



# USI Congress 2013

## Pre-Clár

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*This document contains all motions submitted by the deadline to Steering Committee of USI and prioritized in the priority motions procedure.*

*This document now represents the running order of USI Congress in each motion category, but the order in which each motion category will be discussed has not yet been set and may be subject to change by Congress.*

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## **Administration & Finance Motions**

### **A&F 1 Motion to introduce increased USI Finance Committee Transparency**

Proposed By TCDSU

#### *Congress Notes*

The significant responsibility that USI Finance Committee has towards the organisation and the powers it holds under the constitution including:

- The drafting of the USI Annual Budget
- Regulation of Officerboard's terms and conditions of employment
- The setting of expense rates

#### *Congress Further Notes*

The inadequacy of a brief annual update on USI Finances to Member Organisations.

#### *Congress Also Notes*

The responsible decisions made by USI Finance Committee and the need to maintain confidentiality in relation to certain decisions.

#### *Congress Therefore Mandates*

The President a quarterly update to National Council and to provide members of National Council with Agenda and Minutes of its meetings. Congress recognises that certain Agenda items and Minutes may be withheld due to being sensitive in nature.

### **A&F 2 Motion on Cost of USI Affiliation**

Proposed by UCDSU

#### *Congress Notes:*

That USI currently costs each Students' Union €5 per student.

### ***Congress further notes:***

The dependence of USI on affiliation fees, amounting to 99.8% of the organisation's income in 11/12.

### ***Congress believes:***

It is prudent for the organisation and a duty to its Member Organisations to regularly conduct a comprehensive review of affiliation fees and financial strategy.

### ***Congress believes:***

It is equally important that students feel USI represents value for their money.

### ***Congress Mandates:***

The USI President commence a financial review of the organisation and the production of a five year financial plan to be presented to Congress 2014. This review must at a minimum:

- Review the system of charging Member Organisations a charge per student regardless of size, student numbers and other criteria taken into account by other National Student Unions.
- Seek to reduce the affiliation fees charged by USI to Students' Unions/student members.
- Aim to reduce dependence on affiliation fees through increasing other income sources

## **A&F 3 Motion to Establish Working Group to investigate Cost of Congress**

Proposed by TCDSU

### ***Congress Notes***

The significant cost of Congress to Member Organisations and the economic limitations facing Students' Unions.

### ***Congress Therefore Mandates***

The President to establish a working group to investigate the costs of Congress and identify areas or actions which may result in savings for MOs.

The taskforce will invite the following individuals to participate:

- USI President
- USI General Manager
- 1 Member of Finance Committee

- 2 Members of National Council
- 1 Representative of Universities
- 1 Representative of Institutes of Technology

## **Citizenship Motions**

### **CS 1 Working with Volunteer Ireland**

Proposed by St Angela's College Students' Union

#### *Congress notes:*

That the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship has built a relationship and worked with Volunteer Ireland this year.

#### *Congress believes:*

That both USI and Volunteer Ireland have a lot to benefit from working together to promote and encourage student volunteering.

#### *Congress mandates:*

The Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship to continue engaging and working with Volunteer Ireland to promote and encourage student volunteering in higher education institutions.

### **CS 2 Young People, Citizenship and Engagement**

Submitted by AITSU

#### *Congress Welcomes:*

President Michael D. Higgins' 'Being Young and Irish' seminar and recognises the importance and positive impact that can result from programs that involve citizen engagement.

#### *Congress Notes with Concern:*

The low level of voter turnout in Ireland, particularly amongst young people, and the importance of ensuring that we have a population that is engaged with and participating in our democracy.

#### *Congress Acknowledges:*

The benefits that greater citizen engagement can have on government and the wider society, with specific emphasis on improving voter turnout, particularly amongst the young people of Ireland.

***Congress Mandates:***

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to lobby for the extension of such programmes through that focus on engaging with the youth of Ireland and for Civil, Social and Political Education (CSPE) to be part of a reformed Leaving Certificate to encourage a sense of citizenship in young people.

***Congress also Mandates:***

The Vice President for Campaigns to roll out an effective voter registration campaign nationwide by December 2013.

**CS 3 Taskforce on Volunteering and Citizenship**

Proposed by Equality and Citizenship Working Group

***Congress welcomes:***

The increased participation in the Equality & Citizenship Working Group which has been noted at National Council over the past year, and commends efforts which have been made to achieve this.

***Congress recognises:***

The importance of structuring USI's activities in the area of citizenship, and the difficulties involved for many officers in continuing to engage with this area in between National Councils when it is not a central focus of their brief.

***Congress notes:***

The outstanding work which has been done in recent years by USI Taskforces in developing policy and campaigns, particularly in the areas of Graduate Employment and Electoral Law Reform.

***Congress therefore mandates:***

That a USI Taskforce on Volunteering and Citizenship be established, to be chaired by the Vice-President for Equality & Citizenship. This is to be completed before September 2013.

The membership of this Taskforce should consist of-

- USI President



- USI VP for Campaigns
- USI VP for Equality & Citizenship
- All Regional Vice-Presidents
- The NUS-USI President
- 4 members of National Council
- 1 external member as agreed by National Council

The areas the Taskforce should focus on should include, but not be exclusive to, the following-

Fundraising for USI National Charity;

Anti-Social Behaviour;

Community Engagement;

Student Participation Awards;

Voter Registration;

Student Volunteering

## Union Organisation Motions

### UO 1 On-campus Training & Engagement

Proposed by GMITSU

#### *Congress recognises:*

The importance of engaging with class representatives and part-time officers across the country in order to broaden USI's scope with its membership.

#### *Congress notes:*

That despite the high quality of speakers and modules at recent Part-Time Officer Training and Activist Academy events held centrally by USI, and well-regarded feedback from those who did attend, the disappointing attendances at these events in recent years.

### *Congress mandates:*

The VP for Campaigns and all Regional VP's to organise and deliver ongoing training modules, events, seminars, and debates focused at class reps and part-time officers to be held regionally and on campus in MO's throughout the year.

## **UO 2 Motion to Solidify Transparency for Members of USI**

Proposed by TCDSU

### *Congress Notes*

The importance of transparency to the principles of the organisation

### *Congress Mandates*

The President to set up a 'transparency' section of the USI website and ensure timely updates

### *Congress Further Mandates*

The section to contain all National Council Agenda and Minutes and the minutes of USI Committees where relevant and possible. This would not include the minutes of Finance Committee.

### *Congress Further Mandates*

The President to ensure the provision of a monthly PDF update including concise progress updates from USI officers for distribution to USI members via individual MOs. These updates may appear alongside videos as previously mandated (12/ UO 14).

## **UO 3 Motion to Establish Sectoral and Regional Working Groups at National Council**

Proposed By TCDSU

### *Congress Notes*

The benefit of close communication to MOs on issues which specifically relate to an individual sector.

### *Congress Also Notes*

Imminent discussions regarding regional clustering and the need for closer communications between MOs regarding these developments.

The usefulness of discussions between MOs that opposed the Universities (Amendment) Act.

### *Congress Therefore Mandates*

The President to arrange for the establishment of sectoral or regional Working Groups at National Council as required. These working groups would elect a Chair and Secretary at their first meeting.

## **UO 4 Motion on Data Protection Policy for USI Officer Board and all Member Organisations**

Proposed by TCDSU

### *Congress Notes*

The delicate and sensitive nature of the information USI Officers and MO Officers receive and are in possession of on a daily basis including but not limited to casework details, documents held in confidence and documents of a commercially sensitive nature.

### *Congress Further Notes*

The need for proper guidelines so that Union officers act in accordance with various statutory obligations.

### *Congress Therefore Mandates*

The USI President, in consultation with other USI Officers, to manage the development of a template USI 'Data Protection Policy' which can be adopted by all MOs.

### *Congress Further Mandates*

The USI President to issue the MOs the guidelines on the registration process with the Data Protection Commissioner and how best to relate the work of an SU to the same.

## **UO 5 USI National Charity**

Proposed by USI VP Welfare

### *Congress notes:*

The existence of the 2012/2013 USI National Charity as Acquired Brain Injury which was chosen at the second National Council of the academic year.

### ***Congress Believes:***

It is important for USI and Member Organisations to support a charity each year and give back to the wider community.

### ***Congress mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to coordinate all efforts in fundraising and raising awareness for the chosen charity, nationally and with Member Organisations.

### ***Congress further mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to compile a briefing document for Member Organisations on the National Charity, which would include details on how to propose a charity, when the voting will take place and how the voting will happen. This is to be distributed at Students' Union Training, annually from July 2013.

## **UO 6 Institutional Memory of USI**

Submitted by the President, USI

### ***Congress notes:***

The high turnover of officers on the Officer Board of the Union of Students in Ireland each year.

### ***Congress Further Notes***

That much of the knowledge, skills and experience accrued by officers over the period of their officership leaves with officers at the end of their term to the detriment of the Union.

### ***Congress Acknowledges***

The turnover of students in higher and further education means that frequent turnover of officers in the Union is inevitable but the loss of their knowledge, skills and experience is detrimental to the pursuit of the Union's objectives.

