**USI National Council – 22/09/2012**

Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ – UCC NC

**Report of the President**

Tuairisc an Uachtarán

**Higher Education Authority**

1. *Sustainability Report-*

With a deadline of March 2013, the HEA is setting out its position on the capacity of the system, opportunities to improve capacity, opportunities to improve resourcing of the system, and identifying issues arising that need to be addressed to enable such changes, i.e. how the system can do more with similar levels of funding.

1. *Research and Graduate Education-*

A committee has been established as an advisory body to assist the HEA and the

Irish Research Council in carrying out their responsibilities and to ensure policy

coherence between the HEA and the Research Council, in respect of matters

relating to research and graduate education.

In addition to agreeing the terms of reference and work programme for the committee, the first meeting included a discussion on the HEA Strategy for Research and Graduate Education. The intention is to inform a joint DES/HEA statement on their respective roles in research and graduate education.

1. *System Governance and Performance-*

The Board discussed the HEA’s strategic plan for system governance and performance including agreed system configuration, agreed missions, medium term system funding plan, high level system outcomes, and mission based performance funding compacts with each Higher Education Institution setting out the agreed performance goal for that college.

1. *Part-time Higher Education-*

The Board considered a report produced by the HEA executive, ‘Part-time higher education in Ireland, policy, practice and recommendations for the future’. The document aims to provide an overview of current policy and practice for part-time higher education in Ireland and makes a number of recommendations for the future. The aim of these is to progress the National Strategy, the National Access Plan 2008-13 and the National Skills Strategy to 2020. When finalised, it is proposed that the recommendations will be implemented by the HEA in partnership with other education agencies, an in liaison with the Department of Education and Skills.

1. *Acquisition of land by Dundalk IT-*

The Board were asked to approve the purchase of sports facilities by Dundalk IT on the basis that a student levy would be introduced. I enquired as to the necessity of consent from the student body for such a venture and this was agreed by the Board as a necessary step in the process.

**Being Young in Ireland Initiative**

Following discussions with staff in Áras an Uachtaráin, the Union of Students in Ireland agreed to engage with the Being Young in Ireland initiative. Following our involvement, USI were invited to Áras an Uachtaráin to meet with President Michael D. Higgins to discuss the initiative and the role of young people as citizens of Ireland. We requested that the invitation be extended to Presidents of Member Organisations and this request was granted.

**Household Tax/Maintenance Grants Issue**

In response to the announcement that Clare County Council were refusing to process maintenance grant applications for students until they provided evidence that their parents had paid the Household Charge, USI organised a protest outside Clare County Council in Ennis, Co. Clare. I liaised with the Deputy President in organising the protest and worked with the Media and Communications Executive in drawing up a media strategy.

I engaged legal counsel on whether the actions of Clare Country Council and other local authorities was ultra vires their powers under law. We collated data from every County Council and City Council in Ireland to investigate which local authorities had taken similar actions.

I spent a majority of the time on local and national radio and thankfully An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny TD, announced in Dáil Éireann that no local authority was proceeding with these actions. I wish to thank the Students’ Unions who acted swiftly by mobilising students on the ground in such a short time frame.

**Trinity College Dublin Referendum**

In the fortnight proceeding the referendum, I met with TCD students who wished to support USI in the referendum. We discussed campaign strategies and put together a comprehensive plan of action for the two week period. The plan encompassed a social media strategy, ground campaigning, publications, debate preparations and lecture addressing. On polling dates I canvassed students on the ground in between other engagements and I also participated in a debate organised by the University Times and the Philosophical Society.

Students voted in favour of affiliation to USI by 1496 votes to 829.

**Meeting with Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn TD**

A delegation from USI Officer Board met with the Minister for Education and Skills on 19th September. We discussed the creation of an International Students Hardship Fund, Maintenance Grants, Postgraduate Grants and Loans, Student Assistance Fund, Student Contribution and the Productivity of Higher Education Institutions. The meeting was productive and we received several commitments from the Minister.

**​Implementation of Pre-Budget Strategy**

In the run up to the National Campaign I have had meetings with the two regional VPs and with the President and Media & Communications Executive. We have planned and discussed the theme behind the campaign, created the slogan and message. Following these meetings I held a Campaigns Sub Group Meeting with the elected MO Officers to discuss the ideas with them and to get their input and ideas.

I have met with a marketing and advertising company, Strategem iLabs, which is creating the visual and viral aspects to the campaign. Once these have been brought back to HQ I will seek the input and approval from the Campaigns Sub Group.

In conjunction with the President and two of the regional VPs, we have selected dates and started preparing the Town Hall Meetings that will happen across Ireland over a three week period.

I have also turned USI HQ Board Room into a War Zone that will map out the progress of the campaign and what has been completed and achieved so a detailed report will be available to all MOs at any stage along the campaign.

**Class Rep Training Presentations**

I gave a USI presentation to WIT Class Rep Training, UCD Class Rep Training, TCD Class Rep Training, UCC Class Rep Training, IT Sligo Class Rep Training, LIT Class Rep Training and DIT Class Rep Training.

**National Campaign**

*Overview*

Following discussions and consultation with Member Organisations at Campaigns Working Group in GMIT, USI Officer Board and staff spent a considerable about of time researching and preparing a proposed campaign strategy. Based on political affiliation, previous statements, electoral performance and proximity to Labour and Fine Gael Ministers I compiled a list of the most influential and strategically important members of the Oireachtas which will be the focus of our lobbying strategy leading up to Budget 2013.

I also researched the non-government sector to assess our allies leading up to the Budget. I pinpointed a number of organisations who have a kinship to the message of protecting and enhancing higher education. Following this I met with the President of the Irish Farmers Association to discuss our respective pre-Budget strategies. We discussed the synchronisation of messages and working together on town hall meetings across the country.

Officer Board debated at length the merits of each phase of the pre-Budget strategy and carried out a risk assessment strategy to pinpoint any potential weaknesses in the campaign. We discussed campaigning methods used by other movements across the world that have been effective and attempted to adopt a tailored approach to our own strategy.

We discussed the merits of involving the business community, both multinational and local, by highlighting the need for highly skilled graduates and the total loss to the local economy that four years of increases to the Student Contribution would bring. I have also prepared a strategy on informing and engaging both students and parents on the issues facing them over the years ahead. I feel this will be an invaluable tool when mobilising these respect groups over the weeks ahead.

*Update*

I will provide an update on the pre-Budget strategy as an agenda item at National Council, including meetings with Strategem iLabs, meetings with members of the Oireachtas and progress on the strategic objectives outlined in the strategy document disseminated to Member Organisations.

**Commercial & Operational**

In terms of commercial activity, USI is currently working on a deal to provide student possession and contents insurance at very competitive prices. As an added bonus, if the deal goes ahead the company partnering with USI have agreed to fund a competition where one student will win their rent for the year.

A key purchase for students moving into their own accommodation is homeware items. Very often, these purchases are done in out-of-town shopping centres and supported by parents. As a result, the stores have an incentive to draw custom to their stores beyond the student market. This is not a traditional hunting ground for students, or those seeking student deals, so one deal is being sought with a national brand.

