**UCDSU Council Meeting 5**

**Monday, 27th January 2020**

**Venue: The Fitzgerald Chamber**

Recycling/Compost/ General Waste bins on campus

* Very few segregated waste bins across campus and almost no compostable bins despite mandate from February 25th 2019
* Should model the new bins like the ones already in use in Newman and the Agricultural Science buildings
* Waste is not being disposed of correctly if everything is going into one bin
* Estate Services says that the rubbish is taken off campus and separated out so everything can be processed correctly and 2 thousand tons of municipal waste is generated by the university a year
* O’Brien is one of the biggest buildings on campus and therefore should have segregated bins
* UCD should be committed to having bins that ensure everything is segregated to allow an increase in recycling from 20%
* Have contacted Estate Services and heard nothing back
* Proposed mandate is different from the existing mandate because it includes composting bins

Motion Approved

Completed Mandates

* Remove five mandates from the policy book that are no longer needed due to them being fulfilled or irrelevant

Motion Approved

Support of Palestinian People through Boycott, Divestment & and Sanctions Campaign

* Correction to an existing mandate. The IPSC received the original mandate and stated that the rough date given, “the 1950’s” which was not correct and the date should be corrected to 1967
* Mandate gives support with preventing Israeli items from being sold in the shops
* Looking for opportunities/situations to implement the mandate in the future
* The mandate only currently applies to boycotting items in the shop. Has the ability to impact university programs, research, or divestment in the future

Motion Approved

Finals weight

* Some final exams are weighted at 80% or more
* Can study for a few hours before the exam and then show up and pass it without attending class during the semester. This devalues the purpose of degrees.
* Can be a lot of pressure to have exams weigh that much on your overall grade
* Some schools are much worse at this practice of heavily weighted final exams than others
* Schools are meant to have a diversity in their marking scheme and academic regulations weighing final exams and continuous assessment would be in line with this
* Reps should lobby their schools individually first before implementing a mandate. It is possible to send emails and discuss with module and program coordinators in student staff forums. It is better to discuss the issue directly with them instead of lobbying
* Should be done on a school by school basis because it will not work across all the schools
* Final dissertations are 100% and it would not be feasible to reduce this. In certain graduate programs it might not be practical to have multiple weighted components
* A sweeping 70% mandate has the possibility to be disastrous for students
* It is up to individual lecturers to set the syllabus and policies about classes. It would be difficult to get every lecturer to alter their teaching and final exam percentage

Motion Approved

SU Feedback

* SU does not carry out feedback, the numbers of support and disapproval do not exist and the Union needs a good feedback system
* Every semester the Campaigns and Engagement officer should collect feedback from students on the SU such as what they like and the problems they have
* Feedback will make the SU better, more inclusive and more inviting for students since they will be listened to
* The Union has a specific structure and model of how students are represented, while it may not be always great at it the Union should not turn into something that only cares about how it is perceived
* Class reps are elected to gain the opinion of students and work up
* Not everyone is involved with class reps, they might be intimidated by them, the students could have multiple reps and be unsure of who to talk to or there could be too many students for one rep to handle
* Students may not be interested in talking to class reps and if so they probably would not want to take a survey about the Union or get involved
* If students do not want to talk to class reps the Union should figure out different ways for them to engage
* The idea is good but it does not need to be a mandate. The way it is written is too vague to create real change
* With 30,000 plus students it is difficult to make sure they are all aware about what the Union is doing which would allow them to make an informed decision
* Students might not understand what the Union does for them and only talk about the negatives. Perceptions on what the Union should or should not do could go against what is best for all students
* Should be more present on campus to build a better relationship and grow stronger. Do not necessarily need a surveys to do this
* Implementation, regularity, and bias could become a problem when gathering responses and generating data
* Do not think that surveys are the only method of feedback that this motion intended