### ***Congress Mandates***

The President to form and chair a group to investigate methods of improving the institutional memory of the Union. This group would consist of the President, the General Manager of the Union, the Chair of Steering Committee, two representatives of National Council, an independent expert in the development of institutional memory and any other person(s) as the President deems necessary from time to time.

### ***Congress Further Mandates***

The President, as Chairperson of the group, to produce a strategy on improving the institutional memory of the Union within three months of the group's first meeting and for the first meeting to take place not later than July 31st 2013.

### *Congress Mandates*

The President, as Chairperson of the group, to include in the report findings and recommendations on, but not limited to:

- (i) Staffing of the Union
- (ii) Effective knowledge transfer between outgoing and incoming officers
- (iii) Acquisition of necessary skills for officers of the Union
- (iv) Creation of a database on previous campaigns and policy documents

### *Congress Further Mandates*

The President to include the progress of the group and subsequent implement the report's recommendations as a standing item at each National Council until National Council is satisfied that the recommendations of the report have been implemented

## **UO 7 Communication with students**

Proposed by the President, USI

### *Congress notes*

that the Union traditionally communicates to students through the union's Member Organisations.

### *Congress Further Notes*

That many Members Organisations do not have direct access to their students via conventional communication channels such as e-mail and telephone.

### *Congress Acknowledges*

That many students are unaware of the work the Union does for them on an ongoing basis and that such lack of awareness may lead to discontent among students about the work of the Union.

### *Congress Further Notes*

That the ability of the Union and Member Organisations to communicate directly with students via traditional communication channels is necessary to ensure that students are fully aware of issues facing them and to assure students that progress is being made by the Union and Member Organisations on these issues.

### *Congress Therefore Mandates*

The VP Campaigns and Regional Vice Presidents to investigate the communication methods of each Member Organisation in order to collate best practice from each Member

Organisation in order to assist each Member Organisation to improve their communication methods where necessary.

### ***Congress Further Mandates***

The VP Campaigns, In conjunction with the Regional Vice Presidents, to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with each Member Organisation on communicating important information with their students.

### ***Congress Further Mandates***

The VP Campaigns to work with Union staff to create effective, alternative means of communicating to students in Member Organisations and to Include progress in this regard as a standing item in their National Council Report.

## **UO 8 Campaigns Sub Group Regulations**

Proposed by USI Deputy President

### ***Congress Recongnises:***

That the Campaigns Sub Group has been extremely beneficial in the organisation and implementation of the National Campaign.

### ***Congress Further Notes:***

The importance of the direction and the running of the National Campaign on an annual basis and the input from Member Organisations across the country who were elected onto the sub group.

### ***Congress Acknowledges:***

That in order for the campaigns sub group to reach it's full potential, guidelines need to be put in place for the election process, frequency of meetings and the removal of a member of the campaigns sub group.

### ***Congress Mandates:***

The President and VP for Campaigns to set the list of guidelines surrounding the election process by the last week of July. The timeline for the election, the number of Member Organisation officers from each region, schedule of meetings, dismissal of an officer due to poor attendance and the outline of the objectives of the group.

### ***Congress Further Mandates:***

The President and VP for Campaigns to hold the election for the campaigns sub group at the second national council of the year.

## **UO 9 USI Engagement with Events & Marketing**

Proposed by Entertainments Working Group

### ***Congress acknowledges:***

That many Students' Unions undertake events and marketing functions in many ways, such as running nights out and seeking discounts and complimentary goods and services for their members.

### ***Congress also acknowledges:***

The need to establish a value on what the collective body of students is and observe the working calendars of the students and commercial markets to ensure that there is ample time to seize opportunities.

### ***Congress notes with concern:***

The lack of an adequate support structure for Sabbatical Officers with this type of brief.

### ***Congress mandates:***

The President to investigate the best way for USI to provide such a support structure and to report back to National Council in September 2013.

### ***Congress also mandates:***

The President to ensure that USI gain an understanding of the student market and the potential that exists for Students' Unions and their members to benefit from it.

## **UO 10 USI Part-Time Employment Webpage**

Proposed by BMW Regional Council

Congress notes with concern: The difficulties currently facing students in finding part-time employment in order to supplement their income whilst in college, given the present economic climate .

### ***Congress recognises:***

That many Students' Unions already have a direct link or contact to providers of once-off, short-term or part-time work, through college Inductions and Open Days, SU activities such as Student Patrol, on-campus services ran by SU's, promotional staff vacancies in local pubs and clubs, on campus promotions,

etc.

***Congress therefore mandates:***

The President to arrange for the creation of a part-time employment webpage through the main USI website, which Students' Unions can use to advertise available part-time work to potential and current students in financial need. This is to be completed before September 2013.

***Congress further mandates:***

All Regional VP's to work with local MO's and local businesses in their region on an ongoing basis to source suitable part-time employment opportunities for inclusion on the webpage.

## **UO 11 USI Campus Crossover Tour**

Proposed by BMW Regional Council

***Congress recognises:***

The importance of providing extensive training to sabbatical officers across the country, and the vital role which USI plays and should continue to play in providing this to MO's.

***Congress notes:***

The challenges faced by many incoming sabbatical officers in MO's in adjusting to their new roles, particularly where a lack of direct crossover has been provided by their predecessor.

***Congress mandates:***

USI Officerboard to offer comprehensive one-to-one crossover training to MO's. This should be carried out in the most efficient means possible in terms of cost and resources as determined by the USI President, by the relevant members of USI Officerboard. This is to be completed before August 2013.

## **UO 12 Affiliate and Non-affiliate Feedback**

Proposed by: IT Sligo Students' Union



### *Congress recognises:*

The central importance to USI as a national organisation to work to ensure the satisfaction of current affiliate MO's and also towards the affiliation of currently non-member Students' Unions.

### *Congress also recognises:*

That providing value for money to our membership, now more than ever, continues to be the central concern of current affiliates and non-affiliates alike, and plays a central part in any referendum campaigns engaged in by USI.

### *Congress mandates:*

The USI President to include 'The Value of USI Membership' as a rolling agenda item at all future Officerboard and Finance Committee meetings.

### *Congress further mandates:*

All Regional VP's to engage on an ongoing basis with both affiliate and non-affiliate Students' Unions in their region as to their ideas and proposals regarding potential benefits and current negatives to the value of USI membership, and for these items to be brought to the attention of the USI President.

## **UO 13 Part time Officer Training**

Proposed by VP Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance

### *Congress notes*

The increasing diversity of part time roles in Students' Unions, Clubs and Societies and the importance of training for individuals taking up leadership roles within these organisations. The opportunity for many Part Time Officers to share ideas and initiatives with others fulfilling similar roles is extremely limited.

### *Congress believes*

There are many core training topics which would be of value to all student officer roles including public speaking, time and resource management, campaign planning and event management and great value in providing networking opportunities for the sharing of ideas and experience.

### *Congress mandates the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance, Equality & Citizenship, Campaigns and the Irish Language*

To determine the most suitable time and location for a Part Time Officer Training Event in consultation with National Council and to co-ordinate a two day training event before October 31st each year. This mandate shall expire after three years.

## **UO 14 Affiliations against Austerity**

Proposed by MSU

### *Congress Mandates*

Officerboard to set up a committee whose function it is to establish ties and affiliations with other groups in our society who oppose austerity.

## **UO 15 Engaging with the Abortion Rights Campaign**

Proposed by UCCSU

### *Congress notes:*

The recent escalation in the level of debate regarding the issue of abortion rights in Ireland.

### *Congress welcomes:*

The establishment of the Abortion Rights Campaign, launched on the 19th of January 2013.

### *Congress supports:*

The expressed aims of the Abortion Rights Campaign. Firstly, campaigning for the immediate introduction of legislation for the right to safe, legal abortion when a woman's life is at risk, including from suicide. Secondly, campaigning for the repeal of the 8th amendment of the Irish Constitution, allowing for legislation to be made to allow for accessible abortion rights for women in Ireland.

### *Congress mandates:*

The Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship and the rest of Officer Board to engage actively with the Abortion Rights Campaign.

## **UO 16 Student Grant & Accommodation Resource Packs**

Proposed by: Education Working Group

### *Congress notes*

The value of informing students and their parents about applying for grants and finding accommodation before the academic year begins.

### *Congress observes*

The poor attendance at many of the Grant and Accommodation information events hosted across the country in recent years.

### *Congress believes*

Member Organisations can run successful information events if provided with the necessary materials and given the opportunity to host them at their own convenience with support from USI Officerboard and the relevant agencies.

### *Congress mandates*

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance and the Vice President for Welfare to complete a comprehensive Grant and Accommodation resource pack for Member Organisations with all of the information and materials needed to run such events.

## **UO 17 USI Support for Turn off the Red Light Campaign**

Proposed by President, NUS-USI

### *Congress does not perceive:*

prostitution as a 'service'. Sex with another human being cannot be reduced to a service. The act of 'purchase' in prostitution is an act of buying access to, and control over, another person's body for a certain duration of time and for a certain amount of money.

### *Congress notes that:*

The Turn off the Red Light (TORL) campaign in Ireland is run by an alliance of 56 networks, umbrellas, unions and non-governmental bodies, who represent among themselves 1.6 million supporters for the TORL cause.

