



## Clubs and Societies Council Semester 2 Week 11

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***Aisling went through the house rules and advised meeting is recorded for the purpose of minutes.***

### **1. Minutes and Apologies:**

Proposed – Rian.Upton Mescall (Drama Society).

Seconded – Colm Copley Brown (Drama Society).

Apologies – Cumann Gaelach Society.

### **2. Old Wolves Network – Eamonn O' Flynn**

**EF:** I'm just here to introduce an idea that Michelle and I have been working on with Paul, just exploring this idea of an old wolves network. It was something that was looked at a few years back. UL student life, the value, the past contributions that students and members who participated in UL student life, and the various entities, clubs and societies.

Our goal is to promote and assist ongoing connection both within and across the generations of the various URL, extracurricular activities, and entities. You know in terms of this is very early days and we're just trying to kind of scope this out and it's

we're very much open to comments reviews you know ideas. It's hard to capture all of the various entities and names of entities like ULPSU and UL.

What we're trying to define as an old wolf, but again, we're keeping a very much an open door policy on that. It's pretty much anyone who's participated in UL student or has contributed to UL student life/ C&S in any way down the years as ultimately we're trying to maintain a home away from home that we want to be at the center of that concept. At the moment we might just put together a committee of founding members, and then we can get to work on defining ourselves and our goals.

We would look at developing a constitution for good governance, all the stuff that most clubs and societies have, and other entities within the C&S, UL, and US student life, the committee of members, and show you the right balance for continuity and that we have.

I suppose we ensure that there's a change of committee members and so on that, we don't want to become stagnated, that we have, a healthy turnover of people being involved. I think that's important. And then you know for governance. We're looking to get people who are involved in the clubs' societies. Class reps, and student officers should have the opportunity to join. What we're looking to do is we're aiming to be, in the end, to be self-funding and what we think we can do, to begin with.

The idea of reunions of various clubs and societies of various other entities and so on, that if we can put something in place there that facilitates that we are, we can look at organizing the events, know the rates, no output, entertainments together, do all of these practical things and be a source of advice and information. And you know when somebody says we'd like to do a reunion, we can even keep an eye on when these reunions should be happening and so on, and that we're there to assist with that.

You know that can become a, I suppose a way of generating a few funds and then we can use that to promote our other initiatives. We also see that there are sponsorship opportunities.

**JC:** (Fencing club) Would you actively reach out to previous members or would they have to contact you?

**EF:** We would encourage people/members to contact us, we have to consider GPDR.

### **3. Matters arising:**

- a. Martial Arts room – meeting update

**LC:** Paul is on annual leave this week, no update, Paul to organise a meeting with Giles Warrington & Neasa O'Donnell. Should have an update in a fortnight for the council.

#### **4. C&S Executive election**

**AR:** E-mail me any expressions of interest for the clubs and societies executive.

If you're not familiar, a group of three elected student representatives, including three elected societies, representatives including a Socs officer and three elected clubs, representatives, including a clubs officer, we have one one-hour meeting a week along with the representative from UL Sport UL Arts office, also on the exec and also a PSU Rep and the Student Communities Officer Chairs it.

The Executive would approve if you've ever put forward a foreign trip proposal, a special application, and a new policy. So this is where the wording of policies comes up in our and mulled over and the correct wording is, is chosen. There's some training involved and there is an overnight out-of-term time where you do a team-building exercise in some training. And I can give you any information. It was passed as a policy last year that we would elect our, it's just one that we would elect our executive in the last meeting in semester 2.

But if anyone has questions, I can answer them or we do have a couple of members of our current exec, including our clubs and Socs officers or our clubs and Socs reps.

Where you can ask them or you can pop in and see me or you can e-mail me. It is a really enjoyable experience. Also, I know that you are all working hard to get your degrees and stuff, but it's great on a CV to put down and many will tell you who have been on the exec before. It is quite enjoyable.

**LC:** it is an incredible experience and really worthwhile and a lot of fun. And so I definitely recommend it and definitely reach out to your current club's office and they will have as many answers as they can possibly give you.

