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# OFFICER-BOARD REPORTS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 2017 - TCD



**Union of Students in Ireland**  
*Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn*

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**PRESIDENT / UACHTARÁN**  
**MICHAEL KERRIGAN**  
**PRESIDENT@USI.IE**



**Report of the President**  
**Tuairisc an Uachtarán**  
*Michael Kerrigan*

**Key Points since last National Council**

- 1. Higher Education Funding**
- 2. Budget 2018**
- 3. Brexit**
- 4. Students' Union Autonomy**
- 5. Quarterly Reviews**
- 6. USI Office**

**1. Higher Education Funding**

The main area of work in regards higher education funding was the highly successful #EducationIs demonstration for education held on October 4th. I assisted the VP campaigns in the organising the event. I also spent a considerable amount of time speaking to the media in the run up to the demo, on the day and in the days following the event.

Directly after the demonstration I met with the Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor to discuss the future of higher education and the upcoming budget. It was encouraging to see both the Minister and the Taoiseach making statements against saddling students with "enormous" debt, however, the campaign against loan schemes will not be over until we get a final decision on how higher education will be funded.

Although the work Coalition for Publicly Funded Higher Education has mainly centered on the lead up to the demonstration, we are currently redrafting our position paper as circumstances have changed since the coalition was established 2 years ago. We will also be officially welcoming the Irish Second-Level Students' Union into the coalition on November 1st.

**2. Budget 2018**

Although there were some positives in Budget 2018 for students, overall it just has not gone quite far enough. A lot of our work in regards budget 2018 had been done in the Summer with an early release of our pre-budget submission in June. Since then, the budget had been brought up with each Minister, TD and councillor that had been lobbied since.

The majority of my work in the lead up to and on the day of the budget involved speaking to the media. Our PR Executive and I watched the Budget from Buswells' Hotel and spent the evening and subsequent days speaking to local and national media outlets.

Although, it was not announced on budget day, we are still hopeful of securing ring-fenced funding for 3rd level counselling. This would add to the funding secured for the Student Assistance Fund to be made available to part-time students. We are currently following up with Government on clarifications around the budget announcement.

### **3. Brexit**

Working with the VP AA in developing our strategy for dealing with possible issues that may arise for students when the UK leave the European Union.

We met with the Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee to outline our main concerns around Brexit, mainly the mobility of Students and Academics and the impact on postgraduates and research.

The Trilateral meeting which took place in London between USI, NUS and NUS-USI which took place in London mainly concentrated on the issues and current status of Brexit, our strategies in dealing with issues that may arise for students and how we could work together to ensure that student voices and concerns are heard during Brexit negotiations.

### **4. Students' Union Autonomy**

One of main priorities for the year is working on protecting and developing Students' Union Autonomy in Ireland. The VP AA, the VP Campaigns and I have met several times discussing our approach and to begin developing a strategy for this campaign.

As mandated from Congress 17' a committee of National Council members has been set up to develop and implement a strategy on Students' Union Autonomy. We will meet for the first time on November 2nd and will have an update at National Council.

At our trilateral meeting an in-depth discussion on the autonomy and accountability of Students' Union in the Ireland, both North and South. We were joined by the NUS strategic support union development consultant Anneessa Mahmood. We were given an account of the work that had been done by NUS on this topic and where they were successful, mainly at NUS Scotland. We have since been sent on details of the Scottish framework and guidance on quality students' Union.

The VP AA has also been in contact with the European Students' Union requesting that USI facilitate a session on Students' Union Autonomy and Accountability at the next Board Meeting in Jerusalem in late November.

### **5. Quarterly Reviews**

Over the past 2 weeks I have met with each member of officerboard to have in-depth discussions on the first 3 months in office. This involved feed back on themselves, USI as a whole, staff, members organisations and myself.

Over the next 2 weeks I will be holding Quarterly Reviews with all members of staff.

## 6. USI Office

We are still searching for a new home for USI, we will remaining in our current offices until at least Christmas. We are currently in negotiation for 2 properties and hope to move further in these negotiations as quickly as possible.

### USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with OB and Staff to discuss the week ahead
03/10/17	Officer Board Meeting	OB meeting organised by the VP Campaigns ahead of the demonstration for education
04/10/17	Demonstration for Education	National Demonstration for publicly funded higher education and student supports
09/10/17	OB Meeting	Month meeting with OB to discuss the previous month and plan ahead for the next 2 months.
10/10/17	Quarterly Reviews	Held Quarterly reviews with members of OB not based in USI HQ
16/10/17	SU Autonomy Campaign Planning	Meeting with the VP Campaigns and VP AA
17/10/17	SAVES2 Campaign planning	Planning for our SAVES2 campaign with our SAVES2 coordinator, General Manager and PR executive to ensure we meet criteria set out

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
25/09/17	Coalition for Publicly Funded Higher Education	Discussing the Demonstration for Education and steps needed to be taken afterwards
26/09/17	Demonstration for Education promotion	GMITSU

27/09/17	Demonstration for Education promotion	AITSU
28/09/17	HEA Board Meeting	IADT
29/09/17	Demonstration for Education promotion	UCCSU
02/10/17	Demonstration for Education promotion	TCDSU
04/10/17	Meeting with Minister Mary Mitchell O' Connor	Meeting with the minister to discuss the demonstration for education, higher education funding and budget 2018
10/10/17	Budget day	
11/10/17	Meeting with Taiwan Ambassador	Met with the Taiwan Ambassador at his request to discuss the promotion of working Visas and scholarships in Taiwan
12/10/2017	Repeal the 8th: Planning	With the VP Equality
13/10/2017	Repeal the 8th: Capacity Building	With the VP Equality
18/10/17	Meeting with Right2Change	
18/10/17	Meeting with Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee	Discuss Brexit and post-graduate seminar
19 & 20/10/17	Tri-Lateral Meeting London	
21/10/17	GALAS Awards	Attended the GALAS awards supporting our VP Equality as well as a number of students and societies that had been nominated for awards.

