**USI National Council – 8/12/2012**

**Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ – X NC**

**Report of the President**

**Tuairisc an Uachtarán**

1. **Fed Up? Stand Up! Campaign**
2. **Quality and Qualification Ireland**
3. **Higher Education Authority**
4. **Lobby of the Oireachtas**
5. **Part-Time Officer Training**
6. **Pink Training**
7. **Children’s Rights Referendum**
8. **Ministerial Engagement in Department of Education & Skills**
9. **Media Engagement**
	1. **Fed Up? Stand Up! Campaign**

In conjunction with the Campaigns Officer and Regional Vice-Presidents, I spent the majority of the last month on the campaign trail going to as many events as possible over the period to try and get the public behind the message of protecting education. I attended a vast majority of the public meetings and spoke in most cases for an hour between a speech and attendee participation. I attended a vast majority of the local protests and gave a speech where necessary.

I spent any additional time I had in Leinster House meeting members of the Oireachtas and engaging with the media trying to get our message to the forefront of the national debate. To date, we have multiplied coverage of student issues fivefold in national and local media. I believe this is testament to the decentralised nature of the campaign spread over a much longer timeframe. While this has increased the workload of officer board immensely over the past two months, I feel we have put students back on the agenda in a year we were expected to go unnoticed given the Minister’s previous outline of fee increases in 2011.

**2.**      **Quality and Qualification Ireland**

The induction and first meeting of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) took place on the 3rd December, 2012. The Minister for Education and Skill previously appointed Dr. Padraig Walsh as Chief Executive designate of Quality and Qualifications Ireland. The Board, in accordance with the Act, formally appointed Dr. Walsh as Chief Executive of Quality and Qualifications Ireland.

We affirmed our obligations under the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies (2009) which requires that all State Bodies develop and adopt a ‘Code of Business Conduct’ binding on all Directors and employees of State Bodies.

The Code also requires that the Code be approved by the Authority which it duly was. Certain matters, in accordance with the Code of Practice are specifically required to be included in the Code. This Code sets out in written form the agreed standards, guiding principles and obligations that inform the conduct of members and employees of the Authority.

**3.**      **Higher Education Authority**

Work has begun on the next national access plan and there is an intention to have a very thorough consultative process next year. The HEA be circulating a document outlining the project this week in advance of the final meeting of the Advisory Group for the year, on 11th December. The HEA are looking to create a process for input from students, via the USI and have asked USI to facilitate this consultation process.

The HEA have also finally released long-awaited documentation that adds a further layer to the vision for higher education in Ireland. Documents released include a gap analysis of the submissions made by the higher education institutions against stated national policy objectives, an advisory report prepared by an international panel (“A Proposed Reconfiguration of the Irish System of Higher Education – Report prepared by an International Expert Panel for the HEA 9 August 2012”) and a report by the ESRI on the likely future demand for higher education in Ireland (“ A Study of Future Demand for Higher Education in Ireland –November 2012”).

The HEA also published on their website the institutional submissions received from the higher education institutions in July in response to the HEA documents “Towards a Future Higher Education Landscape”. The proposed timetable is that meetings between the HEA executive and the institutions will occur from January, with a view to provision of advice to the Minister by end March.

The Chairman advised members that an internship/placement programme would be a key component of a strategy for engagement with enterprise which is currently being prepared. A proposed national internship pilot programme was outlined, emerging from discussions between the HEA executive and the American chamber of commerce. The intention was to focus initially on science and technology programmes and build on best practice as demonstrated in a number of institutions including CIT, DCU and UL.

A report from the Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Education was presented and a HEA strategy statement on Research and Graduate Education that reflected the views of the Committee. Members welcomed the strategy statement.

Further development of the quality of the student experience is a key objective of the National Strategy and discussions revolved around a policy paper. The aim of the policy paper was to put in place a process to achieve National Strategy objectives regarding part-time and flexible provision in particular. Ultimately the intention is to remove disparities in student experience that depend on whether participation is on a part-time or full-time basis.

Members were briefed on the process undertaken to prepare the paper and provided with an overview of current participation, policy and practice. It was noted that Ireland’s part-time participation levels has increased from a low base to reach 16% of undergraduates in 2010 (a target of 17% has been set for 2013). A significant proportion of part-time undergraduate provision (47%) is at levels 6 and 7 and the majority of participants are mature students, many from older age groups. Nine recommendations for the future were presented.

**4.**      **Lobby of the Oireachtas**

In consultation with the Task Force on Higher Education Funding, I produced the Pre-Budget Submission, “An Opportunity in Crisis”, that was given to members of the Oireachtas. I also a number of Oireachtas members on the day.

5.      **Part-Time Officer Training**

The Deputy President and I prepared a presentation on the Fed Up? Stand Up! campaign to the attendees. We divided the group into smaller groups and carried out a brainstorming workshop and asked the part-time officers to come up with ideas on how they could get involved with the campaign.

**6. Pink Training**

I attended Pink Training to assist the VP for Equality & Citizenship Officer and General Manager to oversee the weekend-long event. I assisted with the registration process and gave an opening address to the delegates. I conducted a workshop on Sunday on the importance of being an LGBT ally. I facilitated a discussion on best practice across the country and we produced an agreed set of guidelines for making a college LGBT friendly, particularly in relation to members of the LGBT community joining sports clubs on campus.

**7. Children’s Rights Referendum**

In the lead up to the referendum I worked closely with the Campaign for Children to promote the need for a ‘Yes’ vote. We worked with Spunout.ie and Students’ Unions to organise voter registration drives on college campuses and communicated the need for a ‘Yes’ vote to students on the ground via our member Students’ Unions.

I appeared on national and local radio stations and released a joint press release with the Campaign for Children. I also participated in a photo call with the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Frances Fitzgerald TD.

**8. Ministerial Engagement in Department of Education & Skills**

The Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn T.D., invited myself and a number of representatives of the higher education system to the Department to outline his vision for the reform of Higher Education in Ireland. The Minister also took the opportunity to announce the establishment of a National Forum for Teaching and Learning at third level.

The establishment of the National Forum will provide a system-level infrastructure to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Higher*Education* in respect of the teaching mission of higher education. While the announcement of the National Forum was positive and to be welcomed, in relation to the future of higher education Minister Quinn’s speech was somewhat lacking having been flagged as a significant policy announcement.

1. **Media Engagement**

RTÉ Six One News, RTÉ Frontline, Drive Time with Matt Cooper, Today with Pat Kenny, Irish Times, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, Evening Herald, Tonight with Vincent Browne, Opinion Piece on Journal.ie, New York Times, Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, numerous local radio stations and local newspapers.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 13.11.12 | Officer Board | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| 10.11.12 | Campaigns Sub Committee | Updates & Plans on the National Campaign |
| 14.11.12 | Finance Committee |  |
| 15.11.12 | Lobby Of the Oireachtas | Lobbying TDs |
| 16.11.12 | Pink Training | Registration, Opening Address, Ally Workshop |
| 21.11.12 | Meeting w/ Matthew Reisz | Times Higher Rankings |
| 22.11.12 | Meeting in Dept. Education | Minister’s Speech |
| 24.11.12 | DCTU Protest | March |
| 27.11.12 | HEA | Board Meeting |
| 03.12.12 | QQI | Induction and 1st Board Meeting |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| N/A |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |

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

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Feachtais**

**1.**      **National Campaign**

**2.**      **Part Time Officer Training**

**3.       Lobby of the Oireachtas**

**4.**      **MO Engagement**

**5.       Pink Training**

**1.**      **National Campaign**

**Pre-Budget Protests**

During the Pre-Budget Campaign i attended and spoke at the majority of the

protests set up by the host MO and the VP for that Region.

**Cork Protest:** I prepared the letter that we brought to Deputy Jerry Buttimer’s

Office that asked him to vote down a budget that increased the Student

Contribution Charge or cuts to the maintenance grant. I assisted the SU team in

rallying the students outside the Library. I conducted an interview with RTE at the

start of the protest and with the Irish Independant during the protest. I addressed

the UCC and CIT students that gathered around Deputy Buttimer’s Office anf

following the speeches i attended a half hour meeting with Deputy Buttimer and

Officers from UCC Students’ Union and CIT Students’ Union. Following the meeting

with Deputy Buttimer i met with three media outlets outside his office and

conducted interviews with them, including The Examiner.

**Sligo Protest:** I attended the first Sligo Protest outside Deputy Perry’s office. I

addressed the STACS and IT Sligo Students that were present.

**IT Tallaght Protest:** Minister Quinn opened a new building in IT Tallaght and the

SU Team and i organised a protest for his arrival. I prepared the various different

stunts at the protest; guard of dishonour for his arrival, the display of posters

along the window where he was addressing the guests inside the building and the

blockading of his car. I also spoke with Minister Quinn inside the building before his

departure and asked him some follow up questions to the initial USI meeting in

September including his plans for the Student Contribution Charge, the

Maintenance Grant and the Labour Party Pledge pre General Election 2011.

