget and get it up and running in the next week or two. Aside from that, it’s been fairly quiet.

MG - not a lot of excitement. I did a staff student meeting today, we have a college council next week, and I’ve prepared an instagram page for the program. Now, it’s on private and I’ve created a logo and put up some posts. Once I get a giveaway prepared for promoting it, I’ll make it public.

SOL - Lauren and I want to get a college council next week. I’m working on the discord for UCD as well, and an all student email promoting it will be going out this week. There are 3 admins now too, who have been really good, and I’m on the lookout for more people who might be able to help with the admin side of things.

CPdJ - there’s been a lot of talk in engineering about a reading week for semester 1, and I’ve put out a survey to see what students think. There has been overwhelming support for the idea among the responders, and it’s been talked about for a while, so I will be working on pushing it further.

LR - Working away with the constituency and had the student training last week. As I’ve mentioned then, myself and Morna will be running an event on permaculture this term, so working away on preparing for that. And, I need to get in touch with some of the other student officers, who wanted to get involved in it as well.

EM - not too much going on, most of the labs have been cancelled. I met with the EDI group in the college of Science last week and we want to do some videos for the UN women in STEM day. Also working with Sci Soc for a big, inter university event. Will be in touch with more updates on that as we go along.

LC - holding a business college council next week, so looking forward to that, especially to connect with the Smurfit students. Some very stressed business students were in touch with me over the Christmas break, one major case went to the grade appeals process. It worked out in the end, but the students were very stressed. And, as I talked about in Council last week, I conducted an evaluation survey and got the responses there. I’m happy to share the findings, if anyone is interested. Things like the levels of satisfaction, improvements for online learning, and key issues and concerns that arose during the term. I will be meeting with the Quinn school of Business management next week, to ensure that the feedback is taken on board and acted on. I also attended the college officers training, which was great. And, I attended the summit meeting with the students who are organising campaigns around fees and other issues. A busy enough start of term!

LM - just working on getting college council set up for next week, we’re just waiting for reps to let us know what time will work best. We don’t want to rush it too much and give people time to prepare for it and allocate the time to attend. Just preparing for the Arts and Humanities program board too.

TM - planning for Seachtain na Gaeilge now, it will be the first week of March. I was planning on doing an insta takeover on the Monday, and a cross part panel discussion with Irish politicians. L&H would be up for it on the Monday too. On Tuesday, the Cumann Gaelach will be running a debate and the Sceim will have an event, which they are happy to throw under the Seachtain na Gaeilge umbrella. I’m also thinking of running a movie night and a games night. Need to follow up on some emails now and get ringing to get things set in stone for the events, and that’s it!

CA - so it’s just Hannah who hasn’t updated, but she has been on sick leave.

HB - yeah, I’m just back and happy to pop into college councils.

**College Officer Roles and College Council Week**

CG - so on the College Council agenda point. I know some of you are running College Councils, and we are thinking with Keleigh to run college council weeks, in order to make them more visible to students!Coordinate them somehow, so we can push them as events more centrally, as well as your usual promotions. Let us know what dates would work, and Keleigh can do registration forms, all student emails, facebook lives, zoom calls - you name it! So, that’s the idea of College Council week, and feel free to contact Keleight about it in the meantime.

CG and LG - And on College Officer roles - just to think about how they are currently structured. Constitutionally, we can have more roles, but we need to think about how many positions do we want, what to name them and how to split up the work. We have 9, but we can have up to 12. Especially considering how big the constituencies are for Lucy and Emily, maybe splitting them would be smart. And in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, maybe those should be two separate roles or maybe it should stay as two of the same, working in partnership.

SOL - just to say from my experience, having two of the same roles has worked really well for us.

MG - in health sciences, yeah it might be better to have a college officer for the nursing and midwifery students, for the sake of representation on boards in the college.

LR - definitely a vet college officer would make so much sense! They are so different as a student group, they don’t associate themselves much as a part of Ag and Food, they are their own thing with student advisors and societies, so it would make sense for them to have a college officer representing them.

LM - and I would add to what Sophie said, it has been brilliant to have each other. But at the same time, I think both me and Sophie, our degrees fall under Arts and Humanities, not under Social Sciences. And it hasn’t been a major issue, but for future students who might want to run for the role - having pure arts and humanities students in the roles and not having social sciences represented might be an issue in the future. I’m not sure if I’m for or against splitting the role myself, but it’s just a point to take on board.

CPdJ - with engineering and architecture, those two have almost separate campuses and whenever a college officer comes from either, the other then feels left out. So that’s very challenging for the college officer.

**AOB**

RP - Do we want to set ourselves a timeline, or how do we feel about the signature threshold for referendums/ elections?

CG - it should be lowered.

SM - it should be lowered.

CPdJ - yeah, for me collecting signatures was tough even with campus being open last year, just because the buildings were so quiet.

CA - I would say that College Officers should have less signatures.

TM - I feel there should be a proportionate need for signatures, compared to the number of people in the constituency.

CA - maybe we can push gathering signatures by using the discord page too.

RP - I can make a doodle poll to suss out what the most appropriate numbers will be, and then we can have something to bring back to Stephen.

MNF - I actually have a question related to the email campaign, clogging inboxes about the library issue. Just wanted to flag that the same as last year, it would be good to have an Irish language template available too. Maybe something for Tadhg to work on, so just flagging it.

RP - yeah, we can definitely add that. And work on the graphics for SHAG to make sure they are available in both languages.

TM - and on the translation, ity was in my manifesto that any official documents going out would be made available as gaeilge as well. I understand that sometimes things need to go out fast, but please do pass them on to me so I can ensure that they’re also available as Gaeilge.

RP - thanks Tadhg! We want to be mindful that you are an unpaid officer, so we don’t want to over burden you with translation work, but we can definitely forward the main press releases to you.

HB - and we can also link in with Christina, who manages and supports sending out press releases, to make sure that you have a chance to translate them as well.