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 14/9 | USI Taskforce | Higher Education Funding |
| 17/9 | OB Conference Call | Updates, Monitoring, Evaluation |
| 18/9 | Áras an Uachtaráin | Meeting with President Higgins |
| 19/9 | TCD Meeting Ruairi Quinn | Discussed above |
| 21/9 | TCD Meeting | Referendum |
| 21/9 | National Council |  |
| 22/9 | National Council |  |
| 25/9 | HEA | Cork IT |
| 26/9 | Meeting in TCD | Referendum |
| 1/10 | OB Conference Call | Updates, Monitoring, Evaluation |
| 1/10 | Debate | UT & Philosophical Society, TCD |
| 5/10 | OB Full Meeting | Updates, Monitoring, Evaluation |
| 8/10 | OB Conference Call | Updates, Monitoring, Evaluation |
| 9/10 | Class Rep Training | IT Sligo |
| 12/10 | Class Rep Training | DIT |
| 13/10 | USI Mature Students’ Convention 2012 | Maynooth. I gave a presentation on how mature students can get involved in pre-Budget campaign. |
| 14/10 | Class Rep Training | TCD |

**Media Engagement:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 18/9 | Majority of local radio stations | Household Tax/Maintenance Grants |
| 18/9 | Last Word with Matt Cooper | Household Tax/Maintenance Grants |
| 18/9 | Right Hook with George Hook | Household Tax/Maintenance Grants |
| 18/9 | TV3 | Household Tax/Maintenance Grants |
| 15/10 | Irish Times | My Week in Education |
| 1/10 | University Times | Referendum Coverage |
| 12/10 | University Observer | Interview w/ Sally Hayden |
| 5/10 | Irish Times | TCD Referendum |

**Expenses Claimed – Own Transport:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | To | From | Purpose | Rate | Distance | Cost |
| N/A |  |  |  |  |  |  |

**Annual Leave**

N/A

**USI National Council – 19/10/2012**

Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ – DIT NC

**Report of the Deputy President/Campaigns Officer**

Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Feachtais

1. **Áras an Uachtaráin**

Following an invitation from Áras an Uachtaráin I liaised with MO Presidents regarding their attendance in order to complete the guest list for the event. I also created a checklist regarding the details for the day for the MO Presidents and Officer Board. As we were extended the invite in conjunction with the ‘Being Young and Irish Initiative’ I compiled a list on how Students’ Union across the Country would advertise and promote the event on their own campus and on their social media outlets.

1. **County Council Protests**

In response to the announcement that Clare County Council were withholding Grant Applications from students until they had proven their parents had paid the household charge I organised a protest outside the County Council Offices in Ennis, Co. Clare. I contacted the Students’ Union Officers in LIT SU, NUI Galway SU, GMIT SU, UL SU and Mary I SU. UL SU was willing to join the USI team of GMIT SU, NUIG SU and LIT SU when preparing for the local demo outside the offices. In USI HQ we prepared the posters, the checklist, contacted the media, and rang every County Council and City Council in Ireland to investigate whether any other council was carrying out the same procedure. During that particular day, mid-September, it came to light that South Tipp Couty Council were also withholding Grant Applications so I contacted LIT Tipperary both Thurles and Clonmel Campus and WIT SU. LIT Tipperary Thurles and Clonmel Students’ Union carryied out the demo in Clonmel. Both decisions were over turned by the County Councils and a sincere thank you to the Students’ Union who organised transport and mobilised students to the protests.

1. **TCD Referendum**

Over the course of September along with Officer Board I attended meetings with the ‘No Campaign Team’ from TCD that was led by a TCD Student. I prepared plans and guidelines for the duration of the referendum and rolled them out accordingly in conjunction with the Campaign Team Manager. In the run up to the polling days I prepared plans and the schedule for the team on campus that would be campaigning for a NO vote.

The USI Officer Board and TCD No Campaign met the week campaigning started to discuss the plan for the polling days.e pkansStudent D Studeth Officer Board i d event on their own campus and on their social media outlets. th a

1. **Minister Ruairi Quinn Meeting**

The President, Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance Officer and I met with the Minister on Wednesday 19th September. We brought a number of key issues to the table including; The Student Contribution Charge, The Maintenance Grant, The Student Assistance Fund and The International Student Assistance Fund. Also present were two of his advisors, Ian O’Meara and Brian Power.

Following the meeting with Ruairi Quinn we met with the Fianna Fail Spokesperson for Education Charlie McConlogue. We sought his opinion on the upcoming budget and advised him to put pressure on the Minister in the run up to the budget.

1. **USI Video**

Along with the Media and Communication Officer we prepared plans and ideas around the USI Video. For a full day I travelled to 4 separate locations with a videographer to record footage for the video. I based the idea around what students are doing on a day-to-day basis and the work both the local MOs and national Students’ Union are engaged with while the students are studying.

1. **National Campaign**

In the run up to the National Campaign I have had meetings with the two regional VPs and with the President and Media & Communications Executive. We have planned and discussed the theme behind the campaign, created the slogan and message. Following these meetings I held a Campaigns Sub Group Meeting with the elected MO Officers to discuss the ideas with them and to get their input and ideas.

I have met with a marketing and advertising company, Strategem iLabs, which is creating the visual and viral aspects to the campaign. Once these have been brought back to HQ I will seek the input and approval from the Campaigns Sub Group.

In conjunction with the President and two of the regional VPs, we have selected dates and started preparing the Town Hall Meetings that will happen across Ireland over a three week period.

I have also turned USI HQ Board Room into a War Zone that will map out the progress of the campaign and what has been completed and achieved so a detailed report will be available to all MOs at any stage along the campaign.

1. **Class Rep Training Events**

Together with the regional Vice President for the BMW Region I presented the USI Presentation at the GMIT C’Bar, GMIT and STACS Class Rep Training Events. We engaged the Reps by informing them of the national campaign and how they can get involved. I also presented to the Class Rep of IADT.

1. **Campaigns Sub Group**

I am the chairperson of the campaigns sub group that was elected from the BMW, Southern and Dublin Region at the last National Council in UCC. The Group is made up of two MO Officers from the 3 regions along with the BMW and Southern Vice Presidents.

We have held phone conferences with the group to engage with them about the National Campaign and to seek input and ideas during the duration of the campaign. I created a private group for the members listed above to jot down the action points from the meetings to ensure they all get covered.

1. **CO Engagement:**

**GMIT Castlebar Students’ Union –** Presented at their Class Rep Training Event.

**GMIT Students’ Union –** I attended their SU Exec meeting to discuss the National Campaign and I presented at their Class Rep Training.

**IADT Students’ Union –** Presented at their Class Rep Training Event.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 14th September | USI Taskforce Meeting |  |
| 17th September | OB Conference Call | To plan for the week ahead |
| 18th September | Áras an Uachtaráin | Meeting with President Higgins along with Officer Board and MO Presidents. |
| 19th September | Minister Ruairi Quinn | Joined the President & AA&QA Officer in a meeting in Dáil Eireann. |
| 21st September | TCD Meeting | Preparation for Campaign |
| 21st-22nd September | National Council | Working Groups and NC at UCC |
| 26th September | TCD ‘No Team’ Meeting | Preparation for Campaign |
| 1st October | OB Conference Call | To plan for the week ahead |
| 1st October | TCD & USI Debate | Debate on the TCD Disaffiliation to USI |
| 5th October | Officer Board Meeting | All officers met to plan campaigns and events for the coming month. |
| 8th October | OB Conference Call | To plan for the week ahead |
| 9th October | Strategem iLabs | National Campaign Design Preparation |
| 11th October | Phone Conference | Linked in with the two Regional VPs for preparation of the National Campaign |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 25/9/12 | GMIT Castlebar SU | Class Rep Training Presentation |
|  |  |  |

**Media Engagement:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 2/10/12 | Beat 102 103 | Grad Ireland Careers Fair |