**Galway Protest:** I arrived on NUI Galway Campus to deliver posters for the

campus and assisted with the distribution of their Protest Goody Bags before the

Protest kicked off. I addressed the NUIG, GMIT and AIT students at the Galway

Protest in Eyre Square and joined the funeral protest that walked to Deputy Derek

Nolan’s office. I also addressed the crowd outside Deputy Nolan’s office.

**Dundalk Protest:**Along with the VP for WelfareI assisted the DkIT SU in the final

preparations for the protest by flyering the canteen and engaging with students. I

addressed the crowd of DkIT students outside Deputy Peter Fitzpatrick’s office

and led some chants at the protest. I gave an interview to LMFM after the

protest.

**Thurles Protest:** The LIT Tipperary Campuses of Thurles and Clonmel mobilised

students to Nenagh to protest outside the offices of Deputy Noel Coonan and

Minister Alan Kelly. I addressed the students at the protest and assisted the SU

Team on the day of the protest.

**Dublin Central Protest:** In preparation from the Dublin Central protest that was

held outside the Department of Education i liaised with NCI SU, TCD SU and DIT

SU. I also liaised with the Gardai in terms of our plans and our route to the

Department of Education and our time line. I liaised with a USI Staff member

to arrange for the PA System to be hired and set up. I addressed the students

gathered at the protest.

**Tralee Protest & Sleep In:** The Tralee protest was led from both the North and

South Campuses to Deputy Arthur Spring’s office. I addressed the students

outside his constituency office and following the protest i met with Deputy Spring

along with the IT Tralee SU President and Education Officer.  In this meeting Deputy Spring would not commit to signing anything that would go against his party.

Following the protest i attended the sleep in that the IT Tralee SU set up in their South Campus canteen. This was arranged as part of the Stand Up campaign to highlight the students who would soon not be able to afford their college accommodation.

**Limerick Protest:** I attended the Limerick Protest that was led by the LIT Moylish and Clare Street Campuses. I assisted the SU by leading chants all the way from the Moylish Campus into the city centre to Minister Jan O'Sullivan’s office over a PA System attached to the LIT SU Presidents car. I also gave a commentary to the Limerick Community on our route to explain why we were protesting and the fact that we were also protesting on behalf of the Limerick Community for third level education and for the local economy.

**Letterkenny Protest:** I attended the Letterkenny protest that marched to Deputy Joe McHugh’s office in Letterkenny town. I assisted the SU team by leading some of the chants on the protest and i addressed the LYIT students at Deputy McHugh’s Office. Each student at the protest delivered a letter to Joe McHugh’s office assistant.

**Waterford Protest:** The WIT SU organised for students to go to Dungarvan to Deputy Ciara Conway’s office. During the protest i addressed the crowd and after the protest i gave an interview with WITSU President to WLR FM, The Irish Times and The Dungarvan Observer.

**Pre-Budget Public Meetings**

**Preparation:** In the run up to the Public Meetings i worked with the Regional VPs, the Media and Communications Exec, our Administrator and the President when setting up the Public Meetings.

I prepared a checklist for the week before the public meeting, a checklist for the day of the public meeting, MO President Speech Tips, a checklist for the hotel, the invitation to public representatives and the running order for each public meeting.

I chaired the following public Meetings: Dublin South Public Meeting, Dublin Central Public Meeting, Thurles Public Meeting, Blanchardstown Public Meeting and the Tallaght Public Meeting.

I deputised for the President at the following Public Meetings: Athlone Public Meeting, Waterford Public Meeting and Carlow Public Meeting where i gave the speech to the audience alongside the respective MO President.

I prepared the sign in sheets, the parents guide, the Prezi Presentation and attended the following Public Meetings: Letterkenny, Dublin South, Galway, Athlone, Carlow, Dublin Central, Maynooth, Thurles, Waterford, Tralee, Blanchardstown and Tallaght Public Meetings.

**2.**      **Part Time Officer Training**

I prepared and presented a ‘Running a Campaign’ presentation to the part time

officers at TCD. I went through the key areas in running a campaign: research,

brainstorming, planning, preparing, confirming, running order, resources and follow

up, evaluation and Top Tips.

I also prepared the National Campaign Presentation and presented it along with

the President. We divided the group into smaller groups and carried out a

brainstorming workshop and asked the part time officers to come up with ideas on

how they could get involved with the campaign.

**3. Lobby of the Oireachtas**

During this year's Pre-Budget Lobby of the Oireachtas i was in charge of welcoming all TDs and MOs who attended the Lobby. The VP for Welfare signed and welcomed them in and i introduced them to the MOs from their constituency or a member of Officer Board. I also ensured there was a top up on the water supplied and the room was kept clean and there was a constant flow throughout the day to ensure both the MOs time and the TDs time was used effectively.

**4.**      **MO Engagement**

**UCD Students’ Union:** I presented a at a Campaigns Workshop in UCD ran by the

Campaigns Officer. I presented on the National Campaign and the significance of

the local Campaign UCDSU rolled out.

**IT Tallaght Students’ Union:** Liaised with the prepared for the Ruairi Quinn

Protest at IT Tallaght Students’ Union.

**WIT Students’ Union:** I prepared a presentation for the WIT Class Rep Council

and presented with the VP for the Southern Region. We discussed the National

Campaign and how the WIT Class Reps could get involved along with answering

questions.

**5. Pink Training**

I attended the first day of Pink Training to assist the VP for Equality &

Citizenship Officer. In conjunction with the VP for Welfare and the President i

assisted with the registration process to ensure it was run smoothly and

efficiently.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 13.11.12 | Officer Board | Planning and Preparing OB Work Loads |
| 10.11.12 | Presidents Working Group | Chaired the WG on behalf of the President |
| 10.11.12 | Campaigns Working Group | Updates & Plans on the National Campaign |
| 10.11.12 | Dublin Regional Council | Updates & Plans on the National Campaign |
| 10.11.12 | Campaigns Sub Committee | Updates & Plans on the National Campaign |
| 15.11.12 | Lobby Of the Oireachtas | Front of House |
| 16.11.12 | Pink Training | Registration Desk |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 9.11.12 | UCD SU | Campaign Presentation |
| 9.11.12 | LIT SU | Assistance with letter to TDs |
| 9.11.12 | IT Tralee SU | Discussion re Tralee Protest |
| 12.11.12 | IT Tallaght SU | Quinn Protest Preparation |
| 13.11.12 | WIT SU | Class Rep Council Presentation |

**Media Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 5/11/12 | RTE | Cork Protest |
| 5/11/12 | Irish Independent, The Examiner | Cork Protest |
| 6/11/12 | Beat 102 103 | SUSI Interview |
| 12/11/12 | Journal.ie | IT Tallaght Protest |
| 19/11/12 | LMFM | Dundalk Protest |
| 22/11/12 | Today FM | Dublin Central Protest |
| 22/11/12 | FM 104 | Dublin Central Protest |
| 26/11/12 | Journal.ie | Tralee Protest |
| 29/11/12 | WLR FM, Irish Times, Dungarvan Observer | Waterford Protest |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 8.11.12 | Galway | Dublin + Return | Galway Public Meeting | 155.80 |
| 13.11.12 | WIT | HQ | Class Rep Council | 64.80 |
| 13.11.12 | Carlow | WIT | Carlow Public Meeting | 29.70 |
| 13.11.12 | Return Journey | Carlow | Carlow Public Meeting | 33.40 |
| 14.11.12 | Galway | HQ + Return | Galway Protest | 160.40 |
| 20.11.12 | Dublin | Waterford | Return Journey | 79.20 |
| 26.11.12 | Tralee | Dublin | Tralee Protest | 135.45 |
| 27.11.12 | Limerick | Tralee | Limerick Protest | 46.35 |
| 27.11.12 | Dublin | Limerick | Blanch Public Meeting | 103.05 |
| 29.11.12 | Waterford | Dublin | Waterford Protest | 76.50 |

**Weekend Work Allowance**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Cost** |
| 10.11.12 | ITC NC | 20.00 |
| 17.11.12 | Pink Training | 20.00 |
|  | **Total:** | **40.00** |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 8.11.12 | Lunch | TCDSU |
| 10.11.12 | Lunch | IT Carlow |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
|  |  |

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

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

1. **Pre Budget Campaign**
2. **National Student Survey**
3. **SUSI**
4. **Part Time Officer Training**
5. **European Student Convention 24 & 25**
6. **Postgraduate Seminar**
7. **Exam Prep Campaign**

**1. Pre-Budget Campaign**
The Pre Budget Submission was prepared for the November 11th Lobby of the Oireachtas. I assisted the President by providing information for the Student Assistance Fund and Maintenance Grant sections.
Throughout the Lobby of Oireachtas I assisted the Deputy President with facilitating the meetings between SU Officers, students and TD’s. I also met and lobbied Sandra McLellan (SF), Kathleen Lynch (Lab), Arthur Spring (Lab), Michael Kitt (FF) and Dominic Hannigan (Lab) on Student Contribution, Grants, SAF, BTEA and Graduate Unemployment.
For the November 28th GMITSU Castlebar Protest I assisted the team with protest preparations and engaging students. We set up a stand in the main corridor with T-shirts and letter writing materials. On the day of the protest I briefed the stewards on how to control the march and joined the stewarding team ensuring the protest march was safe for those involved.
Throughout the Fed Up? Stand Up! campaign I have contacted TDs in relation to the proposed increase in Student Contribution Charge. When I received responses they all stated that the Maintenance Grant Scheme was there to assist students who cannot cover the SCC. I was unable to gain concrete answers to the question of grants being cut.