### *Congress believes:*

It is the sex buyer who fuels the profits of the criminals who organize the sex trade in Ireland and perpetuates the exploitation of vulnerable women and girls, as well as men. Criminalising the purchase of sex makes punters take responsibility for their actions and sends out a clear message that it is not acceptable for people to be treated as commodities, to be bought and sold for sexual use.

### *Congress recognises that:*

9 out of 10 prostitutes wish to exit the industry but feel unable to do so (Farley et al, 2003). Prostitution has a devastating impact on both physical and mental well being for those prostituted. It erodes self-esteem, self-confidence, can cause depression and symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder. It can result in infertility, unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections and many other physical consequences. Those in prostitution face beatings, rape, sexual assault and degrading treatment. They are usually individuals who are isolated

from potential supports.

***Congress also recognises that:***

In Sweden there has been legislation to criminalise the sex buyer while decriminalizing those prostituted (as vulnerable parties) since 1999. 70% of Swedes support this law on the basis that prostitution is exploitative and incompatible with equality. Street prostitution in Sweden has halved since the introduction of the ban. The Swedes have seen a change in attitude to the purchase of sexual services; strong support for the ban on purchasing sexual services (70%-80%). Furthermore, the ban has proved to be an effective deterrent to sex purchasers as surveys show decrease from 13.6% in 1996 to 7.9% in 2008.

***Congress fully supports:***

the Turn off the Red Light campaign in Ireland that is working towards criminalisation of the purchaser of sex in Ireland.

***Congress mandates:***

the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship to work with the Turn off the Red Light campaign to further the goals of the campaign.

## **UO 18 Student Finances**

Proposed by VP Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance

***Congress Applauds***

The incredible work undertaken by MO Officers to assist students affected by the serious issues with the roll out of the centralised grant awarding authority 'Student Universal Support Ireland' (SUSI).

***Congress notes with concern***

The increasing financial hardship being experienced by students and vast amount of information needed to guide students through grant and finance applications.

***Congress therefore mandates the Vice Presidents for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance and Welfare***

To coordinate a full day of training for MO Officers on student financial assistance and funding including financial support available to postgraduate students. This mandate should be completed before August 31st each year and shall expire after three years.

## **UO 19 Student Engagement with Quality Assurance Practices**

Proposed by VP Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance

### *Congress notes*

That student engagement is vital in effective quality assurance and enhancement procedures.

### *Congress notes with concern*

That many students do not value current evaluation surveys and procedures leading to poor participation levels. Many student representatives are not aware of the quality assurance practices in place in their institution and their outcomes.

### *Congress therefore mandates the Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance*

To include training on student involvement in quality assurance at Student Union Training and to compose a template module for class rep training events for MOs including information on the National Student Survey. This mandate should be complete by September 30th.

## **National Affairs Motions**

### **NA 1 Votes at 16**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by: St Angela's College Sligo Students' Union

### *Congress notes*

Previous mandates 11 / NA 2 which has ensured USI hold regular voter registration campaigns, 11 / NA 5 which calls for a more streamlined approach towards voter registration in the form of an Electoral Commission.

### *Congress further notes*

That the voting age for all national elections and referendums in Ireland is currently 18 years old.

### *Congress observes*

The Council of Europe has called upon its 47 member states to start the process towards lowering the electoral age to the age of 16.

### *Congress recognises*

That having a student population who are participating in political decisions and the voting process can be an effective lobbying tool when interacting with public representatives.

### *Congress believes*

That lowering the voting age in Ireland to 16 years old could improve the interaction of students with the political system and could improve their engagement with society right from the time they begin in higher education.

### *Congress mandates*

The VP Equality and Citizenship to lobby for the legal voting age in Ireland to be reduced to 16 years old. They should collaborate with the European Youth Forum, Spun Out and other relevant organisations where possible and interact with the Constitutional Convention. This mandate should be completed within three years or until the voting age is lowered; whichever is reached first.

## **NA 2 Motion on Schools**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by UCDSU

### *Congress Notes:*

That USI have existing mandates (11/ ED 20) pursuing the secularisation of second level education in Ireland.

### *Congress Further Notes:*

USI have a further mandate pursuing the revocation of state funding for private secondary schools in Ireland.

### *Congress Notes With Concern:*

That many children may be left with no option but to attend a religious school that does not cater for their own religious beliefs or ethos and may be forced to attend an alternate religious ethos second level institution.

### *Congress Also Notes That*

Often private schools are necessary for children for whom ethos or religious beliefs are not catered for.

### *Congress Therefore Suspends:*

The mandate calling for the revocation of private school funding by public sources until such a time of the successful fulfillment previous mandate for the secularisation of secondary schools.

## **NA 3 Motion to Investigate the Impact of Decriminalisation of Drugs**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by UCDSU

### *Congress Notes*

That Ireland is experiencing an increase in certain social problems such as gangland violence and the relationship between the gang culture and the illegal drug trade.

### *Congress further notes:*

That countries such as Portugal, Czech Republic, Australia, the Netherlands and Norway have implemented laws which have decriminalized certain narcotics in recent years and have reported a positive social impact. Reports carried out by the 'Global Commission on Drug Policy' support this method with Commissioner Richard Branson stating the need for "drugs to be seen as a medical problem, rather than a criminal problem'

### *Congress believes:*

The law governing this issue stems mainly from the 1977 and 1984 Misuse of Drugs Acts and that attitudes, implications and availability have all progressed since their implementation.

### *Congress further believes:*

That we need to take progressive steps to help address the issue, educate the students of today and be the generation who will tackle drug problems once and for all for the benefit of society as a whole.

### *Congress Therefore Mandates:*

That Officerboard should research all possible positive and negative effects of decriminalization of narcotics in Ireland and as part of this perform a feasibility study on income it could possibly raise through taxes and fines.

## **NA 4 Motion on Gun Violence in Ireland**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by UCDSU

### ***Congress notes:***

The increase in shootings and gangland violence in Ireland in the last five years. The number of gangland shootings in Ireland increased by more than 50% in 2012 over 2011. This mirrors an international increase in gun deaths.

### ***Congress notes:***

The tragic and abhorrent death of a member of the Gardaí, an organisation that students and Students' Unions work closely with.

### ***Congress Believes:***

That such a severe escalation in Gun violence put all of society at risk, including those in education and as such that USI should take a proactive stance on the issue.

### ***Therefore, Congress Mandates:***

That USI organise a national campaign to put pressure on the government to take a tougher stance on gang violence and gun control across Ireland.

## **NA 5 Croke Park Agreement**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by: IT Sligo Students' Union

### ***Congress notes:***

That current USI policy calls for the re-negotiation of the Croke Park agreement, while still endeavouring to protect the rights of public sector employees.

### ***Congress further notes:***

That with the current agreement due to expire next year, this re-negotiation process has now already begun.



***Congress believes:***

That a situation has developed whereby new entrants to the public service are paid significantly less than those employed prior to the signing of the Croke Park Agreement, in order to ensure protection for current workers.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI President to call on pay cuts to be imposed on all public salaries above € 100,000 as part of this re-negotiation, with the current pay levels of all frontline workers to be protected and maintained.

***Congress further mandates:***

The USI President to lobby that as part of these re-negotiations that the pay gap and inequities which have now formulated between newer entrants and those staff previously in place should be addressed.

***Congress further mandates***

The USI President to take a stance that across the entire public service, not just in Higher Education, that the unfair imbalance and treatment of young people and graduates be looked at as a priority.

## **NA 6 Research into the causes and solutions of the current crisis**

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by MSU

***Congress Mandates***

Officerboard to lobby the government and the president of Ireland to initiate and release funds to fund 10 PhD scholarships who would look into both causes/solutions of the current crisis and debt reduction.

## **NA 7 Waste in Public Spending**

(Requires a simple majority to pass)

Proposed by GMITSU

***Congress notes with regret:***

The considerable waste of public monies which in many ways has categorised the country's recent economic crash.

***Congress condemns:***

The culture of greed and excess which has prevailed in many sectors of our governance and society which allowed such waste to occur.

***Congress observes:***

The existence of State-funded taxpayer lobby groups in other countries which act to try and ensure that public money is spent in a more prudent and efficient manner.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI President to call on the establishment of a similar organisation in Ireland to act in the best interests of the general taxpayer in budgetary lobbying and discussions, and for USI to have representation on such a group on behalf of young people in Irish society.

## **Welfare Motions**

### **W 1 The effect of the Budget on Mental Health**

Submitted by NCI SU

***Congress notes:***

Budget 2013 (announced on Wednesday the 5th of December 2012) has put adverse financial pressure on students with the increase in student contribution charge and the 3% cut to the maintenance grant threshold which will come into effect from academic year 2013/2014.

***Congress notes with concern:***

The rate of suicide in Ireland and feels that increased financial pressure may add to the issue.

***Congress mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to lobby the Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health & Older People to challenge the Minister for Education on the effects that the rising student contribution charge and 3% cut to the maintenance grant has on the mental health of students in Ireland.

## **W 2 Campaign to Raise Awareness of Eating Disorders**

Proposed by DITSU

### ***Congress Commends:***

The work of USI Welfare campaigns in the past, and their role in raising awareness of mental health issues such as depression.

### ***Congress Notes with Concern:***

That according to The Department of Health, up to 200,000 people in Ireland suffer from eating disorders, with numbers growing every year, and that many of those affected are teens and young people.