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
27/09/17	Lunch	AITSU President

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT / TANAISTE  
& VP EQUALITY & CITIZENSHIP**  
**SIONA CAHILL**  
**EQUALITY@USI.IE**



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

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

### **Key Points since last National Council**

- 1. March for Education**
- 2. Students for Choice**
- 3. LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy**
- 4. GALA**
- 5. Mature Student Seminar**

#### **1. March for Education**

In the lead up to march day itself, Officer board co-ordinated to assist MOs promo for the demo across the country. I led Campaigns Working group with the VP Academic Affairs at NC, with key notices about the day and group work with USI Campaigns sub-committee. I also addressed National Council to reiterate the importance of the march and to thank them for their work to that point.

After LIT National Council, I organised with OB our week lead-in strategy. At this point we had also identified an error in translation on sample tshirts ordered for officer board before NC, and this was immediately corrected ahead of mass production for MOs.

I also organised an early morning launch photocall outside Leinster House a week out from the march, which included two mature student parents, and several students and student officers who were available. Aidan Kenny, Assistant General Secretary of the TUI was also in attendance.

I assisted on promo with TCDSU, DITSU, DCUSU and MSU.

On march day, I co-ordinated with lead organiser, USI VP Campaigns, to co-ordinate groups, stewards and speeches at platforms before the march and at the end. The VP Campaigns did an amazing job on co-ordinating the march and must be highly commended.

## **2. Students for Choice**

On 30th of September, the largest ever student gathering ahead of the march for choice was organised by USI and hosted by TCDSU, doubling the turnout in 2016. Significant effort went into this event, balanced with the fact that it was only 4 days before our annual education march. Over 1,000 students came to the pre-rally, and UCDSU and UCD Choice Society were also in attendance upon invitation. Buses were organised from several MO colleges, and large groups from city centre MOs. I was very proud of the student turnout and energy.

TCDSU President Kevin Keane opened the rally, with the USI President Michael Kerrigan speaking and I followed with a short address and chants. USI #StudentsForChoice was clearly visible, with banners behind the speakers on the steps of a front square building in TCD, and t-shirts given out to sabbatical officers and USI Taskforce members. We were well organised on the day, and also sorted stewarding.

After a powerful event in TCD, we moved off and down to the Garden of Remembrance, taking to the middle of the road in O'Connell street just at the GPO, creating effectively our own march, and outnumbering almost any other organisational block on the day. USI were noted for the significant student presence across all media reports on the day.

Aside from the march, I have done significant work in relationship and network building behind the scenes, as well as organising a training schedule to be rolled out in colleges with Amnesty International, and ensured visibility for USI at almost every opportunity that I can. We need to build a strong student brand and momentum ahead of the campaign proper.

I will be properly working with MOs to develop on-site taskforces, but there has been great work done already on many campuses.

## **3. LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy**

It has been a very busy time for the work of those involved in the steering committee for the National LGBTI+ Youth strategy - we have concluded consultations, over 4,000 of which were received from young people between 15-24 both online and through our regional consultations just before the Summer. The work since has been translating those consultation responses into workable issues and targets, and we are now at the point of making items into targets and actions. This has been a difficult and trying process - involving significant work and relationship building, as well as dealing with challenges presented to us and barriers created through some of the bureaucracy of Government department processes. The NGO sector, including USI has been very prominent throughout this process and we will continue to ensure the process is well thought out and develops the way it is needed. In the last few weeks, Outcome leads for the 5 areas of 'Better Outcomes, Brighter Futures' which is the overall framework document for Youth Policy in Ireland, have been meeting as 'sub groups' which I have attended and contributed significantly to. I will continue to stick with this process as it enters the delegate stage of cross-government co-operation.

#### **4. GALA**

Earlier in October I received notice that I had been nominated to two categories in the GALAS, which are the National LGBTI+ awards, held every year in aid of GCN (Gay Community News), I was nominated for Ally of the Year and with USI, Student Leader of the Year. I was later shortlisted for the LGBT+ Student award, which also includes organisations and societies working with students.

It was an honour even to be nominated, and obviously incredible to win, but I would like to in particular note that the work of societies across the country is amazing, and we wouldn't collectively achieve what we do unless that was the case. I would like therefore to record that NUIG's GiGSoc and DCU's LGBTA were also nominated in my category.

Cameron Keighron, an NUIG student, also received the overall LGBT+ GALA Sport award and it was more than deserved.

The GALAS are only a small thing in many ways, but ensuring awareness building and education continues for all parts of the LGBTI+ community must continue.

#### **5. Mature Student Seminar**

The Mature Students Seminar was hosted with DIT on the Grangegorman campus on Friday 21st of October. The registration fee was €5, and was waived for anyone who had to pay for parking to ensure payment was not a barrier to the event. The €5 is being used to assist to cover lunch costs. Students registered online through the USI Website, and over 30 students registered, with 20 attending. We called students in advance to see if they had childcare/parking or accessibility needs ahead of the day.

