

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Draft Minutes of the Student Life Committee

12th November, 2014

Present: Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Ms. Breffni Jones (Representing Mr. Adrian Neilan, Commercial Revenue Unit), Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Ms. Megan Lee (GSU President), Mr. Adam Hanna (GSU Vice President), Ms. Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Ian Mooney (SU Welfare Officer), Mr Domhnall McGlacken-Byrne (President TCDSU) , Ms Mary McMahon (Representing Ms. Leona Coady, Academic Registry), Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Ms. Claire Buttanshaw (Vice Chair DUCAC), Ms. Caitriona Sheil (Secretary, CSC)

Apologies: Mr. John Murphy (Director, Information Systems Services), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers), Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Ms. Kathryn Smith (Library), Mr. Eanna Drury (Chair, CSC)

Absent: Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Crèche), Rev Julian Hamilton (Chaplaincy), Jennifer McCahill (Chair, Publications Committee), David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Ms. Louise Ryan (Deputy CFO)

Present: Ms Helen Richardson (Minutes Secretary)

Section A

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

The apologies were noted. The minutes were approved and signed following a change to (A3 15/11) which should state that the HEA have no resources to process and analyse data.

SLC/14-15/16 Matters Arising (A.2)

The meeting to discuss the Student Death Protocol is taking place today in the afternoon and an update will be available for the next meeting of the Student Life Committee.

Student Life Website – This is an item on the Agenda and will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting. The meeting took place on Monday 9th November.

Dean’s Role of Honour – This is also an item on the Agenda and will be discussed later in meeting.

Orientation steering group have met however a meeting with the GSU has still to be organised.

E-Learning – A decision has been made to allocate 20% of fees towards Student Services. This will be allocated to the COO to distribute to services and also includes Academic Registry. Dr. Claire Laudet asked for clarification on the issue raised at the last meeting in relation to how the COO would distribute the 20% to services that do not report directly to the COO. The Dean of Students will follow this up and will let the Committee know.

There is a need for a meeting regarding the January orientation for visiting/exchange students to discuss what information needs to be given to them.

SLC/14-15/17 ISSE Survey 2014 – Results Report (A.3)

A copy of the report is available for the Committee. This is a National results report and is not institution specific. It is useful to see how the data is managed and collected and the information available. The numbers are indices and not actual percentages. Sectoral averages are reported with statistics. The Quality Office hold data for Trinity and the Dean of Students has requested a copy of this so that the Committee can see it. The preliminary report prepared by the Quality Office shows data by cohort, faculty, age, gender. Specific reports will be tailored for specific needs. There will be some information available for 1st years which will enable us to see if strategic aims are appropriate. The report will go to the Quality Committee before circulation. There are 11 indices in total. 6 of these relate to engagement and are broken down into, Academic challenge, active learning, student staff interaction, enriching education experience, supportive learning environment and work integrated learning.

The outcomes are broken down into high order thinking, general education outcomes, general development outcomes, career readiness and overall satisfaction.

Trinity had the highest response rate of universities which is thanks to the heavy involvement of the SU and GSU. 22% of 1st years responded, 14% final years and 12% Postgraduates. There was a higher response from females to males at 60:40. By Faculty, AHSS had 713 responses, FEMS 334 and HS 292. This information can be broken down further as required and we can look at specific needs of cohorts to tailor objectives of the Strategic Plan.

Trinity compared relative to other universities engagement and was higher than national results in academic challenge and enriching education experiences.

We were lower than national score and other universities for staff/student interaction, work integrated learning, supportive learning environment and active learning.

General learning outcomes, career readiness, general development are areas where TCD does not do very well.

Deirdre Flynn asked if it is possible to cross tabulate results from different questions such as are students who engage with services/sports more positive regarding general development. This is not available to date but would be useful.

The Senior Tutor suggested comparing results for 1st and 4th years to assess if there is a progression or a decline between 2 stages. First years can have somewhat naive views of college.

In regard to College's response, there is a Dissemination policy. An email should have gone out when data on participation was received but it did not happen. A new circulation is planned highlighting results and links with the Strategic Plan. This will come from the Dean of Students for first year experience. Different schools/groups such as global will also have data, however it is not clear who will communicate with students.

International student barometer has gone live for 3 weeks, both EU and Non-EU. The survey is probably broader and looks at student services pre-arrival and academic progress. There was a good response rate from TCD and the results will be presented in March. Global relations will liaise with the Quality Office and the year after next we should be able to add institution specific questions to the National Survey.