### ***Congress Mandates:***

The Vice President, Welfare to roll out Healthy Eating Campaigns every year, which include a drive to raise awareness of the various forms of eating disorders.

This mandate to expire after a period of 3 years, if not re-approved by Congress.

## **W 3 Sexual Health Campaign in First Semester**

Proposed by NUI Galway Students' Union

### ***Congress notes***

Fifty five per cent of Irish 18-year-olds will leave secondary school without any formal sexual health education, according to The Durex Sexual Wellbeing Global Survey, 2012.

### ***Congress further notes***

The need to educate students on all aspects of sexual health when they first entry third level.

### ***Congress therefore mandates***

The Vice President for Welfare to coordinate a campaign focused on sexual health in first semester, focusing on engaging first year students.

## **W 4 New USI Alcohol Campaign**

Proposed by UCCSU

### *Congress notes:*

The USI has a responsibility to its members in relation to alcohol consumption and the manner in which drinks companies market towards students.

### *Congress further notes:*

Drinkaware.ie has previously been used as the primary distributor of alcohol awareness materials despite receiving their funding from the drinks industries.

### *Congress mandates:*

The Vice President for Welfare to implement a USI Alcohol campaign geared specifically towards 3rd level students that does not include drinkaware.ie materials.

## **W 5 Condom Wednesday**

Proposed by NUI Galway Students' Union

### *Congress notes*

The success of NUI Galway Students' Union's "Condom Wednesday".

### *Congress further notes*

The cost of condoms is a factor in some Students' Unions operating similar campaigns.

### *Congress mandates*

The USI Welfare Officer to coordinate a national Condom Wednesday campaign.

## **W 6 Sexual Health Campaign in first semester**

Proposed by USI VP Welfare

### *Congress notes:*

Fifty five per cent of Irish 18-year-olds will leave secondary school without any formal sexual health education, according to The Durex Sexual Wellbeing Global Survey, 2012.

***Congress further notes:***

The need to educate students on all aspects of sexual health when they first entry third level and throughout their college years.

***Congress therefore mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to coordinate a campaign focused on sexual health in first semester, focusing on engaging first year students to promote positive attitudes towards sex in addition to SHAG Week each February.

## **W 7 Mental Health Service Funding**

Proposed by: IT Sligo Students' Union

***Congress notes with concern:***

The situation whereby funding specifically allocated to mental health services has recently been cut or failed to be spent by the Government, as part of efforts to offset the deficit in the budget of the Health Service Executive.

***Congress condemns:***

The failure on the part of Government to meet commitments on monies allocated to provide and prioritise mental health services in Ireland, at a time when mental health issues and suicide are such a major concern in this country, particularly amongst young people.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI President and VP for Welfare to call on the Government in the strongest possible terms to ensure that commitments to fund mental health services are met in future Budgets, and for the speedy roll-out of service developments for which these monies were earmarked.

## **W 8 Provision of alternatives for the Student Assistance Fund**

Proposed by BMW Regional Council

***Congress Notes with Concern:***

The ever growing number of requests for emergency funding through the Student Assistance Fund (SAF) nationally.

### ***Congress Acknowledges:***

That for the academic year 2012/2013 the SAF has already been fully subscribed.

### ***Congress Realises:***

That the number of requests for food and other staples has risen dramatically, and thus the drastic situation now faced by students due to the complete lack of SAF funding.

### ***Congress Mandates:***

The President and Vice President, Welfare to actively engage and seek partnerships with major retailers to make available free, or heavily discounted, food supplies to colleges nationwide to help ease the already stressful situation faced by those most at risk. Progress should be reported back to National Council by December 2013.

## **W 9 Student Assistance Fund**

Proposed by USI VP Welfare

### ***Congress notes:***

12/ WEL 1      Student Assistance Fund Harmonisation Study

### ***Congress Further Notes:***

'SAF: Best Practice Framework 2013'. This document contains an in depth explanation into the Student Assistance Fund, results from the study completed, an analysis of various practises in place and best practise framework.

### ***Congress therefore mandates:***

Vice President of Welfare of Vice President for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to bring this document to the National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education and to lobby the HEA to redraft the guidelines of the Student Assistance Fund for the academic year 2014/2015 to include recommendations to increase the efficiency of systems.

### ***Congress further mandates:***

Vice President for Welfare of Vice President for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to provide briefing to Member Organisations on all aspects of SAF and to provide Member Organisations with relevant information and support to seek representation on all committees relating to the SAF on their campus.

## **W 10 International Students Tenancy disputes**

Submitted by AITSU

***Congress notes:***

The increased amount of issues and dispute between landlords and tenants and the duration of time that elapses between cases being put forward for hearing, to the actual date of hearing.

***Congress further notes:***

Many international students come to study for just one academic year but that there is a means of having representation there in place of the applicant/defendant.

***Congress further notes:***

There is an informal recourse for such students that they can ask for an emergency hearing but 'Emergency hearings' are not always granted.

***Congress mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare and Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to engage The Private Residency Tenancy Board to negotiate a specific channel for such emergency cases for International Students and/or students that will be emigrating.

## **W 11 Study on Counselling**

Proposed by Welfare Working Group

***Congress notes:***

A study commissioned by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors that found cutbacks have significantly reduced the time available for one-to-one student counselling in schools.

***Congress notes with concern:***

There is no equivalent study on this issue relating to third level counselling which needs to be addressed following reports from Welfare Officers that students often wait two weeks for an appointment.

***Congress therefore mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to conduct a study on the affects of budget cuts on counselling services and in turn the danger which could leave young people at further risk. The results from the study carried out can be used to lobby Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health & Older People prior to Budget 2014.

## **W 12 Cyberbullying Policy**

Proposed by Welfare Working Group

***Congress notes:***

The lack of policy in the area of Cyberbullying.

***Congress Further notes:***

With the increased use of social media there are more risks for young people to become targets or victims and even aggressors of Cyberbullying. There is a lack of awareness and understanding on the topic on Cyberbullying.

***Congress therefore adopts the proposed:***

USI Cyberbullying Policy

***Congress mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to both follow the USI Cyberbullying Policy and assist local officers in the following through with it's recommendations and action points.

## **W 13 Mental Health Strategy**

Proposed by Welfare Working Group

***Congress notes***

08/WEL 5 mandating the creation of a USI Mental Health Strategy.

***Congress applauds***

The creation of Student Lives, Minds and Wellbeing – The USI Mental Health Strategy 2010-2013.

***Congress notes:***

The importance of having a Mental Health Strategy and the need to update existing strategies due to expire.

***Congress mandates:***

The Vice President for Welfare to create a new USI Mental Health Strategy with specific reference to reducing stigma, to be completed by January 2014.

## **W 14 Sexual Violence**

Proposed by Equality and Citizenship Working Group

***Congress notes:***

that the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship has worked closely with the Centre for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (Cosc). This relationship was instrumental in the compilation and promotion of the 2012/2013 USI 'Say Something' survey into students' experiences of violence.



***Congress highly commends:***

the initiatives taken and work being conducted on sexual assault prevention and awareness-raising around issues of consent in a number of Member Organisations, specifically in the form of the ‘Don’t be that Guy’ campaign.

***Congress believes that:***

The victim is never to blame in incidences of sexual assault and/or rape. The ‘Don’t be that Guy’ campaign is particularly powerful and effective because it uses language that is directed at potential perpetrators rather than language that contributes to victim blaming and rape culture.

***Congress mandates:***

the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship to work with Member Organisations to coordinate a national campaign on sexual assault prevention and awareness-raising around issues of consent. This campaign should be informed by the results of the USI ‘Say Something’ survey and would preferably have an element that would coincide with induction and orientation periods in higher education institutions. This campaign should also be as inclusive as possible of all genders and sexualities.

***Congress further mandates:***

the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship and all members of USI Officer Board to ensure that any campaigns conducted by USI on area of sexual violence use the appropriate language and never contribute to culture of victim blaming or rape culture.

## **Equality Motions**

### **EQ 1 Advocating for Student Services that are inclusive regarding the registration and treatment of LGBT students.**

Proposed by St Angela’s College Students’ Union

***Congress acknowledges:***

Every student’s right to equal access to Student Services in third level institutions.

***Congress believes:***

That Students’ Unions have a vital role to play in advocating for the recognition and realisation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender rights. This can include educating students’ services and

ensuring that LGBT persons have opportunities to express and disclose their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression when registering, accessing and availing of these services.

#### ***Congress notes with concern:***

The negative impact that limited registration forms can have on people who identify as an orientation or gender identity which is not included on forms and that this can reflect a lack of awareness of these issues by service providers. This may cause students to feel isolated when registering, accessing and availing of services on campus and this may deter students from using these services.

#### ***Congress mandates:***

The Vice president for Equality and Citizenship to work with Students' Unions to advocate that students' services teams, including healthcare professionals and counsellors, are educated and inclusive regarding LGBT rights and experiences. This may include organising and/or providing training if necessary.

#### ***Congress also mandates:***

The Vice president for Equality and Citizenship to advocate that registration forms for accessing students' services acknowledge diverse identifications in the fields of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression e.g. "what is your preferred pronoun" rather than "Him/Her Male/Female".