The event ran from 9.30am-5pm, and had modules on:

- Financial Assistance/SUSI/Supports
- Public Speaking
- Key Study Skills
- Time Management & Self Organisation
- College Exit Strategies
- Developing your Mature Student Society

In terms of participation, 15 students were in attendance in 2015's event and 26 in attendance in 2017 (WIT). It is so important that this event is prioritised and we ensure as many students benefit from the modules and networking as possible.

The event's feedback on the day was highly positive, and students got a well-balanced range of topics covered to suit their needs, along with space at the end for them to speak frankly about issues and concerns. I co-ordinated with Mature Students Ireland to make sure Mature Student staff officers were represented, and also a staff member attended from IT Blanchardstown.

Thank you so much to DITSU for assisting, in particular Pierre Yimbog, who acted as DITSU lead on the run-up to the event and spoke on the day, along with the VP of the Mature Students Society in DIT. I ran the event on the day with the USI VP for the Dublin Region.

Students from the following member organisations attended:

DITSU
IT TRALEE SU
WITSU
NUIGSU
IADTSU
TCDSU
IT CARLOW SU

Two students who were notified of the event from Ballyfermot FE also were in attendance, but hadn't registered as being from BCFE due to a website form issue in advance of the event. These students had been made aware of the event through the National Access Plan steering committee, who I had informed of the event at the last meeting, and attended with payment on the day.

Where requested, childcare was covered for mature student parents, as is the policy through congress 2016 of USI, one child also accompanied their parent during the day.

#### **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Full team check-in, work for the week, project updates
22-23rd	National Council [2 Day]	Facilitated Presidents Working Group along with overall running.
23/09/2017	OB Meeting, Limerick	Discussion of Strategy re: National Campaign incl full officer board agenda
25/09/2017	Launch of Education Is March (Promo) [Leinster House]	Organised student parents, undergraduate school leavers and others for photocall
25/09/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: DITSU Kevin Street	
26/09/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: TCDSU	
27/09/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit:	

	UCCSU	
28/09/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: IADTSU	Joined IADTSU Politics day - delivered sessions on 'Higher Education Funding' and 'Students for Choice'
29/09/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: DCUSU	
30/09/2017	Students for Choice @ March for Choice	Led largest ever group of students (1,000) out of TCD after Student Pre-Rally ahead of the ARC March for Choice
2/10/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: MSU	
3/10/2017	EducationIs Campus Visit: TCDSU	
3/10/2017	OB Team Meeting	Prep ahead of Demo
4/10/2017	National Day of Action: EducationIs	
10/10/2017	All Day Officer Board meeting	Planning & Project Work Review
14/10/2017	NUS-USI Student Bloc [Belfast] Belfast	Rally For Choice [Attended with VP Dublin Region]
23/10/2017	Pink Training Site Evaluation [All day, NUIGSU]	Meeting with NUIG VP Welfare & NUIGSU Staff regarding Pink Training
23/10/2017	Mature Student Officer, NUIG	Meeting with Trish Bourke on behalf of MSI regarding Mature Students Seminar 2017
27/10/2017	National Mature Students Seminar	20 Students attended from across the country, to an all day seminar hosted by DITSU on the Grangegorman campus.

#### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
20/10/2017	Amnesty International [KC Peaches]	Discussion regarding Repeal the 8th

27/10/2017	UCC Feminist Society [UCC]	Panel on Repealthe8th, incl. Lawyers for Choice and Rebels for Choice
5/10/2017	DRCC: Launch of Annual Report [DRCC]	Attended along with DITSU VP Welfare
5/10/2017	Coalition to Repeal the 8th [Buswells]	Voter Registration
5/10/2017	Coalition to Repeal the 8th [Wynn's Hotel]	Panel (Speakers from 1983 Referendum)
10/10/2017	Microsoft [Conference Call]	Supported by PR Exec, bid made regarding support for Pink Training 2017
11/10/2017	Working Group on Student Success [HEA]	Discussion of retention strategy and best practice
12/10/2017	IFPA	Board Member Briefing with CEO IFPA, Niall Behan
12/10/2017	Meeting	RepealThe8th with the USI President
12/10/2017	'POZ NEG' [Google Ireland]	Panel organised by Intertech Ireland regarding HIV Prevention and Stigma in Ireland
13/10/2017	Capacity Building	With the USI President, re RepealThe8th
17/10/2017	UNFPA Report Launch [Merrion Hotel]	
17/10/2017	LGBTI+ Youth Strategy members meeting with Head of Anti-bullying unit from MA	
17/10/2017	LGBTI+ Youth Strategy Sub-Group: Outcome 5	Meeting chaired by Mary Cunningham (NYCI), Paula Fagan (LGBT Helpline), Moninne Griffith (Belongto), Ayrton Kelly (Youth Advisory Group), discussed actions and outcomes under 'Connected & Respected' to feed back to steering group