SLC/14-15/18 Update on the Working Groups on the roll of Honour and Student Life Web presence (A.4)

Both groups have met once. Roll of Honour group will meet for the second time this afternoon. There is a strong sense that there is a need for radical review and rebranding. Damage has been done to the reputation of the Roll of Honour. It is suggested that three levels should be recognised as contribution, leadership and legacy. Attributes can be attached to each. The next meeting will look at the criteria and will then be brought back to Student Life Committee.

The Student Life Web group met on Monday. It is a complex and daunting task. It has been prioritised by the web office. Two people have been assigned to look at it and manage the project. The Dean of Students will be sponsor. Ownership is diverse and there were a lot of different websites developed because of vacuum. Agreement is needed that the new web design will represent all groups. The new website must meet the needs of each group. The aim is to have it in place for the next CAO intake in the summer of 2015. Decisions will ultimately be made by the Dean of Students and Student Life Committee. At the same time, the scope has to have limits as it may not be possible to push for changes. Declan Treanor pointed out that there is huge problem with accommodation. There are currently too many different pages that students need to go to apply for accommodation. The Dean of Students

informed that a project plan and scope are being prepared and once this is available he will take to the Committee for suggestions.

SLC/14-15/19 Reports from DUCAC and Disability Service (A.5)

DUCAC Report - Ms. Claire Buttanshaw gave the presentation for DUCAC. The main successes are that there were 18 sports scholarships awarded, 6 University pinks and 15 students representing Ireland.

The major challenge is cost and budget cuts. Students fundraise for clubs and also members contribute personally too, however there is a risk that these contributions are becoming too high and students might not be able to afford to compete. Trinity Foundation supports club projects. There were no changes for funding for 10 years until last year cuts yet sports is growing all the time so resources are depleting.

Alumni are quite sensitive to student activities so the Foundation might help to manage alumni. Michelle Tanner, Director of Sports said that they work very hard with Alumni and that the sports scholarship and awards are a Department of Sports Initiative.

Deirdre Flynn asked if there could be a financial support along lines of field trips. Some clubs are working with the foundation toward this. There is a need for coordinated approach to alumni. The Senior Tutor reminded DUCAC about the Minchin and Taverners bursaries which are administered through the Senior Tutor's Office.

Disability Service Report – Declan Treanor began by discussing the changes to admissions procedure to give advantage to sensory disabilities. This has not had much impact yet. The DARE scheme is also changing for 2016.

Progression retention: through equality fund ambassador programme, 40 students with disability trained during the summer to advocate on pre entry. They will be working with TAP on training to avoid duplication.

Progression to employment – Genio Trust career pathways programme will be mainstreamed in service.

Challenges that Disability service are facing are:

Information and interaction with SITS is proving very challenging. There is a need for commitment from College regarding disability module for SITS. Funding is another issue/challenge. The Access allocation has gone down 12% and ESF funding cut. The disability fund is down 10% and will impact on service delivery. Dyslexia screening has stopped due to staff and financial resources but support is still offered to students and they are advised on how to get a full assessment. Many students have learning difficulties rather than diagnosed with dyslexia. Concerns were raised over withdrawals, particularly within 2 groups which are mental health and deaf students. In the case of deaf students, numbers

are very small. Students with mental health demographics in TCD are quite different to those of other institutions. Numbers of students with mental health is rising while resources are reducing. There is a need to maximise opportunities for success for students. The exams office are working on trying to get more information in SITS to work with data that is available at the moment while waiting for Disability module for SITS.

SLC/14-15/20 Any Other Business (B.2)

The Student Parent policy is in college but new equality officer plans for developing implementation with SU parent officer.

The Complaints procedure for students is being developed and in progress.

Alcohol policy was approved with some adjustments. The new version will be considered by Council.

Accommodation – survey of all students will be done to try and assess the needs of different cohorts of students. The Students Union are concerned that the Accommodation Office is aligned with commercialisation with no student input. There is a need to articulate mission of the Department. It is worrying that there is a trend that accommodation is seen as purely commercial. The cost of accommodation is major. The Dean of Students is pushing for level of subsidy for international students. Megan Lee, President GSU, asked that postgraduate students/GSU are included in discussions and are involved in any meetings regarding accommodation. It was agreed that this issue is so big that it should be an item on the Agenda at another meeting of Student Life.

Section C