



MINUTES

MINUTES: Class Rep Meeting

CAMPUS: City Campus – Bolton Street

DATE: 21st February 2020

TIME: 1pm

Location: Zoom

PRESENT:

Sam Berry

Pierre Yimbog

Rebecca Gorman

Moya Brown

Barry Egan

Bolton Street College Officer

SU President

Deputy President

VP Welfare

VP Events

POTENTIAL CLASS REPS:

113

NO. OF CLASS REPS ELECTED TO DATE:

103

NO. OF CLASS REPS PRESENT:

10

IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Mead

Student Advisor

Mary Scally

Director of Academic Affairs and Welfare

Fionn Collins

Grangegorman College Officer

VISITORS:

0

APOLOGIES:

1

Minutes and Action Items	Action Box
No issues/queries raised RE: last meeting	
Correspondence	Action Box
NA	
Elections	Action Box
Hustings held for School Reps for academic year 2020/21. Sam Berry only nomination to date, for School of Mechanical and Design Engineering. Voting taking place online.	
Items for Discussion	Action Box
<p>1. Upcoming Assessments and SU Support</p> <p>Sam acknowledged the difficulty and challenges that come with the alternative assessments during this unprecedented time and asked if any students were having any specific difficulties with assessments. One student reported that out of the 6 modules her class had, 2 were being taught online and 4 were not. Meeting advised if anyone is having any specific difficulties to get in touch with Student Advisor, Sarah for some support. Reminder that Student Union Staff and Officers are still working here to support students during this time. SM advised the class reps to first contact their lecturer, if they have no luck there to contact their programme chair and then their head of school.</p>	

Another student queries the 'No detriment policy' and what this was. Sam explained this policy sought to ensure no students' grades were disadvantaged due to the alternative assessments provided as a result of COVID19. He explained that the university would work off average grade results from first semester if someone's grades were lower from the alternative assessments. Sam handed over to Rebecca who spoke about the online petition to bring this policy into place, which currently has over 6000 signatures. She explained this policy is designed to protect all students, rather than focusing on the 5-10% of students who will be disadvantaged by this and seeking them out. The policy has 11 principles, which are based on students' needs. A proposal document is being put together and will be brought to a meeting with the academic council this week and put forward. Rebecca is not confident no detriment policy will pass and said the SU is looking into alternative options. She advised the students to keep in touch with their lecturers, the SU and to get in touch if interested in campaigning for this policy.

2. Online Students' Union Elections

Sam informed the meeting that as elections couldn't take place on campus these would be moving online. All except the College Officer and Post Grad positions. Sam handed over to Pierre to explain in greater detail. Pierre advised that online voting would take place on the SU website and students would login in to be able to vote. Campaigning will begin on the 27th April on Social Media platforms and candidates will be sharing videos and links there. There will be a video uploaded explaining how to vote online too to support students. Voting will open at 8am on the 6th of May and close at 12pm on the 8th of May.

3. Fundraising RAG charities

Sam reminded the class that although the campus has closed, fundraising for our sponsored charities continues and that many of these organisations need our support now more than ever. Sam asked the meeting if anyone had any suggestions or ideas to raise funds. No one had any so Sam handed over to Barry. Barry discussed some of the online fundraising which has been quite successful, including a pub quiz over social media. Barry then discussed his new campaign idea which the university has agreed to support. He requested students upload a photo on social media and use the hashtag: TUDublintogether. For every photo uploaded like this the university will donate 2 euro to the sponsored charities. Barry encouraged students to get involved and tell their classmates

and friends in the hopes to raise as much money as possible.

4. COVID19

Sam discussed the impact COVID19 has had on student life and hoped everyone was staying home and staying safe. Sam reminded the class of the supports available in the college, including mindfulness available at noon , the SU staff and officers and counselling service. Sam then handed over to Moya. Moya advised that counselling was still available, and that there were appointments available should anyone need them. Also, that the financial aid department had some funding available to help students at this time. Lockers would remain inaccessible until the campus has reopened unfortunately. International students, who have to return home over the summer months will not be able to return in the new semester to collect their belongings. Pierre to look into this.

Rebecca asked if Class reps have been keeping in touch with their class and if there was good communication. Class reps agreed they had and people were in touch with them. One class rep commented that attendance at online classes were low and they were unsure how to encourage this. It was reiterated that Class reps are not responsible for encouraging this and they are solely responsible for themselves in this sense. If anyone was interested NSTEPS training could be of support.

5. Update on Student Council

Sam informed the class reps that Student Council will be going ahead at 7pm on Wednesday via Zoom. There would not be any voting taking place. Pierre said that everyone is welcome to attend and a link will be circulated should anyone want to join in.

6. Microsoft Teams:

The lack of access to Microsoft teams was something that was raised as an issue and investigated. This is now resolved as students have access. One class rep highlighted however that they have access to the software but are unable to make teams themselves. As a result, the software works more as a group chat for them. Sam asked if classes were using any other software to keep in touch and 2 used Discord. It was highlighted that Microsoft Teams should have the extra features added in coming weeks.

7. Bradougue, Grangegorman:

Bradougue, in Grangegorman was put forward as an agenda item due to concerns the student space was being given over to AIB. Rebecca provided an update. The area, prior to campus shut down, was being used as a Student Union space for students and it has a common room, offices used by staff and societies and a dance studio. It has been proposed that AIB will take over some of this space and as a result the SU, societies and other supporters have set up a working group to fight this move. The aim is to reverse the decision on the basis that there is already limited space for students in Grangegorman. Rebecca requested students to get in touch if they are interested in campaigning on this issue.

8. School Rep Hustings

Sam informed the meeting that School rep hustings were to take place today and only one person has nominated themselves so far. Sam is running for School Rep for the School of Mechanical and Design Engineering. Sam spoke to the meeting explaining why he believes he would be a good School Rep. Sam then advised that voting would be online, and a link would be circulated via email and voting would be open for 24 hours.

9. AOB

Accommodation.

- Moya spoke of her contact and advocacy on behalf of students who have since left student accommodation. These students are seeking thousands of euro of a refund for time they have not spent living in their accommodation. Moya spoke of her disappointment in making headway with these companies and assured the meeting it was an issue she is still working on and that there would an update provided when she has one.

Time meeting concluded: 13.55

Date of next meeting: Final meeting for the academic year.