18/10/2017	Meeting with Sodexo	Discussion regarding Inclusion and diversity, possible opportunities of working together
18/10/2017	The Last Word with Matt Cooper [Today FM]	Discussion regarding 18-24 Drinking habits in reaction to 2014 CSO Figures
19/10/2017	Presentation: Longford Comhairle na nOg [Longford Arms Hotel]	Presented on the value of youth participation & active citizenship, the work of USI
20/10/2017	IFPA	Regarding RepealThe8th Campaign
20/10/2017	RTE 2fm [Donnybrook Studio]	GALAS: Growing up LGBT/Work of USI
20/10/2017	Meeting re Environment/Climate Action	Meeting with Maynooth University Activist, Rhonda McGovern regarding USI work and future work relating to climate change, as well as updates on citizens assembly currently underway
21/10/2017	GALAS	Short-listed and recipient of publicly nominated award on Student Activism, supported on the night by USI President, USI VP Campaigns, VP Dublin Region, VP Southern Region and VP Academic Affairs.
24/10/2017	LGBTI+ Startegy: Education Sub Group [Dept. of Education]	Meeting with stakeholders and Department regarding government approach to LGBTI+ strategy and targets
25/10/2017	LGBTI+ Startegy Steering Committee Meeting	Disucssion of all steering committee chaired by Una Mullally regarding progress of the strategy, presentation by consultatants Mazars, and updates from indivioudal sub-group leads
25/10/2017	Coalition and NWCi	Voter Reg Strategy

25/10/2017	MU Feminist Society & MU Choice Society Panel Discussion	Speaker on Panel Discussion with Dr. Moynagh O'Sullivan, Dr. Sinead Kennedy (Repeal Coalition), Eileen Flynn (Irish Traveller Activist), chaired by Anna Cosgrave (Repeal Project)
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#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
29/09/2017	x5 Chicken Goujons (and chips)	DCUSU President
	Coffee + Free Welfare Crew Tshirt	NUIGSU VP Welfare

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
OISIN HASSAN  
**ACADEMICAFFAIRS@USI.IE**



**Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
**Leas-Uachtarán do Ghnóthaí Acadúla agus Dhearbhu Cáilíochta**  
*Oisín Hassan*

### **Key Points since last National Council**

- 1. March for Education - October 4th #EducationIs**
- 2. Education Campaign**
- 3. 34th European Students' Convention**
- 4. Postgraduate Representation Network**
- 5. Work Plan Implementation**

*A summary of key work since the last National Council, and updates on the various aspects of my Work Plan. I am very much using my Work Plan in my day-to-day activity, and I will be placing a stronger emphasis on it as the year goes on. I encourage Sabbats to reference it for accountability purposes.*

### **March for Education - October 4th #EducationIs**

As National Council will be aware, this absorbed a lot of OB's time since we were last together in LIT. I worked with the Deputy President at the last NC to support her during Campaigns Working Group, and worked to ensure we were prepared for the demo. Following this I spent around 2 weeks before the march visiting campuses, talking to students, supporting Sabbats, and doing general promotion ahead of the march.

The evening before the march we were thoroughly briefed by the VP Campaigns, and on the day, alongside OB, I acted as a marshall and organiser for the demo. I think it's fair to say that the day went very well, and the huge attendance of students demonstrated to the general public and to government that we are determined in our efforts to defeat student loans, and secure education as a public good.

### **Education Campaign**

The VP Campaigns has been instrumental in supporting me in our work to develop a more concerted campaign on education, student success, and issues of progression. As was presented at NC in QUB, we went ahead with a drop-out and access focused Facebook Live in USI HQ. Panellists were Jamie McMahon (ITTSU), SORCHA Ní Chonghaile (ISSU and DCU), Rose Ryan (Director of Access,

Maynooth), Alan O'Beirne (UniBrowse.ie), and Vicky Geraghty (SUSI). I want to sincerely thank them for their participation and input, and for making it a very worthwhile endeavour. I also want to thank MOs and Sabbats who encouraged interaction with the event, through shares, likes, questions, and asking students to get involved. In future, this is certainly something we can build on.

The other aspect of the campaign is our Education Roadshows, which will include a strong emphasis on how education and welfare go hand-in-hand at exam/assessment time. The VP Campaigns has again been coordinating, focusing on ensuring all materials ordered will be useful to MOs and to students. Myself and the VP Welfare have also liaised on ensuring that we can work closely on the development of the roadshows. A Google Form went out via email to encourage MOs to apply for a Roadshow. Applications for Roadshows are required as per mandate.

I'd encourage MOs to look at that form and apply. Please be aware that the Roadshow should take place alongside pre-organised local SU activity, in order to ensure maximum impact with students.

### **34th European Students' Convention**

The VP for the Southern Region, the UUSU President, and I represented USI at #ESC34, hosted by the European Students' Union (ESU) and NUS Wales in Cardiff from the 11th until 13th October. The Convention was themed as 'Securing Our Future', looking at the role of students in shaping the future of Europe. Brexit was a big topic of discussion, and it was an important opportunity for USI and NUS UK to build on our relationship at such a crucial time. The Convention also considered the future of the Bologna Process, a key piece of work for USI, ensuring the voice of Irish students is heard in future work to improve Higher Education in Europe.

### **Postgraduate Representation Network**

All Sabbats received an email following the last NC to encourage them to put forward nominated postgraduate students from their college to take part in the national Network. This was a difficult task for many of our MOs, reflecting the fact that we have a long way to go with postgraduate engagement. Additional promotional materials were then circulated to help MOs promote the Network, and I hope now to get the Network launched and have the first meeting in November.

### **Work Plan Implementation**

Due to the proliferation of training and then the national demo, it was difficult to really begin to action various aspects of my Work Plan. However, since the demo I have been engaging in a series of meetings aimed at developing actions from my Work Plan, and building connections with relevant stakeholders and partners. These meetings are listed below, and I am happy to report that they have been very positive. I hope that a number of key projects will emerge in the coming months. I am happy to field any questions about these meetings.

