

Council Meeting Minutes AY 2023/2024

Semester 1, Week 7 – 24th October 2023

Agenda

1. Minutes & Apologies
 2. Matters arising
 - 2.1. Start-ups and wind-downs ~ various
 3. Student Centre – standing item
 4. UL Wolves x UL Sustainability Project – Jack O'Connor
 5. Assets & Inventory: 3 year plan – standing item
 6. Scholars – C&S experiences
 7. What is on your mind?
 8. C&S Executive
 9. AOB
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Katie Martin went through the house rules and advised meeting was recorded for the purpose of minutes.

1. Minutes & Apologies

- 1.1. Minutes from the previous meeting were passed without amendment.
Proposed: Kye Earle (Games Society) / Seconded: Eoghan Conlon (Computer Society).
- 1.2. Apologies:
 - Crafts Society
 - Ultimate Frisbee Club
 - Consulting & Entrepreneurship Society
 - Sub Aqua Club
 - Underwater Hockey Club

2. Matters arising

- 2.1. *Start-ups and wind-downs ~ various*
 - 2.1.1. None - Exec are reviewing some start-ups currently for week 9.

Movember – Emily Rosenkranz (Welfare Officer)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November is Men's Mental Health Month and it is also about spreading awareness about testicular and prostate cancer. UL partners with two charities every year which is selected by the students. Last year it was the Rape Crisis Mid-West and Jigsaw.• While they cannot directly raise money for Movember, Emily is encouraging everyone to get involved and fundraise within their clubs and societies. The university will be sending out a link soon so students can get involved. The Student Officers are available to help students with their fundraising if needed (studentwelfare@ul.ie).

3. Student Centre – Ronan Cahill (Student President)

- 3.1. Ronan gives a background surrounding the new student centre which will be opening September 2024 with construction due to finish mid-summer 2024. Ronan sits on the committee with architects, engineers and project managers so he would like to keep council updated and represent us.
- 3.2. A presentation is given by Ronan around the Leave A Legacy referendum 2016. Students were able to tell the university what they wanted to be included in the centre. Images of what the building will look like were shared as well as what rooms will be available (photo rooms, music, drama, radio, etc.). A sensory room was not part of the original plan but they are could potentially turn the garden into a relaxation zone and perhaps a tech-free zone. It will be open 7 days a week which will benefit those with weekend activities as well as international students. Merchandise will also be sold.
- 3.3. Council are shown a video of the new student centre. Ronan is available to answer any questions regarding the topic (studentpresident@ul.ie).
 - 3.3.1. Kye (Games Society) – Will clubs and societies who have been allocated a room be expected to furnish the room themselves or will it be provided?
 - 3.3.1.1. Ronan – As far as he is aware, they will not be expected to furnish it themselves but he will check with Paul Lee to make sure.
 - 3.3.2. Cormac Campbell (People Before Profit) – The cost of the new student centre is roughly €34 million. Over the past seven years, how much of this money has been allocated for creating accommodation for students?
 - 3.3.2.1. Ronan – This funding came from students and was voted for by students. Students decided that this was what the student centre was where they wanted their money to go.
 - 3.3.2.2. Cormac – When originally proposed it was supposed to cost €18 million.
 - 3.3.2.3. Ronan – In his new role, he is working with what information he has been given. He will be linking in with Paul Lee to get this question answered as Paul has been involved with this project since the beginning.
 - 3.3.3. Eoin Gilmartin (Musical Theatre Society) – This referendum was passed in 2016 when the student population was smaller. In accordance with this agreement, it's stated that sufficient space will be provided. Do you think that there will be sufficient space given the increasing numbers?
 - 3.3.3.1. Ronan – Construction and planning was in fact passed when the student population was lower. There were around 15,000 students and now it is around 19,000. They want to divide the space fairly but they are meeting with construction and planning soon to look at different systems and figure this all out.

3.3.4. Sara O'Donnell (Music Society) – The blueprints that students have access to are from when this project first started and none of the current students were around at this time. Have there been any updates or changes to the blueprints over the years?

3.3.4.1. Ronan – Given his role, he wouldn't have the specific details but Paul Lee will be able to answer this.

3.3.5. Markus Lautwein (Dance UL) – When will the blueprints be sent out?

3.3.5.1. Ronan – As construction continues, the students will be updated. Once all committees have met together, more details will be published in a clear and concise format.

3.4. Lisa Ryan – This is a standing item and Paul Lee will be attending council in Week 9 to answer everyone's questions.

4. UL Wolves x UL Sustainability Project – Jack O'Connor

4.1. Centre for Sustainable Futures and Innovation was established in UL in 2022 and UL Student Sustainability was trialled in January 2023. 2023/24 is the first full academic year.

4.2. Problems with student-orientated sustainability:

- Focus solely on environmental sustainability, not economic and social.
- Developed solely by staff, or solely by students but never both together.
- Focus on optics and 'looking good' rather than effectiveness and 'being good'.

