



Union of Clare Students

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Secretary

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UCS Michaelmas 2023 Meeting Minutes

Castle End Meeting Room, Clare College Castle Court

17:30, 11th November 2023

A record of the UCS Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Jasmine, Flora, Lucas, Rose, Leonie, Sally, Emma, Patrick, Molly, Dan, Mia, Mary, Lydia, Lily

Welcome to Leonie

The UCS Committee welcomes our new Fresher's Rep, Leonie

Updates from last meeting

List of last meeting's action points

- Now have a fully functioning prayer room!!
- A pump for the camp beds have been bought, but they still need checking over
- The UCS is currently funding LCR coffee etc
- Lydia and Sophie had a meeting with Head of Health and Safety. No forms will be needed for health and safety checks for the gym (though the sports and societies officers should make sure people are aware of safety risks and responsibility for any injuries etc)
- Feedback form responses: Lucas, Aadarsh and Haley to respond to specific queries

Updates from committee/college meetings

Updates from the various meetings attended by UCS members

Feedback from Termly Catering Meeting (Aadarsh):

- Ruminant meat is on the menu once a fortnight currently. Final decision will be made in the summer about reduction/removal of ruminant meat from college catering, but that requires staff, fellow and student feedback. It will ultimately be removed before 2038 for net zero goal. Other measures include Clare Goes Green putting up signs in the Buttery showing emissions given out by different types of food, to help inform students.
- The Buttery have switched around the tray/plates/cutlery tidying area so it's more intuitive
- They're going to lower the price of pineapple and orange juice because 75p for a small glass was deemed too high
- Christmas formal tickets go out 6pm on 17th Nov, with tickets for Monday (60), Tuesday (110) and Thursday (90)
- Lee stressed that Catering are very happy for themed formals to be put on for societies/events, if Lee and Arletta are emailed with as much notice as possible - ideally before that term starts as then they can reserve the formal and make a special menu for it.



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Library committee meeting feedback:

- New printing system; posters have been put up for people to help with new system
- Usefulness of library introductions will be evaluated
- 'Shut up and write' sessions still taking place in the Glover Room from 10:30-12:30 on Mondays
- Library will still be closing at midnight except for exam term
- More polls will be run by Patrick to see if screens can be removed, as according to polls, 75% students are against them
- People may be able to book supervision rooms as study spaces in the future
- Libraries may be changing from 7 day automatic renewals to 28 day automatic renewals for undergraduates (the UCS doesn't have strong opinions on this)
- Library bathrooms and library roof have plans to be renovated in the future - important to minimise student disruption for this. Library bathrooms will be made unisex, with 3 cubicles and 1 disabled toilet

Accommodation committee meeting feedback

- Group ballot will be changed; group ballot as it is will still happen, however there will be another stage to give people the option to merge their ballot number to enter the single ballot together if they were unsuccessful in the original group ballot
- The whole balloting process will happen over one or two weeks at the end of Lent Term, rather than separating group and single balloting by over a month
- Freshers will still not know their ballot number during the group ballot; however they will be told their merged number if they choose to merge. Debate as to whether freshers should be told their ballot numbers prior to merging - the consensus in the accommodation meeting seems to have been that it would be better for them not to know.
- Pairs won't be able to merge initially, however it may be implemented in future
- Rooms will no longer be given points, but instead be given bands with indicate quality
- The estates team will measure each room and give us sizes
- Balloting may be brought up again on the open meeting, as it's an important discussion to get more student input on

Student Council

- Elected some officers and approved their goals
- Lots of discussion around the campaign surrounding part time jobs; vote will be brought back next week. The UCS rejects overturning the ban on part-time jobs because of proposal no. 2.

Other meeting updates (College Council and Governing body)



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- Door from North Passage to Buttery area is now Camcard accessible (may need to jiggle door to open it)
- More discussions about Buttery wine pricing - postgrads generally prioritise higher quality of wine, whereas undergrads would like cheaper wine
- The Sports Ground was approved to be sold off several years ago

Art committee meeting feedback

- A portrait received water damage, but is being restored
- Also attempting to make a reliable database for all the art college has
- There will be an art competition for art to be displayed outside Great Hall
- Potentially an option to have another sculpture on loan at the front of memorial court
- Plans to have a tapestry made for the Great Hall for Clare's 700th anniversary

Israel-Palestine letter

Discussion as to whether the UCS should release a statement regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict

- Discussions as to whether we should issue a statement just sharing our beliefs on the conflict, or whether we should also include the information section. It was raised that any UCS statement should focus on the impact on Clare students particularly
- May be useful to share a link for fundraising if we choose to release a statement
- The current draft being discussed has been approved by the JSoc and PaSoc committee
- Also questions as to where the statement should go
- UCS has agreed that more revisions are needed, pending approval on Slack, to be put on the UCS website and an email to be sent out
- As of 12/11, has been decided to not release a statement, and instead to send out a list of resources for anyone at Clare affected by the conflict

College of Sanctuary brainstorming

Attempts to make Clare College a safe place for refugees

- Won't be discussed in depth during this meeting due to time constraints - instead will be brought up at Open Meeting next week
- Emma asks for UCS committee to brainstorm ideas for ways we can help those from a refugee background in order to gain certification as a college of sanctuary

Bridgemas!!

A discussion of what events we should hold to celebrate Bridgemas

- Bridgemas Ents is being run by Will Humm. Flora to send out applications for Clare Ents committee who can run Ents next term



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- Normally have a choir and hot chocolate event; suggestion that it may be best to hold events on the week of Bridgemas as opposed to Bridgemas itself due to several other events happening on Bridgemas (eg BCD and Ents)
- Rose has agreed to help run the event; provisionally 8pm on 24th November

End of term events

Some end of term UCS events would be good

- Sally has asked that the UCS should, if they can, run some events for towards the end of term, and thanked Mary and Dan for the LGBTQ+ events this term, and Rose for the Welfairy scheme

AOB

- Decision to hold an Open Meeting next week may be good to get outside opinions and for others to propose motions/discussion points. May need to be in memorial court to promote attendance. Jasmine to try to book Elton Bowring room for 5:30pm on Saturday 18th. Proposal for snacks to lure people along
- Molly needs help regarding running the foodbank drive happening towards the end of term; various different UCS members have offered their help

Summary of action points

Flora to send out Ents Committee applications

Jasmine to book Elton-Bowring room for next week, and to mention Open Meeting on the bulletin

Lucas, Aadarsh and *Haley* to respond to feedback form queries

Molly to send out email about foodbank drive

Meeting adjourned