### **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
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21/09/2017	TCDSU - Education Demo promotion	Promotion at Clubs and Socs Day
22/09/2017 - 23/09/2017	USI National Council in LITSU	Chaired Academic Affairs Working Group and Postgraduate Affairs Working Group. Also co-facilitated the Campaigns Working Group.
26/09/2017	DCUSU Glasnevin - Demo promotion	Clubs and Socs Day
27/09/2017	DCUSU St Pats - Demo promotion	Clubs and Socs Day
28/09/2017	CITSU Crawford - Demo promotion	Promotion at Crawford Art College
29/09/2017	IT Tallaght SU - Demo promotion	Promotion in college foyer
30/09/2017	#StudentsForChoice bloc for March for Choice	1000 strong student bloc marched through Dublin City Centre.
02/10/2017	NUIGSU - Demo promotion	Promotion around campus
03/10/2017	DCUSU Glasnevin - Demo promotion	Promotion around campus
04/10/2017	#EducationIs In The Red national demo	National march organised by the Campaigns Sub-Committee, VP Campaigns, and Officer Board.
09/10/2017	Officer Board all day meeting	Review of the month, and planned ahead until November.
10/10/2017	Education Campaign prep with VP Campaigns	Planning for Facebook Live on drop out and access, alongside plans for the exam success roadshows in Dec/Jan.
18/10/2017	Meeting with the USI President	Meeting to discuss a number of mandates and policy areas that we needed to collaborate on closely.
19/10/2017	Hosted TUI Intern	The TUI hosted an Apprentice from Germany. I hosted her for a few hours in USI, explaining the work that we do.
23/10/2017	USI Facebook Live for #EducationIs Access	Live from USI HQ with a panel experienced in drop-out, retention, access, and SUSI.
26/10/2017	Meeting with VP BMW	Meeting to discuss a presentation on student engagement and partnership to the West/North Western Higher Education Cluster project group on Teaching and Learning

		Champions.
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### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
16/09/2017	NStEP Student Trainers Meeting and prep	Meeting with the Student Trainers, the Programme Coordinator, and myself. We ran through the training exercises and some logistics of the programme.
18/09/2017	QQI Board Induction	Introductory meeting with the QQI CEO and a number of support staff, and induction on the governance of QQI.
20/09/2017	Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) Colleges Advisory Council	Presentation to the TUI CAC on supporting the national demonstration and on the teacher's placement campaign.
22/09/2017	QQI Board	Penultimate meeting of the current Board at the QQI Offices.
25/09/2017	Meeting with National Forum for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (NFETL) Board members	A meeting of the Board, of which I am a member, was postponed. However, we arranged a meeting between myself, the Chair of the NFETL Board, the outgoing Director, and the International Adviser acting-up as Director from October.
26/09/2017	Meeting with DCUSU President	Meeting to discuss Student Staff Liaison Committees and on embedding students in quality assurance and academic governance in DCU.
06/10/2017	Facilitator pre-meeting for QA Pool Training	NStEP, USI, and QQI facilitators pre-meeting.
06/10/2017	QA Student Reviewers Pool Training	Training for around 20 Student Reviewers for both internal and external QA reviews, who will act as a national pool for both the QQI and institutions.
10/10/2017 13/10/2017	- 34th European Students' Convention	Hosted by NUS Wales in Cardiff, with sessions facilitated by external groups and the European Students' Union.
17/10/2017	Meeting with QQI Head of Quality Projects	Discussion around my plan of work including the changing landscape of student engagement, and how to embed student partnership in QA Guidelines.

17/10/2017	Meeting of USI, QQI, and NStEP	Discussion on the future of NStEP.
18/10/2017	Meeting with an Adviser to Tommy Broughan TD, and the Communications Officer for Mandate Trade Union, alongside the USI President	Discussed collaboration of USI and Right2Change for the their upcoming conference, which presents a good opportunity for USI to promote our core message around publicly funded HE and how we have achieved success with the campaign to date.
18/10/2017	Meeting with Helen McEntee, Minister of State for European Affairs, and various representatives of Government Departments, alongside the USI President	Main topic of discussion was around Brexit, the work of the Department, and USI aimed to ensure students and education were integral to the process. We discussed potential collaboration and will follow up with the Minister on a number of areas.
19/10/2017	Meeting with the HEA Head of Policy and Strategic Planning	Discussion focused on internationalisation and international student support.
20/10/2017	Meeting with Head of the FOCAS Research Institute, Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)	Discussed the current research and funding environment in Ireland, and discussed various aspects of supporting research students.
21/10/2017	Attended GALAS LGBT+ Awards ceremony	Supported the VP Equality and Citizenship on her well deserved nomination and award for tireless student activism. We were a very proud team!
24/10/2017	QQI Conference on the Digitalisation Agenda	A day of panels and presentations on the role that digitalisation is playing in education, and how rapid change is presenting both pressures and opportunities.
25/10/2017	Meeting with the HEA Senior Policy Adviser	Discussion centred on postgraduate issues (especially research), Brexit, student partnership and engagement, among others things.
25/10/2017	Attended a Voter Reform Workshop, alongside the VP Dublin and PR Executive	Organised by IMPACT and the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi). Attended by a number of people working with young people.
26/10/2017	Meeting with HEA Head of the National Office for Equity of Access Policy	I was unable to attend the Student Success Working Group due to ESC34, but the VP E&C went in my place. Discussion centred on this Group and the role USI could play. We'll be supporting a number of the key strands in the short-medium term.