**2. National Student Survey**
As a member of Survey Design Group I have attended and contributed to the meetings which went through all of the AUSSE (Australian Student Survey on Engagement) questions, editing them to make them relevant to Ireland. This group is coordinating Focus Groups in December to test the questions, I have contacted Education Officers as colleges and dates are selected for Focus Groups to recruit students for these groups.
As chair of the Communications Group I have convened two meetings and set dates for subsequent meetings. After briefing all members an action plan was agreed and tasks assigned to different members. I will be heading up the creation of a toolkit for SU’s ensuring they have everything needed to explain and promote the survey to their members. I am also working on content for the website which is under construction.
At the Nov 14th Plenary meeting the Project Manager, Mark Glynn announced that he is to resign his role to take up a position in DCU. Though this will be a significant blow to the project Mark will be making himself available to the project groups to ensure the transition for his successor keep the project on track. Along with the other project sponsors (IUA, IOTI, HEA) on behalf of USI I will be interviewing applicants for the role during the week beginning Dec 3rd. Three applications have been received and all applicants have the basic requirements for the role. I am confident we will find the correct person for the post to ensure the first ever National Student Survey is a success.

**3. SUSI**
After some difficulties with securing a date and time the SUSI Forum met on November 26th in the SUSI Officers. I chaired the meeting at which many issues were raised. It was agreed John Conroy, SUSI Communications Officer, would be the contact for SU Officers but that an email account would be set up for individual case issues to be dealt with by assessors. For this to go ahead a member of each SU was to be nominated as the SUSI liaison to ensure data protection practices were maintained. With the exception of Colleges where the Welfare Officer deals with Grant issues I gave the email address for the SU Officer who sits on Education Working Group. Based on the other issues address at the meeting I have compiled a SUSI briefing document for circulation at National Council.
As SUSI Communications have been particularly poor I met with John Conroy to discuss the main issues and propose solutions. The meeting was productive and SUSI have requested a further meeting to work out communications initiatives and efficiencies next week.
Without a SUSI contact point for officers I have been dealing with a significant caseload from SU’s as well as those who contact me directly. I have sent on all the cases I have been unable to resolve and have reference numbers for to the SUSI Head of Assessment. Most of the time the students involved have been contacted directly by SUSI but today I received back a file of SUSI responses. I have forwarded these responses to the relevant individual SU Officers.

**4. Part Time Officer Training**
This training event was kindly hosted by TCDSU in their Graduate Memorial Building on November 8th. In preparation for the day I contacted and briefed speakers, prepared all the necessary materials and sent the registration details to all Students’ Unions. The day ran smoothly with participants engaging well with speakers and feedback on the day was positive. After the event I drew up an evaluation sheet and circulated it to those who registered on the day, all sabbatical officer and USI Officer Board along with the slides and presentations used. Unfortunately there have been some issues with accessing some of the Prezi’s from the day and I am investigating this to ensure the material involved can be shared with everyone. The evaluation forms received so far have contained positive feedback.

**5. European Student Convention 25**
A venue for this event has yet to be finalised. I hope to host it in a Dublin College as participants will be flying into Dublin airport and accommodation has been booked in the Dublin areas. I have written to suitable colleges with the details of the convention and hope to have a venue finalised by the Athlone National Council. Once a venue is finalised we will be seeking sponsorship. In the mean time the USI General Manager has contacted an acquaintance in the Department who is happy to set up a roundtable meeting with the HEA, Department and QQI. To secure financial backing the theme will need to be linked to the core mission of the relevant bodies. This will be finalised shortly.

**6. Postgraduate Seminar**
On November 7th we hosted the second Postgraduate Seminar in NCI. The meeting discussed the research document previously circulated and discussed the various aspects of a loan scheme. As chair of the meeting I also took notes and consolidated them for circulation. It became clear during the discussions that more research would be needed on the Economic aspects of the scheme. After consulting the President I have completed a research proposal to be commenced as soon as possible. Once this research is complete a further Postgraduate Seminar will be convened.

**7. Exam Prep Campaign**
At the IT Carlow National Council the VP Welfare and I presented to the Education and Welfare Working groups on an Exam Busters Campaign and sought submissions for pilot colleges. Unfortunately after receiving an update from our partners SpunOut it became clear that it would not be possible to go ahead with the pilot as planned. As SpunOut will not have the resources available this side of Christmas and the post Budget National Campaign will be prioritised the campaign will not be rolled out nationally until the term two study time. Instead an online resource will be set up on the USI website with sections for students, parents and SU officers. . An online study planner will also be included on the site. Toolkits will be prepared and circulated to all unions including study tips, exam prep and post exam advise. A ‘How To’ guide on effective and innovative exam prep campaigns is being compiled by the VP Welfare and myself.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 7/11 | Postgraduate Seminar  | Postgraduate Loan Scheme |
| 8/11 | Part Time Officer Training   | Full Day of Training for Non SabbaticalExecutive Officers  |
| 9/11 | Officer Board  | National Council Prep  |
| 9/11 | Education Working Group  | IT Carlow  |
| 10/11 | National Council  | IT Carlow  |
| 13/11 | Officer Board  | Pre Budget Planning & Lobby of Oireachtas Prep |
| 14/11 | Dublin Central Public Meeting | Pre Budget Campaign |
| 15/11 | Lobby of the Oireachtas  | Pre Budget Submission |
| 16-18/11 | Pink Training | UCC |

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 5/11 | ESC 25  | ESU Rep & USI General Manager  |
| 7/11 | NSS Communications & Reporting Group  | Comms Strategy & Report Structure  |
| 9/11 | NSS Survey Design Group  | Question Analysis   |
| 14/11 | NSS Plenary | Progress update |
| 16/11 | NSS Survey Design Group | Question Analysis |
| 21/11 | John Conroy - SUSI | Communications Issues |
| 22/11 | NSS Comms & Reporting | Plans agreed and tasks allocated |
| 26/11 | SUSI Forum  | Issues & initiatives  |
|  |  |  |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 27/11 | GMIT Castlebar  | Protest Prep  |
| 28/11 | GMIT Castlebar  | Protest   |

**Media Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 13/11 | RTE Morning Ireland  | SUSI   |
| 13/11 | RTE1 News | SUSI |
| 13/11 | Northern Sound | SUSI |
| 13/11 | Sunshine FM | SUSI |
| 14/11 | Clare FM | SUSI |
| 28/11 | Griffith College Radio | SUSI |
| 29/11 | Spin South West  | SUSI  |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 31/10 | NCI | SUSI | Constitution Consultation | 7.70 |
| 1/11 | USI HQ | HEA | ESC 25 | 6.50 |
| 7/11 | IOTI | USI HQ | NSS Comms | 9.90 |
| 7/11 | NCI | IOTI | Postgrad Seminar | 8.80 |
| 9/11 | IOTI | USI HQ | NSS Survey Design | 11.33 |
| 9/11 | USI HQ | IOTI | NSS Survey Design | 10.50 |
| 9/11 | Carlow | Heuston | IT Carlow NC | 12.00 |
| 9/11 | IT Carlow | Carlow Station | IT Carlow NC | 6.00 |
| 13/11 | RTE | Home | Morning Ireland SUSI Interview | 17.87 |
| 14/11 | HEA | USI HQ | NSS Plenary | 7.59 |
| 14/11 | USI HQ | HEA | NSS Plenary | 6.00 |
| 15/11 | USI HQ | Alexander Hotel | Lobby of the Oireachtas | 11.70 |
| 16/11 | IOTI | USI HQ | NSS Survey Design | 7.50 |
| 16/11 | Heuston | IOTI | Pink Training | 6.90 |
| 16/11 | Cork | Dublin Return | Pink Training | 30.00 |
| 16/11 | Cork | UCC | Pink Training | 10.05 |
| 16/11 | UCC | Cork | Pink Training | 10.25 |
| 21/11 | SUSI HQ | USI HQ | John Conroy Meeting | 5.30 |
| 22/11 | IOTI | USI HQ | NSS Comms | 9.70 |
| 26/11 | SUSI | USI HQ | SUSI Forum | 7.90 |
| 26/11 | USI HQ | SUSI | SUSI Forum | 6.10 |
|  |  |  |  | 209.59 |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 8/11 | Lunch  | TCDSU  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave | n/a |

**Report of the VP for Welfare**

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Leas**

1. **Accommodation**
2. **Exam Campaign**
3. **Mental Health**
4. **Sexual Health**

**1. Accommodation**

As we are stakeholders of the PRTB I was asked to get involved with the updating the communication strategy and updating their website. I gave input into their website and contacted a number of welfare officers and students to get involved with this process. Thank you to those who were able to send me on details on students willing to take part.