**Expenses Claimed – Own Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Distance** | **Cost** |
| 20/9/12 | DkIT | UCD | USI Video | 27.6km | 9.66 |
| 20/9/12 | AIT | DkIT | USI Video | 86.4km | 30.24 |
| 20/9/12 | HQ | AIT | USI Video | 196km | 68.6 |
| 20/9/12 | HQ | AIT | USI Video | 134km | 46.9 |
| 21/9/12 | UCC | HQ | National Council | 257km | 89.95 |
| 22/9/12 | HQ | UCC | National Council | 257km | 89.95 |
| 25/9/12 | Castlebar | HQ | Class Rep Presentation | 243km | 85.05 |
| 25/9/12 | Galway | Castlebar | Class Rep Presentation | 78.4km | 27.44 |
| 26/9/12 | HQ | Galway | Return Journey | 219km | 76.65 |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 14/9/12 | Tea and Refreshments | GMIT SU |
| 18/9/12 | Tea and Refreshments | Áras an Uachtaráin |
| 18/9/12 | iPhone Charger | IT Tralee SU |
| 22/9/12 | Lunch | UCC Students’ Union |
| 25/9/12 | Lunch | GMIT Castlebar SU |

**Weekend Work Allowance (Note 5)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 22/9/12 | UCC NC | €20 |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave | Monday 24th September |
| Annual Leave (Half Day) | Friday 12th October |

**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ**

**USI National Council – DIT**

**20/10/2012**

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Leas-Uachtarán do Ghnóthaí Acadúla agus Dhearbhú Cáilíochta**

**Report of the VP Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance**

1. **National Student Survey**
2. **SUSI**
3. **Student Assistance Fund**
4. **Part Time Officer Training**
5. **European Student Convention 25**
6. **Trinity Referendum**
7. **OECD IMHE Conference**
8. **National Student Survey**

At the October 1st inaugural meeting of the National Student Survey (NSS) Plenary Group the decision to postpone October pilot was taken. The new timeline sets out the survey to be piloted in March 2013 across all publicly funded Higher Education Institutions. As the student representative I spoke against this move citing the previous delays in the project, the agreed need for more student feedback, the large amount of work which had already been completed on the original timeline and the successful surveys run in the UK, US, Canada and Australia that we can learn from. Though the group agreed with my arguments I was out voted and the new timeline agreed on.

I have met with Mark Glynn, who is equally dissatisfied with the groups decision and he plans to run the pilot across all student groups (not the small 20-40 groups planned for the October pilot) as if it is the full roll out.

In response to the new timeline USI is proposing to run it’s own survey with the results being published this coming Spring. The next Plenary group meeting will be held on October 11th and they will be informed of USI’s response.

As part of the project three subgroups have been set up to commence the work; Survey Design Group, Communications and Reporting Group and Technical Group. I have been asked to convene and chair the Communications and Reporting Group. As this group will design the communications/campaigns strategies to engage students and staff as well as the reporting structures by which the data gathered will be utilised it shows how students and USI are at the coalface of this project.

1. **SUSI**

I have been gathering feedback from MO’s over the past few weeks. Tough many Member Organisations have reported no issues from their students a number of MO’s have been working with students encountering long delays and a wide variety of issues. The SUSI forum will go through this feedback in detail and make a report to SUSI and the Department of Education Equity of Access Office. I have arranged a meeting with SUSI for October 16th and will bring the main issues to their attention. On October 11th Deputy Jonathon O’Brien of Sinn Fein brought the SUSI delays to the attention of Dail Eireann. Though teething issues are to be expected in the roll out of a new system many issues are causing serious hold ups and knock on issues for students. Currently 19,000 students have yet to send back their documentation packs and 20,000 students have sent in incorrect or partial documentation packs. This leads to another issue of communication and user guidelines. I plan to make suggestions to SUSI on immediate improvements, get up to date numbers and a response from them to the feedback I have received.

1. **Student Assistance Fund**

Along with the VP for Welfare I met with Peter Brown and Mary May in the HEA to discuss the current Student Assistance Fund and the future of this vital student support. They clarified the official HEA issues guidelines in response to feedback we have received from MO’s. In explaining how the SAF budget is timed we were made aware that the current years allocation was soon to be decided by the HEA. The group was in agreement that any reduction would have serious effects and the 9 million euro last year was allocated fully in response to high application rates. The allocations have since been announced to the colleges and the over all amount was cut by €1 million euro. Though this is still a cut the allocation of €8 million is still well above the €5 million in the pot in recent years.

The HEA representatives were very interested in the USI harmonisation study of the SAF being conducted this year and offered their assistance with the project.

1. **Part Time Officer Training**

Along with the VP Equality & Citizenship and the VP Irish Language I have set out the a module plan for the training event with learning outcomes and potential speakers. Due to time constraints, access and the strict and busy national council schedule we have looked at moving the one day training event away from the Carlow National Council but in the same week and in a central location such as Dublin. There will be core module targeted at all part time officers including communications and public speaking, time management and getting involved in the National Campaign. Module specific to certain officers will run along side each other covering topics such as dealing with college authorities, running events and chairing meetings. All full time sabbatical officers will also be invited to attend. The finalised date, venue and schedule will be confirmed and circulated as soon as possible.

1. **European Student Convention 25**

As Ireland will hold the Presidency of the European Union for the first six months of 2013 the 25th European Student Convention will be hosted here by USI. I have met with ESU Equality Co-ordinator and former USI Education Officer Aengus O’Maolan to begin planning the event.

1. **Trinity Referendum**

The Trinity Disaffiliation Referendum ran from October 1st to 4th with one week of campaigning the week prior. As part of the NO to disaffiliation campaign team I canvassed students, explaining the structures and work done by USI. It was very valuable to hear feedback from students on common issues and their ideas on improving higher education and student supports. The referendum resulted in TCDSU remaining affiliated to USI.

1. **OECD IMHE Conference**

Upon invitation from the HEA I attended the Institutional Management in Higher Education Annual General Conference in the OECD Headquarters Paris. Entitled ‘Attaining and Sustaining Mass Higher Education’, the conference ran for three days and was made up of plenary group discussions and parallel group presentations. As well as the financing of Higher Education the major themes focused on access and quality.

Distance Learning and the quality assurance of flexible learning practises is apparently a challenge in many countries and one which may develop here as Irish Institutions move towards online and distance learning delivery of programmes.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 14/9/12 | Funding Taskforce | Discussed possible budgetary measures |
| 21/9/12 | Officer Board | Planning and evaluation |
| 22/9/12 | National Council | UCC |
| 24/9/12 | Finance Guide Launch | IT Tallaght |
| 24/9/12 | TCD Campaign | Disaffiliation referendum |
| 5/10/12 | Officer Board | Events, activities & National Campaign |
| 9/10/12 | PartTime Officer Training | Planning meeting |

**Meetings/Events Attended**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 17/9/12-19/9/12 | OECD IMHE Conference | Attaining & Sustaining Mass Higher Education |
| 19/9/12 | Minister Quinn | Discussed Student Finance & Supports |
| 19/9/12 | Charlie McConalogue | Discussed Budget 2013 & finances |
| 20/9/12 | HEA, Equity of Access | Student Assistance Fund |
| 25/9/12 | Aengus O’Maolan ESU | European Student Convention 25 |
| 1/10/12 | IreNSS Plenary Meeting | Inaugural meeting for Irish National Student Survey |
| 8/10/12 | Mark Glynn | IreNSS Communication Strategy |
| 8/10/12 | Spunout | Exam Time Campaign |
| 10/10/12 | IreNSS Partners | IUA, IOTI, HEA and Project Manager |
| 10/10/12 | EU Presidency Briefing | General presentation on all areas being looked at next year. |
| 10/10/12 | Geoffrey Keating | Dept of an Taoiseach re; ESC 25 |

**Expenses Claimed**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 16/9/12 | Airport | Mountjoy St | Travel to IMHE Conference | 19.80 |
| 16/9/12 | Paris | Paris | Train & Metro Ticket for the 3 Days | 12.70 |
| 19/9/12 | Airport | Ceann Aras | Return from IMHE to meet Education Minister | 15.50 |
| 21/9/12 | UCC | Kenlay House | UCC NC | 11.45 |
|  |  |  | Total | **59.45** |

**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ –/ USI National Council – DIT 22/10/2012**

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán don Leas / Report of the VP for Welfare**

1. **Finance**

On September 24th, we launched Money Matters – USI Student Finance Guide in GMIT, LIT Tipperary & IT Tallaght. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all officers in these three MOs and other members on USI Officer Board in assisting the launches. The National Consumer Agency is really happy with the guide and their participation in it.