27/10/2017	Call with NUS-USI Senior Campaigns and Development Adviser	Planning for a day of panels and workshops on developing student partnership in the North, which will be hosted by the Open University (Belfast) and the Department for the Economy in November.
27/10/2017	Meeting with the General Secretary and a number of key staff for Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)	Introductory meeting, discussion on changing landscape of Further Education and Training (FET), and the role USI could play in supporting student engagement work.
27/10/2017	Meeting with LU don Ghaeilge	Discussion around implementing Irish language policy related to teaching and learning.
27/10/2017	Meeting with NStEP Coordinator	Discussion on future governance model of NStEP.

#### **Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
26/09/2017	Goodie Bags from DCUSU Clubs and Socs Day	DCUSU President
2/10/2017	Coffee	NUIGSU VP Welfare

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR WELFARE**  
**NIAMH MURTAGH**  
**WELFARE@USI.IE**



**Union of Students in Ireland**  
*Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn*

**Report of the Vice President for Welfare**

**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Leasa**

*Niamh Murtagh*

**Key Points since last National Council**

- 1. International Mental Health First Aid Summit**
- 2. March for Education - October 4th**
- 3. Mental Health Research**
- 4. SUSI IGPS - Integrated Grants Processing System**
- 5. Mental Health Training**
- 6. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017**

- **International Mental Health First Aid Summit**

Ireland held its first ever International Mental Health First Aid Summit which saw attendees come from all over the world. Mental Health First Aid originated in Australia in 2000 and has grown from strength to strength every year since.

Teenagers who have completed a course in mental health first aid are more than three times more likely than those without training to offer support to a friend contemplating suicide, according to the latest research into teen mental health problems.

There were speakers from all over who had done the training and talked about having it in the workplace, in schools and 3rd level institutions.

I was delighted to be on one of the panels alongside Bressie, and the Head of Mental Health First Aid UK where we discussed mental health difficulties facing our youth and how we should be combatting it.

- **March for Education - October 4th**

In the lead up to the National demonstration officer board really pulled together and it became our focus in the weeks coming up to the national day of action. Majority of time was spent on campus assisting students' unions in promotion of the demonstration, through class addresses, ticket sales, distributing flyers and talking to students at clubs and socs days.

Between 15 and 20,000 students attended the demonstration on the day from all over the country. This is down to the countless hours and huge effort of my colleagues, SU officers and students. Our VP Campaigns coordinated everything and put a phenomenal amount of work into the organisation and execution of the demonstration which ensured we could work to the best of our ability and was the driving force to ensure its success.

- **Mental Health Research**

Myself and the Mental Health project manager have been working closely together on a research piece so we can do an island wide survey on student mental health at 3rd level. We have been working with the mental health advisory group made up of students and officers and are working on a steering group of professionals from the PCHEI (Psychological Counsellors In Higher Education Ireland), Please Talk, Reach Out and the HSE. We want to ensure the survey is comprehensive and is a significant piece of research that will give both qualitative and quantitative results to ensure we design evidence based initiatives going forward. The survey will be ready for launch shortly after Christmas.

- **SUSI IGPS - Integrated Grants Processing System**

Student Universal Support Ireland are currently working on a new system to process student grant applications. After much deliberation on the timing and process of the design and roll out of the research it was decided that the steering committee for the IGPS would come down to three possible options going forward.

The new system will see documentation all submitted electronically, and integration with myGov which will speed up the verification process through PPS number and public service cards. Their old servers will also be retired and all implemented through an online cloud system.

Option 1 would see the new IGPS launched as planned on the proposed release date of April 2018. From a reputational point of view this would seem the best, however it would be extremely risky as there would not be enough time to ensure thorough end to end testing and staff retraining. This could pose many problems for students if information were to be lost and staff were not yet trained to the highest standard in order to ensure students get the best service possible.

Option 2 would see the new IGPS undergo full end to end testing, thorough staff training, and properly phasing in of IGPS to ensure full functionality. This would mean however that the system would be pushed back to launch for 2019/2020 round of grant applications. In terms of ensuring student data is maintained and processed to the highest standard, this would be the safest and most stable option. Students would use the currently system for another round of grant processing and ensure every eventuality is covered with the implementation of the new IGPS.

This will incur some costs as physical processing of paper documents will still exist for another 12 months, but would be the safest.

Option 3 would see IGPS be partially launched and the interface to go through a new look on the consumer (student) end with both the new system being partially initialised and the current IGPS working in tandem. While on the outside it would look like the new system was running it could come up with many issues such as compatibility between the new and old IGPS, transferring of data and staff time and extra cost for training and potentially holding data on servers and the new proposed cloud system.

- **Mental Health Training**

Mental Health First Aid: We ran our third round of Mental Health First Aid training in Dublin on October 25th/26th. This will be 80 students trained through Mental Health First Aid Ireland and USI. It is a 2 day intensive course which covers anxiety, depression, suicidal ideation, psychosis and substance abuse. We are working together to ensure this training continues to be rolled out for subsequent years also.

ASIST Training: The next ASIST training will take place November 23rd and 24th in DCU and will be the 2nd time we have ran this training. ASIST is Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training which focuses on training people to do an intervention when people are thinking of Suicide. It is excellent training which is comes from the National Office of Suicide Prevention. I have been working closely with them and have secured funding for ASIST training to be provided to USI members every quarter coordinated by us.