 **2. Exam Campaign**

Following a meeting with the President and VP for Academic affairs & Quality Assurance, it was decided, due to lack of resources at present from SpunOut and the priority being on the National Campaign, to change the plan for the exam campaign and produce a ‘how to’ guide for officers as a resource to them for running an exam campaign which would include welfare and education elements and also a downloadable link on our website which would be a resource for students that would consist of tips for before during and after exam time. I met with PleaseTalk to include links to PleaseTalk in the resource for students. Cat and I have been working on both documents and the ‘how to’ guide will be sent out to officers as soon as we have it completed. MOs will be able to share the information from the USI website and we can also send out the tips to each MO if they would like to design up posters with college specific information. Going forward with an ‘Exam Prep Campaign’, I would like to invite any suggestions or ideas as to what should be included in the campaign for the Summer exams, we have looked into the possibility of providing packs following a mandate that was passed at last Congress.

 **3.Mental Health**

Before Mental Health Week I developed a Mental Health Campaign fact sheet for all Welfare Officers which included information on resources and materials that could help welfare officers in their campaign planning and also a list of ideas of activities and events that have been successfully ran in colleges across the country over the last few years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank NCI SU, IT Tralee SU & STACS SU for launching the USI mental health campaign. The launches were picked up by Sligo Weekender and  Kerryman South. We received positive feedback on the packs and it was acknowledged the error in size of the packs, going forward for campaigns e.g SHAG we will have a larger lead time in production and I have confirmed with the General Manager we will receive a sample in advance of mass production and distribution. The hashtag #WhatMakesYouSmile proved popular and the Journal covered it. We ran two competitions for ‘feel good’ hamper through Facebook & Twitter, a student from STACS and a student from DIT won them. Headsup & Reachout are very happy with the campaign. I would also like to thank Breffni and Michael for all their help.

 **4. Sexual Health**

a) On Wednesday, December 5th, we will see the last part of the **Sexual Health Education Roadshow** in IT Blanchardstown. I want to take this opportunity to thank the MOs that hosted it already; MSU, WITSU & IT Sligo Su; they have put in a lot of work to make it a success on their campus. After next week, I will be doing an evaluation with all organisations involved and a follow up evaluation with the four MOs. It has been a huge success so far and a great way to reach out to so many students and has proved it is possible to run a sexual health campaign before Christmas.

b) **World Aids Day**: I have engaged with Dublin Aids Alliance and Durex in relation to World Aids Day and how we can get involved and support it. I have emailed all officers in relation to promotion through social media outlets. For every share of poster/video (available on the Durex Ireland Facebook page and sent in email) and tweet with #1share1condom Durex will donate a condom to HIV prevention programmes across the world, including Dublin Aids Alliance. Thank you to anyone who has tweeted, shared the photo and/or put the twibbon on their facebook profiles.

c) **SHAG Packs**: Since August, I have been investigating possibilities of invigorating the SHAG packs and to continue to make them all inclusive, attractive to students and give avenues for sponsorship. I met with many organisations to get ideas, suggestions and feedback on the my proposed idea. I engaged with Strategem in relation to engineering a pack that would fold out, have necessary information printed outside and inside and to hold the contents. This resulted in a new format for the USI SHAG Pack which was put to the Welfare Campaign Sub group. This will be discussed at Welfare Working Group to ensure it is all inclusive in relation to information, design and content. I have also engaged with Durex and have confirmed that there will be 45,000 SHAG packs that will contain a condom and a sachet of ‘play feel’ lube. I am in the process of drafting up a sponsorship proposal for extra funding towards the SHAG packs, to provide 15,000 Durex ‘love safer sex’ wristbands to be handed out also during SHAG week and advertising through the sexual health site. I will have more information on this in my next report. I have also engaged with Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) for sponsorship and I am also drafting up a sponsorship proposal for the SHAG PAcks and ‘talkoptions’ booklet to be included.

d) **SHAG website**: Following a mandate from Congress, I have been working on the production of a student hub for sexual health that will be created from the USI website. I have been working with the General Manager on this and have met with Think Contraception who has agreed to assist us with content. We have created a microsite and are in the process of choosing a template design. This is also to be discussed at Welfare Working Group.

e) **SHAG Week**: Following the events organised by the previous USI Welfare Officer during SHAG week last year, I am investigating the possibility of running the tour again which would be four events in four colleges similar to a launch and sexual health roadshow together, this is pending approval and involvement from a number of organisations. This may also occur over a two week period. I will have an update on this in my next report.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 09/11 | National Council - IT Carlow | National Council |
| 12/11 | USI Mental Health Week launch in NCI | Launched Mental Health Week with NCI SU and Elaine Geraghty CEO of Inspire Ireland |
| 13/11 | Officer Board | Discussed plans for the coming weeks |
| 14/11 | Dublin Public Meeting  | Attended public meeting  |
| 14/11 | Private Members Bill on Education | Attended in Dail Gallery with OB & Students |
| 15/11 | Lobby of the Oireachtas |  |
| 16/11 | Pink Training in UCC | Registration |
| 19/11 | DKIT Protest | Assisted with Protest in Dundalk |

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 14/11 | See Change Steering Group | Review & plans for future |
| 21/11 | PleaseTalk & Exam Prep | Including PleaseTalk in Exam Prep |
| 21/11 | Think Contraception  | SHAG Week, packs, website |
| 22/11 | IT Tallaght SU balloon release for MindYourHead week | Guest speaker |
| 26/11 | Durex | SHAG Pack content,website |
| 27/11 | Phone Conference-MSD (Merck Sharp & Dohme) | SHAG Pack Content, website |
| 28/11 | Judge on RSA Leading Lights Awards nominations  |  |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 07/11 | IT Sligo SU | Sexual Health Education Roadshow |
| 12/11 | NCI SU | Mental Health Week Launch |
| 14/11 | DITSU | PleaseTalk Candle Lit Remembrance Event |
| 22/11 | IT Tallaght SU  | MindYourHead Balloon Release |
|  |  |  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Expenses:**

**Own Car Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Rat**e | **Distance** | **Cost** | **Tolls** | **Total** |
| **07/11** | **ITSligo** | **Dublin** | **Sexual Health Roadshow** | **.35** | **416km** | **€145.60** | **€5.60** | **151.20** |
| **09/11** | **ITCarlow** | **Ceann Aras** | **National Council** | **.35** | **175km** | **€61.25** | **-** | **61.25** |
| **19/11** | **DKIT** | **Ceann Aras** | **DKIT Protest** | **.35** | **167.6km** | **€58.66** | **€6.55** | **65.21** |
| **22/11** | **IT Tallaght** | **Ceann Aras** | **IT TAllaght SU Mind Your Head Wk** | **.35** | **30.6km** | **€10.71** |  | **10.71** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | **Total** | **€288.37** |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Parking (Note)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Location** | **Purpose** |  | **Cost** |
| **12/11** | **IFSC** | **Mental health week launch** |  | **€9.00** |
| **21/11** | **Q Park** | **Exam Prep Meeting** |  | **€6.80** |
| **21/11** | **Parnell St** | **SHAG packs & shag website** |  | **€5.40** |
| **22/11** | **Qpark** | **Protest at Dept DES** |  | **€6.00** |
|  |  |  | **Total** | **€27.20** |

**Weekend Work Allowance (Note 5)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Purpose** |  | **Cost €** |
| **10/11** | **National Council** |  | **€20** |
|  |  | **Total** | **€20** |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 07/11 | Tea | IT Sligo SU |
| 09/11 10/11 | Sandwich, tea & lunch | IT Carlow SU |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave | November 29th & 30th |

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

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

1.   **Pink Training**

2.   **International Students**

3.   **USI Survey on Sexual Violence**

4.   **Pre-Budget Campaign**

5.   **Training**

6.    **Communication & Transparency**

7.    **Action on X**

**1. Pink Training**

I coordinated USI Pink Training 2012 on the weekend of the 16th-18th of November. The event was very successful, with delegates attending from colleges across the country. This year there were also delegates from USI member colleges who had not been to Pink Training previously. After the event, I created a feedback form and send it out to each delegation. The feedback has been very positive.

Kathleen Lynch TD, Minister of State with responsibility for Equality, Disability, Older People & Mental Health opened the event on the Friday. Jerry Buttimer TD delivered a keynote speech on the Saturday morning. Other keynote speakers to address all delegates included Heather Wilk, a co-founder of the highly successful U.S. organisation Straight But Not Narrow and Leslie Sherlock, Organiser with Trans Education and Advocacy.

This year Pink Training had an increased focus on Transgender issues as well as Queer and LGBT Ally modules. The 20th anniversary celebration went well and we were delighted to invite the original organiser from 1992, Shauneen Armstrong, to speak at the dinner on the Saturday evening of the weekend. The event made the front cover of the UCC Express newspaper and was covered also in the Cork Independent.

In the run-up to the event, I also put together a 24-page booklet with the timetable, workshop descriptions, speaker biographies, information on the USI LGBT campaign and explanations of abbreviations used at Pink Training. I oversaw the design of this booklet.