Motion not passed

What is the Primary Role of the Union

* The Union has strayed from what it should be doing, which is fighting for students. It has been political but useless for the students
* It is leaning to one side and not productive. Statement motions like the Palestinain mandate did nothing and a big deal was made about it. Need to stop doing nothing while taking credit for fighting for students on issues they do not care about
* The Union does a lot of things that students do not agree with and it should refrain from doing anything that would make a large group of students angry
* Only a few students went to the Climate Strike protests and effort would be better spent on issues closer to home. Trivial day to day problems are the ones students care about most such as microwaves, plugs, and cheap food
* Students are inherently political and have been the heart of change in the last referendums. The Union cannot stand for no political points whatsoever and ignore them because of other issues
* It’s small minded to only look at the issues happening right in front of you. Students care about broader issues, these issues impact them and they need to be dealt with
* The only Union event that has sold out this year was related to human rights
* Some student’s existence is inherently political and the Union needs to support them. Some have been marginalized by family, peers, and lecturers. The Union was started in a response to something political and their actions continue to impact students
* Smaller issues are dealt with on a smaller scale because a mandate is not needed to address them, much of the work the college officers do is on the smaller issues. The Union is a multifaceted tool where it can look at the big and small issues at the same time
* Just because students cannot attend a protest does not mean they do not care about the issue. Can believe in something but not be in the position to attend an event
* We do not want to alienate large groups of students but there are many students who are impacted by issues and the Union needs to take a stance to support them. Should be worried about not doing something and the impact it could have on them
* Need to have conversations and bring people together even if they are on different sides of the argument. Should not make students feel like their voice is not heard
* Politics and student engagement are intertwined because the personal is political. Just because an issue does not represent your student experience does not mean it is not someone else's student experience
* The Union is a political union and it supports student politics. Reps were elected to act as a representative body for its members
* Some issues that are brought up at council need to be justified as to why they are taken on

Exec Reports

Entertainment

* DJ lessons are starting again this semester and will retry running Gaelic lessons
* Have distributed 8,000 ENTS cards so far
* Potentially running a 6 nations competition with healthy UCD. Have students submit photos of their healthy lunches and a random winner is picked
* In contact with Subset to look at the back wall in the Student Centre and paint it
* Trying to hold the color run this semester since planning took longer than expected due to the environmental impacts of the routes
* Get in contact if you want to be part of the audience for a panel tv show about rugby

Approved

Campaigns and Engagement

* Great Donate was very successful this time around and all items were taken. In the future want to shift a lot of the burden to UCD Estates
* Registered about 300 students to vote with the stand outside of Newman

Approved

Welfare

* Types of Sex you Might have in College play has two shows tomorrow at 1 and 5. Tickets are free
* February is Niteline awareness month and on February 10th Niteline will be in the atrium to talk about the work they do
* Shag week is week 4 from February 11-13. Will have a live podcast of I’m Grand Mam, which is ticketed and the tickets are limited.
* Have planned a trans day of visibility and an It’s stops now campaign
* Anonymous reporting tool went live Monday and an official launch will take place later in the month. The tool allows individuals to report any instances of bullying, harassment, sexual harassment or other issues on UCD campus

Approved

President

* Working on graduate students supports to get them better working conditions on campus
* Planning out the 45th anniversary of the Union so if you have ideas get in contact
* Attended many meetings on supporting students who are struggling
* Working with a company doing research into what students think and what they want at university

Approved

Education

* Analyzing the exams in RDS and Newman from last semester and make it better for the next exams
* Working on the libraries because they are in a shamble and funding is critical to improve them. Students need to use the articles the library provides in order for them to stay in the catalogue
* Will take the criticisms about the cancelation of Late Night Student Study in Astra Hall on board. The driving factors behind the decision was the decline in number due to library being open later and the negative impact it can have on mental health

Approved

Agricultural, Food Science, and Vet

* Taken as read

Approved

Law

* Taken as read

Approved

Oifigeach Na Gaelige

* Taken as read

Approved

Science

* Taken as read

Approved

Engineering and Architecture

* The Gender equality implementation team documents show that they are doing good work so far

Approved

AOB

* Antisocial behavior at the bus stop is continuing so the Union has to meet with Dublin Bus on Friday. Need to come up with ideas to stop students from being antisocial or else the bus service to campus will stop
* Want to highlight election campaigns to inform students about the upcoming election and why they should get involved