Media Round Up:

Interviews with: Dublin’s FM104, Dublin’s Q102. Cork’s 96fm/ C103, Limerick’s Live 95fm, LMFM, Beat 102/103, Galway Bay FM, iRadio, Inishowen Community Radio, Shannonside FM, News bulletin recorded with Newstalk service: Newstalk FM, 98FM, Spin 103.8, Spin South West, Local Newspapers: Ballyfermot Echo, Lucan Echo, Clondalkin Echo, Tallaght Echo, Tipperary Star.

1. **Mental Health:**

Campus Tour:

The Mental Health Campus Tour was held in DKIT & UCC. Both days were really well received and highly successful. A large number of students attended both talks and interacted very well. It was great to see different organisations getting involved through See Change. There were workshops/seminars planned for after the ‘I see a darkness’ talk in each college. See Change provided #MakeARipple wristbands to the host MOs to distribute to students. Overall it proved to be an excellent medium in encouraging people to talk about mental health. I am hoping to plan a review meeting to discuss how it can be improved in future involving all the stakeholders. I would also like to see a set plan of responsibilities put in place for the future. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank DKITSU & UCCSU for all their efforts and planning with the running of the Mental Health Campus Tour.

Mental Health Week:

After meeting with ReachOut & Headsup a number of times we have confirmed the theme and plan for Mental Health week. This was also confirmed by the Welfare campaign sub group who thought it was a very positive and interactive campaign. This year we will focus on positive mental health and promotion of support services. We have been investigating a new way to produce Mental Health Packs which may save money and be a quicker way of packing the packs and distributing them to MOs.

1. **Sexual Health:**

National Condom Week:

I allocated 7000 condoms to colleges who were interested in running an activity during National Condom Week. They were sent to QUBSU, UUSU, IT Tallaght SU, NCI SU, UCDSU, IT Tralee SU, STACS SU, Carlow College SU & LITSU. Posters promoting National Condom Week were sent to all Welfare Officers.

Sexual Health Education Roadshow:

The Roadshow was launched in NUI Maynooth and was a huge success. Hundreds of students got involved and all organisations were more than happy with the day. I did an evaluation with all organisations to prepare for the second date (WIT, Oct 17th). Kildare TV came on campus on the day and ran a programme on the roadshow. They interviewed me, the MSU Welfare & Equality Officer and Roisin Guiry- Crisis Pregnancy Programme. The programme is available on their website <http://kildare.tv/> . We are hoping to expand the Roadshow and we are waiting to confirm more activites.

Media Round Up:

Interviews with: Dublin’s FM104, Dublin’s Q102, Cork’s 96fm/ C103, Limerick’s Live 95fm, LMFM, U105, Beat 102/103, Galway Bay FM & Kildare TV.

1. **Exam Prep Campaign:**

I met with SpunOut again in relation to an exam prep campaign for both semesters. After a review with their youth panel we have decided not to use the name ‘Exam Success’ as it may put unnecessary pressure on students to reach success and would make the campaign counter productive. We had a brainstorming session to determine why we are running this campaign and what results we want from it. We have decided to run a two phase campaign a smaller taster campaign in December (due to lack of resources from SpunOut) and a larger campaign in April/May. The initial campaign idea is to be presented to Welfare Working Group for feedback.

1. **Road Safety:**

The Road Safety Campus Tour will be held in UCD, IT Sligo & IT Carlow (Oct 23rd 24th, 25th). I have been engaging with all three MOs in relation to planning and support. I have confirmed involvement from Autoglass & Advance Pitstop who will take part in the tour. There will be a car crash re-enactment in each college, the RSA Rollover will be on the three campuses during the three days and I’m working with each MO to organise a tribute to all the road traffic victims in 2011.

1. **TCD Referendum:**

The Trinity Disaffiliation Referendum ran from October 1st to 4th with one week of campaigning the week prior. As part of the NO to disaffiliation campaign team I canvassed students, explaining the structures and work done by USI. The referendum resulted in TCDSU remaining affiliated to USI.

1. **Casework:**I have been dealing with a number of cases covering a variety of subjects but the most common is accommodation and financial queries. Some of these have been very sensitive issues for students.
2. **Training:**

I have worked alongside the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner to run Data Protection Training on Friday 19th.

**Appendix:**

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 24/09 | IT Tallaght SU |  |
| 24/09 | UCDSU | UCDSU Welfare Crew Training |
| 26/09 | MSU | Sexual Health Education Roadshow Launch |

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Purpose** |
| 17/09 | VP equality & citizenship | Financial Supports briefing document |
| 17/09 | Acquired Brain Injury | Year Plan & national council presentation |
| 20/09 | ReachOut & Headsup | Mental Health Week |
| 20/09 | Headstong | My World Survey & Think Big |
| 21/09 | Phone Conference- DKITSU & See Change | Mental Health Campus Tour |
| 25/09 | Crisis Pregnancy programme | Consultation Advisory Panel |
| 27/09 | Phone Conference- UCCSU & See Change | Mental Health Campus Tour |
| 08/10 | SpunOut | Exam Prep |
| 08/10 | Conference Call | PleaseTalk materials |
| 11/10 | RSA Conference Call | Road Safety Campus Tour |
| 12/10 | CPP Conference Call | Sexual Health Education Roadshow |

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 18/09 | Aras an Uachtarain | Visit to Aras with MO Presidents & USI OB |
| 21/09 | Officer Board |  |
| 22/09 | UCC National Council | UCC National Council |
| 24/09 | Finance Guide Launch | Finance Guide launch in IT Tallaght |
| 01/10 | LGBT Ally Launch | USI Ally Launch in WIT |
| 05/10 | Officer Board |  |
| 10/10 | DKIT Mental Health Campus Tour |  |
| 11/10 | UCC Mental Health Campus Tour |  |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 24/09 | Pizza | IT Tallaght SU |
| 01/10 | Tea | WITSU |
| 10/10 | Tea | DKITSU |
| 11/10 | Tea | UCCSU |

**Expenses:  
Own Car Transport (Note 2)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | To | From | Purpose | Rate | Distance | Cost | Tolls | Total |
| 4/09 | Dungarvan | Crumlin | Waterford Co Comhairle na nOg Video launch- Mental Health | 35c/km | 400km (return) | €140 |  | €140 |
| 21/09 | UCC | Ceann Aras | National Council UCC | 35c/km | 548 km (return) | €191.8 |  | €191.8 |
| 24/09 | IT Tallaght | Ceann Aras | Finance Guide Launch | 35c/km | 27.6km (return) | €9.66 |  | €9.66 |
| 26/09 | NUI Maynooth | Ceann Aras | Launch- Sexual Health Roadshow | 35c/km | 59.8km (return) | €20.93 |  | €20.93 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Total | **€362.39** |

