

**Minutes of the
Irish Universities Athletics Association
Emergency General Meeting**



**Wednesday 8th December 2021
Via Zoom (Due to Covid 19 Restrictions)**

Organised by the Irish University Athletics Association

In Attendance:

IUAA Universities Committee Members: Garret Dunne, Eric Brady, Stephen Lipson, Laura Brennan, Dylan Byrne, Victoria Ias Daniel, John Moroney, Pierre Murchan, Cliona Murphy,

Members: Shane Aston Carlow IT, Ben Donovan CIT, Clodagh Walsh CIT, Dylan Manning CIT, Lucy Holmes CIT, Cathal Ryan CIT, Paul Byrne DCU, Grace Casey DCU, Ciara Kennelly DCU, Shane Monagle DCU, Molly Dunne GMIT, Donal McNally IT Carlow, Cillian Griffin IT Carlow, Murphy Michael LYIT, Billy Ryan CIT, David Kenny CIT, Dave McInerney CIT, Joseph O Connor IT Tralee, Jennifer Healy IT Tralee, Sean Carolan MTU, Eve Reilly MU, Daniel O'Brien MU, Sarah Bateson MU, Katie Condron MU, Ellie O'Toole NUIG, Donal Devane NUIG, Caitriona QUB, Rory Morrow QUB, Cameron Jenkins QUB, Fiona Doyle TCD, Luke Evans TCD, Caron Ryan TCD, Conall Hayes TCD, Cyril Smyth TCD, Alannah McGuinness TUD, Brianna McGhee TUD, Sean L'Estrange TUD, Herbie McClelland TUD, Joe Dowd TUD, Bashir Hussain AIT, Oisín O'Gibne AIT, Wayne Fanning LIT, Gearóid McMahon LIT, Gordon Brett AIT, Nessa Wheeler UCC, Ciara Hickey UCC, Allanah Neff UCC, Anna O Callaghan UCC, Peter Kilgannon UCD, Mary Gartland UCD, Israel Olatunde UCD, Alexandra Tierney UCD, Damien Madigan UL, Jack Hickey UL, Joe Minter UL, Norah O'Brien UL, Emma Hutchinson UU, Conor Potts UU, Aine Corcoran UU, Emma McCay UU, Shane McCormack WIT, Aaron Tierney Smith WIT, Jack Pender WIT, Ross Lapin IT Sligo, Sean McDermott GMIT, Gerard Murphy WIT, Joe O'Connor IT Tralee, Ian O'Sullivan CIT, James Holden TUD, Joshua Lindsey QUB, Phil Healy WIT, David Denieffe (IT Carlow), Catriona Edington QUB

Apologies: James Nolan

The Chair Garret Dunne (GD) welcomed all attendees to the EGM 2021, which had been planned following discussion at the AGM in October 2021.

Stephen Lipson (SL) outlined the order of events which was to vote MTU and TUS in as members so as to enable them to participate in the discussion concerning the shape of that membership. After the vote, SL will then read the minutes of the 2021 AGM on this topic, and then MTU and TUS can outline their points and then the rest of the floor can speak so as an informed discussion and can take place. This discussion will then inform whether a motion should go forward to admit campuses as is or whether amendments should be made, prior to voting.

Gordon Brett (AIT) (GB) asked if instead of proceeding, could the IUAA form a subcommittee under clause 5.10 in the constitution.

GD said that MTU and TUS aren't members.

GB said that he would like a subcommittee to avoid an argument

Eric Brady said that he didn't believe that we could stretch participation beyond the road relays that had already taken place.

GB said that MTU and TUS had voted at the AGM on October and if they weren't members then the AGM was invalid.

EB and SL said that the EGM was called for the purpose of ratifying them as members.

GD said that we would continue with the process and then discuss.

GB said that they were members.

SL said that AIT, CIT, IT Tralee and Limerick IT were not members as they don't exist anymore.

GB asked if everyone could come to the next AGM with a solution.

Jennifer Healy (IT Tralee) (JH) said that it wasn't ok and that they had voted at the AGM.

SL said we can't stretch membership to infinity.

EB said that we had agreed at the AGM to pause the discussion and call an EGM to facilitate this.

GD said that MTU were not currently listed in Appendix 1 as members.

JH said that TUD weren't listed either.

SL clarified that he hadn't updated the constitution to reflect the vote at a prior AGM but that the minutes of that AGM show that TUD were voted in as members.

GB pointed out that DIT, Tallaght and Blanchardstown hadn't been delisted.

EB said that the institutions no longer exist.

GB asked again if a subcommittee could be formed.

EB said that we were here for discussion

GB said that DIT was happy to merge. However in TUS, AIT and LIT are funded separately, we are begging to compete separately this year as it doesn't affect anything this year.