4.3. Their mission is to create a thriving ecosystem for UL students to become pragmatic changemakers for sustainable development.

4.4. Their aims are to educate students on sustainable development; engage students in critical thinking and discourse; empower students to take actions for sustainable development.

4.5. How do they do this?

- Hosting a weekly series of events every Wednesday on a specific UN SDG.
- Hosting brainstorming / ideation sessions with clubs and societies
- Supporting on ideas, events, or proposals on sustainability from students / clubs and societies.
- Always looking for new ideas and collaborations.

4.6. What are they looking for?

- Join and attend our weekly events
- Run a sustainability brainstorm within your club or society to investigate ideas, events, initiatives across any sustainability issue
- Simply meet for a coffee and a chat to see how best to make UL or your club/society more sustainable
- Don't worry if you don't know what your club or society should do to be sustainable or to promote it - have a chat with us and see!

4.7. Pre-defined events for this semester:

- SDG 4: Workshop and Dr Keelin Leahy

- SDG 5: Panel discussion and Rabiya Ali
- SDG 6: Debate and Chidi Usanga
- SDG 7: Student Summit and Paddy Finn
- SDG 8: Workshop and speaker TBD

4.7.1. They are looking for panellists for SDG 5 on Gender Equality - especially clubs!

4.7.2. They are looking to share across socials.

4.7.3. Meeting every Wednesday, 6pm to 8pm.

4.7.4. All participation counts toward the President's Volunteer Award

4.8. Contact Jack O'Connor:

- Email: jack.oconner@ul.ie
- Instagram and Twitter/X: @Sustainable_UL
- LinkedIn: UL Student Sustainability

5. Assets & Inventory: 3-year plan – standing item

5.1. Katie emphasises the importance of completing the 3-year plan and assets and inventory. This is to make sure everything is up to standard. It also acts as proof if you need new equipment. Assets & inventory can be logged on the UL Wolves committee panel.

5.2. If there are any questions, please email Lisa (lisa.ryan@ul.ie).

6. Scholars – C&S experiences

6.1. This was brought to councils attention last week (*see minutes from Semester 1 Week 5, Item 10.5.*). Would anyone else like to share their experiences? Everyone's feedback will help C&S to start a conversation with Scholars.

6.2. Hannah O'Donovan (Economics and Investments Society) – They are planning their table quiz for week 9 and they went into Scholars to enquire about booking the venue. Similarly to other clubs and societies, they were told they had to buy drink vouchers and given the option to serve food. Finally, they were told that if any participants weren't buying drinks, then their society were no longer allowed to have any events at Scholars. They decided to book with The Terrace instead.

6.2.1. Katie – Were The Terrace able to take your booking?

6.2.2. Hannah – Yes, they were open to it and were very accommodating.

6.3. Eoin Gilmartin (Musical Theatre Society) – A couple of months ago, they booked a karaoke night in Scholars for the upcoming bank holiday Monday. Recently, they went in around 10am to check if the booking was still in place and the owner Kate was happy to go ahead with it and looking forward to working with them. A couple of hours later, they received an email from Kate saying they are closed for the bank holiday and the booking would have to be rescheduled. However, they claim to be booked up so there's no guarantee that they'll get anything.

- 6.4. Lauren Hever (ULFM) – A year ago, they had an event at Scholars and prior to this they received an email where they were offered finger food. While they admit they should have asked for clarification before accepting this offer, the email was phrases in such a way that it was assumed the food would be free. On the night, they were given 2/3 plates of food that was not good. Later they received an invoice for almost €100. Additionally, they held a quiz there two weeks ago and sold tickets for a number of tables. Three hours before the event, they went in to confirm that they still had those tables. They were informed then that they were never promised the full venue and they won't ask other customers not participating to leave, but ULFM must do it.
- 6.5. Katie – is there a booking system for events or do you just email them?
6.5.1. Lauren – they have a booking system but usually people contact them by email.
- 6.6. Finn O'Sullivan (Rowing Club) – Last year, they had booked the venue but upon arrival they were told by Scholars that they hadn't booked, they simply had the use of the space. There were other customers there and if Rowing wanted to ask them to leave then they could. This year, Rowing booked their quiz at The Pavillion and they were very accommodating and the venue was larger.
- 6.7. Katie – We're sorry to hear that people in C&S have been experiencing this. If anyone else would like to share, then please email Lisa (lisa.ryan@ul.ie). It's very important that all of this information is gathered before they go speak to Scholars. A discussions tab will be opened. Aisling is in the process of having conversations with The Terrace, so potentially C&S activities could be moved there. For the time being, if anyone is in contact with Scholars, keep as much information as possible in writing and keep council up to date.