**Parking (Note 4)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Purpose | Cost | |
| 06/09 | Setanta Place | Meeting in Trinity | €11.10 | |
| 10/09 | Setanta Place | Meeting in Trinity | €7.40 | |
| 11/09 | IFSC | Meeting NCI Welfare Officer | €6.00 | |
| 11/09 | Temple Bar | Meeting Siobhan O Higgins RE:Sexual Health | €3.10 | |
| 11/09 | Setanta Place | Pre Budget- National Campaign Planning | €18.30 | |
| 13/09 | Temple Bar | Meeting with Durex & MSD | €9.30 | |
| 22/09 | UCC | National Council | €13.00 | |
| 27/09 | Setanta Place | Meeting in Trinity | €14.80 | |
|  |  |  | Total | **€83** | |
|  |  |

**Annual Leave: N/A**

**USI National Council / Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ**

**DIT 20/10/12**

**Report of the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship**

**Tuairisc an Leas- Uachtarán do Chomhionannais agus Saoránacht**

**1. Mature Students’ Convention**

**2. International Students**

**3. Students with Disabilities**

**4. LGBT Ally Campaign**

**5. Pink Training**

**6. Green Training**

**7. Funding Applications**

**8. Citizenship**

**9. Part-time Officer Training**

**10. March for Choice & Gender Equality**

**11.TCD Referendum**

**1. Mature Students’ Convention**

I compiled the timetable and organised all of the speakers for the convention on October 13th. I promoted the event to Access and Mature Students’ Officers in colleges as well as Mature Students’ Societies. I liaised with Maynooth Students’ Union on catering and room bookings for the day. I drafted the press release for the convention with the USI Media and Communications Executive and oversaw the production of a booklet for the day.

**2. International Students**

I have been liaising with the Assistant Programme Officer in ICOS on the International Students’ Forum that we are holding in the Mansion House on November 14th. The International Students’ Forum is open to all international students, staff working with international students and Irish students. The event will provide a platform for students from a variety of countries and colleges to come together to discuss issues of importance to their studies and overall experience. There will be an examination of the integration of international students academically, on campus and in Irish life.

I had my first Board meeting with the Irish Council of International Students (ICOS) on the 20th of September. We discussed the idea of an International Students Hardship Fund and USI’s intention to continue lobbying on this issue and the majority of the board were favourable to that idea.

It is anticipated that the filming for the USI/ICOS joint staff training video on international students will take place in the last weeks of October and in early November. Three tender applications for the project were received and a videographer has been chosen. The project should be complete early in 2013.

**3. Students with Disabilities**

The USI President and I met with the Association for Higher Education Access and Disability (AHEAD) on the 28th of September in Buswell’s Hotel. We discussed how both organisations can work more closely and effectively together. We also discussed further training options with AHEAD for students.

I attended my first AHEAD Board meeting on the 11th of October.

I attended the National Access Office, Advisory Group to the Higher Education Authority on Access to Education on the 18th of September. I support the view of AHEAD that the Review that was undertaken by the group on the Fund for Students with Disabilities was not substantial enough and that there should be a standardised National Framework for the allocation of additional funding under the Fund for Students with Disabilities programme.

**4. LGBT Ally Campaign**

I coordinated and planned the five launches for this campaign in UCD, WIT, STACS, UCC and QUB. I succeeded in getting public representatives to attend and speak at each launch. There were eight public representatives in total including a Lord Mayor, TDs, a Senator and a City Councillor. I worked with USI’s Media and Communications Executive on drafting the press release and the regional press releases. I oversaw the design of the posters for each launch. I attended the UCD launch and introduced the speakers on the day.

I coordinated the videos that were used for the promotion of this awareness campaign, which were put together by UCC Film Society. I met with Whoopi Goldberg in TCD and got Avan Jogi from the U.S. organisation Straight But Not Narrow to support the campaign.

The campaign launches went very well and the initiative was commended by many different organisations working in the equality area in Ireland and by international organisations including the International Gay and Lesbian Youth Organisation and EMA - Erasmus Mundus Student and Alumni Association.

We will be creating more Ally videos and sending the wristbands to more public representatives over the coming weeks. We also hope to send them to members of the Gardaí Síochána and lecturers in HEIs. I have also spoken to colleges who are interested in having their own LGBT Ally launches on their campuses and will be happy to assist any college who would like to organise such a launch or an LGBT Ally week or day.

The ‘I’m an LGBT Ally’ wristbands will be delivered to all colleges. We are in process of ordering more. The demand for the wristbands has been high and they were very well received.

I recorded news bulletins about the launch with UTV radio which were broadcast on

Dublin’s FM104, Dublin’s Q102, Cork’s 96fm/ C103, Limerick’s Live 95fm, LMFM, U105, Beat 102/103, Galway Bay FM

**5. Pink Training**

I met with UCC Students’ Union on the 14th of September to review rooms and discuss the organisation of Pink Training. We also discussed catering options on campus and ideas for marking the 20th anniversary of the event this November. The President of UCC Students’ Union has been assisting me with sourcing venues and good deals for the social events of Pink Training. Registration for Pink Training will open at the beginning of the week of the 22nd of October. Places will be limited due to the high volume of students wishing to attend. Affiliated students will get first preference over non-affiliates.

I have finalised a number of speakers and workshops and Gay Community News are going to run a piece on the event in their next issue.

**6. Green Training**

I assisted Young Friends of the Earth with the organisation of Green Training, which took place in TCD on the 6th of October. I spoke at the opening of the event and prepared and delivered a workshop on how to run a campaign week to the attendees on the day. I liaised with the President of TCD Students’ Union in relation to booking rooms for this event.

**7. Funding Applications**

I applied to the U.S. Embassy in Ireland for funding to fly two speakers to Ireland from the U.S. organisation ‘Straight But Not Narrow’ for Pink Training in November. I also applied for 5,000 euro from the Communities Foundation of Ireland towards the cost of Pink Training and to create an LGBT Activist toolkit. Both applications are currently pending a decision.

**8. Citizenship**

I wrote an article on student volunteering for Volunteer Ireland’s blog outlining the different types of volunteering and showcasing some examples from students around the country. I have continued to engage with Volunteer Ireland on our plans to work together in relation to promoting student volunteering. Following on from my meeting with the interim Director, I have arranged to meet the Director to further our plans to work together.

I secured 400 voter registration packs from SpunOut for the Vice President for the Border, Midlands & Western Region and the Vice President for the Southern Region to use in regional voter registration drives.

**9. Part-time Officer Training**

I participated in a planning meeting on the 10th of October for our training day in relation to equality training and part-time officer training with the VP for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance and the VP for the Irish Language. Topics discussed included the structure of the day and the modules that would be most useful to attendees.

**10. March for Choice & Gender Equality**

I represented USI at the March for Choice in Dublin on Saturday, September 29th and marched behind the USI banner with members of DIT Students’ Union.

Along with the President of the Gender Equality Society in TCD and the Finance and Services Officer, I met with the manager of a nightclub venue in Dublin in relation to an event that was deemed offensive to women in its promotion by many members of the DU Gender Equality Society.

I subsequently met with the organiser of this event and he agreed to modify the language and change the imagery that was used in its promotion.

I have received the original copy of the ‘Hidden Marks’ survey from NUS UK. I am in process of creating a USI equivalent to assess levels of intimate relationship violence, sexual assault and stalking among third level students. The aim is to distribute this survey within the next six weeks. The survey will be designed so that the results can be compared to those in the UK.

