

## The University of Dublin

### Trinity College

#### Draft Minutes of the Student Life Committee

28th January 2016

**Present:** Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Ms. Isolde Harpur (Library), Mr Conor Clancy (SU Welfare Officer), Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Ms. Katie Crowther (GSU President), Ms. Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Fr. Peter Sexton (Chaplaincy), Mr. Kacper Coulter (Vice Chair DUCAC), Dr. David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Rev Julian Hamilton (Chaplaincy), Ms. Gianna Hegarty (GSU Vice President), Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr. Andrew Burrows (Chair, CSC); Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service); Ms. Lee Mills (Representing John Murphy, Information Systems Services); Ms. Eimear Farrell (Financial Resources Manager (Interim)); Ms. Lynn Ruane (President TCDSU),

**Apologies:** Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall), Mr. Liam Hunt (Secretary, CSC), Ms. Leona Coady (Academic Registry), Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Creche); Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator)

**Absent:** Mr. Adrian Neilan, (Commercial Revenue Unit), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers), Jennifer Cahill (Chair, Publications Committee),

**Present:** Ms. Helen Richardson (Minutes)

### Section A

#### SLC/15-16/74 Minutes (A.1)

Apologies were noted. The minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2015 were approved and signed with one amendment. Ms. Leona Coady, Director of Academic Registry, has asked approval from the Committee to allow her permission to nominate Ms. Julia Daly to attend the Student Life Committee going forward. The Academic Registry is putting in place a new organisational structure which will be organised into three pillars: Service, Operations, and Business Support and Planning, each with a head of function. Ms. Daly is the manager of the delivery of service. The Dean of Students will check to see if Leona Coady is permitted to send a nominee because as it stands only certain committee members are entitled to do this. The Dean of Students will let the Committee know if this will be permissible.

#### SLC/15-16/75 Matters Arising (A.2)

Report on website – the website is almost completed. There will be a meeting with the web office to finish it off and tidy up outstanding issues which was postponed. The calendars are not working

properly and need to be checked. The Dean of Students will report back to the Committee with updates.

Sports Sponsorship Policy – has been approved by Board and included the recommendations made by the Student Life Committee.

Complaints Procedure – The comments and edits from Student Life Committee were incorporated and went to Council and were approved. A better front facing element for the website still needs to be done. The Student Life page will have informal route available.

Student Death Protocol – There will be a training day on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Printing House and this will help to inform the policy. Deirdre Flynn informed the Committee that the policy will be presented to the Student Life Committee after this presentation has taken place.

Mental Health – Declan Treanor informed Committee that the review group had met and the priority is to update the current policy which is more a guideline for procedures.

### **SLC/15-16/76 SLC Strategic Projects (A.3)**

Two working groups have been formed. The first group is looking at transition to College and the second group is looking at student environments. Trinity Education will be looking at student environments also and they suggested that there is no need for Student Life Committee to look at this also, however the Dean of Students suggests that Student Life Committee should also be looking at this. The Dean of Students will clarify that the Student Life Committee are also to look at the student environments with Declan Treanor who will be leading this group. Deirdre Flynn asked that SLD and S2S be included on the Transition to College group.

The group looking at transition to college have already met. The Issue of the first year experience officer was part of their discussions. Orientation was another key discussion at this group. The Dean of Students informed the committee that there is a proposal for a Student Transition Officer rather than a first year experience officer. This will broaden the role and it will be a fulltime officer. The role is necessary to implement the transition strand of the strategic plan. The Dean of Students will report back at the next Student Life Committee as to where this proposal is at. There will be a need to define more clearly the role and the work that would be involved in this transition officer role.

The working group agreed that the student life website is good but no one is managing it. It was agreed that by 1<sup>st</sup> June skeleton information should be up on the website.

Declan Treanor asked about the role of parents of students. He believes it is critical that parents have an understanding. University College Cork is a good role model and they have a day that invite students to participate.

The SU President, Lynn Ruane raised concerns about what office would the new proposed role of transition officer fall under? There is a risk that the person might end up doing routine work. The Dean of Students is overseeing Orientation however his office is not the right place. Declan Treanor asked if Academic Registry should be considered as they are involved in all stages of student life. The new Director of Student Services will also have a role and liaising with S2S and the Senior Tutor's Office will be important. There is a need to map out a programme for the full term. Deirdre Flynn

said that Ralph from S2S has mapped out things she is doing at different times of the year and that the template might be useful to map out all activities.

For Sean Gannon from careers perspective 'transition' is wider. Careers are involved when students make wrong course choices also. The Dean of Students agreed that careers have expertise in transition methodology. Careers would be happy to get involved as their entire system is based on transition.

Katie Crowther is the lead on this group and another meeting will be organised before the Student Life Committee meet again. Katie will give another report at the next meeting. The Dean of Students will confirm with Declan Treanor if he is to go ahead with the working group on Student environments and if agreed a meeting will be organised of the working group on student environments and Declan will report back to Student Life.