Molly Dunne (GMIT) (MD) said that at the AGM GMIT wasn't a TU but now they were going to be part of a future TU and so GMITs position had changed and they would agree with BG and JH.

SL asked would they not affiliate as MTU and TUS and then discuss going forward the structure.

JH: No

EB the IUAA committee is here to protect the constitution and we are trying to get you in.

JH said that a name change in Appendix 1 would get them in as campuses

EB said that we have to abide by our rules.

JH said that they were happy to compete but separately.

GB said he believed AIT is a member, that the AGM is invalid and we want a solution.

Donal McNally (IT Carlow) (DMN) in May 2022 WIT and IT Carlow will merge. There is a lot of change at present and due consideration should be given and he would appeal to the IUAA to set up a subcommittee.

John Moroney (JM) said that everyone is here, can we have the discussion now.

GD said that we have 74 people on the call. What can we achieve over the next 5 months. We have discussed this since 2018.

SL asked if he should read the minutes relating to this topic from the AGM and then discuss.

QUB asked if this could be done now as they had missed the AGM and would like to hear what was said.

Bashir Hussain (AIT) (BH) asked what were the issues.

GD said that we ran through this at prior AGMs, they had been on the table for 3 years, what extra info will be available.

SL then read the minutes of the AGM in relation to this topic.

GD said that kicking the topic down the road isn't the solution. We should be able to find a reasonable solution.

At this point the smoke alarm went off in GD's apartment and he went to investigate.

Laura Brennan (LB) explained that the smoke alarm had gone off but asked if we could start fleshing out the issues and start the conversation.

EB agrees. What do the rest of the membership think to resolve the issues. Tell us what you want.

Billy Ryan (CIT) (BR) said that CIT had discussed this internally within the club members and the members wanted to compete as one, as this makes a competitive team, a bigger team. MTU Cork want one team.

David McInerney (CIT) (DMcI) said that as athletes they have heard that we might not be able to compete. We have heard this from our sports officers.

GD said that we need to leave this call with athletes competing

Jack Hickey (UL) (JHic) said that it was pointless to leave the call without a decision. In the future if MTU is too big then this limits competition. The T&F limits competition. If you grow MTU then we can't facilitate athletes competing and people leave the sport if they can't compete.

JH advised DMC and JHic that it wasn't about sports officers, it was about numbers competing as the motion will reduce numbers competing.

GD we can divide participation into 4 groups, Road Relays is unlimited, XC is almost unlimited, T&F is 2 UG/PG and 2 OYDs, and the indoors is 2 UG/PG and 1 OYD. We could expand this to 3+1 or 2+2 in the T&F and 3+0 or 2+1 at the indoors. MTU have never had numbers to exceed this. Tralee have never had a team at the Road Relays. Combined campuses will facilitate participation. Combining gives more opportunities to compete.

Aaron Smith (WIT) (AS) WIT will end up with one space less than they currently have once we merge with IT Carlow.

GD pointed out that UCD have 37000 athletes as it stands. Some people may have to change events but if you zoom out there are more opportunities.

JM said that bigger colleges always win. This is an opportunity to merge and win. Would students want to compete for a space on the team? Yes. TCD athletes lose out every year but we host a Colours event to facilitate all athletes. Will IT/TU become as big as UCD, I would like to see MTU & TUS on the podium.

Emma Hutchinson (UU) (EH) we have 4 campuses and we have competed a one for years and have never had an issue. If we competed separately we would have less competing as we couldn't fill relay teams.

JH MUT isn't being allowed by the college. Part of the thing is that we can't train together. A lot about grow and develop. This is our wish to be separate. Reality is it is best for us too. We want members to involve us.

EH we are apart with great numbers. We have people traveling.

Peter Kilgannon (UCD) (PK) asked what the urgency was. Can we form a subcommittee? A decision today will have people leaving unhappy.

EB: Based on what I have heard tonight & at the AGM is that participation is key. GD offered a solution that meets this to a point. With the current profile the increase in the T&F meets this. Distance becomes less of an issue. We have Team Championships for an individual sport. Does any college have a Relay team that trains in advance of a championship? Every College must be equal. More teams dilutes the championship. All over the world the team is the way it runs. MTU can enter separate teams in the Road Relays and Multies if they want under the current rules. What is it the MTU and TUS are looking for? What else is it you are looking for?

PK said that increasing the T&F numbers would mean more hears which is ridiculous.

GD said that this was already an issue at the indoors.

Dylan Manning (CIT) (DM) said that competitiveness is important and that he wanted to be able to compete and wanted his college ratified. If MTU gets bigger in the future that we can look to change the rules.

Caitriona Edington (QUB) (CE) said that in equestrian UCD had been allowed to enter two teams, one under the main campus and one under the veterinary campus and this had been deemed unfair.

JHic said that MTU had made the point that they wanted to be in. Let's get them in and then discuss. Are we going to have an argument every time? Should we wait and change when all are members?