**11. Trinity College Dublin Referendum**

The Trinity Disaffiliation Referendum ran from October 1st to 4th with one week of campaigning the week prior. As part of the NO to disaffiliation campaign team I canvassed students, explaining the structures and work done by USI. The referendum resulted in TCDSU remaining affiliated to USI.

1. The

**Appendix**

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Purpose (unless stated, all details of meetings are outlined above)** |
| 17.09.12 | UCD LGBT open night | Gave speech at the opening night |
| 18.09.12 | HEA Advisory Group on access |  |
| 18.09.12 | Aras and Uachtarán | Meeting with the President and tour of Aras an Uachtarán |
| 19.09.12 | Marriage Equality reception and networking event | Met with LGBT Society presidents from around the country and discussed how we can progress the campaign for marriage equality |
| 20.09.12 | ICOS Board meeting |  |
| 28.09.12 | Meeting with the Director of AHEAD |  |
| 29.09.12 | March for Choice |  |
| 1.10.12 | LGBT Ally Launch in UCD |  |
| 1.10.12 | TCD Phil debate on USI affiliation |  |
| 06.10.12 | Green Training |  |
| 10.09.12 | Part-time Officer Training planning meeting |  |
| 10.10.12 | Meeting with Gay Community News magazine | Discussion on how GCN can get involved with Pink Training |
| 10.10.12 | TCD Don’t be that Guy campaign launch | I attended this launch to find out more about the campaign and to see the posters |
| 11.10.12 | AHEAD Board meeting |  |

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 21/9/12 | Officer Board | Planning and evaluation |
| 22/9/12 | National Council | UCC |
| 24/9/12 | TCD Campaign | Disaffiliation referendum |
| 5/10/12 | Officer Board | Events, activities & National Campaign |
| 9/10/12 | Part-Time Officer Training | Planning meeting |

**Expenses Claimed**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Cost** |
| 21/09/12 | Weekend Work Allowance | 20 euro |

**Annual Leave:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 08/10/12 |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  | 1 Day |

**USI National Council – 20/10/2012**

Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ – DIT NC

**Report of the Vice President of the BMW Region**

1. **Being young in Ireland**

I travelled to Dublin with the other SU Presidents from around the country to the reception by Michael D. Higgins in the Aras. It was a great event and I was really proud to be a student leader on the day and grateful for the opportunity to attend.

1. **USI finance guide launch**

The regional launch for the USI finance guide took place on the GMIT Galway campus. The event was a success and we had Aine O Connell there as a guest speaker. Aine is from the National Consumer Agency and she has offered to attend campuses to deliver talks to students on managing their finances. I have her details on the BMW page but if people want them I can pass them on. Thank you to GMIT for hosting the event.

1. **TCD referendum**

I spent a number of days in Dublin to help with the TCD referendum “No” campaign. I attended a campaign meeting on September 27th. I was on campus during the polling week talking to students about the campaign and why they should vote no.

1. **Student engagement**

I was on campus for a full day in LYIT running class rep elections. I got to speak to a large number of classes on the day about USI and the national campaign as well as recruiting over fifty reps and establishing a rep database for LYIT Students’ Union. I found the day quite successful in terms of engagement and I had numerous new followers on twitters after I asked them to follow USI. I have made a significant effort to increase my online Twitter presence to promote the work I do so there is more transparency to my job on a daily basis.

1. **National campaign**

I have been working on the national campaign in a number of ways. I have done a lot of work with the campaigns officer and VP of the South on the bones of the campaign and I have drawn up a list of action points to be emailed out to all those who agree to be “on board” with the national campaign.

Locally I have been working on the finer details of the campaign, organising the town hall meetings and setting out plans for the local protests. I have a campaign portfolio for officers with their TDs, timeline, checklist for themselves and their reps. I have been trying to meet with all sabbatical officers to make sure they are clear on the campaign and the action points they have to meet for the campaign to be a success; I will be going through everything at regional council in detail and speaking to anyone I haven’t been able to take through the plan.

1. **Ally week launch**

The regional launch for the USI Ally week took place in Saint Angela’s College. The event was a huge success with over fifty people in attendance on the day, students and lecturers alike. TD Micheal Colreavy was there on the day and spoke to the crowd. The union got food sponsored from Supermacs for the event. Jack Wise was on campus for Freshers week doing a comedy gig and he wore the wristband and mentioned the campaign to the crowd. USI was represented by the Irish Language officer and I. Thank you to all of STACS for their efforts for the launch.

1. **Class rep training events**

I have attended a number of training events including GMIT Castlebar, GMIT Galway, IT Sligo, St Angela’s and AIT. The Deputy President and I put together the initial presentation for the reps trying to get them to interact with USI. We asked them to tweet, “I am on board with the USI national campaign #USI12”. This will have good effect if it continues across rep trainings throughout the country.

1. **SUSI**

SUSI requested to meet with officer board to evaluate the situation with the new grants system. In preparation for this I contacted each of my MOs and gathered up feedback from the MOs in my region and asked for it to be sent onto the VP of Academic Affairs.

1. **Mature student conference**

In preparation for the mature student conference I worked with the VP for Equality and Citizenship in compiling a list of potential modules and speakers. In the planning for the event I compiled a list of ideas for the events about action points I thought may be of use having dealt with mature students a lot in my region. I also contacted one person in every union including the equality officers in the Students’ Unions and made them aware of the event and encouraged them to promote it.

1. **Voter registration campaign**

I carried out a voter registration campaign on a number of campuses. Due to time constraints the national voter registration is in the second semester, so I arranged to carry out voter registration in time for the children’s referendum in MOs who requested it. The VP of Equality and Citizenship put me in touch with someone in Spunout who gave me 400 packs for the registration drive. Two hundred packs went to my region and two hundred went to the South. Upon writing this report, dates for the voter registration were NUIG October 8th, Maynooth 15th October, Athlone Institute of Technology October 16th, IT Sligo and St Angela’s October 17th.

1. **360 Feedback**

Along with the rest of OB I completed a 360 degree feedback on each officer to help us to improve out performance as a team.

1. **CO support**

**GMIT SU**

I was on GMIT SU Galway campus to help them with the preparation for one of their events on the 19th of September.

I was in GMIT Castlebar on Tuesday 26th for their class rep training and I delivered a presentation along with the Deputy President.

I was in GMIT Galway on Wednesday 27th and I delivered a presentation to the reps along with the Deputy President.

**LYIT SU**

I was on campus on September 27th to help the Students’ Union with the recruitment of their class reps and to help them to organise their class rep training.

**TCD SU**

I was on campus promoting the “No” side on Friday 28th of September and also October 2nd, and 4th.

**NUIG**

I helped the part time equality officer to come up with some speakers for their equality week.

I was on campus Monday 8th October to run a voter registration campaign.

**STACS**

I was on campus to launch USI Ally week.

I met with the MO President about the national campaign on October 8th.

I was at STACS class rep training on October 11th.

**IT Sligo**

I attended their class rep training. I also met with IT Sligo and St Angela’s to plan the Sligo side of the national campaign.

**AIT**

I presented to AIT class reps.

I met with the welfare officer in relation to his welfare crew and module delivery.

