

Minutes

	Meeting	: PSU Exec Meeting
	Date	: 3.3.21
	Venue	: Teams
	Time	: 16:45-18:30
	<p>Attendees: Andrea La Touche, Rania Shadeed, Louis Pemble, Aman Niyaz, Doireann Peelo, Sandrine Ndahiro, Vedant Modi, Niamh O'Neill</p> <p>Apologies: Cian</p> <p>Absent: Panashe Chikwengo</p> <p>In attendance: Aimée McKenzie, Sanjana Shashi-Kumar</p>	
No.	Items	Actions
1	Andrea started the meeting at 16:48	
2	Minutes approved by Louis, seconded by Doireann.	
3	Doireann wished everyone a Sheachtain na Gaeilge (Happy Irish Week, this year will be happening for two weeks).	
4	<p>Andrea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with PhD group. Met with UCC, endorsement from other colleges. • Meeting with LIT regarding PG symposium tomorrow evening. • 7-year limit to student visa, needs more work • Survey to be presented by Sanj in this meeting • Handbook ready to be launched for researchers • Website launched and nice work and great accessibility • Hospital calls, mostly calls about testing and housing issues - students concerned as housemates are bringing in guests to their homes. ALT advised student to speak with management and others in the apt. about the situation. If no improvement ALT suggested a formal email/letter so there is a trail of communication. • 70 testing at UL. • ALT drove past College Court last night as she didn't believe the social media posts. Ryan Tubridy (RTE announcer) was speaking about it in his programme this morning. He received a letter from a student who was in their accommodation asking not to be painted with the same brush. K.Mey and Sr UL group are heading out this evening to try to speak to them. • UL@50 ALT has brought the lack of engagement back to the UL group. Trying to 	

	<p>pitch it to students in a way perhaps to empower students. PSU to be supporting students</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability services meeting with ALT. Have employment opportunities, details in ALT report. • Met with UL International Society. would like to do something for Easter for the DP children; Easter eggs or something like that for the children. • LIT, Mary I, PSU, each year we organise a conference LPRC. Online event this year. • Accommodation funds update, those that get in touch can get a voucher if they are returning next year. If not, they can get a refund. • Hospital/Patrick Ryan, about supports. He was worried that it may be replacing UL services and indemnity. • Students were advised from UL, that international students could have stayed home for the second semester and still have access to the work visa after their study is completed. had requested from the government to allow students to stay home but the response came back too late because students were concerned over the visas, so they arrived to UL. • 	
5	<p>Rania</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PG Month finished and in the process to collect KPIs, engagement, prizes, sponsorship. Thank you to the President's Office and faculties. • International trip, Nige has brought it up to UL Exec. The delay is that "if" the students are reimbursed, all students will be reimbursed. Suggestion is to take the cost of the breakdown of the real thing vs the online version, to calculate the difference and that be reimbursed. • Grade re-check, March 23. Rania has received feedback. • Conferring ceremonies. Trying to figure out how to communicate to the committee on the event. Due to the petition that is going around about the online ceremony, decisions will be up in the air. As we progress, we will know. There has not been a definitive decision amongst the unions. Louis added that the college is meeting with all class reps over the conferring ceremonies. Patrick Ryan VP is at the helm of those meetings. ALT, June conferring will be online as we are still in the thick of the pandemic and they take so long to organise. ALT has received links to different Irish conferring ceremonies, she has made notes. Putting together her thoughts on the online ceremonies. Rania/the initiative that UL is meeting with class reps over the ceremonies is a step in the right direction. ALT worries that there isn't enough PSU engagement and class rep knowledge of the sense of the PSU. • SL is reforming the class rep system. Aimée offered that the previous Sabbats were looking at having a base for engagement of our class reps feeding into our faculty reps • Niamh and group are trying to reach out to class reps to propose meeting with them and engaging with them from the class rep perspective. Training doesn't mention PSU (Doireann) will give us details on the class rep training. 	

6	Cian sent his apologies	
7	<p>Sanjana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey results regarding online events. • 504 responses • Fitness challenge highest • online yoga next • meditation third • suggested continuing with the three top challenges. Perhaps the fitness challenge is highest perhaps because of the money. • from the breakdown, they suggest quizzes, chats. Evenings and weekends are best for online social activities. Some students are overwhelmed with online activities. • ALT and Rania want to have a weekly online chat session, "gossip session". ALT explained that they may take turns with these types of meetings. What could be the pitch of this? Any thoughts or ideas? No one offered any suggestions. • Website is up and looking for feedback. Please send on comments or suggestions. • Please send your photo/bio. you can add/change your photo if you would like. 	
8	<p>Vedant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALT in touch with other Unions • looking for students with spouses • sending letter perhaps in two weeks after the college court debacle • student fees, 3y vs 4y, contract, Vedant has been contacted by a student who wants to remain anonymous. Ul has procedures and policies about most things so • Michelle and Vedant to meet with Ger Downes re Podcast. Michelle interviewing Kerstin Mey to start the podcast series 	
9	<p>Doireann</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bingo last week was very successful, smoothly run, prizes given out, great night. ALT asked when the next event will happen as it was so popular to lighten the load and keep it light. Other quizzes, Family Fortune. NUIG person to give a contact for a comedy show. • PSYou, need to open the page - will be launching that project/idea 	
10	<p>Sandrine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group has been working in the IWD video and plan for equality week. Met on video today. Presently 7 minutes long, so draft should be sent to Sandrine by Friday. It's looking very good so far. • Met regarding equality week. Week 9. Would like to collaborate with Doireann. Perhaps getting tik tok, social media. Irish things that international students might not understand. speak with other PG unions/students regarding their issues and how they perceive Irish. Lots of students aren't aware of equality policy. • Looking for video ideas, to showcase the diversity at UL. Andrea suggested someone in the disability dept./ podcast. Zoom interviews/Sanctuary in UL. Mamobo on social issues in Ireland/her own show, perhaps a conversation with Sandrine. • Meeting with Out in UL to discuss options. Any suggestions on fun and engagement as well as educational. • ALT spoke with the Disability office yesterday and there is concern over exploitation/benefit to the student. Trying to get as many voices. Colonising the 	

	curriculum, taking into account the diverse community at UL. International students have different ideas which is good. Loads of people are saying yes but having to be careful on how to get them to work together. Dr. Maria Connolly has been appointed theposition at UL this past week.	
11	<p>Niamh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hoping to have a meeting with class reps soon. <p>Survey to circulate the first week back after Easter. will pass it on to ALT and RS before circulating it. And perhaps the PSU will offer incentives to those who participate.</p>	
12	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louis asked that we amend the time for Exec the weeks we have Council. It was agreed that the Exec will start at 4:30 the weeks of Council. Aman proposing putting together a magazine on the representation of the students. Aman will send in a proposal about it with a link. If anyone is interested in running for a position as an Officer for either union, please speak to ALT, RS or AM. 	
13	17:50 ALT adjourned the meeting.	

Duration: 1 hour and 2 minutes

Next meeting: 9.3.21