## **EQ 2 Impact of Austerity Measures**

Proposed by: St Angela's College Sligo Students' Union

#### ***Congress notes***

That a large percentage of young people are unemployed, Eurostat figures for October 2012 showed youth unemployment to stand at 29.9% in Ireland.

#### ***Congress recognises***

That initially the economic crisis affected more men than women as the construction and financial services sectors, which traditionally employ more men, were hit hard. The public sector roles of teachers, nurses and healthcare professionals are more female dominated.

#### ***Congress further recognises***

That women have been hit hardest by austerity measures implemented as a result of the economic downturn. Women face triple jeopardy as wage cuts and job losses are in place in the public sector; women need more healthcare services, care facilities and family supports which are all being reduced; women may leave their jobs to take on a care giving role in their family if state supports are withdrawn or reduced. If measures are not put in place to maintain a gender balance in youth employment levels the gap between males and females may widen as they grow older.

### *Congress believes*

That austerity measures are affecting those in lower socio-economics groups in society and that they should be reduced & more equally dispersed.

### *Congress mandates*

The VP for Equality and Citizenship in conjunction with the VP for Campaigns to highlight how women are affected more by austerity measures being implemented.

### *Congress further mandates*

The VP for Equality and Citizenship to lobby for a more equal balance in implementing any austerity measures which may be introduced and to campaign for the reversal of those which are already in place. This lobbying and campaigning will occur over the next three years as it is envisaged that austerity measures will continue for this duration.

## **EQ 3 Equity of access to USI National Council**

Proposed by IT Sligo Students' Union

### *Congress commends:*

The Vice President of Equality and Citizenship on the creation of an equality policy for National Council.

### *Congress notes:*

There have been issues raised this year regarding the equity of access of officers to National Council based on the scheduling of council dates.

### *Congress further notes:*

The equality policy was voted on and passed unanimously at National Council but there has been no implementation by National Council of this policy since it was passed.

### *Congress Mandates:*

The Vice President of Equality and Citizenship to review the equality policy when they first enter office. This review should take into consideration what measurements need to be in place to ensure the equality policy is put into action. The review also needs to ensure that USI National Council is accessible as possible to the officers elected nationally to represent their students.

The Vice President of Equality and Citizenship should then compile recommendations for National Council based on their review and present these recommendations to National Council before the schedule for the 2013/2014 national councils are voted on.

## **EQ 4 Women in USI**

Proposed by: St Angela's College Sligo Students' Union

### ***Congress notes***

That there exists policy (09 / EQ9) which recognises that there is an unequal balance of females holding positions at decision making level of Students' Unions, particularly sabbatical officer level. This policy mandates for a campaign to be run to promote female involvement at decision making level.

### ***Congress recognises***

That within the USI structures there are additional opportunities to be involved in decision making as well as those which occur at National Council.

### ***Congress further recognises***

That increased female participation within USI committees, taskforces and specially formed working groups will lead to a more equal gender balance.

### ***Congress believes***

That a more equal gender balance within these will have an effect of increasing participation of females at sabbatical officer level as they will feel that USI National Council is a more inclusive structure and their opinions will be taken into account in decision making.

### ***Congress mandates***

USI Officer Board to actively encourage females to seek nomination for selection to USI Finance Committee, taskforces, specially formed working groups and subgroups.

## **EQ 5 Negotiation of Mature Student/Estranged Student financial account(s)**

Submitted by AITSU

### ***Congress notes:***

The growing financial difficulties across the board for all students.

### ***Congress further notes:***

The difficulties facing many mature students, and students that have been estranged from their parents/guardians, in gaining an indemnifier for the purposes of loan guarantor. This would also incorporate students that are returning to education to help better themselves but have existing bad credit due to numerous extenuating circumstances. For example bad credit, mortgage arrears, job loss etc.

***Congress stresses:***

The USI is mandated to be a free fees organisation and should not change stance on this. The motion proposed will serve to ensure equal access to financial loans for students that need such to fund their Higher Level education.

***Congress mandates:***

The President and other relevant officers to engage with an appropriate lending institution(s) to negotiate an account which will ensure equal access to banking facilities regardless of age and/or domestic situations for all students.

## **EQ 6 Section 37 Employment Equality Act**

Proposed by UCCSU

***Congress notes:***

Under current Irish legislation – Section 37 of the Employment Equality Act allows school managements to discriminate against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender employees by taking ‘reasonably necessary’ action either by firing or refusing to hire them on the basis that they ‘undermine’ the religious ethos of the denominational school.

***Congress further notes:***

Union of Students in Ireland is a representative body of over 275,000 students – many of whom are LGBT and many of whom feel negatively affected by this legislation.

***Congress believes:***

This legislation is outdated and discriminatory by nature.

***Congress further believes:***

Thousands of LGBT students are aspiring teachers who may feel they cannot have a fulfilling career due to this legislation.

Section 37 serves as a way of making LGBT students feel uncomfortable in the workplace and deters many LGBT students from pursuing careers in the teaching sector of Ireland.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI Campaigns Officer and USI VP for Equality and Citizenship to actively campaign for the repeal of Section 37, raising awareness among students, and contacting the relevant bodies such as Association of

Secondary Teachers Ireland and other organisations to seek and show support for the campaign.

## **EQ 7 Equality campaigns for single fathers in Ireland**

Proposed by AITSU

### *Congress commends*

The good work completed by the Vice President of equality and citizenship on raising equality and citizenship issues in the public domain.

### *Congress notes;*

The work of USI in this area sees a very positive impact on different vulnerable stakeholders nationally and internationally by highlighting the facts while fighting their cause.

### *Congress further notes;*

Single fathers make up a segment of the students represented by USI and the voice of these students is often overlooked politically.

### *Congress mandates;*

The Vice President of Equality and Citizenship to meet with representatives of these students and to work on a campaign to highlight their issues. This should take place in the first semester of the year.

## **EQ 8 Equal Marriage Rights**

Proposed by DITSU

### *Congress Notes:*

The constitution convention was set up in 2012 to consider a number of changes to the Constitution of Ireland. The convention will look at many issues which include the provision for same-sex marriage.

### *Congress Further Notes:*

Last year Congress passed a motion that mandates: “The President, the Vice-President for Campaigns and the Vice-President for Equality & Citizenship to vehemently campaign on the full equalisation of rights regardless of sexual orientation, for full and equal marriage rights, full and equal adoption rights and for this union to recognise LGBT members as full and equal members of society in recognition of the rights laid out above.”

### *Congress Mandates:*

The President and the Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to submit a document on behalf of USI to the Constitutional Convention by the 1st National Council of 2013/2014, which includes the full equalisation of rights regardless of sexual orientation and for full and equal marriage rights, full and equal adoption rights.

## **EQ 9 USI Equality Policy**

Proposed by USI VP Equality and Citizenship

### *Congress Notes:*

that USI National Council adopted an interim Equality policy for the organisation in September 2012. This policy was drawn up by the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship with advice from the Equality Authority.

### *Congress Believes:*

that it is important that the Union of Students in Ireland has an Equality Policy in place which states its commitment to equality and diversity and outlines the measures that USI Officer Board will take to ensure that principles of equality pervade the work of the organisation.

### *Congress therefore adopts*

the USI Equality Policy as adopted by the USI National Council in the 2012-2013 session.

*(put this into the Congress Pack as a policy to be adopted, not in the Clár)*

### **USI Equality Policy**

The Union of Students in Ireland is an inclusive organisation that values equality and diversity.

Services provided by the Union of Students in Ireland are available to all areas of the membership who will be supported to be equally able to access them.

As an employer, the Union of Students in Ireland will not tolerate any form of direct and indirect discrimination.

This policy is developed in line with the Equality Acts (Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2011 & Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2011) prohibiting discrimination, including sexual harassment

and harassment, victimisation and reasonable accommodation for customers with disabilities.

## 2. Equalities Statement:

The Union of Students in Ireland adopts the following Equalities Statement which Officers and staff and any person working with the Union of Students in Ireland is expected to support and uphold:

The Union of Students in Ireland recognises that discrimination can and does occur and that it can be direct, indirect or institutional. The Union of Students in Ireland is committed to adopting equal opportunities policies and procedures as an employer and service provider in order to combat discrimination and value diversity. The Union of Students in Ireland will not tolerate discrimination based on gender, civil status, family status, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, religion, membership of the Traveller community, gender expression, gender identity, country of origin, socio-economic background. The first nine grounds are those specifically mentioned by the Equality Acts but discrimination can occur also on other characteristics.

The Union of Students in Ireland reserves the right to add to these groups at any time.

The Union of Students in Ireland will seek to ensure that other companies from whom it has contracted to receive goods and services are aware that this policy is in place and that these companies are expected to comply with it or add equality clauses to the contract of service. Contracts for goods and services will be suspended if the contractor engages in sexual harassment, harassment or discrimination against customers or employees of this organisation.

The Union of Students in Ireland will take measures to combat inequality where necessary based on the characteristics identified in the Equalities statement. The organisation will strive to eliminate barriers that prevent members accessing the Union's services and will ensure that reasonable accommodation is made for students with disabilities.

The Union of Students in Ireland encourages active participation from students in relation to the characteristics outlined in the Equalities Statement.

