

The University of Dublin
Trinity College
Draft Minutes of the Student Life Committee
8th October 2015

Present: Prof. Kevin O’Kelly (Dean of Students (Chair), Dr. Claire Laudet (Senior Tutor), Mr Brendan Tangney (Warden, Trinity Hall), Ms. Isolde Harpur (Library), Mr Conor Clancy (SU Welfare Officer), , Mr Declan Treanor, (Disability Service), Ms. Gianna Hegarty (GSU Vice President), Ms Deirdre Flynn (Director, Student Counselling Service), Mr. Michael McInnerney (Rep for GSU President), Ms. Michelle Tanner (Head of Sports and Recreation), Mr Seán Gannon (Director, Careers Advisory Service), Rev Julian Hamilton (Chaplaincy), Fr. Peter Sexton (Chaplaincy), Ms. Lynn Ruane (President TCDSU),), Ms. Lee Mills (Representing John Murphy, Information Systems Services), Ms. Claire Buttanshaw (Vice Chair DUCAC)

Apologies: Ms. Leona Coady (Academic Registry, Dr Erika Doyle (Global Officer Co-ordinator), Mr. Liam Hunt (Secretary, CSC), Mr. Andrew Burrows (Chair, CSC), Dr. David McGrath (Director, College Health Service) Ms. Eimear Farrell (Financial Resources Manager (Interim), Ms. Katie Crowther (GSU President), Ms Aoife Cox (Manager, Day Nursery & Creche)

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/15-16/51 Minutes (A.1)

The apologies were noted. The minutes of May 6th were approved and signed.

SLC/15-16/52 Matters Arising (A.2)

The Student Life Website was launched and a review will be held at the end of October to ensure it is working effectively. Input is welcomed from the Student Life Committee. TCD Life is currently still live however it will be replaced in time.

Deans Report – issue surrounding the booking procedures for student events: A meeting took place with all users and the issues were addressed. The Dean of Students will circulate the notes from this meeting to the Student Life Committee. The Enquiries Office has moved into the Commercial Revenue Unit and a central reservation and event system is being developed with enhanced search capabilities. A full list of charges associated with the booking of rooms will also be published so there will be no hidden costs. The system will also include specific rooms that are currently being held by

departments and a consultant has been employed to look at all spaces that will be available and a survey on all spaces will be circulated. A meeting will be arranged with SU representatives and the consultants to discuss use of new system. The system is not finalised to date.

The Trinity Education project steering group aims to renew the Trinity Education. It has now agreed the attributes that Trinity graduates should have 10 years after graduation. It has become clear that a significant number of these cannot be delivered only through the Academic side and that extra and co-curricular activities will play an important role. A project manager has been appointed and the Dean is involved in some of the strands, one of the main issues is how participation in extra-curricular activities can be recognised and given credit for. The Senior Tutor raised concerns regarding the potential marginalisation of certain categories of students. The Dean confirmed that the plan is to change the curriculum to allow the embedding of co-curricular activities.

The Student Death protocol will be deferred until the next meeting.

Deirdre Flynn raised concern regarding the diversity strategy and budget provisions from College. There are currently no budget provisions in particular regarding staff training. College is developing policies but doesn't look at funding for rolling out training that is involved for those concerned. The Counselling Service had sought funding for training regarding transgender issues but discovered no funding was available despite College's recent launch of a gender policy which references staff training. This issue will be raised at the Equality Committee meeting. The Equality policy is currently being revised and the current document is not a policy.

SLC/15-16/53 Dean's 2015-2016 Working Programme (A.3)

The objective of the working programme is to position the student experience into every aspect of College, including policies and projects. Currently the Dean of Students sits on 27 Committees and working groups. This will continue however the Dean of Students would like to communicate the way in which the student experience delivers on the strategic plan. The Dean of Students feels that the student experience is the answer to many of the objectives outlined in the plan.

The Committee raised concerns that the Dean of Students has no administrative support and once again resourcing is an issue.

Student Accommodation – Oisín house is a large project and should address a lot of the challenges that students face. It is planned to have 280 beds, sports facilities, health and disability.

The Dean of Students is looking at renewing the Student Life Committee. There are issues with attendance of some of the current members. The Committee is very large and was originally designed to share information, however the Dean of Students would

welcome having stronger reporting lines to council and taking projects to Council. Some of the members of the Committee could take lead on some of the projects. The Dean of Students has spoken to the Provost in relation to the terms of reference.

Deirdre Flynn suggested that it might be useful for the Dean of Students to give a lecture and address all student services staff who currently feel overstretched and not heard. The Dean of Students would be happy to do this if it was felt needed.

SLC/15-16/54 Student Life Committee 2015-2016 Working Programme (A.4)

The Dean of Students circulated a work programme. The views of the committee were welcomed. It will be important to look at link points for example with the Education Project. The Dean of Students wants to involve people that are interested in each strand. The SU President suggested that rather than each service writing their own strategic objectives and goals, they could all be gathered and linked in with each other. A decision needs to be reached to decide what the main objectives of the committee are for this year. A discussion as to how could all the services strategic plans be linked together took place. As it currently stands, each service is required to bring their strategic plans to the Student Life Committee so they can get signed off and agreed. It was decided that each service will look at their own strategic plan and add their input and send on this to Helen Richardson and the Committee will look at documents and see if they can be linked together. Working groups will then be set up at the next meeting to work on objectives.

SLC/15-16/55 Update on Global Room Arrangements (A.5)

Ms. Erika Doyle was sick for the meeting so this item was deferred.

SLC/15-16/56 Any Other Business (B.2)

Michelle Tanner, Director of Sport informed the Committee that College went to tender for banking services and Bank of Ireland were awarded tender. From this sports will receive 1.5 million over 5 years.

Ralph Astley from S2S presented the minutes from the Mentoring Strategy Group meeting held on 27 August 2015. This group will consolidate mentoring activities around College. The committee will report to the Student Life Committee. The Library would like to be involved in the group. Ralph Astley will organise this.

The Senior Tutor raised her concerns over Student Cases and in particular the move of Student Cases to the Academic Registry.

The SU raised concerns around locker allocations. They are looking to the Dean of Students for support in putting in place an on-line system for allocation of lockers. The SU will send a brief to the Dean of Students.

Student Life Committee
8 October 2015

Ms. Claire Buttanshaw informed the Committee that this will be her last meeting as DUCAC representative. The Dean of Students thanked her for her input to the Student Life Committee.