#### **SLC/15-16/77 GSU Postgrad Week (A.4)**

The GSU postgrad week will launch at 10.30am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February. There will be research seminars, sports, social events taking place. It was suggested that Gillian Roddie, Student Support Officer for Postgraduates should be invited and give workshop on supervision and an information session on the Postgraduate Advisory Service (PAS). It was suggested that supervisors be invited and Directors of Teaching and Learning for postgraduates be included

#### **SLC/15-16/78 Sports Strategy & Integrated Implementation Plan (A.6)**

Michelle Tanner gave a presentation on the Sports Strategy titled 'Raising Our Game' and Integrated Implementation plan which was approved by Board. The strategy for sport collated by a Working Group involving Department of Sport & Recreation (DSR), DUCAC, the Students' Union and other service areas was devised to address important issues such as the development of sports facilities which were falling far behind our competitors and to elevate the importance of sport and its impact on University life.

The DSR also completed its quality review in 2014. The Quality Committee, upon receiving the quality review report and also submissions from DUCAC, the Chief Operating Officer and the Head of Sport & Recreation, recommended that a Task Force for Sport be established to address sport in Trinity in its broadest sense. With all of these in mind, the Provost constituted a Project Team to develop an integrated implementation strategy for the development of sport.

The Strategy provides the roadmap over the next 3 years with objectives centred on two themes of Participation and Performance. The Participation objective is to encourage and provide more opportunities for physical activity at various levels which are recognised by the University as integral to University life. The Performance objective is to ensure a more structured and supportive environment for students involved in competitive and high performance sports, and a club development model that provides a pathway for our clubs to achieve successes at a high level. The strategic objectives are facilitated by four enabling objectives -People, Profile, Infrastructure and Finance and Governance.

The Strategy will be deliver a new 'Trinity Sport' identity which both the Department of Sport and DUCAC have agreed along with a series of service level agreements on many actions within the Strategy for Sport with the ultimate aim of providing the best university sport experience in Ireland. This will lead to a healthier and more active Trinity Community with physically literate students and

graduates and appropriate supports for current and future student athletes. There will be a better use of resources and communications, and an integrated approach to the delivery of the sports services, programmes and facilities. The full Strategy will be circulated to Student Life Committee for information in due course.

#### **SLC/15-16/79 REACT alcohol awareness strategy (A.5)**

Prof. Joe Barry and Joanna Harney from the Student Counselling Service gave a presentation on the REACT alcohol awareness strategy. The strategy began in Cork under 2 years ago and the aim was to take a systematic approach to alcohol. It is funded by the HSE and the aim is to respond to excess alcohol use levels in 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions. The updating of the 2002 alcohol policy was approved in 2014. Endorsement of the policy is required from the Student Life Committee. The REACT policy has eight mandatory action points which a subgroup will examine and will advise the Student Life Committee of an implementation strategy for each. There was originally 15 members involved in the policy and Prof. Barry suggested that at the time all were interested in being part of an implementation group, he will confirm if all will remain on the group. Any extra members that the Student Life Committee would like added will be done and will report back to Student Life when finalised. The Student Life Committee agreed to endorse the strategy and the Dean of Students suggested that it be taken to Council and possibly to Board also. Prof. Joe Barry will write up a few lines and suggestions for the working group based on the alcohol policy working group and will report back to the Committee.

#### **SLC/15-16/80 Health Campus Initiative (A.7)**

The Healthy campus initiative is part of Healthy Ireland Initiative. A group has been set up to look at this and it needs to be formalised through the Student Life Committee. The group has so far looked mostly at healthy eating, however alcohol will be part of it and all around health and wellbeing will be included. It will need to be lined to college strategy. It is for both students and staff. The group would like to report to the Student Life Committee and recommendations can then be directed to Board or Council. The Student Life Committee agreed to endorse the initiative and progress will commence with feedback to the Committee to follow.

#### **C/15-16/81 Any Other Business (B.1)**

The Dean of Students has applied with Sinead McBride, College Solicitor to the qualify office for a grant for Trinity Equality Champions scheme to reward clubs and societies that can demonstrate their activities are more inclusive in one of the nine categories.

The ISSE survey will launch on 22<sup>nd</sup> February until 13<sup>th</sup> March.

Key dates for sports are:

Hockey Colours, Tuesday 9 February @ Three Rock Rovers

Rowing Colours, Saturday 12 March on the Liffey

Rugby Colours, Wednesday 23 March (First time EVER in College Park!). Meal in the Dining Hall 5/5.30pm. Kick off TBC but likely 7pm.

Sports Awards, Tuesday 5 April (Irish Olympic legend as guest presenter – to be announced!!)

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Campus 5k, Wednesday 6 April (the Irish Olympic legend will also be taking part in our 5k!!!)  
Trinity Regatta, Saturday 16 April (celebrating 150 years).

**SLC/15-16/82 Date of next meeting (C.1)**

The next Student Life Committee meeting will take place on **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 11am** in the Boardroom in House 1.