#### **5. Start-ups and wind-downs**

**LC:** Spikeball club unfortunately is winding down.

#### **6. Give it a go**

- **AR:** Give it a go. So usually it's done in a 2-3 week window and it gives new students or current students a chance to try a club or society before they go in. We've noticed that when looking at statistics on the website it says we have currently seven and a half thousand members, but we don't know how many of those are active or how many you know came first semester and left and it doesn't reflect that and we just want people to be able to give it a go.

And the necessity for every club or society I've been working with Keith, who does our web. He's our web admin and it's going to be set up as a club or society. And

then there are going to almost badges at some of your events. So you'll get all the information. There's nothing you need to do now other than let me know if you're interested. It would need to be a lower-risk version or if you have a low-risk club/society.

It could be a social event anything. So when they go on to the UL Wolves website and calendar it will have a give it a go stamp on it. It will be 2 weeks. I was going to do weeks two and three but I'm going to have to wait and see how the first-year incoming falls this year. If you think your club or society would be interested at all and I might just pile it with 10 or 15 in the first semester.

Semester 2 or the following academic year, we have kind of a busy summer in terms of admin currently. It would be low cost where clubs and societies and then our statistics are you know our figures on the website would really show how many clubs in societies members are engaging because if you're staying on past those times, you are a member that is showing up to training or to rehearsals or to whichever.

Thank you so much. Jenny, do the activities have to take place on campus? No, they don't. So it's just going to be on a sign-up basis.

And anyone that kind of says they're interested and I'll send you out a form and we can come up with, you know, what is the best compromise? What shows your club or society is all about what we can do realistically with the number of people because I imagine a lot of people will want to do this especially excited first years. Are international students coming in just to give it a go? And so I think it could be really beneficial for all clubs and societies. And we heard from you that.

There was a lot of pressure after COVID because people were signing up and we were like, you know, how are we going to deal with the numbers particularly? I remember Photosoc saying that they couldn't cater to the numbers. So I think this would create a really good element of trying it. If you're really invested, stick with it and go and then pay your membership fee and go for it. Give it a go.

Are people/members covered by insurance?

Yeah, Mark, they are. So that's why we're setting it up. That's why it's taking a bit of time because it's confusing with GDPR. So that's why I've been working with Keith.

He is going to set it up as a club or society so people will have to show what he's going to do. I'll send all this information, but it's kind of exciting. So they will have nearly a QR code or something on the top of their profile. So when they're going, they're going to have to show that they are assigned up as a, give it a go. So being signed up to give it a go for those events as I give it a go society going to stop saying that term now it would be the same as being signed up to the club or society just for those signed off on events.

**EG:** (Musical theatre) Would it be that certain events? Wouldn't the society say like if you had a karaoke night or something, whatever is included in the give it a go thing or would it be that you're taking a trial period and this idea where you're a member of that society for a certain amount of time before you decide if you're continuing?

**AR:** Yes. So you would be signed up just to give it a go for the Give it a go certified events that could be one of your general events. So maybe you're saying you know we're having a rehearsal that can be the give it a GO event so they can get a flavour of what we are, maybe it's separate, but they would then after the give it a go kind of festival the two weeks say they would have to go and sign up to your club or society is that answer your question or no. OK perfect.

Could it be something that links to the C&S fair? Yes, it could both because of the timing of the First year's coming in, I'm not sure when that's happening. I don't know if it's going to be like last year or like previous years. So eventually, yes, I think it should be tied into the CNS fair around that time.

**JD:** (Trampoline club) The C&S fair is like with a with the C&S fare back in September, we had so many people come up to us and go, oh, can I try. But just like for the trampoline like I know it's very specific. So I apologize to everyone. But like what I'm saying is that could we host an event that could trampoline to do their event as the C&S fair that you'd get to get on try the bed at the CNS fair or is that doesn't need to be something that's actually a dedicated separate time slot. Does that make sense?

**AR:** I would do it in a separate time slot because what if all AC did it did? It would be a crowded event, but what we can do is have like a little calendar of, give it a go events and you can say yeah, we're doing that tomorrow.

