

Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán d'Ghnóthaí Acadúla agus Dhearbhú Cáilíochta

Report of the VP Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance

Key Points since last National Council:

- Attended ESU Board Meeting in Zagreb
- Developing the National Teaching Awards
- Finalising the Irish Survey of Student Engagement Launch

- 1. National Forum for Teaching & Learning**
- 2. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)**
- 3. Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI)**
- 4. HEA How Equal? Conference**
- 5. We're Not Leaving**
- 6. SUSI**
- 7. Pink Training**
- 8. International Affairs**

1. National Forum for Teaching & Learning

The Teaching Awards has been one of the main focuses of the forum. We have been reviewing the designs based on the feedback from the student officer 'think tank' on November 5th. I have also been compiling a guide to running the awards and some other useful resources. To determine a name for the awards I set up a poll and circulated it to those involved. I have also been working with the T&L Forum Director, Terry Maguire, to plan a launch event in January.

As the Forum hopes to connect with students they will be hiring part-time social media support staff. I have highlighted the call to member unions in the hope a student will take up the role. So far the interest has been excellent and we hope to have the person selected in December and the forums social media profile established in January.

As part of the plan of work the forum will be hosting sectoral consultation events in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. This will be an excellent opportunity for college staff and student officers to understand the role and vision of the forum and give feedback on the proposed plan of work.

2. Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE)

Unfortunately the planned Pilot Report launch had to be postponed due to similar OECD data being published on our planned date of December 3rd. The new launch date is Friday December 13th and I have been working with the Communications Working Group to finalise the plans. We have also been working with Red Dog Consulting to revamp the look and feel of the survey and it's promotional materials. A package for colleges and SUs will be available early in semester two with all of the materials for the 2014 roll out and we will also be discussing the schedule at the January National Council meeting.

3. Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI) - board, review of reviews, anniversary

On November 6th the QQI celebrated it's first anniversary. This was marked with a meeting of all the staff and board members with an address by the CEO and Board Chairperson. It was an excellent opportunity as a board member to meet with the staff from different departments. The official ceremony in the afternoon included the opening of the renewed art collection.

As part of the amalgamation process the QQI is reviewing the institutional review processes previously in

place in HETAC, FETAC, IUQB and NQAI. On November 12th I met with the international review panel to discuss the student involvement (or lack thereof) in the review processes.

On November 18th the QQI Board met. We had a busy agenda including topics such as the establishment of board sub-committees, the ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance) review and policy development.

4. HEA How Equal? Conference

In the lead up to the HEA conference on access I met some of the HEA Equity of Access staff along with the VP for Equality & Citizenship. We discussed how students can become more involved in the conference and how it can be promoted to them. We agreed to have and organised students chair the breakout session, which I chaired one of. I also took part in the student panel in the afternoon session.

5. We're Not Leaving

As well as helping with online promotion I attended and helped out with a number of protests and photo stunts. I was invited to speak at the Maynooth public meeting as an expert on education and student issues. I also assisted with the Liberty Hall Public Youth Assembly and participated after our National Council meeting in DIT

6. SUSI

I have been keeping in touch with the SUSI forum to determine which issues are trending in colleges. After the last meeting of the SUSI advisory group I circulated a SUSI update. There have been a number of issues with the SUSI helpdesk and SU contacts which I have raised but still await solutions. We have assisted the SUSI campaign to close out and finalise applications with reminders to submit documentation. I have also been dealing with individual cases and assisting MO Officers with theirs.

7. Pink Training

In the lead up to Pink Training I assisted with some tasks including the packing of delegate packs and the planning of the 21st Birthday Party. Over the weekend in QUB, along with Officer Board and QUBSU, I registered delegates, liaised with speakers, helped delegates with finding workshops, wrapped the parcel presents and completed many other little tasks that helped the successful event run smoothly.

8. International Affairs - ESU BM/TF Commodification & Panel

Commodification Taskforce - So far we have had three meetings of the Taskforce over skype. During the first meeting we devised a work plan and assigned work. The main tasks were composing a handbook, conducting a study and planning the seminar for Zagreb. I was assigned the study and drew up a project plan for it. Our work plan and project plans have been sent to the ESU Executive Committee for approval.

Commodification Seminar - The ESU board meets twice a year and a two day seminar is attached to each meeting. The topic for the Zagreb seminar was Commodification of Higher Education. I was asked to take part in a panel discussion along with representatives from SFS (Sweden), HOOK (Hungary) and VSS-UNES-USU (Switzerland) which looked at a variety of issues outside of tuition fees which has so far been the main commodification topic. Other sessions within the seminar looked at Higher Education Governance, Transnational Education and an examination on how economic theory and econometric policy-making negatively affects women.

Board Meeting 65 - The Board meeting took place from November 29th to December 1st. I attended along with the President. The lengthy agenda included a policy paper on Higher Education Governance, a Manifesto for the EU Elections and motions submitted by member unions. USI attended every session and submitted a number of motions and resolutions. We also met with NUSes from all over Europe to share initiative and ideas.

Appendix

USI Meetings/Events Attended:

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
8/11	National Council	DIT
11/11	More Talk More Action Launch	NCI
15/11	Officer Board	
18/11	ESU BM Prep	ESU Equality Officer & President
18/11	LSVb Skype Meeting	ESU Finances
20/11	Pink Training Prep	
22/11	Pink Training	QUB

Meetings/Events Attended:

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
5/11	Teaching Awards Meeting	'Think tank' with SU Officers and National Forum
5/11	We're Not Leaving Public Meeting	Panel member at Maynooth meeting
6/11	QQI	Anniversary
7/11	HEA Access Conference	How Equal?
7/11	ESU Commodification Taskforce	Skype Meeting 1
9/11	National Youth Assembly	Liberty Hall
11/11	SUSI	Advisory Forum Meeting

11/12	QQI Review of Reviews	Review Panel Meeting
14/11	ISSE	Survey Design Meeting
18/11	QQI	Board Meeting
19/11	ESU Commodification TF	Skype meeting 2
20/11	ISSE	Co-Sponsors Meeting
22/11	ISSE	Comms Meeting
26/11	ESU Seminar	Commodification
29/11	ESU BM 65	Zagreb

Membership Engagement

Date	MO	Details

Media Engagement

Date	Description	Topic

Declaration of Gifts and Hospitality:

Date	Description	Purchaser

Annual Leave:

Leave	Date
Sick Leave	12/11 & 12/11