**2. International Students**

**a.) International Students’ Forum:** In conjunction with the Irish Council for International Students, I coordinated and facilitated a forum for international students on the 14th of November in the Mansion House in Dublin. Points of discussion throughout the evening included integration into the culture in Ireland, integration into academic life and campus life in Ireland.

**b.) USI/ICOS Video Project:** On the 22nd of November I was interviewed for the USI/ICOS DVD which will act as a training DVD for staff working with international students. I discussed the role of Students’ Unions and USI and how they can assist international students in their institutions.

**c.)GNIB Fee Increase:** I wrote the USI statement following the increase of the Garda National Immigration Bureau fee. USI and ICOS have added this issue to the agenda of the High Level Group meeting on December 4th. This Group advises the Government on the implementation of the International Education Strategy.

To ensure that our concerns are highlighted, I have also written to the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter who implemented the increase in this fee. I have added the issue of an International Students' Hardship Fund to the agenda for the meeting on December 4th also.

**3. USI Survey on Sexual Violence**

The USI survey on sexual violence, sexual harassment, harassment, violence in youth relationships and stalking is now complete and USI is using a portion of the 5,000 euro grant from COSC to pay a researcher to oversee the study and write a full report of the findings afterwards. Philip McCormack from Cosc – the Centre for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence- will be speaking at Athlone USI National Council to outline the best methods that Students’ Unions can promote the survey. The aim is to get 2,000 students from across the country to fill it out. USI has never conducted a study on this scale into the prevalence of these issues among third-level students.

**4. Pre-Budget Campaign**

I helped NCI Students’ Union mobilise students to attend the USI protest outside the Department of Education on the 22nd of November. On the 5th of November, I helped promote the highly successful UCC protest and I carried the USI banner during the protest. On the 29th of November, I helped with the highly successful WIT protest and I acted as a steward on the day. I have contacted the target TDs on the issue of the Student Assistance Fund and I have had several TDs put down parliamentary questions for us on this issue. I have also been making the case for maintaining the current rate of the Back to Education Allowance to TDs I have spoken to and have been liaising with Mature Students Ireland on this issue.

**5. Training**

I delivered a training workshop on the USI Equality & Citizenship campaign at Part-Time Officer Training in TCD. I also delivered Equality workshops at AIT on the 6th of November and at GMIT on the 27th of the November. I organised training on equality legislation for officers at IT Carlow National Council.

**6. Transparency/Communication**

I have started sending my officer reports directly to part-time Equality Officers so that they are kept up to date on the campaign. I have also written more content for the USI website under the Equality section outlining the different briefs under the campaign. This section will be added to over time. I started using the USI Equality and Citizenship Twitter account also to try and raise the profile of the campaign.

**7. Action on X**
I represented USI at the vigil for Savita Halappanavar on the 21st of November outside Dáil Eireann. I also represented USI at the protest calling for action on the X case outside the Dáil on the 28th of November.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Appendix**

.

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 5/11 | UCC protest | Assisted with protest and promotion of protest |
| 8/11 | Part Time Officer Training   | Full Day of Training for Non Sabbatical Executive Officers |
| 9/11 | Officer Board | National Council Prep |
| 9/11 | Equality & Citizenship Working Group | IT Carlow |
| 9/11 | Irish Language Working Group | IT Carlow |
| 10/11 | Campaigns Working Group | IT Carlow |
| 10/11 | National Council | IT Carlow |
| 13/11 | Officer Board | Pre Budget Planning & Lobby of Oireachtas Prep |
| 14/11 | USI/ICOS International Students’ Forum | Coordinated the event |
| 15/11 | Lobby of the Oireachtas | Pre-Budget submission |
| 16/11 – 18/11 | Pink Training in UCC | Coordinated the event |
| 22/11 | USI protest outside Department of Education | Assisted with mobilising students in NCI |
| 29/11 | WIT local protest | Assisted with protest |

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 5/11 | UCC StandUp Protest | Assisted with protest and promotion of protest |
| 12/11 | ICOS meeting | Preparation meeting for the International Students’ Forum |
| 14/11 | USI/ICOS International Students’ Forum | Coordinated the event |
| 20/11 | Meeting with AHEAD | Items discussed included poster campaign and USI Disability Awareness Week |
| 20/11 | TENI Transgender Remembrance ceremony | Attended this evening ceremony on behalf of USI |
| 21/11 | Savita Vigil outside Dáil Eireann | Represented USI at this event |
| 21/11 | Disability Rights Protest against cuts | Represented USI at this event |
| 22/11 | USI protest outside Department of Education | Helped mobilise students in NCI for this protest |
| 22/11 | Filming of USI/ICOS Training DVD | Contributed an interview to the DVD |
| 26/11 | Trinity Q Soc 30th anniversary celebration | Attended as a guest |
| 28/11 | Savita Protest outside Dáil Eireann | Represented USI at this event |
| 29/11 | WIT StandUp Protest |  |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 5/11 | UCC SU | Protest Prep |
| 6/11 | AIT SU | Equality Workshop |
| 22/11 | NCI SU | Protest Prep |
| 27/11 | GMIT SU | Equality Workshop |
| 29/11 | WIT SU | Protest |

**Media Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 14/11 | Interview with Yeah magazine | International students’ issues |
| 16/11 | Interview for UCC Express newspaper | USI Pink Training (article made front cover of newspaper) |
| 14/11 | Article in Cork Independent | USI Pink Training |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 6/11 | Dublin | Athlone | Equality Workshop | 24.00 |
| 14/11 | ICOS | USI HQ | Meeting | 14.50 |
| 15/11 | Cork | Dublin | Pink Training | 22.00 |
| 22/11 | ICOS | Dublin City Centre | Video Interview | 7.70 |
| 22/11 | USI HQ | ICOS | Video Interview | 11.30 |
| 27/11 | GMIT | Galway Train Station | Equality Workshop | 7.50 |
| 27/11 | Galway Train Station | GMIT | Equality Workshop | 10.00 |
|  |  |  |  | 97.00 |

**Weekend Work Allowance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Purpose** |  | **Cost €** |
| **10/11** | **National Council** |  | **€20** |
| **16-18/11** | **Pink Training** |  | **€20** |
|  | **Pink Training** |  | **€20** |
|  |  | **Total** | **€60** |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 08/11 | Lunch | TCD SU |
| 09/11 10/11 | Sandwich, tea & lunch | IT Carlow SU |
| 29/11 | Sandwich and soup | WIT SU |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave | November 19th |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge**

1. **Riachtanais Iontrála Ollscoil na hÉireann**
2. **Oifigigh na Gaeilge nua**
	1. **QUB**
	2. **STACS**
	3. **WIT**
3. **Lá Stocaireachta AMLÉ**
4. **Lá Eolais Conradh na Gaeilge**
5. **Teagmháil leis na Meáin**
6. **Coiste na Gaeilge**
7. **Foras na Gaeilge**
8. **Feachtas Náisiúnta**
9. **Rith 2014**
10. **Bliain na Gaeilge**
11. **Oireachtas na Gaeilge**
12. **Traenáil na n-Oifigeach Páirt Aimseartha**
13. **Riachtanas Iontrála Ollscoil na hÉireann (OÉ)**

I am currently working with the Oifigigh na Gaeilge in the NUI colleges regarding the proposed change to entry requirements for the National University of Ireland. It seems that there will be an initial effort made to change the entry requirement in UCC, do that Leaving Certificate students would not have study Irish at a Leaving Certificate level.

USI have previously been very active in changing Fine Gael’s proposed removal of Irish as a core Leaving Certificate subject. As such fighting the current soundings from NUI are little more than a continuation of this campaign.

Campaign

I intend to approach the issue in the following way;

- make contact with NUI seeking clarification of how and when they intend to change the entry requirements regards Irish in NUI, and what their reasoning is.

- pending confirmation of the move I then intend to seek a meeting with the NUI to make a case on behalf of USI Oifigigigh na Gaeilge, Cumainn Gaelaigh, and students in general as to why Irish should be maintained as an entry requirement for the NUI.

- Following this I intend to consult with OnaGanna, affected MO’s, and Coiste na Gaeilge  where I will propose further steps in the campaign.

1. **Oifigigh na Gaeilge nua**

I have maintained contact with a number of MO’s where I believe there is a possibility to increase Irish Language representation within those Unions;

* 1. **QUB**

Progress is continuing in QUBSU. It is our hope that we will be able to propose a change to the QUBSU constitution in the latter half of next term. While the prposal will not herald a part-time officer - as QUBSU do not have any - it will deliver Irish Language representation within QUBSU

* 1. **STACSSU**

In co-operation with the Student Co-ordinator from Conradh na Gaeilge, we have established what has potential to be a very strong cumann in STACS. To this end discussions have begun regarding the machinations of establishing an OnaG in STACSU. I hope to make further progress with this in the new year, again with the possibility of establishing an OnaG next year.