**JR:** Are they covered by Insurance?

**AR:** Yeah, if they're signed up to, they give it a go.

It's a minimal cost and because we don't want to be taking away your memberships, we can't ask them to pay twice. So it would be a very low cost and what that would do is go into the following year. So if you think we're looking at this all in the very beginning stage, it's going to take the summer. But I think over the two weeks if say 15 clubs or societies took part, they can try 5 for €5 or something. Well, now I have to pay for my membership. And so we were going to do it that they pay a small amount as a different type of membership in the individual club or society, but we can't see people wanting to try doing that much admin. So they seemed like the most straightforward option that two or three euros, then we'll go forward to putting on like a festival type, you know, having people in the courtyard. So it becomes a give-it-a-go festival if that makes sense.

It wouldn't be. It wouldn't deter them from signing up to your club or society because it would probably equate to €1.00 per try of club or society.

I think they're all the questions, but please these are all giving me ideas, so please do contact me with any further questions.

And it will be a summer project. If you're interested in doing it, get in touch. But I will be playing you with emails as per usual.

## **7. UL Wolves branding**

**LR:** Paul is on annual leave this week. And he asked me just to mention this tonight at Council that he sent out an e-mail last week offering free design support to all C&S to integrate the wolf as part of your branding. UL Student Life, in association with UL Wolves, is embarking on an important creative campaign to unite all clubs and societies. Over the coming months we will be offering FREE Design Support to all C&S groups so they can integrate the UL Wolf as part of their own branding. Right now, more than 50% of our clubs and societies display the wolf in their logo. We want to enable others to do the same and have teamed up with a local designer to help us do so.

I have booked a room in the Student Life building – Courtyard meeting room on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> of April at 2.30 pm. You can book your slot on the Wolves under the engagement tab. If anyone is interested in attending that meeting.

## **8. C&S ball tickets – project for tickets in budgets.**

**AR:** the clubs and societies ball tickets for those of you that have been around since pre COVID times. You remember that when you are putting together your budget, there was a drop down and you could elect how many tickets you wanted for next year that wasn't in their throughout COVID because realistically we didn't know if it was going to come back or we're going to have a ball. So this year when you're submitting your budgets, you're going to need to either say, yeah, we want the same number of tickets next year if you don't use them, that's fine. You'll get the money back.

And or we want we'd had five this year and we want to project more.

Cost of running the ball.

Terrified us all this year. I think it cost just shy of €25,000 to put on the ball and everything included.

And that was where the reduced, you know, that was with the little reduction from the hotel because they were welcoming us back. It will increase next year. So it will be part of be closer to 26 or 7 if we maintain the same numbers, meaning that it is not sustainable to keep the ball tickets at €50. So I really encourage you, I'll send an e-mail around about it because I need to chat with Paul.

And the actual cost for running the event per person is closer to 72 euro, which we're not obviously going to put it up to €72.00.

You know, in the interest, of keeping the ball running and the interest of being fair to your Members, I'd really urge you to think about it in advance so that you can make it a budget item. And because if turns around.

Next year and you're saying can we have 55 or 60 or that's a lot of money for someone. I appreciate that. I'm saying it has to go up and it's a lot of money, but in order to continue having the ball, which is a huge event and I thought went really

well this year and does generally go down and treat, we can't keep it at €50 because it's been at €50 for the past, probably decades.

Also just to remind you to please include it as a line item in your budget so that you can offer some kind of subsidy to your clubs and societies members that want to pretend.

#### **9. Unspent funds deadline date: 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2023**

**LR:** Advised the council that last year, unspent funds were carried over in the budget due to COVID-19 restrictions and C&S not having the opportunity to spend allocations. This year this will not apply, all unspent funds will be put into the special apps funds account, and they will not carry over. Please note the deadline date is the 16<sup>th</sup> of August before the wolves' rollover.

**CG:** (Underwater Hockey) – Can you elaborate on unspent funds?

**LR:** All C&S budget allocations must be spent before the rollover happens on the Wolves on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. Last year due to COVID unspent funds were brought over on the budget, but this year unspent funds will no they will go into special apps funds.

I would encourage all C&S to draw down their capitation before the rollover happens.

#### **10. Budget deadline date: 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2023**

**LR:** Emphasized the budget deadline date is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May @ 4 pm, all budgets need to be submitted and signed by three core committee members. If your club or society does not submit on this date, your club/society will not be allocated a budget in September.

