

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of the Student Life Committee

5th February, 2014

Present: Prof. Kevin O'Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Mr Graham Daniels (Director of Accommodation and Catering), Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Mr Ryan Kenny (GSU President), Dr Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr Trevor Peare (Keeper of Readers' Services, Library), Ms Sarah Smith (GSU Vice President), Mr Conor Traynor (Vice Chair DUCAC), Ms Leona Coady (Academic Registry), Donal McKeating (Chair, CSC),

Apologies:, Ms Janet Byrne (Financial Services Division), Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Mr Stephen Garry (SU Welfare Officer) Mr Tom Lenihan (President TCDSU), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers), Mrs Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall)

Absent: Mr John Murphy (Director, Information Systems Services), Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Crèche), Fr Peter Sexton (Convenor, Chaplaincy), Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Mr PJ Moloney (Chair, Publications Committee),

Present: Ms Helen Richardson (Minutes Secretary)

Section A

SLC/13-14/43 Minutes (A.1)

Ms. Leona Coady asked that her apologies be noted in the minutes of 8th January 2014. The minutes of this meeting were otherwise approved.

SLC/13-14/44 Matters Arising(A.2)

Prof. Kevin O'Kelly introduced himself to the Committee as the New Dean of Students. Dr. Amanda Piesse was thanked for her hard work during her time as Dean of Students and also Simone Cameron-Coen on her contribution to the Committee.

Matters arising from the minutes of 8th January 2014 were discussed and are recorded below as items (SLC/13-14/45/46/47/48/49)

SLC/13-14/45 Capitation Committee

As Mr. Lenihan was not in attendance at this meeting, a full report was not given. Mr. Kenny did however report that a preliminary meeting had taken place with the VP/CAO to limit the cuts to 3.75% for this academic year in recognition of the communication issue.

SLC/13-14/46 Study at Trinity Website

Mr. Trevor Peare expressed concern about possible content overlaps with the Trinity Life website and the Admissions website. This may also raise issues when other sites are updated. The student

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webpage may also be redundant. Dr. Erika Doyle offered to look into this and report back to the Committee.

SLC/13-14/47 Student Charter

Comments and suggestions should be sent to the Dean of Students Office (dean.students@tcd.ie)

SLC/13-14/48 College Website

The Director of Accommodation and Catering Services drew the attention of the Committee to the fact that the Communications Office is reviewing the College websites. The Dean of Students will suggest to the Communications Office that he should be consulted on this revamp.

SLC/13-14/49 Annual Report

Annual reports from Services should be circulated and presented (2/3 per meeting). The Dean of Students to co ordinate a roster.

SLC/13-14/50 Strategic Planning 2014-2019 (A.3)

The Dean of Students informed the Committee that the VP has called a meeting to discuss the procedures for preparing the Strategic Plan. A Strategic Planning steering group has been set up.

There will be four working groups for each of the four pillars (education; research and innovation; student life; public engagement). The Dean of Students has been asked to chair the student life working group. The Committee will consist of:

Dean of Students
Senior Tutor
Associate VP for Global Relations
Director of Trinity Access Programmes
2 rep from Student Services (Declan Treanor and Michelle Tanner)
Secretary to the Scholars
SU President
GSU President
Chair of CSC
Vice Chair of DUCAC
Academic Nominee AHSS Faculty (Prof. Elaine Moriarty)
Academic Nominee EMS Faculty (Prof. Mark Dyer)
Academic Nominee HS Faculty (Prof. John Walsh)

The Dean of Students asked the Committee whether an external stakeholder should be appointed. No clear decision was made. It might also be appropriate to run focus groups. The SU and GSU nominees will also need to canvas the views of their constituencies (class reps, executive committees).

The first draft of the reference document should be ready for 21st March 2014 and a draft of the strategic objectives should be available for consultation at the Student Life Committee of 9th April 2014. It is hoped that at meeting on 5th March 2014 a draft document will be presented for comments.

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Some concerns were expressed that no information is currently available on the Vision, Mission and Values and on the future profile of the University. The Dean of Students will meet with the VP/CAO regarding this.

SLC/13-14/51 Irish Survey of Student Engagement (A.4)

This national survey will run from 17th February until 7th March. The Trinity steering group is led by Prof. Amanda Piesse and includes:

Chair: A Piesse

Senior Lecturer Patrick Geoghegan

Dean of Graduate Studies Aideen Long

Academic Secretary Trish Callaghan

Research Information Systems Assistant Librarian Niamh Brennan

President GSU Ryan Kenny

VPGSU Sarah Smith

President SU Tom Lenihan

Education officer SU Jack Leahy

Welfare officer SU Stephen Garry

The decision has been made to incentivize the participation in the survey by contributions to the Student Hardship Fund.

The survey will be advertised through emails, posters, banners, electronic logo and tags to be included in emails and the information screens on campus. It was noted that the results would be published too late for inclusion in the Strategic Planning.

Dr. Erika Doyle, announced that the results of the international student's barometer will be released at the end of February and a town hall meeting is scheduled for 10th March 2014.

Section B

SLC/13-14/52 AOB

Trevor Peare proposed that a co ordinate approach be taken for off-books students. The Dean of Students will follow up on the progress made on this by his predecessor.

Conor Traynor asked if the Printing House could be used for extracurricular activities. The Dean of Students will raise this with the School of Engineering.

The date of the next meeting is 5th March 2014 at 11am in the Boardroom.

Section C