* 1. **WIT**

The cumann Gaelach in WIT approached me during the last month seeking my helpin establishing an OnaG in WIT. Following discussions with WITSU it was agreed that to run a referendum in WIT while the cumann was still developing may not be in the best interests of the cumann. to this end I have been working with the cumann and encouraging more co-operation with WITSU.

1. **Lá Stocaireachta AMLÉ**

I attended USI’s Lobbying day in my capacity as a member of officer board. During the day I spoke to a number of TD’s regarding USI’s budget proposals. Among the TD’s that I lobbied was former Minister for the Gaeltacht, Community, and Rural Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív. While speaking to the Deputy, in the company of the GMITSU President and Oifigeach na Gaeilge, we secured a commitment for him to ask a number of Parliamentary questions relating to our budgetary proposals.

1. **Lá eolais**

In the week following the USI Lobby I also attended Conradh na Gaeilge’s lobbying day in my capacity as USI LU Gaeilge. Also in attendance on the day were the OnaGanna from TCDSU, and MSU. The three principle discussion points on the day were:

- The establishment of a ‘Planning Unit’ or Aonad Pleanála for the Irish Language similar to the HEA. The aim of this was to allow the Irish Language community; Gaeltacht Communities, Irish Language organisations etc. to have an input into future legislative decisions regarding the Irish Language, before they came before the Dáil

- The Irish Language to be acknowledged as a necessary part of the work of the Civil Service in the future. The aim here is to ensure that like environmental and factors etc. the Irish Language be recognised as a something that must be included in any work of the Civil Service and public organisations in future i.e. equal and bi-lingual signage, Irish Language materials etc.

1. **Teagmháil leis na meáin**
	1. **Raidió na Gaeltachta**

I have done a number of interviews, on average 2 per week with different shows on Raidió na Gaeltachta. They have picked up on almost all of the student issues that have been in the news. However  it has only happened second-hand, as such I will have to examine our contacts with Irish Language media in the aftermath of the campaign.

* 1. **Raidió na Life**

Like RnaG, Raidió na Life have given a lot of cobverage to our campaign within the Dublin City area. Again I have been interviewed on a number of different programmes on Raidió na Life.

* 1. **Gaelscéal**

I have continued to promote the National Campaign in my column in Gaelscéal. I believe this has contributed in some way to the coverage we have received in the rest of the Irish Language media.

* 1. **Nuacht RTÉ**

Nuacht RTÉ also covered the national campaign and spoke to a number of students in UCD, where they spoke Oifigeach na Gaeilge, UCDSU, Gabhán Ó Briain. They focused specifically on the Gilmore 250 campaign.

* 1. **TG4**

I gave an interview for TG4 in LYIT on the day of their march in Letterkenny. While they were there they got extensive coverage of the march and the presentation of letters to teh local Fine Gael office.

1. **Coiste na Gaeilge**

While Coiste na Gaeilge will not be held this week owing to exams, our work has been continuing and I hope to put the future of Coiste na Gaeilge to a vote, at an Comhairle Náisiúnta, to a vote in January.

1. **Foras na Gaeilge**

In co-operation with the Conradh na Gaeilge student co-ordinator, I have been working with Foras na Gaeilge in order to secure outstanding funds for the Cumainn Gaelaigh around the country. The cumainn are due the second instalment of their ‘funding’ in the new year and I hope to have all monies secured before that in order to avoid any administrative problems.

1. **Feachtas Náisiúnta**

Outside of my own work I have been working with Cumainn Gaelaigh and Oifigigh na Gaeilge to push the National Campaign with the Irish Language communities within MO’s. A number of cumainn and officers have been very active and have added to the campaign in their own MO’s.

I attended the LYIT protest with the Deputy President on behalf of OfficerBoard, while I was there I did an interview with TG4 regarding the campaign and its progress to date.

1. **RITH 2014**

Following last month’s meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge, both Maynooth and Dublin are again under consideration to take part in Rith 2014. The National Relay/Marathon has already taken place in 2010 and 2012, and popularity continues to increase. I am a member of the steering committee of the event through USI, as will my successor.

I encourage any MO interested in bringing Rith to their area to get in touch with me if so your town / MO may be considered for inclusion in the course.

1. **Bliain na Gaeilge**

Planning for next year’s year-long celebration of the irish Language continues as do the plans of OnaGanna in individual MOs.

 Launch

The launch of the year took place beside Stephen’s Green SC on Sunday 25 November, where a large crowd attended to inform members of the public of the event in spite of the bad weather.

A number of MO’s from the Dublin area were represented. Bliain na Gaeilge will begin in An Daingean on December 31. I have been actively encouraging Oifigigh na Gaeilge to travel and make the student movement a pivotal part of the year from the outset.

1. **Oireachtas na Gaeilge**

I attended a meeting of Oireachtas na Gaeilge recently which doubled as an evaluation of this year’s event. The students were praised for their continued attendance, and hailed for helping the festival to new heights.

Both myself and the student co-ordinator noted the unsuitability of the venue for 3rd level students. We were given assurances by the organising that the student delegation would be a principal consideration in the selection of future destinations.

1. **Traenáil na n-Oifigeach Páirt Aimseartha**

Unfortunately attendance at the Irish Language segment of Part-Time Officer training was poor. I intend to meet with the VPAQA soon to examine how best to increase attendance in future.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 13/11/12 | Officer board  | Meeting of OB.  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| 16/11/12 | Oireachtas na Gaeilge  | Ionadaíocht na Mac Léinn |
| 19/11/12 | Bál na Gaeilge UCC | Annual Cuallacht event |
| 22/11/12 | Club Ch. na Gaeilge | Student Rep. |
| 26/11/12 | Lá Cultúrtha GMIT | Support for OnaG |
| 28/11/12 | Rith 2014 | Student Rep. |
|  |  |  |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 12/11/12 | UCC  | Support for Cumann - see point 7 |
| 13/11/12 | WIT  | meeting with Cumann Gaelach re: OnaG |
| 20/11/12 | UCC  | NUI entry requirement |
| 26/11/12 | NUIG | as above |
| 28/11/12 | LYIT  | National Campaign |
| 29/11/12 | QUB | Media + OnaG |

**Media Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Topic** |
| 13/11/12 | RnaL  | SUSI |
| 15/11/12 | RnaG | SUSI |
| 20/11/12 | RnaG  | Buiséad |
| 28/11/12 | TG4  | LYIT march |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |  |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave |  |

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

1. **Public meetings**
2. **Protests**
3. **Lobby of the Oireachtas**
4. **Sexual Health Roadshow**
5. **Mental health launch**
6. **Maynooth rep training**
7. **membership engagement**
8. **AAppendix; meetings attended, membership engagement, expenses claimed, declaration of gifts**

**1. Public meetings;**

Since the last National Council report I have attended and chaired five public meetings. For all the meetings I have compiled guest lists, helped arrange venue and I have also spent significant time tweeting, emailing and texting the guest list to ensure they came. I also made a huge effort to pressurise TDs into coming on the night. I think the efforts have been successful with the lowest turnout at fifty people and the highest at over one hundred and fifty. When the meetings were over I compiled a database of all those who had attended and emailed them thanking them alerting them to the next course of action and directing them to the website. I contacted them again just before their local protest and invited them to attend.

*Castlebar*; there was a very good turnout for this meeting and the student accommodations and businesses were very outspoken and proactive in becoming involved in the campaign. Lots of ideas were generated from the group including running an education candidate in the next election.

*Letterkenny;* there was a good councillor turn out for this meeting and the councillors agreed to submit a motion to the County Council and also to write to all the councils across the country to ask them to do the same.

*Galway;*there was a huge turnout for this meeting and the two local Labour TDs Derek Nolan and Colm Keaveney came to the debate. They accepted questions from students on the night and while things were very heated the audience had the opportunity to stand up and get involved.

*Athlone*;another huge turnout of students, parents, councillors and TDs. Ming Flannagan, James Bannon and Robert Troy were all in attendance. The meeting became quite heated but it was clear to see there was pressure on the Fine Gael TD.

*Maynooth;* this meeting took place after the Lobby of the Oireachtas in the Glenroyal hotel. There were approximately fifty people in attendance on the night. By the end of the meeting there was good buy in from students to work with the campaign.

**2. Protests**

*ST Angelas protests*

St. Angela’s had a protest outside John Perrys’ office as he refused to meet them to discuss the budget cuts to education. I organised the sound system and set up the area prior to people arriving. I also contacted people from the public meeting and asked them to come along to the protest. We had a number of local councillors who came along to support the protest. Alongside STACS SU, a STACS lecturer; John, Kate and I all spoke to the crowd. A follow up protest was arranged on the day.

John Perry continued to ignore requests from STACS for a meeting. After the USI President was arrested in the Dail Deputy Perry retweeted a comment giving out about those who were in the gallery and how they were a disgrace to the overall student body. As Deputy Perry continued to ignore STACS I retweeted a screen shot of his tweet and posted it to every local newspaper and radio station saying I was disgusted my local TD would engage in such behaviour. On the day of the Lobby I expressed my disgust to his party colleague Tony Mc Loughlin and explained to him what had happened. Deputy Perry was on Twitter within the hour responding to myself and STACS. Deputy Perry attempted to lie and say that no contact had been made with his officer and a meeting was arranged.

