

University of Limerick Students' Union Sabbatical Officer Reports to Council

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| Academic Year | 2017/2018 |
| Date | 29/03/2018 |
| Position: | Welfare Officer |
| Name: | Roberta Harrington |
| Profile Picture: |  |
| <p>Introduction To Report and Updates Since Last Council</p> <p>I don't think I have submitted a report to council since before Christmas therefore this will cover all important elements since returning after the Christmas break.</p> | |
| <p>S.U. Finances</p> | |
| <p>Budget Expenditure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All budget expenditure reimbursed by PCC. (UL Transforms related) | |
| <p>Short Term Objectives and Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With thanks to Clare O'Brien, equal opps chair, the Transgender Pride flag will fly outside Plassey house from Tuesday April 3rd to Friday April 6th (For International Day of Trans Visibility (DOTV) on March 31st). The flag will be flying on these dates as students will not be on campus on the | |

day itself. The purpose of DTOV is to celebrate and commend the courage shown by transgender people to openly live their authentic self and to raise awareness surrounding the continued discrimination faced by transgender people globally.

- **Drug and Alcohol awareness:** as it stands, e-pub is used as a tool to draw awareness around alcohol in students' lives. We urgently need feedback on this resource as it may not be fit for purpose. There will be a focus group on Tuesday 10th from 2-3 in the den with Elaine Griffin, drug and alcohol worker. All you have to do is complete e-pub and attend to give feedback. There will be plenty of free food for anyone that takes part and it also goes towards the PVA.
- **UL Transforms:** The initiative has now finished its first year with the closing celebration taking place on Tuesday 20th in the pavilion. I am delighted with how the initiative ran in its first year and Lorcan and Ciara are committed to rolling it out for the coming year also. The goal is that it will be "owned" by the university so that it becomes an annual initiative, which is being done through the healthy campus sub-groups.
- **Smoke Free:** The health centre are aware that they will be expected to provide smoking cessation workshops/resources to students going forward in order to align with the smoke free campus initiative. This will be happening and I will update you all in time when these resources are available.
- Climbing wall approved by GA today.
- **Assistive technology centre:** Recently opened. Sabbats, Liz, Lorcan all attended. Phenomenal support for students with a wide range of disabilities and fantastic work by all in the disabilities office to make this a reality.
- **Senior management at council:** senior management will be attending our last council meeting for the year to discuss the strategic plan with us – please ensure you are there. It is vitally important that we feed into the plan as students and get as many students as possible to attend.
- **Destress Week:** with thanks to Mary Ellen, LAW will be kicking the week off on Monday 16th with puppies in the courtyard 12-1:30pm. Tackle Your Feelings will be coming down to do a workshop with students on

the Tuesday evening and Ryan O' Reilly (resilience speaker will be speaking on the Wednesday). We will be doing tea/coffee during the week also.

- **Threshold roadshow/SUSI:** Threshold will be coming on April 11th to engage with students on housing issues/queries. Threshold will be doing training with the sabbats also. Both Sean Bailey Whyte and I will also be informing students around SUSI also during that week.

Long Term Objectives and Update

- **Funding for Assistant Psychologists for Éist:** Jack and I presented to governing authority some weeks back giving an overview of challenges facing students. In this I ensured to include the waiting time for Éist and the fact that the HSE have now began AP panels, offering paid work to assistant psychologists. Given that Éist uses a stepped care model which is totally reliant on the 6 AP's, it was worrying that these AP's may indeed be "plucked" from their placement at UL for paid work elsewhere. This was highlighted to the GA and the president called for a meeting thereafter. Both Declan Aherne and Lucy Smith from Éist, and I spoke with the president about the reliance of the service on the AP's on a voluntary basis. He ensured that that he would be investing a lot his time in this to ensure that the service is maintained, in the pioneering fashion that it is, of the stepped care model. He will be coming back to Declan and I in the coming weeks with a proposal. I see this as a very positive step towards safe guarding the work of Éist.
- **Equality and Diversity:** An E&D board was assembled at the beginning of this term to address issues of E&D within the university. I am a member of that board and Lorcan will then take over the position when in office in June. The board will look at the enablers and the barriers to E&D here in the university. A lot of the recommendations will be resource intensive/funding required and the board recognises that funding will be necessary to excel as a university in pushing forward with all elements of E&D. A draft report will be presented to university exec in June.
- **Healthy Campus:** Member of Physical activity and mental healthy sub groups – both of which will be putting forward a proposal to university

exec this coming June. Both sub-groups are looking to give recommendations on both areas within the university in order for the university to grow towards a healthy campus for both staff and students. In this we have ensured that the need for a module for first years is pushed and all members of each sub-committee believe this is necessary too. The module will be recommended by both working groups to exec in June.

- **UMass twinning project:** Our twinned university counterparts were here on campus, most of you whom they would meet at either council or C&S ball. We are very happy with the developments from their visit – with both sets of sabbats working towards health and wellbeing initiatives; we discussed our plans for the coming weeks and what initiatives we have already undertaken throughout our time in office. The project will continue with the next sabbatical officers and it has allowed us to compare US aspects with UL aspects in terms of campus life, student engagement, and more.
- **Castletroy Garda Station Campaign:** Given that the campaign will be a multi-annual we feel it is necessary to adopt a policy within the SU in order for the campaign to be progressed as much as possible within the coming years. Exec have approved this and I am asking that you approve this too tonight at council. We have also sought external advice on how best to proceed and have contacted 2 particular individuals to write a commissioned paper on this – one of whom is from UL and one from DCU. I will update you all accordingly.

Meetings Attended (With External Bodies / Of Note)

Governing Authority

Physical activity healthy campus

Mental health healthy campus

Mental health steering committee

Smoke free campus working group

3rd level drug and alcohol working group

Meeting with president and Éist

PCC re student engagement fund

Equality and Diversity

Student Centred Facilities and supports working group

GIFTS RECEIVED (R.R.P of over €50)

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| EXPENSES CLAIMED |
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| AOB |
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Signed by the Officer: *Roberta Harrington*

Submitted to the Chairperson on the 29.03.2018

Verified by a member of the Executive Oversight Committee:

