

Exec 13 Minutes
20/04/2020

Student in different time zones during exams

- Science class rep brought up that issue that there is a student that needs to sit an exam at 1am and 6am
- A lot of module coordinators have not been accommodating and have only given students the option to resit exams in December. It is not fair to make students choose between sitting an exam at a bad time or in December
- Some faculty made the recommendation that students adjust their timetable to a UCD schedule, not to the timezone where they are living
- Is it possible to escalate this issue higher? Yes, have the students contact Joanna and she will be in contact with registry to address the problem
- Students should have a first opportunity to sit their exams
- Module coordinators are allowed to do in-module resits, with these taking place over the summer. The benefit of an in-module resit is that a student would still get the degree at the same time
- The in-module resist policy created a space of time from when assessments finish where students can do a second assessment or essay which will be graded and added to their transcript before the next semester. It is graded with letter grades not as a pass/fail
- Students can also retrospectively apply for an IX to resit the exam in the next term. They will automatically get it without financial or grade penalty
- There is no mechanism within the University to mandate lecturers to grade in a certain way. The University can only police guidelines, but ultimately Deans can supercede lecturers to realign grades
- The policy is actually a good one and because of the flexibility in it, it is important to contact the SU if students run into any trouble. That way the Union can get onto the lecturers and make sure the policy is fairly implemented

Elections

- The big concern is in regards to hacking. What is the likelihood that a student could hack the system?
- Do we have an opinion from a trusted consultant regarding this potential issue? Not yet but we will get one
- The Returning Office talked about online advertising paid for through the Union, is this happening? That was up to the Returning Office to set up the rules and communicate to the candidates
- There has been no recent communication updates from the Returning Office about online ads
- Are the elections running for the three day period for all students or are there specific days a college can vote on? No, all students can vote across the three day

COVID19 Situation

- Have not heard back from the students who would have been or are on placement now, so think everything is going ok
- There have been questions as to when canceled placements will happen but that comes down to when the hospitals and labs open back up and declare it safe
- In a meeting Deeks promised to work on a three to five year financial plan to support students with the SU. He has however gone back on this promise in an email and the Union is now figuring out a way to attack him for going back on his word
- There are some students self-isolating in residences on campus but no one has the virus
- The No Detriment Policy was a big success for the Union
- Now moving forward looking at exams, ongoing supports and mental health

Translating information for no detriment

- If students are reaching out with questions please let us know what the questions are because we are trying to build an FAQ sheet
- Need to post the information to register to vote in the No Detriment Facebook group because it can be a huge boost in numbers. As of now have 800 students registered to vote, there is no quorum for the elections this
- COVID19 monitoring group has been in place since before the lockdown. It is a very broad sweeping group with individuals from various posts throughout the University
- The subcommittee of GA reviews the work of the UMT so they have an understanding of what is going on
- Are working on translating the No Detriment policy from the email into a statement that students can understand
- How firm is the policy? Can we go to a module coordinator and say that certain things are not allowed? Yes, the guidelines tell module coordinators how to grade students and the Deans and Heads of Teaching and Learning will change the grades if they do not align with the policy
- There is a concrete guideline that there is no late submission penalty and it is explicit that students will not drop down a degree level, say from a 1.1 to a 2.1
- How transparent are the review processes for students who question their grades? Are there students on the boards? It was not discussed in detail the make-up of the boards and minutes from the meetings are confidential but if students raise an issue it will be addressed

International Student Refunds

- As of now there has been no progress on international student refunds. But the group of students is still interested in them
- We still agree that refunds need to happen but the No Detriment policy took the forefront. This is the next fight with the University
- Had a meeting with USI and they have the position that USI will not push for any kind of refund or compensation because it will legitimize the commercialization of Irish Higher Education. Thought that if you treat universities like a business then they will go bust like

a business and no one will bail them out. USI has selected other priorities for the lockdown

- If universities want to run like a business then students need to push back and ask for a refund for the services they are not getting
- This model of higher education does not work if the entire institution will crumble without the high fees of international students. Now is the time to strike and fight back since we have leverage
- Might need to change the language and be more strategic but we need to raise this as an issue on campus. There are at least 600 students who have raised concerning stories
- We can talk about the rates we think are appropriate but the more important issue is the approach we are taking. Need to look for where there are ins to start having a conversation with the university
- At the UMT education meeting they said that students coming into school in September will look at adjusting tuition appropriate if it is online
- The timeline is not up to us to decide, we need the students to model themselves after the No Detriment Facebook group, raise voices, email TDs, and the SU will support them
- Don't want to start swamping students with a lot of action for students when they have exams. Can try to involve alumni with the campaign to get more attend
- Should push the university to give back funds to international Masters students and then see where it goes from there. We should use the group that is activated and let it grow from there
- Do not think we should differentiate between domestic and international students. There is a difference between the fees domestic students pay and international students pay. It is more of an issue that the state sets the domestic rates
- Others will join if we kick off with the No Detriment people
- Need to think of the complications of what would happen if there is a big group of domestic students lobbying for a refund

Feedback survey for class reps

- Want to send it to everyone to have a read through, see what you think, if there is something that needs to be rephrased or added in
- Looking at sending it out towards the end of exams