**NUI Maynooth**

I was at the mature student conference helping out.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 24th September | Meeting with GMIT President | Meeting regarding class rep training. |
| 24th September | USI Finance guide launch | I was on GMIT Galway campus to launch the finance guide regionally for USI. |
| 25th September | GMIT Castlebar rep training | I gave a presentation to GMIT Castlebar reps. |
| 26th September | Meeting with Deputy President | Meeting about the national campaign |
| 26th September | GMIT Galway rep training | I gave a presentation to the GMIT reps. |
| 27th September | LYIT | I was in LYIT meeting with classes and electing reps. |
| 28th September | No campaign meeting | I attended a NO campaign meeting in TCD. |
| October 1st | Ally launch | I was in STACS launching the Ally week regionally. |
| October 3rd | TCD campaign meeting | Campaign meeting |
| October 3rd | National campaign meeting | Meeting with the USI President about national campaign. |
| October 3rd | National campaign meeting | Meeting with the Deputy President and VP of the South. |
| October 5th | Officerboard | Scheduled officerboard to plan the week, monitor the campaign and measure our performance. |
| October 8th | Officerboard teleconference | Planning the week ahead and monitoring past outcomes. |
| October 8th | Voter Registration | Voter registration in NUIG |
| October 8th | Meeting with AIT Welfare officer | Meeting about SU crew and delivery of a module. |
| October 9th | Meeting for National campaign | Meeting with STACS SU President about the national campaign. |
| October 9th | IT Sligo class rep training | I gave a presentation to the class reps. |
| October 9th | Meeting with Gardai | Meeting with Sligo Garda Louise Keogh about voter registration in Sligo campuses. |
| October 10th | National campaign teleconference | Meeting with the Deputy President and VP of the South in relation to the national campaign. |
| October 11th | Campaigns sub committee teleconference | Meeting with the sub committee about the planning stages of the campaign. |

**Declaration of gifts**

GMIT Castlebar lunch, lunch IT Sligo, tea in NUIG and GMIT. Dinner with St Angela’s.

**Expenses claimed**

**Own Car Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | To | From | Purpose | Rate | Distance | Cost | Tolls | Total |
| 24.09.12 | GMIT G | Sligo | Finance guide launch | .45c | 277.12km | 124.70 | none | 124.70 |
| 25.09.12 | GMIT CB | Sligo | Class rep training | .45c | 176km | 79.2 | none | 79.2 |
| 26.09.12 | GMIT G | Sligo | Class rep training | .45c | 277.12km | 124.70 | none | 124.70 |
| 27.09.12 | LYIT | Sligo | Class rep recruitment | .45c | 224.42km | 100.98 | none | 100.98 |
| 08.10.12 | NUIG | Sligo | Voter registration | .45c | 138.56km | 62.35 | none | 62.35 |
| 08.10.12 | AIT | NUIG | CO meeting and planning session | .45c | 90km | 40.50 | 1.80 | 42.30 |
| 08.10.12 | AIT | Sligo | Return home | .45c | 116km | 52.2 | none | 52.2 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Total** | **586.43** |

**Parking**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Purpose | | Cost |
| 24.08.12 | Train station | Parking while at OB | | 3.00 |
| 29.09.12 | Train station | Parking while at OB | | 3.00 |
| 03.10.12 | Train station | Parking while at TCD referendum | | 3.00 |
| 08.10.12 | NUIG | Parking during voter reg | | 4.20 |
|  |  |  | Total | **13.20** |

**Public transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Purpose | Rate | | Cost € |
| 12.09.12 | Taxi | Buswells to Connolly | 7.00 | | 7.00 |
| 11.09.12 | Train | Planning session | Adult return | | 20.00 |
| 28.09.12 | Train return | Sligo to Dublin train for TCD referendum | Adult return | | 35.00 |
| 02.10.12 | Train return | Sligo to Dublin train for TCD referendum | Adult return | | 20.00 |
|  |  |  |  | Total | **82.00** |

**Weekend Work Allowance (None)**

**Out of Office Meal Expense**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Purpose | Rate | | Cost € |
| 18.09.12 | Dublin | Dinner after Michael D. Higgins | Dinner | | 12.50 |
| 02.10.12 | Dublin overnight | TCD referendum | Dinner | | 12.50 |
| 02.10.12 | Dublin | above | breakfast | | 5.00 |
| 03.10.12 | Dublin overnight | TCD referendum | Dinner | | 12.50 |
| 03.10.12 | Dublin | above | breakfast | | 5.00 |
| 04.10.12 | Dublin | above | breakfast | | 5.00 |
|  |  |  |  | Total | **52.50** |

**Report of the Vice President for the Southern Region**

**National Campaign:**

The majority of my efforts since the last National Council have been spent working on the National Campaign. Each Officer has been given a specific list of tasks to complete as devised by the President and Deputy President. One of the main areas I was asked to focus on was local media in the Southern Region. I have accumulated an extensive list of **print/media details** from colleges in the south and submitted a list of their main points of contact. This includes newspapers, newsletters, radio stations etc. In the coming weeks I will be working with our Media and Publications Officer to ensure each USI National Campaign press-release is well promoted within the South.

I have requested that each MO choose a suitable candidate who would be capable of **interviewing TD’s** in their region in the coming weeks. The questions have been carefully thought out and cover a wide range of student related issues. This list is almost complete and when delivered will ensure that TD’s are under pressure from all angles.

Each college President will also receive an FOI request off the Area Officers and I as we roll out the **‘Not a Cent More!’ campaign**. This information will enable us to see where money could possibly be saved in each college.

The Area Officers and I have also gathered a **percentage figure of students who receive a grant** in each of our MO’s. These figures allow us to see how many students are currently under financial pressure and may have to leave college when the contribution charge increases.

We plan to use the percentage figures as a focal point of the **Town Hall Meetings**. Each Area Officer has the task of inviting parents, local businesses and local TD’s to attend and hear our concerns. The percentage figures will allow the local businesses to see how a drop-out rate in students could damage their business and we believe these figures will really hit home. Over the past number of weeks I have been working closely with the President and Deputy President in planning the Southern Town Hall Meetings, its invitees, location, time and content.

The decision to execute numerous **Local Protests** instead of one National Protest has been welcomed by MO’s in the South. Similar to the Town Hall Meetings I have been working closely with my fellow Area Officers and the President in the planning of dates, location and overall aim of the protests. Each MO has a specific TD to focus on and these TD’s will be the focal point of each Local Protest. Again, ensuring they are under pressure from every angle.

**Trinity Referendum:**

Since the last National Campaign I have spent two full working weeks in TCD encouraging students to Vote No in the USI affiliation referendum. Each day would consist of a team brief, engaging with students around campus, handing out flyers, lecture addresses and sometimes public debates. Every morning each Officer would be given a specific area to cover and had a quota of 30 students to engage with one on one by 4pm each day. Trinity College students proved they understood the many benefits of being affiliated to USI by voting massively in favour of remaining affiliated.

**Class Representative Training:**

In the past six weeks I have helped organise, attended and delivered numerous presentations at various Class Representative Trainings across the country. In the run-up to each day the President, Deputy President, Area Officers and I prepared numerous presentations to be delivered on request. Presentations included:

* “What makes an effective Class Rep?”
* “What does USI do for me?”
* “How to deal with College Authorities and filing a complaint”
* “A brief outline of USI and the National Campaign 2013”

Each training day appeared to be a huge success which effectively benefited all the incoming Class Representatives.

**LITSU Constitution Referendum:**

My most recent week of work has been spent preparing for the LITSU Constitution Referendum. On Monday October 15 students across four campuses (Moylish, LSAD, Thurles and Clonmel) will be asked to vote upon a new constitution. This constitution will bind the Students’ Unions in each campus into one and will subsequently change the entire structure of how they operate. Opinion is divided across each campus so it is my role, and the roll of each Students’ Union to ensure every student who votes is comprehensively informed. Similar to the Trinity Referendum I will be engaging in debates, class addresses etc. over the course of the day.