The Union of Students in Ireland is committed to the effective communication of this policy to:

- All staff and elected officers of USI Officer Board,
- Member Organisations,
- Students,
- Business contacts

This will be done through:



- Publication and dissemination of the policy,
- Display of this policy on the USI website and in public areas of the organisation,
- Reference to the policy in business contracts,
- Reference to the policy in information and training materials

All staff employed should cooperate with the development and implementation of policies, procedures and practices to eliminate discrimination, accommodate diversity and promote equality for students. This requirement will be included in contracts of employment for all staff.

Training will be made available to all of USI Officer Board and staff in relation to the Equality Acts (Equal Status Acts 2000 to 2011 & Employment Equality Acts 1998 – 2011).

The President of the Union of Students in Ireland and all of USI Officer Board has responsibility for upholding and implementing this policy.

This policy will be reviewed at the end of each academic year by USI Officer Board and any changes will be subject to approval by USI Congress

## **EQ 10 Motion: Collective Bargaining Legislation**

Proposed by USI VP for Equality and Citizenship

### *Congress notes:*

the commitment to legislating for collective bargaining agreed in the Programme for Government and the lack of movement on this.

### *Congress notes with concern:*

the Campus.ie survey which claims that 35% of students in part time jobs feel it has negatively impacted on their studies.

### *Congress further notes with concern:*

The United Nations' Human Rights Council's condemnation of the absence of collective bargaining legislation in Ireland.

### *Congress believes:*

That every worker should have the option to join and be represented by a trade union without victimisation and that Ireland's failure to enact such legislation is a violation of the Right to Freedom of Association and the Right to Organise.

### *Congress acknowledges:*

That by being a member of a unionized workforce, students in part time employment are more likely to be aware of their rights as workers and therefore, less likely to be exploited. Furthermore, students are mostly employed in areas where exploitation is most common.

### *Congress mandates:*

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to lobby for the introduction of collective bargaining legislation that will lead to better working conditions for students and for this to be completed the end of 2013.

## **EQ 11 USI to campaign for Equality Budgeting in Ireland**

Proposed by USI VP for Equality and Citizenship

### *Congress notes:*

that a large body of recent research, both Irish and international, suggests that more equal societies fare better across a range of social outcomes, including education, health, crime and almost every conceivable area of human life.

### *Congress acknowledges*

that Equality Budgeting is an approach to economic policy-making that places equality at the centre of decisions concerning public expenditure and income. Through equality audits and impact assessments, Equality Budgeting provides information on how different sections of society are impacted by specific economic policy measures. The objective of Equality Budgeting is to ensure this information is used to reduce inequalities and to achieve the best equality outcomes for specific disadvantaged groups, but also for society at large. Over 60 countries have implemented or worked towards Equality Budgeting.

### *Congress notes*

with concern that while some progress was made in Ireland toward Equality Budgeting, particularly with a focus on gender, much of this was subsequently reversed with the weakening of the Gender Mainstreaming Unit in the Department of Justice since 2008, inaction on the implementation of the National Women's Strategy, and the more general dismantling of the equality infrastructure in Ireland that has been on-going since the beginning of the economic crisis.

### *Congress recognises*

the 2011 TASC Report Eliminating Health Inequalities – A Matter of Life and Death, which suggests that inequality in Ireland is endemic, with 2009 figures suggesting that the top decile of Irish Society had incomes which were 11 times those of the bottom decile. The report also found a strong correlation between income levels and education levels, with those in the bottom decile most educationally disadvantaged.

### *Congress affirms*

its commitment to the defense and promotion of all human rights as per the USI Constitution. The endemic inequality experienced by the citizens of this country mitigates against the achievement and realisation of the type of Ireland that the Union of Students in Ireland's principles could lead to.

### *Congress believes*

that it is vitally important that the Government is always acutely aware of the long-term impact of the policies they enact.

### *Congress mandates*

the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship and all of USI Officer Board to lend their full support to the Equality Budgeting campaign in Ireland and to lobby the Irish Government to introduce Equality Budgeting for Budget 2014.

## **EQ 12 USI LGBT Ally Campaign**

Proposed by Equality and Citizenship Working Group

### *Congress notes:*

the high level of student engagement with the USI LGBT Ally initiative and the effectiveness of this initiative at raising awareness of student support for LGBT rights and also of LGBT issues in Ireland.

### *Congress believes:*

that this initiative should be continued and expanded by working with other organisations and by seeking funding for the campaign.

### *Congress also believes:*

that there is potential to extend this campaign into wider society, outside of higher education institutions and that USI could look to engage businesses and service providers in this campaign. The

expansion of this campaign could also be extended to secondary schools.

***Congress mandates:***

the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to seek sponsorship and funding for USI's LGBT Ally campaign.

***Congress also mandates***

the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to engage with and seek endorsement and/or support from the following list, but not limited to this list, in relation to the campaign:

- An Garda Síochána;
- Association of Secondary School Teachers, Ireland;
- all members of the Oireachtas;
- the Irish Medical Organisation;
- Irish National Teachers' Organisation;
- Irish Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy;
- Gay Doctors Ireland;
- Transgender Equality Network Ireland;
- BeLonGTo;
- LGBT Noise;
- Marriage Equality;
- SpunOut.ie;
- the National Youth Council of Ireland;
- the Irish Second-Level Students' Union;
- the Board of Irish College Societies

## **Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance Motions**

### **AAQA 1 Accreditation for Participation**

Proposed by: Education Working Group

### *Congress recognises*

The importance of student participation in extra-curricular activities such as clubs & societies, Students' Unions, volunteering and civic engagement during their time in college, and the benefits that engaging in such activity brings about in terms of the overall personal development of the student.

### *Congress further recognises*

The continued promotion by Students' Unions of students getting involved in these activities, and the associated advantages which can be conferred on students who have been active in these areas when seeking future employment.

### *Congress notes*

The development of modules and recognition within programmes which exist in some Higher Education Institutions to accredit students for their involvement and participation in these activities, in order to facilitate, recognise and encourage their non-academic as well as academic development whilst in college.

### *Congress therefore mandates*

The Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to research best practice across Higher Education Institutions in this area, with a view to developing USI policy on Accreditation for Participation which may be presented to the appropriate College bodies by Students' Unions who wish to do so. To be completed by March 2014.

## **AAQA 2 Student Representation on Student Universal Support Ireland**

Proposed by UCDSU

### *Congress Notes:*

The abysmal performance of Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) in the academic year 2012/2013 with numerous quality assurance issues becoming ever increasingly obvious over the operational existence of SUSI to date

### *Congress Further Notes:*

The benefits of the SUSI forum established this year in order to keep MOs informed on the ongoing

### *Congress Notes With Concern:*

The complete lack of student representation and input into the operational management of the primary source of financial assistance for students in third level education and future students of third level.

### *Congress Therefore Mandates:*

The Vice-President of Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to lobby the Department of Education and City of Dublin Vocational Education Committee (CDVEC) for a seat on the main governing body of SUSI in order to ensure the highest levels of quality assurance in the operations of SUSI in the years ahead.

## **AAQA 3 Student Contribution Payment Scheme**

Proposed by NUI Galway Students' Union

### *Congress notes*

The increasingly difficult financial challenges being faced by students.

### *Congress further notes*

The Student Contribution falls due at a time when students have other large financial commitments such as accommodation deposits and course materials.

### *Congress recognises*

The successful scheme in NUI Galway which allows students to pay the Student Contribution in instalments.

### *Congress mandates*

The Vice President for Campaigns to lobby the Irish Universities Association and the Institutes of Technology Ireland to implement similar schemes in all universities and Institutes of technology.

## **AAQA 4 Migrant Education Access**

Proposed by UCCSU

### *Congress Notes:*

that in the absence of a standardised residency test Irish third-level institutions apply an 'EU' fees' category which often means migrant students pay two or three times more than typical fees charged. Young people who have grown up in Ireland (gone to secondary school here) are denied access to financial assistance and the free fee scheme upon entry to third level.

### *Congress also notes:*

that young people who have secured citizenship during their time in third level are often unable to 'reverse' their fee status and have no choice but to continue to pay these high tuition fees for the remainder of their third level education. These young people are also often unable to secure higher education grants.

***Congress believes:***

that the Union of Students in Ireland needs to advocate for accessible education for all students and should lend support to the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland's Migrant Education Access Campaign, including that children of non EU migrants who have come to Ireland to join their families and are here a minimum of 3 years should enjoy equality of access to third level education.

***Congress Mandates:***

the Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship to work with the Migrant Rights Centre Ireland on their Migrant Education Access (MEA) campaign.

***Congress also mandates:***

the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to lobby the Department of Education and Skills to take effective action to address the situation of young people who have secured Irish citizenship but are currently unable to reverse their fee status. This may require a re-examination of the criteria of access to the Free Tuition Fee Scheme currently administered by the Higher Education Authority and should result in a code of practice or a revised set of criteria being outlined to all third level institutes in Ireland to ensure a coordinated, equitable and consistent response.

## **AAQA 5 Collaborations within Alliances and Regional Clusters**

Proposed by GMITSU

***Congress notes:***

The importance of input, engagement and involvement by Students' Unions in the process of the future development of the Higher Education Landscape.