7. What is on your mind?

- 7.1. The floor is open to those who want to share what's on their mind in term of UL Wolves and C&S. Any comments, questions, feedback or complaints are welcome.
- 7.2. (Swim Club) – Asks if there are any printing services on campus?
7.2.1. Katie – Troy Printing in the courtyard are very good and usually only takes 24 hours for a job. Alternatively, you can use your library card.
7.2.2. () – In the new student centre, would it be possible to have a printer just for the use of clubs and societies activities?
7.2.3. Katie notes this idea.
- 7.3. Lauren (ULFM) – if any clubs or societies have any good news, please let ULFM know as they'd like to be able to share it with everyone. You can contact them by email ulfmcommittee@gmail.com or DM them on Instagram @ul_fm.

8. C&S Executive

- 8.1. *UL Wolves Discussions Tab – Eoin Gilmartin (Societies Rep)*

8.1.1. The discussions tab on Wolves is underutilized feature and not many people are aware of it. We'd like to make clubs and societies more aware of it and teach people how to use it. To access it, open the committee panel and it's on the dashboard. Everyone has access to it – they can start a discussion or comment on others. It's whole purpose is to continue conversations brought up at council. People can post anonymously or with their name/club showing. Paul, Lisa, Aisling, and Noreen are going to make an effort to be more active there. To post something, please contact Lisa to open a discussion thread.

8.1.2. For example, a discussion can be started about the new student centre. The video shown today can be found on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWVAKQdk4b0>).

8.1.3. Noreen – Please use the discussions tab. It's there for you and everyone made really good points about Scholars and the student centre today so please continue the conversation. It gives people working in C&S time to gather information and give you the best answer.

8.1.4. Eoin – It also acts as a paper trail which it useful for C&S as all discussions and questions can be seen in one place. It makes the whole process faster and more efficient.

8.2. Membership increase

The aggregate increase in members from 2015/2016 until now is 42.3% which is unsustainable growth relative to funding, facilities, and volunteer capacity.

2015/16	2019/20	Increase in Number	% Increase
5203	5989	786	15%
2019/20	2022/23		
5989	7402	1413	23.50%
2015/16	2022/23	2199	42.30%

8.3. Katie – opens the floor to council to share their experiences with increasing numbers.

8.4. Brian Carroll (Archery Club) – our club had to close sign-ups and stop taking in members a couple of weeks ago because we had 200 members but only 128 training slots. We didn't feel comfortable taking their membership fees without the guarantee that they would be able to participate in club activities.

8.5. Eoin (Musical Theatre Society) – With increasing numbers, the only way to facilitate everyone is to organise more productions. However, they are limited with space in the Jonathan Swift Theatre. To compensate, they use the Schuman sometimes but this is not fit for their purpose. While the new student centre has a fantastic auditorium, their society will lose access to the Jonathan Swift after the student centre opens. As a performing society, they aren't receiving much in terms of

additional space as the auditorium is smaller. Eoin would like C&S to consider preserving some of the spaces that are already in use rather than discarding them as a result of the Leave a Legacy 2016 agreement.

- 8.6. Kye (Games Society) – Agrees that the new student centre will provide new space, but it's not enough considering their society has 100 members attending weekly events. They would still need to be able to access the main building (EGO10), for example. There is still too much pressure despite the new spaces being created.
- 8.7. Ryan (Surf Club) – Every Monday their club has pool sessions in the Arena. In his experience, members attendance used to be high in the first couple of weeks then it would slowly decrease. Other clubs have a similar experience and there are many benefits such as finding committees and building stronger bonds with people. However, it's now Week 7 and slots are still being booked out very quickly. Bookings reopen at midnight after sessions. We try reward people for consistent attendance by bringing them on trips, but now too many people are being blocked from this system. Outside of training, they hold information nights and it's still difficult to accommodate people.
- 8.8. Katie – the last thing we want to do is cap the numbers of cubs and societies to exist at 70-80. But it is something we are concerned about as this is unsustainable growth. Student Life would like your suggestions of what they can bring to the university and improve the situation.
- 8.9. Aoife Mulkern (Women's Soccer) – They have a similar experience to others as they now have over 100 members but only one training slot per week for one hour on the same pitch. There are both experienced and inexperienced players. Splitting the space and coaches between the two is difficult to manage and it's hard to create a productive session. They have tried to get a second slot but this has also been a struggle due to lack of resources and high demand.
- 8.10. Noreen (UL Sport) – Facilities are limited and no clubs have expressed interest in a slot before 6pm. In the past, clubs also didn't train in the Arena during the morning but this has completely changed. We are doing their best to get people into the spaces that they have access to and she is not in favour of capping clubs and societies, but we are getting to the point where we can no longer facilitate everyone.
- 8.11. Katie – If there are clubs or societies that can host their activities during the day, please let us know. A discussions tab will be opened.
- 8.12. Joseph Claro (Table Tennis Club) – We run sessions Wednesdays 2-5pm and people turn up for an hour or so, so it's definitely a usable slot as people often have breaks in their classes.

9. AOB

- 9.1. None