Minutes*

Present: Mr. Declan Higgins, President; Mr. Phelim Kelly, Vice President & Education Officer, Ms. Aoife Ní Shúilleabháin, Vice President & Welfare Officer, Ms. Gráinne Ní Bheoláin, Oifigeach na Gaeilge; Mr. Cian Moran, Postgraduate Officer; Ms. Michelle Mitchell, Mature Students’ Officer; Patrick O’Flaherty (Societies Chair); Damien Griffin Clubs Captain Mr. Simon Neary, Convenor of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Mr. Oisín Moloney, Convenor of Engineering and Informatics; Ms. Megan Reilly, Convenor of Business, Public Policy and Law; Ms. Rebecca Melvin, Equality Officer; Ms. Joanne Duffy, Convenor of Science/Secretary; Apologies: Ms. Sarah Kelly, Convenor of Arts; Mr. Karl Picard, Students’ Union Council Chairperson;

The meeting commenced with a brief introduction around the national campaign. Phelim Kelly (Vice President and Education Officer) informed the exec of the campaign and the overall functioning of the day and reminded the executive committee that he had been elected onto the Campaigns Sub-Committee in the Union of Students in Ireland (USI). The national campaign will take place in Dublin on the 8th October and buses will leave from the Cathedral at 9am that morning. Declan Higgins (President) noted the decreasing numbers of students willing to engage with the national campaign and suggested that the executive committee reach out to the volunteers to do a residence runs. The executive committee agreed and the following line of action was to be taken: a residence run will be done on Monday 6th in Corrib village and another on the following Tuesday in 2 groups one to go to Dúnaras and the other to Gort and Cuirt na Corribe. Patrick O’Flaherty (Societies Chair) noted that the security around students was discouraging in the past and no lunches were provided. There was a discussion regarding bouncers from this and Declan Higgins (President) noted that the landscape of how the Students Unions’ Executive Committee had changed and that they can no longer be responsible for stewarding the Students.

Declan Higgins (President) mentioned that he is to have a meeting on Friday with senior management regarding the commercial services. He will give an update of said meeting at the next executive meeting.

Declan Higgins (President) met (informally) with the Registrar and deputy president of the university regarding the health unit and asked for a different proposal. The aforesaid working group form the previous meeting was mentioned and the Registrar had agreed to present at the next Student Union Council.
Declan Higgins (President) is working with the president of GMITSU to build a strategic alliance between the two Unions. A document will be circulated around to the executive committee and brought to Student Union Council on the 13th. He also read an excerpt from the NUI Galway – GMIT draft strategic alliance which mentions the alliance from both Students’ Unions.

Cian Moran (Postgraduate Officer) asked who was in charge of the Clubs website in NUI Galway as he is down as a contact for the Clubs Captain. Damien Griffin (Clubs Captain) is to address this with Kathy Hynes (Student Development Officer) to rectify this error.

Phelim Kelly (Vice President and Education Officer) asked the executive committee to push the class reps elections and to make every available opportunity to elect reps. The executive committee are to provide a timetable to him for availability. Phelim also asked that convenors make every effort to be available for this so that their respective reps can put face to name for future references.

Patrick O’Flaherty (Societies Chair) asked if puppies were going to be made available for the exam distress this year. Aoife Ní Shúilleabháin (Vice President & Welfare Officer) responded and said she is working on it but is awaiting confirmation from the buildings office. She also asked for volunteers to help out at the 8K run.

Declan Higgins (President) congratulated Rebecca Melvin (Equality Officer) on her successful citizenship day. He also noted that this is a reminder to other officers to follow said example. Rebecca thanked the executive committee and the volunteers for all their help and support.

The executive meeting from the previous week was cancelled as both Declan Higgins (President) and Phelim Kelly (Vice President and Education Officer) attended the National forum for Teaching and Learning’s National Teaching Heroes awards where Dr. Deirdre Curran and Dr. Mark Lang were awarded from NUI Galway.

Minutes proposed by: Mr. Declan Higgins, President, NUI Galway Students’ Union

Seconded by: Ms. Joanne Duffy, Convenor of Science/Secretary

Supported by: Ms. Megan Reilly (Convenor of Business, Public Policy & Law)
Ms. Aoife Ní Shúilleabháin (Vice President & Welfare Officer)

Joanne Duffy

*These minutes were prepared from a contemporaneous note taken by the Secretary at the meeting of the 1st October, 2014, and were typed into this memorandum style document for the record of Council.