***Congress recognises:***

The considerable opportunities which exist for MO's in delivering tangible outcomes from the process for their members by identifying best practice which exists in areas relevant to students within alliances and clusters, and lobbying for the implementation of such in all HEI's within the alliance or cluster.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI President, VP for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance and all Regional VP's to assist MO's in ensuring student representation is present and student input is sought in collaborative discussions taking place between HEI's across the country, and also to assist MO's in the identification and implementation of these best practice opportunities.

## **AAQA 6 Graduate Employability**

Proposed by UCCSU

***Congress notes:***

that seeking employment after Third Level Education is becoming increasingly difficult for students due to economical factors and that the job hunt is becoming more competitive.

***Congress further notes:***

that employers across Ireland and the UK are ranking 'general employability skills' as one of the most important attributes they are seeking in graduates.

***Congress Mandates:***

that the VP AAQA to develop a strategy for MO's to promote graduate employability and the acquisition of generic and transferable employability skills amongst their students and to offer support and materials to education officers to do so.

## **AAQA 7 Student Retention**

Proposed by: IT Sligo Students' Union

***Congress observes:***

Recent findings which suggest that the single biggest cause of students dropping out of college in first year is selection of the wrong course.

***Congress believes:***

That the current delivery of Open Days and provision of information by colleges to potential students is stale and insufficient, and in need of reform.

***Congress notes:***

Developments in online learning and technologies in recent years and the considerable and growing engagement of secondary school students with these new technologies.

***Congress mandates:***

The USI VP for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance to lobby the HEA to call on HEI's to offer online campus tours, sample lectures, and taster videos of modules and programmes for inclusion on their own individual websites and the CAO website.

## **AAQA 8 Student Rights and Entitlements**

Proposed by DITSU

***Congress Acknowledges:***

Every student's right to a quality experience and their involvement in established quality assurance procedures as an essential element of this experience.



***Congress also Acknowledges:***

The integral role of Students' Unions in informing students of their rights and safeguarding them.

***Congress Notes with Concern:***

The effect that the Employment Control Framework places on HEIs and their ability to comply with local, national and European legalisation.

***Congress Mandates:***

The Vice President for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to research best practice and put together a national perspective on student rights and entitlements by Congress 2014.

***Congress also Mandates:***

The Vice President for Academic Affairs & Quality Assurance to include a briefing on 'student involvement in quality assurance' and the rights of students that are enshrined by legislation in the overall training plan for the SUT.

This mandate is to expire after a period of 3 years, if not re-approved by Congress.

## **AAQA 9 Structure of Work Placement Elements of HEI programs and their use in Labour Activation Schemes**

Proposed by DITSU

***Congress Applauds:***

The initiative in many Higher Educational Institutes, which embeds work placements in many of their degrees, to give students real-world application of their course content.

***Congress Notes:***

That a correctly structured and relevant work placement can truly enhance the learning experience of the student.

***Congress Notes with Concern:***

That many work placement programs are not correctly structured, are not linked to the learning outcomes associated with the academic course and ultimately do not deliver in the

benefits to the students that they were designed to provide.

***Congress Therefore Mandates:***

The Vice President, Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance to work with Member Organisations to accumulate current policies and practices relating to work placement programmes with a view to drafting a best practice policy that Member Organisations could use as a starting point for implementing a similar policy in their own Higher Education Institute.

This Mandate shall be fulfilled by December 2013

***Congress Notes with Concern:***

The inadequacies of some labour activation schemes such as internships and work placements that exist in the wider community, which result in the exploitation of workers and placements that don't offer appropriate supervision and learning opportunities.

***Congress Further Notes:***

That best practice and structures that would be developed and designed in the Higher Education Sector, could be mirrored in labour activation schemes like Job Bridge or the proposed Youth Guarantee.

***Congress Further Mandates:***

The President and relevant Vice Presidents to engage with relevant organisations and government departments to design and develop schemes, which are beneficial to workers and builds upon best practise in the Higher Education Sector.

This mandate shall be fulfilled by December 2014.

## AAQA 10 Review of Criteria for TU Designation

Proposed by BMW Regional Council

### *Congress notes:*

That current USI policy mandates Officerboard to lobby Government to maintain the current criteria for the re-designation of an Institute of Technology as a Technological University, while also protecting the individual nature of Institutions as part of this process.

### *Congress recognises:*

The considerable developments which have taken place over the past year with respect to the ever-changing nature of the HE landscape.

### *Congress observes:*

Recent discussion documentation released by the HEA suggests that the following areas require attention following the HEA's 'gap analysis':

- Maintenance of L6/7 provision
- Excessive/unfocussed increases in post graduate provision and research
- Testing the validity of international student numbers

### *Congress notes with concern:*

That the criteria for TU designation as currently set out may incentivise HEI's to steer their focus in a direction that is not necessarily in keeping with their own Institutional ethos or strengths, or in the best interests of student needs and requirements.

### *Congress therefore mandates:*

USI Officerboard to call for the criteria for designation to be reviewed taking the findings of the 'gap analysis' into account, and on an ongoing basis as the future HE landscape continues to shape and evolve over the next three years.

## AAQA 11 Student Complaints Procedures

Proposed by: Education Working Group

### *Congress observes*

Recent comments by the Minister for Public Expenditure & Reform issuing a warning that the government is looking to remove underperforming teachers, and the potential appetite for change in this area.

### *Congress recognises*

The difficulties faced in the current environment by colleges and Students' Unions in dealing effectively with student complaints.

### *Congress acknowledges*

That best practice does exist nationally within some Higher Education Institutions in developing complaints' procedures which are more timely and efficient, afford greater student protections and offer tangible outcomes to complaints or issues which are raised than many current practices.

### *Congress notes*

The re-negotiation of the Croke Park Agreement, which is taking place in 2013.

### *Congress therefore mandates*

Appropriate members of USI Officerboard to lobby for the development and implementation of a common national Student Complaints' Procedure, which takes into account the importance of protecting the complainant, speedy and efficient resolution of complaints, and the principles of transparency and accountability. This motion shall

## AAQA 12 Unpaid internships

Proposed by the President, USI

### *Congress notes:*

The variance of opinions and evidence on the success or lack thereof of unpaid internship schemes.

***Congress further notes:***

Incidences have arisen of unpaid internship schemes whereby the unpaid intern was required to do work which could not be said to improve the knowledge or skill so that the intern was with a view to adding valuable experience to their future career prospects

***Congress acknowledges:***

That finding employment is proving difficult for many graduates given the prevailing economic conditions and that internships may be a valuable method of gaining experience while protecting oneself from the harmful effects of longterm unemployment

***Congress further notes:***

The increased role that internships are likely to play in the future development of Irish graduates, particularly as proposals to develop specific internship programmes in stem subjects are being developed at national level.

***Congress therefore mandates:***

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance to develop a framework of good practice for internships in conjunction with various stakeholders including, but not limited to:  
The Department of Social Protection and the Higher Education Authority

## International Affairs Motions

### IA 1 Highlighting of Continued Discrimination against Arab-Palestinian Students

(Requires a 2/3 majority vote to pass)

Proposed by IT Tralee Students' Union

#### *Congress notes with concern:*

The continued discrimination towards students of an Arab-Palestinian background by Israel.

#### *Congress believes:*

That an injustice to students in any place is an injustice to students worldwide.

#### *Congress also believes:*

That some form of pressure is needed against Israel that can bring about its compliance with international law and ensure equality of standing for these students.

#### *Congress mandates:*

The Vice President for Equality & Citizenship to raise this issue with ESU so that it can stand up for these students who are not in a position to stand up for themselves.

## Irish Language Motions

### G 1 Coiste na Gaeilge ag Comhairle Náisiúnta / Irish Language Committee at National Council

Molta ag: Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge/ Proposed by USI VP for the Irish Language

#### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil*

an buntáiste a sholáthar cruinnithe de Choiste na Gaeilge a tionóladh ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta do Oifigigh na Gaeilge ónar thosaigh siad i mbliana.

### *Congress notes*

the benefit meetings of the Irish Committee at National Council have afforded Irish Language Officers since its introduction.

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil ar lean*

go dtugann na cruinnithe céanna deis gréasánaíochta do na hOifigigh na Gaeilge mar aon le deis chun ceisteanna a chur go díreach ar an Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta.

### *Congress further notes*

that meeting at National Council has given Irish Language Officers a chance to network with each other, as well as a chance to directly question the VP for the Irish Language at National Council.

### *Creideann an Chomhdháil*

go leanfaidh ar an gcleachtas seo ag cabhrú le obair Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge mar aon le Oifigigh na Gaeilge go náisiúnta má cheadaítear do leanúint ar aghaidh.

### *Congress believes*

that this practice will continue to benefit the work of the VP for the Irish Language and Irish Language Officers nationally if it is allowed to continue.

### *Sainordaíonn an Chomhdháil*

Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge le leanúint ar aghaidh ag tionól Coiste na Gaeilge, ag an gComhairle Náisiúnta, ar bhonn gach dhá mhí ar a laghad sa bhliain acadúil amach romhainn.

### *Congress mandates*

the VP for the Irish Language to continue to convene Irish Language Committee, at National Council, on at least a bi-monthly basis, in the coming academic year.