- **The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017**

At the moment The Road Traffic Amendment Bill is being put forward. Currently, for drink driving offences, the disqualification periods range from 3 months to 6 years depending on the level of alcohol detected, and whether it is a first or subsequent offence.

The offence of refusing to provide a sample of blood, urine, or breath for evidential purposes will attract an automatic disqualification of 4 years for a first offence and 6 years for a second or subsequent offence. If the driver is a learner, novice or professional driver they are tested at the 20mg limit. If a driver is tested and they are above this limit, they are served with an on the spot fixed penalty notice and receive a fine of €200 and the person will be disqualified from holding a driving licence for a period of 3 months. If the driver (any category, any vehicle) is tested at the 50mg limit and they are over the limit they will be issued an on the spot of fixed penalty notice, receive a fine of €200 and 3 penalty points.

The Road Traffic (Amendment) Bill 2017 proposes a change to the penalties for drivers who are caught drink driving at blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels between 50-80mg. Under the proposed legislation, drink driving offences committed at BAC levels between 50mg and 80mg will incur an automatic disqualification of 3 months instead of the current penalty of a €200 fine and 3 penalty points.

We want to support this proposed legislation to ensure our students are safer on the roads and hopefully reduce the amount of deaths of young drivers. On average 170 drivers are arrested on our roads every week on suspicion of driving under the influence.

#### **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly plans - USI HQ
21/09/2017	IT Tralee Demo Prep	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
22/09/2017	National Council	LIT
23/09/2017	National Council	LIT
23/09/2017	OB Education Is Demo Planning	Limerick

24/09/2017	OB Education Is Demo Planning	Limerick
25/09/2017	DIT - Bolton Street	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
26/09/2017	NCI - Demo Promo	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
27/09/2017	DKIT - Demo Promo	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
28/09/2017	NCI - Demo Promo	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
29/09/2017	TCD - Demo Promo	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
02/10/2017	ITB - Demo Promo	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
03/10/2017	ITT - Demo Prep	Promotion of National Demo on Campus
04/10/2017	USI National Demo	Dublin City Centre
09/10/2017	Monthly Officerboard	USI HQ
10/10/2017	Quarterly Review	USI HQ
11/10/2017	Consent & Sexual Health Workshop	ITT
12/10/2017	Roadshow Meeting	Meeting with VP Campaigns on upcoming Welfare Campaigns
13/10/2017	USI National Mental Health Advisory Group	USI HQ with presentation from Jigsaw
17/10/2017	Monday Morning Meeting	Conducted Tuesday due to Storm Ophelia
17/10/2017	Chats for Change Partner Meeting	Meeting with Please Talk, USI Mental Health Project Manager & St.Patricks Mental Health Services
18/10/2017	SUSI Integrated Grants Processing System Steering Group	Discussing SUSI online processing system
18/10/2017	Mental Health Research Planning	W Mental Health Project Manager

19/10/2017	NWCI - Gender Sensitive Mental Health Policy	National womens Council of Ireland - Womens Mental Health
20/10/2017	PCHEI - Psychological Counsellors In Higher Education Ireland	Meeting with MH Project Manager discussing Mental Health Research
20/10/2017	Jigsaw	3rd Level Workshop development

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
18/09/2017	International Mental Health First Aid Summit	Spoke on panel with Bressie and Mental Health First Aid England
20/09/2017	HSE Connecting for Life Steering Committee	Sub Steering Group working on National Connecting for Life Strategy
25/09/2017	HSE World Contraception Day	Meeting around HSE content for World Contraception Day on Sept 26th
30/09/2017	Annual March for Choice	March for Choice to Repeal the 8th
09/10/2017	SUSI Grants Advisory Group	Discussion on progression of susi grants being distributed
13/10/2017	LGBTI+ Youth Strategy	Attended on behalf of VP Equality & Citizenship
27/10/2017	HSE Connecting for Life Steering Committee	
25/10/2017	Mental Health First Aid Ireland Training	Two day training on Mental Health First Aid - Dublin
26/10/2017	Mental Health First Aid Ireland Training	Two day training on Mental Health First Aid - Dublin

### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
21/09/2017	Ice Cream & Dinner	ITTSU

27/09/2017	Lunch	DKITSU
29/09/2017	Dental Dams	TCDSU

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPAIGNS**  
**AMY KELLY**  
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**Report of Vice President for Campaigns**  
**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán um Feachtais**  
*Amy Kelly*

**Key Points since last National Council**

- 1. Education Is National Campaign**
- 2. Budget 2018**
- 3. Education Is... Academic Affairs Campaign**

**1. Education Is National Campaign**

This has been the main focus of my work since the last national council and will dominate my report. I have developed a wide range of resources that have been used and can be used for the next year in the Google Drive folder. These resources can be found here: [https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B\\_IG\\_6BuJIRwOGFRaG8tZEJnb0E](https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_IG_6BuJIRwOGFRaG8tZEJnb0E)

Now that the demo is over that is not end of this resource pack, new resources will be created and uploaded here in the coming months. I will discuss the work done and evaluation of the campaign so far under a number of headings:

**Launching Education Is - 25th September**

The campaign was launched outside the Dáil with USI, ISSU, TUI, students, children, and parents on September 25th. The launch announced the date and purpose of the national demonstration and our intentions for this campaign. This garnered significant media attention.