The meeting took place after another protest outside his office. I arranged the sound again for this. We had good media coverage at this meeting and Senator Marc Mc Sharry turned up to support the college. He also released a statement expressing the same.

I attended the meeting with STACS and it directly followed a meeting with ITSSU with the Minister. The meeting went as expected with Minister Perry and he expressed his sympathy to our issues and agreed to write a letter to the Minister expressing his support for the USI campaign not to cut the grant and increase the contribution charge. This letter still hasn’t been sent on. Minister Perry also agreed to meet the students of Saint Angela’s. Since the meeting he has met with the reps of IT Sligo. He was quite interested in the ideas in the ideas for entrepreneurship in colleges and he agreed to look at this further. I followed up the meeting with an email to the meeting summarising the meeting and pointing out the action he had committed to.

*Galway city protest*

The Galway protest was a huge success with up on three thousand students in attendance. The Deputy President and I represented USI at the march and I went to GMIT to help GMIT and AIT get ready and the Deputy went to NUIG. The event was a huge success and the TDs who were targeted were extremely annoyed at the lobby that they were targeted. The media stunt outside Derek Nolans’ office was also a great success and the event passed off peacefully.

*LYIT protest*

Unfortunately the LYIT and GMIT CB protest were on the same day so I was unable to be with LYIT on the day. Instead Peader and Kate travelled up. I was on campus two days prior to the march helping to organise and promote the march. I arranged the high vis jackets and sound systems for the march. When we were promoting the march I did class addresses and I manned their stand writing letters to Joe Mc Hugh. The march was a huge success on the day.

*Castlebar protest*

I was on campus two days prior to the march helping the SU to organise and promote the march. On one of the days myself and Clare went and lobbied John O Mahony about the pre-budget submission. He agreed to write a letter to the Minister on the issues. He agreed that SUSI was a major issue at the minute and that he was busy dealing with complaints regarding the issue. On the day of the protest I travelled down with IT Sligo and helped to steward at the march which had a crowd of over two hundred people.

*DKIT protest*

The DKIT protest took place on the same day as the Sligo protest so Kate attended in my absence. I want to apologise to DKIT for not being able to attend on the day. They had an excellent turn out and put huge effort into organising the day.

**3. Lobby of the Oireachtas**

I attended the Lobby of the Oireachtas in Dublin along with the other members of officer board and representatives from the BMW region from GMIT, NUIG, STACS, DKIT, AIT and LYIT. I lobbied ten people over the course of the day which included; Joe Mc Hugh, Senator Kathryn Reilly, Willie Penrose, Sean Kyne, Tony Mc Loughlin, Charlie Mc Conalogue, Denis Naughten, Dominic Hannigan, Anthony Lawlor and Noel Grealish. I had a number of action points to follow up with after the lobby including; emailing USI condensed solutions to Joe Mc Hugh, bringing a campaign idea forward from Kathryn Reilly and organising follow up meetings with a number of TDs including Anthony Lawlor as Maynooth could not make it on the day. I have been in contact with Joe Mc Hugh since the lobby and he has sent a letter to the Minister asking him to look at the USI pre-budget submission and to take our ideas on board. He also encouraged the Minister to look at cost savings in colleges as a means of raising extra capital. I have also met with John Perry and John O Mahony since the lobby. I have been in contact with Michelle Mulherin, Dara Calleary, Michael Ring to arrange meetings at any free time I have had to arrange meetings before the Mayo protest but I haven’t received any correspondence back. I intend to try and reach every TD in the next week through one means or another.

**4. Sexual health roadshow IT Sligo**

IT Sligo hosted the sexual health education road show in conjunction with Denise. I was on campus to support them.

**5. USI mental health regional launch**

St. Angela’s were the regional host for the mental health campaign in conjunction with USI. I was on site on the morning to help the Students’ Union to set up. The speaker on the day was a project manager from Heads Up Collette Ryan. I spoke to the crowd about the campaign and along with the SU officers we went round giving out the packs ad encouraging people to tweet what makes them smile. Similar to their last launch ST. Angela’s had a great crowd there and they had great ideas on the day for raising money for Acquired Brain Injury Ireland and they have a positivity tree that you bought a leaf on and wrote what makes you happy. They also gave out hand decorated biscuits to students that had smiley faces on them. I would like to congratulate them on another successful launch.

**6.Maynooth class rep training**

Following my officer report at the last National Council I travelled to UCD to meet the Maynooth class reps and talk to them about USI. They had a walking debate over their affiliation to USI and I addressed their concerns in my presentation. I spoke at length about the national campaign and their upcoming public meeting.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Meeting/Event** | **Details-location** |
| 05.11.12 | Castlebar Public meeting  |  |
| 06.11.12 | STACS protest  |  |
| 06.11.12 | Letterkenny public meeting  |  |
| 07.11.12 | USI sexual health roadshow  |  |
| 08.11.12 | Galway public meeting  |  |
| 09.11.12 | Education working group  |  |
| 09.11.12 | Officerboard teleconference |  |
| 10.11.12 | Campaigns  |  |
| 10.11.12 | Regional Council |  |
| 10.11.12 | National Council |  |
| 10.11.12 | Maynooth rep training | UCD |
| 12.11.12 | Mental health launch | STACS |
| 13.11.12 | Officerboard | Dublin |
| 14.11.12 | Galway protest | Galway city |
| 15.11.12 | Lobby | Dublin |
| 15.11.12 | Maynooth public meeting |  |
| 19.11.12 | Sligo protest |  |
| 19.11.12 | Meeting with John Perry | Lobby |
| 21.11.12 | Castlebar protest meeting |  |
| 22.11.12 | Letterkenny protest meeting |  |
| 26.11.12 | Castlebar protest promo |  |
| 26.11.12 | Meeting with John O Mahony | Lobby |
| 27.11.12 | Letterkenny protest promo |  |

**Membership Engagement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **MO** | **Details** |
| 05.11.12 | GMIT Castlebar  | Public meeting |
| 06.11.12 | STACS  | Sligo protest |
| 06.11.12 | IT Sligo | Campaign promotion |
| 06.11.12 | LYIT  | Public meeting  |
| 07.11.12 | IT Sligo  | Sexual health roadshow |
| 08.11.12 | NUIG GMIT | Galway public meeting |
| 10.11.12 | NUI Maynooth | Rep training |
| 12.11.12 | STACS | Mental health launch |
| 12.11.12 | AIT | Public meeting |
| 14.11.12 | NUIG AIT GMIT | Galway protest |
| 15.11.12 | NUI Maynooth | Public meeting |
| 19.11.12 | STACS | Protest and Perry meeting |
| 21.11.12 | GMIT CB | Protest meeting |
| 22.11.12 | LYIT | Protest meeting |
| 26.11.12 | GMIT CB | Protest promotion and lobby |
| 27.11.12 | LYIT | Protest promo |
| 28.11.12 | GMIT CB IT Sligo | Castlebar protest |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Cost €** |
| 13.11.12 | Dublin | Sligo  | Officerboard | 20 |
| 15.11.12 | Sligo  | Dublin | Lobby  | 14  |
| 15.11.12 | lobby | Hotel | Lobby  | 7.85  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **41.85** |

**Expenses own transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **To** | **From** | **Purpose** | **Distance** | **Cost** | **Tolls** |
| 05.11.12 | Cas | ligo | Public meeting | 176.06 | 79.22 | none |
| 06.11.12 | LYIT | Sligo | CO meeting and planning session | 224.42 | 100.98 | none |
| 08.11.12 | Galway | Sligo | Public meeting | 277.12km | 124.70 | none |
| 12.11.12 | AIT | Sligo | Public meeting | 232km | 104.4 | none |
| 14.11.12 | Galway | Sligo | Protest | 277.12km | 124.70 | none |
| total  |  |  |  |  |  | 534 |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| 12.11.12 | Diet coke  | STACS  |
| 28.11.12 | Lunch  | IT Sligo  |

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

**1. National Campaign**

**2. Mental Health Week Launch**

**3. Lobby of the Oireachtas**

1. Throughout November the remainder of the public meetings and majority of the local protests have taken place across the country. In the South alone four local protests and three public meetings have taken place since my last officer report. The first of the month took place in county Cork and was spearheaded by UCCSU and CITSU. In the days leading up to the protest I spent a considerable amount of time on campus with UCCSU in an effort to raise awareness. All main areas of the campus were targeted with posters, flyers and information leaflets. On the day previous to the protest and on morning of, UCCSU and I held an information stand in the main square of UCC. Fruit, condoms and chocolate were freely available to entice students over to the stand where we would inform them of the campaigns importance. The campaign team that UCCSU Deputy President Sam Ryan assembled was large enough for us to reach thousands of students. On the hour, every hour, numerous members of the team would leave the information stand to partake in lecture addresses before the class itself began. Both the information stand and lecture addresses were highly successful and were reflected in the turn-out. On the morning of the protest UCCSU and I were joined by USI Equality and Citizenship Officer Laura Harmon and USI Deputy President Kate Acheson. The campaign team gave one last push on UCC campus before we were joined in huge numbers by CIT students. Altogether, approximately 1,000 students marched to TD Jerry Buttimer’s office in full voice. Upon arrival we were met by Jerry Buttimer who addressed the crowd after speeches from UCC President Eoghan Healy, CIT President Danny O’Donavon and USI Deputy President Kate Acheson. The day proved to be a huge success and ended with Deputy Buttimer inviting both SU Presidents and Kate Acheson inside to discuss the matter in detail.