**Voter Registration:**

Before October 22each Southern MO who expressed their interest in this campaign will have delivered a ‘Voter Registration’ day on campus. In conjunction with the BMW Area Officer we have been able to offer the first MO’s to sign up Voter Registration packs from SpunOut.ie. MO’s who did not receive these packs were provided with all the necessary information and material via e-mail.

**Finance Guide Launch:**

Under the guidance of the Vice President for Welfare I had the pleasure of launching the USI Finance Guide on campus in LIT Tipperary. The day was a huge success due to high level of interest from their students and vast amount of preparation work put in by Denise and LITSU Tipperary.

**Other:**

In the run up to the recent ‘**Mature Students’ conference’** I worked with numerous Southern MO’s in raising awareness for the event. I also had the pleasure of visiting Áras an Uachtarain with Officer Board and a number of MO Presidents. This was part of President Higgins’ **‘Being young in Ireland’** initiative and proved to be a very enjoyable evening. I also took part in a detailed **‘Peer Evaluation’** exercise amongst Officer Board which will effectively help us work together more efficiently throughout the year.

**MO Support:**

LITSU: Class Rep’ Training, Preparation for LITSU Constitution Referendum, Finance Guide Launch, Meeting with LSADSU 14-10-2012.

UCC: Class Rep’ Training 17-10-2012

WIT: Class Rep’ Training 2-10-2012

ITC: Devised a list of possible modules and speakers for their Class Rep’ Training.

Carlow College: Class Rep’ Discussion with USI

I.T. Tralee: Class Rep’ Training 18-10-2012, Voter Registration

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 24th September | USI Finance Guide Launch | I was on LITSU Tipperary campus to launch the finance guide. |
| 28th September | No Campaign meeting | I attended a NO campaign meeting in Trinity College Dublin. |
| October 3rd | No Campaign meeting | I attended a NO campaign meeting in Trinity College Dublin. |
| October 3rd | National Campaign meeting | Meeting with USI President to discuss the National Campaign. |
| October 3rd | National Campaign meeting | Meeting with the Deputy President and VP of the South. |
| October 5th | Officer-board | Scheduled officer-board to discuss the National Campaign and assess our performance. |
| October 8th | Officer-board teleconference | Scheduled officer-board to plan the week ahead. |
| October 10th | National Campaign teleconference | Meeting with the Deputy President and VP of the South in relation to the national campaign. |
| October 11th | Campaigns sub-committee teleconference | Meeting with the sub-committee to discuss the National Campaign. |

**Travel Expenses:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 31-8-12 | Cork | Carlow | Train | €30.00 |
| 3-9-12 | Mallow | Carlow | Train | €30.00 |
| 6-9-12 | Heuston | Carlow | Train | €12.00 |
| 7-9-12 | Carlow | Waterford | Train | €12.00 |
| 7-9-12 | Waterford | Carlow | Train | €12.00 |
| 8-9-12 | Hueston | Carlow | Train | €16.00 |
| 11-9-12 | Connolly | Blackrock | Train | €2.20 |
| 11-9-12 | Tralee | Heuston | Train | €30.00 |
| 12-9-12 | Heuston | Roscrea | Train | €13.50 |
| 21-9-12 | Carlow | Heuston | Train | €17.20 |
| 21-9-12 | Heuston | Cork | Train | €30.00 |
| 23-9-12 | Killarney | Thurles | Train | €20.00 |
| 24-9- | Thurles | Heuston | Train | €37.00 |
| 24-9-12 | Heuston | Carlow | Train | €17.20 |
| 25-9-12 | Heuston | Carlow | Train | €17.20 |
|  |  |  |  | **€296.30** |

**Out of Office Meal Expenses:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 6-9-12 | Dublin | Trinity Tour, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 9-9-12 | Tralee | Induction Week, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 10-9-12 | Tralee | Induction Week, Lunch |  | €7.00 |
| 10-9-12 | Tralee | Induction Week, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 11-9-12 | Tralee | Induction Week, Lunch |  | €6.00 |
| 11-9-12 | Tralee | Induction Week, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 12-9-12 | Dublin | Officer Board, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 24-9-12 | LIT Tipperary | Finance Guide Launch, Dinner |  | €12.00 |
| 25-9-12 | Dublin | Trinity Referendum, Lunch |  | €7.95 |
| 26-9-12 | Dublin | Trinity Referendum, Lunch |  | €7.95 |
|  |  |  |  | **€100.90** |

**Annual Leave: (none)**

**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ – ITBÁC (USI National Council – DIT) 18/08/2012**

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge**

1. **Traenáil na gCumann**

Traenáil na gCumann occurred last weekend in Conradh na Gaeilge and TCD. It was the biggest Traenáil that has been held to date with 21 colleges represented during the weekend. I hope to meet with co-organisers Conradh na Gaeilge in the near future to do a full analysis with them on how to further improve the event in the future.

1. **Seachtain na Gaeilge – AMLÉ**

I have continued planning for our Irish Language week in February have spoken to a number of MO Cumainn Gaelaigh there seems to be great interest in the event. I have decided to centre the week’s events in MO’s where Cumainn are weaker or just starting out. The idea is to give those MO’s a flavour for Irish Language activism. Hopefully this will feed and encourage development of theiur cumainn.

1. **Bliain na Gaeilge**

Following National Council’s decision to support Bliain na Gaeilge I have been in touch with Cumainn Gaelaigh around the country to encourage them to get planning events. There was also a session held during Traenáil na gCumann to encourage Cumainn to organise events in theis own MO’s

1. **An t-Oireachtas**

Cumainn Gaelaigh have been working very hard to get accommodation for this year’s Oireachtas. I have been in constant contact with to make sure that they are securing what they need in terms of travel etc. I have also offered help in whatever way I can to those travelling up.

So far cumainn have been extremely resourceful and are finding accommodation far in excess of what we first thought was possible.

1. **Comhdháil Gaeilge AMLÉ**

As I have continued planning for the Irish Language Conference in NUIG at the end of next month. A number of people have been in touch with me regarding taking part in the event. I intend to be in further contact with NUIG to organise venues etc. ahead of the event.

1. **Díospóireacht Gael-Linn**

I have been working with Gael-Linn to organise this year’s 3rd level debate at an t-Oireachtas. A number of USI-affiliated colleges have put their names forward to take part. Following the preliminary rounds taking place the final will be held on the Saturday of Oireachtas na Gaeilge in LYIT.

1. **Polasaí Gaeilge**

I have met with the President regarding our Iirsh   
Language policy. It will also be discussed at Coiste na Gaeilge this weekend in order to strengthen it and make it fit for purpose and to make implementation as easy as possible.

**Appendix**

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Purpose** |
| 24/9/12 | Meeting with Comhordaitheoir na ML CnaG | Planning meeting |
| 8/10/12 | Bliain na Gaeilge | Student Representation |
| 12-13/10/12 | Traenáil na gCumann | Training for Cumainn Gaelaigh officers |

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 24/9/12 | Cruinniú Oifige | Office Meeting |
| 1/10/12 | Ally Launch | Launch of Ally Campaign in STACS |
| 8/10/12 | Cruinniú Oifige | Office Meeting |
| 9/10/12 | Part-time Training meeting | Organising plans for this year’s training |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **CO** | **Details** |
| 17/9/12 | TCD | Seachtain na bhFreisir |
| 19/9/12 | UCD | Seachtain na bhFreisir |