

The University of Dublin

Trinity College

Minutes of the Student Life Committee

7th May, 2014

Present: Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Mr Graham Daniels (Director of Accommodation and Catering), Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Dr Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Ms Sarah Smith (GSU Vice President), Eanna Drury (Chair, CSC), Ms. Cathy Gallagher (Representing Ms. Michelle Tanner, Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Stephen Garry (SU Welfare Officer), Mr Tom Lenihan (President TCDSU), , Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Mr Ryan Kenny (GSU President), Ms Leona Coady (Academic Registry), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall), Dr David McGrath (Director, College Health Service), Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr. Paul Coote, (Financial Planning Manager),

Apologies: Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Mr John Murphy (Director, Information Systems Services), Mr Conor Traynor (Vice Chair DUCAC), Prof Emma Stokes (Registrar of Chambers, Mr Trevor Peare (Keeper of Readers’ Services, Library),

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/13-14/74 Minutes (A.1)

Mr. Paul Coote informed the committee that Ms. Janet Byrne is no longer on the Committee, therefore her name should be taken off. The minutes of the meeting of 9th April 2014 were otherwise approved.

SLC/13-14/75 Matters Arising (A.2)

There were no matters arising from the minutes of 9th April 2014. The Dean of Students met with the COO regarding the issue of making the Student Services Annual Reports available to the Committee. It was agreed to proceed with the updates from the services, however official links will be unavailable for the Committee to view until they have been approved.

SLC/13-14/76 Student Services Reports (A.3)

There were 3 presentations given to the Committee from the following services:

1. Dr. David McGrath (Director, College Health Service)
2. Ms. Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service)
3. Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor)

The Dean of Students invited Dr. David McGrath to begin with his presentation of the College Health Service focusing on the challenges and the opportunities found.

Dr. McGrath informed the Committee that there are some major challenges facing the services. These are as follows:

- A) Demand & Usage – Increased numbers in the University and diversity has contributed to the overwhelming demand & usage on the service. The waiting times for students are on average 18.2 days.
- B) Replacing staff is near impossible, particularly maternity leave cover
- C) Physical resources – The Health Centre is not big enough for the demand, however, Dr. McGrath informed the Committee that they may move to Oisín House and requested full support from the Committee as a priority.

Ms. Deirdre Flynn presented the Student Services report for the Student Counselling Service.

Some positive feedback is that S2S is expanding to all incoming JF students. The contract for Ralph Astley (S2S co-ordinator) has been extended for a further 2 years. Also, student feedback in relation to the service was very good, particularly in relation to their overall experience with the service and the impact the service made on their studies and College life. This will have a positive effect on student retention figures.

Ms. Flynn said that the service has reached a critical stage with one to one appointments. This is mainly due to:

- a) Greater numbers registering with mental health
- b) No online mental health programme
- c) Staffing issues/replacing staff
- d) No SLD Co-ordinator in place
- e) No child protection officer has been appointed
- f) Resources

A minimum risk noted was the Student Death Protocol needs to be reviewed for wider circumstances that may arise.

Dr. Claire Laudet presented the Student Services report for the Senior Tutor's Office. Some achievements were that 24 new tutors had been appointed and 3 new Postgraduate Advisors. The numbers for Tutor training had improved. The approval of the new Tutorial Support Fund is in place and is working well and Tutor's seem to be content with the new fund in place of their tutor allowance. The Orientation website was delivered on time and was achieved mainly by employing a previous staff member from the Senior Tutor's Office, Ms. Susan Byrne to manage the Orientation Process.

The challenges faced by the Senior Tutor's Office were as follows:

- a) It is becoming increasingly more difficult to appoint and recruit new Tutors and Postgraduate Advisors
- b) Tutor's chambers have increased and they have too many tutees in their chambers
- c) SITS has caused major complications particularly surrounding the allocation of students to tutors.
- d) Financial Assistance for students is critical – more students applying for help and money is not available/left to support them.
- e) Maternity Leave cover is an issue – the amount of time it takes to recruit cover is too long.

The Committee agreed that there are increased pressures on students in the University, however there is also increased pressure on staff as the demand for services is so high. There is very little support given to staff and it was agreed that all staff need to be supported more effectively.

SLC/13-14/77 Strategic Planning Update (A.4)

The Dean of Students informed the Committee that the reference documents went to the Committee. In relation to the Student Life Activity summary, Student Development is the theme. The document is still in draft format. The expected date for launch is September 2014. The Committee wants the strategic plan to recognise that the increase in international students requires better services. The Dean of Students will continue to keep the committee informed on any updates.

SLC/13-14/78 Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2014

There has been a delay in releasing the survey to the institutions so there is no data available. Once it has been received, it will be summarised and distributed to students immediately. The priority now is to get feedback on the results.

SLC/13-14/79 College Alcohol Policy update

The policy went to council. A question raised was....is the policy a college wide one and include staff? The answer to this was, no that it only relates to students.

Section B

SLC/13-14/80 AOB

There was no other business discussed. This was the last meeting of this academic year and the dates for the Student Life Committee meetings next Academic Year will be circulated.

Section C