

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Draft Minutes of the Student Life Committee

16th September, 2014

Present: Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Mr Adrian Neilan (Commercial Revenue Unit), Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Ms. Megan Lee (GSU Vice President), Mr. Adam Hanna (GSU President), Eanna Drury (Chair, CSC), Ms. Cathy Gallagher (Representing Ms. Michelle Tanner, Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Ian Mooney (SU Welfare Officer), Mr Domhnall McGlacken-Byrne (President TCDSU) , Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Ms Mary McMahon (Academic Registry), Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Mr John Murphy (Director, Information Systems Services), Mr Conor Traynor (Vice Chair DUCAC), Ms. Kathryn Smith (Library), Ms. Louise Ryan (Deputy CFO)

Apologies: Dr Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers),

Absent: Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Crèche), Fr Peter Sexton (Convenor, Chaplaincy), Mr PJ Moloney (Chair, Publications Committee),

Present: Ms Helen Richardson (Minutes Secretary)

Section A

SLC/14-15/1 Minutes (A.1)

The Dean of Students welcomed the Committee. As there were a number of new members on the Committee everyone introduced themselves briefly. The Apologies were noted and minutes of previous meeting were approved.

SLC/14-15/2 Matters Arising (A.2)

Ms. Deirdre Flynn (Student Counselling Service) mentioned that the Student Death Protocol was noted as a minimum risk in the last minutes, however the Protocol is not fit for purpose if an international student death should arise. Global Relations office will look at the protocol and recommend changes.

The Irish Survey of Student Engagement summary report was completed and circulated to the University. The report itself is very anonymous. Workshops will be organised to analyse the results.

The College Alcohol Policy was submitted to Council and accepted in principle. A revised draft will be submitted this year to include amendments by the Alcohol Policy Review Committee

SLC/14-15/3 Student Life Committee: objectives for 2014-2015 (A.3)

The College's strategic plan will be published in October. It's a very high level document. There are 32 specific objectives and each will require an implementation plan.

Student Life will fall into several categories within the strategic plan and will look at :

1. Transition to College
2. Environment for students
3. Services & Academic Registry
4. Clubs & Societies
5. Online student initiative
6. Student to alumni transition

The Sports & Recreation strategy will be launched aligned with the College Strategic Plan and will look at delivery and development of sport. Performance and participation are two of the key objectives in this strategy. Ensuring that both the physical and mental wellbeing of students is maintained is a very important element. The main challenge is ensuring that the strategy links in with other services as a joined up approach is needed within the services. The Student Life Committee will play a vital role in this.

The Committee will look at ways to support services. The development of individuals is important and College needs to support and enhance what students get in order to enhance their experience.

Student Development, Academic Development and e-portfolios are three key areas that need to be considered.

There is a need of funding and investing of money into student services. Expectations need to be matched with resources. The Committee will suggest and recommend implementation plans and associated costs for each objective.

The e-portfolio should capture all engagement of students. A central place where all activities can be logged showing their progression.

The Committee are very concerned that without funding no expectations will be met.

Accommodation is a big issue for students and the Students Union feel strongly that College are not helping them in this struggle.

The GSU are concerned about Orientation and feel that increased communication is needed from College. They are understaffed during Orientation for postgraduate students. College needs to share some of the responsibility with the GSU.

The Dean of Students indicated that these would be taken on board as well as the College Strategic Plan and a set of targets established for the Committee for 2014/15.

SLC/14-15/4 Student Life Website (A.4)

A working group is required as a matter of urgency. The Dean of Students showed the Committee the current website and outlined clearly the problems that students are encountering when they are trying to find information on our websites.

The website at the moment is inadequate and unprofessional. The working group will take ownership and will highlight the issues and work on solutions to the problems. They will report back to the Student Life Committee with their progress.

SLC/14-15/5 e-Learning (A.5)

New online courses commenced in September 2014. The Committee are concerned that there was no discussion on the student experience with student services for new e-learning courses. E-students will have the same status as students who are on campus. There are concerns over what services are being offered to these students? The University has a responsibility to ensure that these students have a good experience, however funding will be required to support this additional cost on services. The Dean of Students will invite the Associate Dean for Online Education, Professor Tim Savage and Dr. Julie Byrne (Social Studies) to give a presentation to the Committee where it will be clarified what is the norm and what are the expectations of students undertaking these courses. The Committee needs to be pro-active and make proposals to the e-learning committee.

Deirdre Flynn stated that all new course applications go through Council and the application process should include what student services will be required and relevant costing associated with these services included in the application.

The Dean of Students will talk with the Senior Lecturer and the Provost about the application process to council and what should be included in the forms for any future new courses.

SLC/14-15/6 Dean's Roll of Honour (A.6)

The Dean of Students voiced his concerns regarding Dean's Roll of Honour. There were 750 awards made in 2013/2014. The meeting criteria to apply needs to be improved. The Committee agreed that it needs to have more integrity and perhaps introduce levels. The

Dean of Students will compile a working group to address and recognise this. The current award is based on written reflection, however activity needs to be recognised.

Transformation is required and needs to be addressed promptly. Out of 850 applicants in 2013/2014, 750 were accepted based on the current criteria required. The committee is in agreement that the Dean's Roll of Honour should be about quality, not quantity. The whole process needs a revamp and the working group will look at this in depth.

SLC/14-15/6 Schedule of Reports from Services & sub-committees (A.6)

Short presentations are given to the Student Life Committee from each service and sub-committee. The Dean of Students invited the representatives from Capitalated bodies to give their presentation next.

Section B

SLC/14-15/7 Dates for future meetings (B.1)

The dates for future meetings this year have been set and circulated.

SLC/14-15/8 Any Other Urgent Business (B.2)

The Director of Commercial Revenue Unit will be invited to give a presentation to the Committee and the accommodation concerns raised by the SU can be discussed in more detail.

Section C