EB: Can I ask GB/JH/Wayne Fanning (LIT) (WF) whether GDs proposal to increase numbers in the T&F meet any of your needs?

GB said that it did but only some of the way. Not enough as currently in the T&F we would be losing a space.

EB: If you have parity are you happy?

GB, yes if parity.

GD asked how often would it be an issue that there would be no spaces on the team?

GB: I can't tell you. SSI trying to understand what landscape will look like. We are separate entities in structure at present. It will take a few years to evolve. All other sports are permitting it. We want to talk and work on it.

JM said that we have looked at this. LIT have a negligible number competing, average 2-6, based on this you won't lose spots. In both mergers it is 1 big college and 1 small college, but you won't lose spaces as overall your numbers are lower than other members. What do the students in the club in Tralee think?

GB this means athletes in LIT will lose out because AIT is stronger, so LIT will lose out.

GD: There will be competition. Overall there will be more opportunities.

DMcl said that we haven't heard from the athletes in Tralee/LIT/AIT. What is their view?

Nessa Wheeler (UCC) (NW) we should be able to hear the athletes perspective. With distance between campuses the team will come together at the varsities. I don't believe it is negative to merge.

Shane McCormack (SMC) (WIT) I agree with GB. Shouldn't use current data as data will be different going forward. Trying to solve issue foisted on us by academia. Distance will make it feel not like a team. We need more time. I caution using current data.

Wayne Fanning (LIT) (WF) said that when the Thurlus campus merged with LIT it killed sport on the Thurlus campus as they wanted to train with their friends. Small numbers now doesn't mean we won't have athletes in the future.

JH: We have an athletics club in Tralee. I have spoken with them and I represent them. I'm making decision in best interests. I haven't heard why we are prevented from joining as campuses. The only argument is that others need to have the same facility. Splitting is opposite to joining. We're only asking for status quo to be maintained. I don't understand why we aren't allowed to.

GD No new info will come out of further discussion.

Cliona Murphy (CM) Changing name won't fit in with constitution. We can change constitution, we can look at that.

GB: where in the constitution.

CM: The constitution is based on one college one membership.

GB: We need more views. GB and SL had discussed the other night that we needed more views.

GD: We have touched a lot of key issues. I want to bring this to some sort of a vote.

SL went through the voting options

GB asked if it was 3 in the T&F for all members

SL: Yes

GB queried this as it favoured big colleges.

GD said that it was giving more slots to smaller colleges as the big colleges are already filling their quotas.

EB said that we need to take MTU and TUS in to protect their ability to compete, then have more discussion. The minimum requirement is to vote in and then have discussion prior to indoors. If we don't vote in the no one is competing from MTU and TUS.

GD: the way forward is to vote, TUS/MTU can then compete and we thrash it out before the AGM. If the outcome is to compete as campuses then that is the outcome.

GB AIT is on Appendix 1.

EB and GB discuss appendix 1 with EB point out that AIT no longer exists.

SL asked GB to help us move forward.

GD said that we are doing everything you want. We are acting in good faith.

EB pointed out to GB that he had asked for a delay in affiliating TUS and MTU at the AGM

GD said that we need to vote. We will vote on bringing MTU and TUS as members and change the numbers in the T&F and indoors.

SL said that the current motions would need withdrawing.

GD said he believed we needed to vote.

EB said to GB that MTU and TUS needed to be members to have motions voted on.

JH asked for consultation

JM asked is this not a discussion.

SL said that we would need to vote on the motions submitted from MTU and TUS after the IUAA motion (above from GD) if it wasn't withdrawn and the two outcomes could be contradictory.

GB said that there were former campuses affiliated in the constitution and it don't need a motion to affiliate campuses

SL clarified that App 1 wasn't up to date but that the AGM minutes would confirm current membership.

SL and GB had a further discussion where SL asked GB would changing the proposed motion to 4 in the T&F be enough to satisfy what TUS and MTU were looking for?

GB said no because existing members would now increase from 2 to 4 where as MTU and TUS would remain at 4.

SL then asked GB what he actually wanted.

GB said to compete separately.

SL asked if they would be happy if we did this for a period of time but that there must be a time limit on it.

GB said 'yes'.

SL & GB asked if we could put this in the constitution.

EB said 'no' but it could go in the rules of championship. He also pointed out that if this isn't passed then they aren't in.

It was agreed to insert clause 8.8 as follows, 'Until the 2022 AGM MTU-Cork and MTU-Kerry and TUS-Midlands and TUS-Midwest shall be permitted to compete as separate teams in all IUAA championship events'.

GD asked if anyone objected to this motion.

Nobody objected.

GB thanked everyone and said that we would have students there

GD thanks everyone and wishes them a happy Christmas and New year.

GD closed the AGM and thanked everyone.

[Minutes compiled by Stephen Lipson]

DRAFT