#### **11. ULFM room bookings**

**Lauren: (ULFM)** Issue with booking rooms in the Student Life building. So we've noticed that it's really difficult to book rooms in the SU because sometimes they're blocked by clubs and societies who often aren't in the rooms or it's blocked, booked for multiple hours in a day, several days a week from the beginning of this semester, making it really difficult for other clubs and societies to have events or meetings in those rooms, even when you're trying to organize them two or three weeks in advance, like the space is limited, as is multiple times. We walked past the rooms, and there's been no one in them or there's been one person not even doing any activity.

A lot of students work or have other time commitments and cancer aside several hours a week from the beginning of the semester, people's schedules change, but it shouldn't be that difficult to find a room to use for an hour. We had some suggestions

of how we could kind of sort it out, and one of them was that room could only be booked two weeks in advance unless there was.

A specific circumstance required it to be booked further in advance, but that would need a written explanation and it would need to be approved by C&S Office 1st the other was that there should be a separate room booking form. If a room is needed for longer than two hours it again has to be approved by the office just to see as you know. Does it really need to be booked for longer than two hours other than that it was just closer vetting of the room bookings like the SU belongs to everyone but sometimes it feels like certain rooms belong to certain clubs and societies for events that could be held in a block booked room in Kemmy or Schuman.

We're open to other suggestions. We just want to see something done about it and we've spoken to other clubs and societies and they've agreed and they're supporting us and they are ULPBP the Yoga Society, Craft Society, Drama Society, Musical Theatre, Fashion Soc, Film Society, Music Society, Mountain biking club, Out in UL, archery, Boxing club, Racing and Motorsports, Swim club, Trampoline club and the UL Vikings.

**LC:** that was really clear and concise and thank you.

**AR:** It's really refreshing to see someone come with an issue, but also solutions because I know there are a lot of issues and I agree with where it really and. This is the meeting where you need to be engaging and discussing will deal with this again next year probably from the beginning of the semester. And the issue with you know lack of engagement and using these spaces to really get what you want and I fully appreciate that this meeting is a perfect example of us preaching at you.

So it's a perfect example. What Lauren has done here, it's an issue that obviously affects everyone. So if anyone could maybe could you know trip you OK?

Thank you for bringing solutions as well.

**LC:** Yes, really clear and concise.

Could the two-week time never be extended to maybe 2 1/2 slash 3 weeks as we need to give at least two weeks' notice for AGM's literacy sock? Agree. So it's obviously not a problem that you're alone with Lauren, you're getting.

So much support and the in the comments and so maybe there is room next year, particularly for and C&S office with the exec as the working group of Council to look at those structures to see that they're more fit for purpose, for clubs and societies and work on that from the beginning, from the gecko and throughout.

**AR:** Something that exactly assist with approving bookings or justifying bookings because obviously, I can see from Lisa that like on a day-to-day it would be a huge undertaking it would just be a lot of additional work if every room booking had to be vetted. But if there was a way that maybe.

If it's noticed that the same clubs and society had surpassed the number of hours within a semester, then it had to be approved, or I'm just trying to think of ways that



wouldn't add hours and hours of work. But it's definitely worth deciding and discussing over the summer even internally because we have lost some room space.

**LC:** I think it might be a good idea as to last Council, just to open the floor

## **12. AOB**

**CB:** (Drama Society) We're having a charity competition on Thursday evening and we're still looking to have some clubs and societies get there to sort of teams in for it. The competition starts at 6 pm. We thought Rounders would be nice. We are looking for teams of 9 to play. Colm provided details in the chat.

**KM:** provided an update on the new student center on furniture and fittings.

**LC:** Thanked Katie and advised the council the updates are important, the student center belongs to all students and its space for us to all share.

This is my last Council and as communities officer and I just want to say that it's been an absolute privilege working with you all, seeing you at event and throughout the year and most importantly, just having those chats. When I start this can use officer clubs and societies was a little bit foreign to me and it wasn't something that I was deeply involved in, in college and I thought I'd really struggle to understand it because it's just such a big structure.

And according to imagine the year without it, I said it to the exec earlier, but they've been incredibly inspiring and so of all of you. So I want to thank you for your time and your commitment and I hope you all acknowledge how hard you work for the betterment of something that is such an important community to those of you that are selling college and those of you that are gone. And I wish you all the best of luck in your exams and your college careers, everything. And thank you yet again.

But I'll just ask one more time for fairness. Is there anyone else who has an AOB?