## **G2 Polasaí Gaeilge AMLÉ / USI Irish Language Policy**

Molta ag: Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge/ Proposed by USI VP for the Irish Language

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil*

go bhfuil polasaí dátheangach ag AMLÉ le fada an lá, le úsáid na Gaeilge san Aontas a mhéadú.

### *Congress notes*

the long-standing existence of a bilingual policy within USI, introduced in an effort to increase the use of Irish within the Union.

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil ar lean*

go bhfuil athruithe agus forbairt tar éis teacht ar an Aontas féin ónar cuireadh tús leis an bpolasaí sin.

### *Congress further notes*

the transition, and development of the Union itself since the introduction of that policy.

### *Glacann an Chomhdháil mar sin*

An Polasaí Ghaeilge formhuinthe ag Comhairle Náisiúnta AMLÉ ar 23/05/12 mar polasaí oifigiúil AMLÉ

### *As such Congress adopts*

‘The Irish Language Policy endorsed by USI National Council on 23/05/12’ as official policy of the USI.

## **G3 Oifigeach na Gaeilge ag gach Aontas / Irish Language Officer in every Union**

Molta ag: Coiste na Gaeilge / Proposed by the Irish Language Working Group

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil*

go bhfuil difir faoi leith idir na Baill-Eagraíochtaí le Oifigh na Gaeilge agus iadsan gan Oifigeach ó thaobh gníomhaíocht Gaeilge de.

### *Congress notes*

the differing levels of Irish Language activity between MO’s where there is an Irish Language Officer on the ground, and those where there is not.



### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil ar lean*

go bhfuil an líon feachtais Gaeilge atá eagraithe ag Oifigigh na Gaeilge méadaithe le roinnt blianta anuas, agus an forbairt ginearálta den Ghaeilge in AMLÉ.

### *Congress further notes*

the increased number of Irish Language campaigns rolled out by Irish Language Officers in recent years, and the overall development of the Irish Language within USI.

### *Molann an Chomhdháil*

obair na hOifigigh Gaeilge sna champais, Tuigtear gur iadsan atá mar chúis leis an athrú atá tagtha ar an nGaeilge san Aontas.

### *Congress applauds*

the work of Irish Language Officers on campuses, and lauds them as the key to the changing fortunes of the Irish Language within the Union.

### *Sainordaíonn an Chomhdháil*

Leas Uachtarán don Gaeilge le obair leis na Bail Eagraíochtaí nach bhfuil Oifigeach na Gaeilge acu agus scrúdú a dhéanamh ar an bhféidearthacht níos mó Oifigigh na Gaeilge a chruthú i dteannta le Bail Eagraíochtaí áitiúla.

### *Therefore Congress mandates*

the VP for Irish Language to work with MO's where an Irish Language Officer does not exist and examine the feasibility of introducing more Irish Language Officers in partnership with local MO's.

## **G 4 Fóram na Gaeilge / Irish Language Forum**

Molta ag: Coiste na Gaeilge / Proposed by the Irish Language Working Group

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil*

go n-eagraíonn an Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge Fóram deireadh na bliana de na Cumainn Gaelaigh atá mar chuid de AMLÉ.

### *Congress notes*

that the VP for the Irish Language annually convenes an end-of-year meeting of USI-affiliated Irish Language Societies.

### *Aithníonn an Chomhdháil ar lean*

go bhfuil obair na grúpaí seo seo mar croí-lár an ualach oibre atá ag an Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge i gcaitheamh na bliana.

### *Congress further notes*

that contributions made in this forum make up a significant part of the work of an the VP for the Irish Language during the year.

### *Mar sin Sainordaíonn an Chomhdháil*

Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge ceisteanna tábhachtacha nó ábhair buartha do Phobail na Gaeilge a thagann chun cinn le linn an Fóram seo a thabhairt chuig an Comhairle Náisiúnta nó/ agus an Comhdháil Náisiúnta le bheith faobhaithe.

### *As such Congress mandates*

the VP for the Irish Language to submit issues of concern and/ or importance to the Irish Language Community where they arise in the course of this forum to national council/ and or congress for consideration/ approval

## **G5 Coiste na Gaeilge ag comhairle náisiúnta**

Proposed by MSU

### *Congress recognises*

the good work done by Coiste na Gaeilge in co-ordinating the efforts of Irish Language Officers in member organisations.

### *Congress notes*

that the continued presence of Coiste na Gaeilge at the different national councils is to the benefit of both USI, Member organisations and the national Irish Language community.

### *Congress mandates*

that going forward Coiste na Gaeilge be assembled at each National Council.

## **G6 Oifigeach na Gaeilge ag gach Aontas / Irish Language Officer in each Union**

Proposed by MSU

### *Congress recognises*

the central importance played by Irish Language officers in those member organisations with an Irish Language Officer.

### *Congress notes*

the need for an Irish Language Officer in each member union to enhance the image of the language in the Union and ensure an Irish Language element to each aspect of the work done by the Student Union.

### *Congress mandates*

that the Vice President for Irish Language in USI will work towards ensuring the presence of an Irish Language Officer at the officer board of each member union.

## **G 7 Gaelscolaíocht in Éirinn.**

Proposed by MSU

### *Congress recognises*

the increase in the demand for Irish Language medium education at Primary and Secondary level.

### *Congress notes*

that the amount of Irish language medium schools currently in existence and in the plan for new schools by the department of Education and Skills does not accurately reflect the demand for Irish Language Education in Ireland.

### *Congress mandates*

the Vice President for Irish Language and USI officer to lobby the department of Education and Skills for recognition of the increased demand for Irish Language Medium Education in all future plans for the development of new schools in Ireland.

## **G 8 Gaeilge as a requirement for entry into 3rd Level Education**

Proposed by NUI Galway Students' Union

### *Congress notes:*

The importance of an Gaeilge as our National language, and its significance to our cultural Identity.

### *Congress also notes:*

A reform of the Leaving Certificate points system as being the primary method of entry into 3rd level education in the State, may be advantageous in assuring further equality in access to education.

### *Congress notes with concern:*

The teaching of Irish in the second level education system would be in danger if it was not needed for certain third level entry.

### *Congress Mandates:*

For USI, and VP Gaeilge in particular, to fight for the continued requirement of Irish for entry into universities that are part of the National University of Ireland in the State.

### *Council further Mandates:*

For VP Gaeilge to seek the support of the national Irish Language organisations to campaign/lobby for the continued requirement of Irish for entry in to universities that are part of the National University of Ireland.

## **Constitutional Amendments**

### **CA 1 Presidents' Advisory Panel**

Proposed by GMITSU

#### *Insert as 7.2.3 and renumber accordingly*

Not later than the second National Council each year the President shall present National Council, for their ratification, with a list of nominations of people they deem appropriate to advise them in relation to their role. These nominations, once ratified, shall constitute an Advisory Panel that the President may convene, in whole or in part, to assist them in their work during their term of office. Further nominations may be made and ratified at subsequent National Councils. The President may, at any stage, dismiss a member of their Advisory Panel as they see fit, but shall advise National Council of their decision.

### **CA 2 Vice President for Equality and Citizenship**

Proposed by : IT Tralee Students' Union

#### *Delete:*

Article 5.7.2 as currently appears: "The VP/Equality shall assist the VP/Campaigns in relation to campaigns for the defence and promotion of students' rights in the 12 areas of equality and citizenship with special focus on LGBT rights including carrying out the Union's policy on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students in the Union and working to eliminate prejudice against the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community."

#### *And replace with:*

"The VP/Equality shall assist the VP/Campaigns in relation to campaigns for the defence and promotion of students rights in the 12 areas of equality and citizenship."

## CA 3 Implementation of Part-time Mature Student Officer to Officerboard

Proposed by AITSU

In Article 5: The Officerboard

### *Insert*

-5.1.10 The Vice President for Mature Students

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### *Replace*

5.12 (Conditions) with Definition of Vice President for Mature Students

*(Henceforth 5.12 becomes Vice President for Mature Students, therefore 'Conditions' become s 5.13, 'Impeachment and discipline' becomes 5.14, 'Vacancy' becomes 5.15)*

5.12 The Vice President for Mature Students

5.12.1 The Vice President for Mature Student shall have the responsibility for the implementation and development of all Union policy in relation to issues of mature students.

5.12.2 The Vice President for Mature Students shall assist the VP/Campaigns in relation to campaigns for the defence and promotions of mature students' rights in areas of equality.

5.12.3 The Vice President for Mature Students shall sit on the Equality and Citizenship Committee.

5.12.4 The Vice President for Mature Students shall assist the VP/Equality and VP/Campaigns in relation to campaigns on areas specific to mature students.

### *In new 5.13.1 add after 'VP / Irish Language' the following:*

Vice President for Mature Students

## CA 4 The Work of the VP for the Irish Language in the Constitution

Proposed by: VP for the Irish Language

### *5.1.8 After*

"The Vice President for the Irish Language"

### *insert*

" , Who shall be presented as An Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge (LU/Gaeilge) in the daily conduct of their office"

### **5.10.1 After**

“encouraging the use of Irish within the Union with the aim of...”

#### **Delete:**

“developing a bilingual policy”

And replace with:

“implementing an Irish Language Policy for USI”