



Union of Clare Students

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Secretary

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UCS Michaelmas 2023 Meeting Minutes

Elton-Bowring Room, Clare College Memorial Court

17:30, 18th November 2023

A record of the UCS Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Luca, Mary, Dan, Molly, Lucas, Sally, Emma, Barakah, Rose, Patrick, Jasmine, Mia, Haley, Sophie, Sing-Wei, Lily, Priya

Updates from last meeting

List of last meeting's action points

The bridgemas mince pies/carol service will be 7:30 Friday 24th: location outside FML

Bridgemas ends on 25th, more tickets are available (for those that want to attend)

Molly is struggling to find a place in memorial court for the foodbank drive storage

SU are organising the bank of donations, however a place is needed for storage of donations between the end of term and when the van comes to pick them up; Molly will talk to the porters for suggestions of places to keep them (and please donate!)

Laundry and dryers

The Castle End laundry rooms have had several problems reported: washing machines have been taking money; dryers and irons are ineffective + not enough dryers.

Very difficult to get an idea of scale in terms of eating money (the company isn't the best at refunding people); Lucas will email head of housekeeping regarding the issues

Also issues with payment- some of the machines in different areas around college are cash only

Mia will send out a google form to get an idea of scale of the problem

SU Motion to End Ban on Part Time Jobs

Discussion on whether the UCS should support the SU motion to end the ban on part-time jobs. Concerns have been raised about proposal 2 of the motion, as we believe there is a risk of reduced financial support from colleges if part-time work is an option.

Do we have any anecdotal evidence for the policy being enforced in different colleges?

Issue seems to be with selective enforcement; potentially could call for colleges to support students and enforce the ban

Many colleges don't give students the opportunity to work in college e.g. student run bars

The fact that there is a ban in the first place incentivises college to help out students financially

The ban mainly focuses on academics and is for maintaining academic interest

The ban would also likely disproportionately affect students from lower income backgrounds who may feel pressured to work

Many students, due to the workload, don't have time to have a parttime job



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Less flexibility in external work compared to work in college (such as cellars); students may miss lectures, supervisions, etc.

Could focus SU attention on equalising hardship funding across colleges

Emma is going to vote against the motion in the SU council meeting

Balloting changes

Discussion of changes being proposed for the group balloting system going forward.

Balloting is all happening at the end of lent, as opposed to being split

Now, students will be told what their merged ballot number is, if they chose to group ballot and were unsuccessful, and will have the option to enter the ballot with their merged number

Discussion around whether individual students part of a group ballot, who were unsuccessful, should find out their own ballot numbers along with the merged number prior to their decision to go with the merged ballot number

If you're a successful group in first year, you will not get told your ballot number until second year when the next cycle of balloting commences

Questions as to if it may be best to move the deadline for people planning to move out of college to notify college until when the ballot starts; agreements that the deadline will be moved to as late as possible, but before the ballot starts

College of Sanctuary Motion

A motion to formally support the college's College of Sanctuary scheme - this is about making Clare a more safe, supporting, and empowering place for refugees.

Proposal for a formal statement from the UCS sharing the beliefs of the College of Sanctuary scheme and to support it

(A document has been proposed that can be edited throughout the discussion)

Fresher's week talks, potentially those about anti-discrimination, would explicitly include discussion surrounding refugees every year (important to make these talks general in nature)

Could potentially run fundraisers as a means to support refugees: could happen in cellars?

May be good to publicise the UCS' support for what college is doing to become a College of Sanctuary

Welfare related officers could also run events with the idea of Sanctuary in mind (more likely to happen next term)

The motion has been passed

LCR Blankets

Requests have been made for blankets in the LCR.

Could potentially knit a blanket (from the potential resurrection of the Clare knitting society)

Concerns that people may leave the blankets in a state; however, we could have a trial run with cheaper blankets



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Proposal for blankets has been agreed on by the UCS

Gym etiquette

Several people have complained about the state the gym has been being left in
Lydia and Sophie will send out an email reminding people of gym etiquette

Complaints about construction worker conduct

Priya (Women and Non-Binary Officer) has spoken to the Sean Perry in the Estates Department about complaints of intrusive staring from the builders in Old Court and will update on the meeting and propose a feedback form for students to see any changes
Sean Perry has spoken to the contractor regarding the conduct of construction workers; workers will no longer have their breaks outside Old Court
The workers causing issues in the River Room Cafe have been identified and spoken to
Priya suggested to Sean to overhaul the consistent welfare training workers receive
The proposed feedback form could be included on the bulletin
Could have a separate form specifically for incidents that have affected students

AOB

Pink Week is happening from 5th to 11th February; formal, cellars event and a mysterious third event

Mia will be asking porters to wear pink, flyers will be handed out, etc.

College wellbeing stimulus fund: university wide fund where colleges can be given £20,000 over three years; however, submission requires intricate details of what the money will be used for and has to be signed off by the Senior Tutor, Bursar, etc.

Questions as to whether the fund can be used to expand the gender expression fund?

Dan is trying to book the Riley Auditorium for queer film night

Welfairy is in the process of being sent out

Still looking for a Freshers' Rep !!!

Summary of action points

Person A - do this

Person B - do that

etc

Meeting adjourned