The next stop was Carlow’s public meeting which again proved to be a huge success. The meeting which would take place in the seven oaks hotel was promoted vigorously in both I.T. Carlow and Carlow college by their respective SU’s. With one of the highest public meeting turnouts in the South over 130 students showed up to voice their opinion and share their stories. Numerous parents, business owners and councillors were also in attendance. The result of this meeting would be Carlow county councils agreement to hold an emergency sitting to publicly condemn any budget that involves an increase to the student contribution charge. This meeting is due to take place on December 3 at 8pm. Immediately before Carlow’s public meeting USI Deputy President Kate Acheson and I attended class representative council in Waterford Institute of Technology. We reminded the reps’ of the upcoming campaign whilst promoting the public meeting and local protest before swiftly hitting the road for Carlow.

The next public meeting I attended was a lot different to the previous ones. Dublin colleges heard from each of their SU Presidents as well as USI President John Logue before marching on the Dáil. Once inside students from all over Dublin stood and turned their back on the TD’s that have too often turned their back on them. The protest was widely covered by the media and gained a lot of much needed support for the campaign.

After my brief spell in Dublin I set off for the Kingdom of Kerry to promote and attend I.T. Tralee’s public meeting accompanied by USI President John Logue and USI Deputy President Kate Acheson. The atrocious weather on the night kept many students indoors but those in attendance were extremely active and vocal. Almost every person in the room had a story to share of how the recent cuts and fee increases have drastically affected their lives. Deputy Healy Rae was in attendance and offered all of his support along with Teresa Ferris, daughter of Martin Ferris who spoke passionately on the subject of fees. Both vowed to vote against any budget that involved fee increases or grant cuts. The meeting was also attended by numerous parents, business owners and councillors, all of who offered their support.

Tralee’s public meeting was swiftly followed by their local protest which saw over a third of the college population turn out in support. Between both campuses approximately 1,200 students marched to Deputy Arthur Spring’s office to seek support before the upcoming budget. In preparation for the march ITTSU printed over 1,000 letters to be delivered to Tralee locals, covered every corner of the college in posters and distributed thousands of information flyers. As with their counterparts in the south this was reflected in the numbers. The protest began with north campus students liaising with south campus students approximately 0.5km from Deputy Spring’s office. For the final stretch students sang in full voice until they reached their destination where they were met by Deputy Spring. After a brief speech Deputy Spring returned inside before students heard from their SU President Niall Harty, SU Education Officer Eoin Murray, USI Deputy President Kate Acheson, myself and numerous ITTSU Part-Timers. Similar to the protest in Cork the day would finish with Deputy Spring agreeing to meet the ITTSU sabbaticals and USI to discuss the matter in detail. On the night of the protest ITTSU hosted a symbolic sleep-in to symbolise the vast number of students who are unable to pay their rent due to the on-going cuts and late grant payments. The sleep-in took place on campus and was attended by the Deputy President and I.

Tralee’s protest was swiftly followed by Limerick’s protest which was spearheaded by LITSU. The preparation was similar to that of their counterparts in the south with the bulk of promotion taking place on the day previous and morning of. Again, posters were placed in every corner of LIT Moylish and LIT Art College along with the distribution of numerous flyers and information leaflets. Students congregated at the front gates of LIT Moylish and were lead to Jan O’Sullivans office by their SU President Niamh Kavanagh. Students marched for approximately one mile before being joined by students from LIT Art College. The protest would then march down Patricks Street, one of limericks busiest. This gathered a lot of attention and support from the locals with many joining in at the back of the protest. Upon arrival there was nobody there to address the students from Deputy O’Sullivans office but speeches from both SU Presidents finished off the protest superbly.

The final stop off of the month took place in Waterford where WITSU had the difficult task of bussing students to their destination. Labour TD Ciara Conway holds office approximately 45 minutes away from WIT and was WITSU’s target TD for the campaign. Despite the difficult task WITSU managed to rally over 120 students armed to the teeth with t-shirts, placards, whistles, face paint and drums. Preparation on campus started a week previous to the protest and heated up on the morning of. On the long bus journey over students were encouraged to write a letter to Ciara Conway outlining the difficulties they already face on a contribution charge of €2,250. Many class representatives had addressed this task to their class and came wielding the letters of those who were unable to attend. Upon arrival each student posted their letter through their letter through the letterbox whilst SU President Brian Staunton and Education Officer Stephen O’Rourke addressed the crowd. Although Ciara Conway failed to attend and address the crowd the day was a huge success.

1. This year, I.T. Tralee would host the mental health week launch on behalf of the southern region. All students were notified through the all student e-mail system along with lecturers and college staff receiving invitations. Attendees heard speeches from their President Niall Harty, myself and some of the leading mental organisations the country has to offer. Afterwards, reach out ran their famous ‘note to self’ campaign on campus while the SU team and I distributed the national mental health packs.
2. This year was my second year attending the lobby of the Oireachtas as a student representative and my first as a USI officer. Throughout the day I got to speak to numerous TD’s, mainly from the southern region, alongside their local SU to pitch USI’s pre-budget submission. The day was successful in the fact that we received a considerable amount of support from Independent TD’s. However, I was personally disappointed with the lack of attendance from southern region Labour and Fine Gael TD’s.

**Appendix**

**USI Meetings/Events Attended:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Meeting/Event** | **Details** |
| **UCC Local Protest** | **National Campaign** |
| **Mental Health Week Launch** | **One of the two USI mental health week launches** |
| **WIT Class Rep’ Council** | **National Campaign** |
| **Carlow Public Meeting** | **National Campaign** |
| **Dublin Public Meeting** | **National Campaign** |
| **Lobby of the Oireactas** |  |
| **Tralee Public Meeting** | **National Campaign** |
| **Tralee Local Protest** | **National Campaign** |
| **Tralee Sleep-In** | **An on campus sleep-in to symbolise the vast amount of students who are unable to afford their rent** |
| **Limerick Local Protest** | **National Campaign** |
| **Waterford Local Protest** | **National Campaign** |

**Expenses Claimed – Public Transport**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sep 28** | **Carlow** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€12** |
| **Oct 5** | **Roscrea** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€14.50** |
| **Oct 10** | **Heuston** | **Carlow** | **Train** | **€17.20** |
| **Oct 13** | **Templemore** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€18.50** |
| **Oct 15** | **Heuston** | **Limerick** | **Train** | **€20.00** |
| **Oct 20** | **Carlow** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€12.00** |
| **Oct21** | **Tralee** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€30.00** |
| **Oct 23** | **Carlow** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 23** | **Heuston** | **Tralee** | **Train** | **€30.00** |
| **Oct 29** | **Roscrea** | **Heuston** | **Train** | **€14.50** |
| **Nov 1** | **Cork** | **Thurles** | **Train** | **€20.00** |
|  |  |  |  | **€200.70** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Oct 14** | **Limerick** | **Dinner, LITSU Referendum** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 15** | **Limerick** | **Dinner, LITSU Referendum** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 16** | **Dublin** | **Lunch, Class Rep’ Prep’** |  | **€6.00** |
| **Oct 16** | **Dublin** | **Dinner, Class Rep’ Prep’** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 18** | **Dublin** | **Dinner, NC Prep’** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 19** | **Dublin** | **Lunch, DIT NC** |  | **€7.00** |
| **Oct 20** | **Dublin** | **Dinner, DIT NC** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 21** | **Tralee** | **Dinner, Voter Reg’** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 22** | **Tralee** | **Lunch, Voter Reg’** |  | **€7.00** |
| **Oct 22** | **Tralee** | **Dinner, Voter Reg’** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 23** | **Tralee** | **Lunch, Voter Reg’** |  | **€10.00** |
| **Oct 23** | **Tralee** | **Dinner, Voter Reg’** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 24** | **Limerick** | **Lunch, Public Meeting** |  | **€7.00** |
| **Oct 24** | **Limerick** | **Dinner, Public Meeting** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Oct 25** | **Cork** | **Dinner, Public Meeting** |  | **€12.00** |
| **Nov 1** | **Cork** | **Lunch, Protest Prep’** |  | **€8.00** |
| **Nov 2** | **Cork** | **Lunch, Protest Prep’** |  | **€8.00** |
|  |  |  |  | **€173** |

**Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Purchaser** |
| Dinner | ITTSU |
| Dinner, Coffee, Scone, Soup and Sandwich | WITSU |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Leave** | **Date** |
| Annual Leave | Nov 16, 19 and 20 |