**Reaching Out To Partners**

I had been reaching out to partners, and mobilising them that supported us from last year.. Supporters now include: SIPTU, IMPACT, TUI, IFUT, INMO, NYCI, Youth Work Ireland, Parents Council PostPrimary, ICTU Youth, SpunOut, TENI, Ireland Underground, AHEAD, ISSU, See Change, ARC, Irish Rugby Union Players Association and ReachOut and St. Vincent De Paul.

This totals support from 1,917,760 people in Ireland (based on the numbers these supporters represent). I am waiting to hear back from the IFA and Macra na Feirme and a number of trade unions. I will continue getting in touch with organisations, and following up with more over the coming month.

**National Demonstration - 4th October**

An estimated 15,000 - 20,000 people took the streets on October 4th. We had originally planned for 5,000 and tripled our attendance. The march began at

13:00 and reached Merrion Square South at 13.50. At the stage, we had Annette Quijney (Parent) , Gina O'Brien (Chair of the IMPACT Education Executive Committee), Jane M Hayes Nally (ISSU Rep/ Second Level Student) and Dr Martin Marjoram (Lecturer) as well as USI President speaking at the event. The entire event ended at 14.45pm. There were no incidents during the event. The arrival of buses was timed correctly, and the energy stayed up for the entirety of the event. However, lack of stewards proved to be an issue as well as the unexpected numbers of people attending the demonstration.

### **Supporting Each Other - September 22nd - October 19th**

On September 23rd at the LITSU National Council, the USI Campaigns Subcommittee with USI Officer board steered groups of officers in supporting and planning for the final weeks of promoting the national campaign. The Subcommittee did an excellent job at assisting with their colleagues.

All members of USI Officer board supported Students' Union through giving presentations, promoting the campaign on campus and via e-mail and on the phone when possible.

I would like to thank every Students' Union for their incredible work. The numbers that turned up sent a strong message and has been echoed in Government Buildings (feedback from Personal Assistants and Kildarestreet.com). I would like to thank USI Officer board for their stellar work. I would not have been able to stay in one piece without the passion and energy around me.

## **2. Budget 2018**

Budget 2018 was announced on October 10th. A 'What Budget 2018 Means For Students' was written by the myself and the PR Executive and issued by the USI President which very clearly outlines the output of Budget 2017, this is available in the Education Is... Resource Pack. I would like to stress how USI must begin to operate with a long-term vision and understand that our asks will not happen in one budget and to continue lobbying on these same key issues after Budget 2017 in successive budgets.

Measures in 2018 include:

- Education budget will increase by €554 million to over €10 billion in 2018, a 5.8% increase
- Further and higher education: additional provision of €64.5 million will be allocated to higher and further education and training in 2018
- A range of new upskilling and reskilling initiatives that will be developed in consultation with employers to respond to regional skills needs
- Enhanced funding for Skillnets to deliver training in key skills areas identified by employers such as Life Sciences; Brexit and International Financial Services; Data Analytics; and Sustainability, Green Finance and Responsible Investments
- Over 6,000 new apprenticeships and 10 new apprenticeship schemes
- Enhanced post-graduate funding and bursaries for disadvantaged students

- Funding will be provided to cater for demographic growth, facilitating 2,100 new students to access higher education.
- Also, following the Mid-Term Review of the Capital Plan, an additional €8 million in capital funding is being allocated to the higher and further education sectors in 2018. This will be used to fund capital costs associated with apprenticeship expansion.
- New investment will also support the development of Technological Universities across the country. It is the intention to have this Bill passed by Christmas and the first applications for designation will follow the enactment of the Technological Universities Bill.
- Additional €4m for access measures in 2018.

### What's Next?

I aim to hold a USI Campaigns Subcommittee meeting on Wednesday the 15th of November to: evaluate the campaign so far, plan the next month and begin prep for next year to be able to present the plan for 2018 at the December National Council.

The importance is now to keep momentum going through further smaller actions and lobbying as well as building support further. In the meantime, I will:

- Update website [usi.ie/educationis/](http://usi.ie/educationis/);
- Create new social media content;
- Work with OB to promote Voter Reg
- Plan the next month with the USI Campaigns Subcommittee.

### 3. Education Is... Academic Affairs Campaign

I have been working with the VP for AA on a new Education campaign. This has been presented to at the August NC. We have been busy planning the Facebook live that will aim to target students who are thinking of dropping out and reminding them of the deadline. We have also began working on the road show for December and January and ordering materials for MO's.

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
26/09/2017	DIT Aungier St	On campus promoting the national demo
27/09/2017	WITSU	On campus promoting the national demo
28/09/2017	UCCSU	On campus promoting the national demo
29/09/2017	UCCSU	On campus promoting the national demo

2/10/2017	DCUSU	On campus promoting the national demo
4/10/2017	Education Is... Demo	USI along with MO's across the country marched to the Dáil
9/10/2017	OB Day	A full OB day
10/10/2017	Quarterly Review	The President of USI gave me my quarterly review
10/10/17	Meeting with VP for AA	Myself and the VP for AA met to discuss and plan the FB live event and Roadshow
10/10/2017	Meeting with VP don Gaeilge	I met with Laoighseach to discuss Seachtain na Gaeilge and to plan a possible road show
11/10/2017	WITSU Class Rep Training	I presented to WITSU Class Reps on "Who are USI"
12/10/2017	Coalition for Homelessness	I attend a meeting of the coalition for Homelessness organised by ICTU planning the next few months of the coalition's plans.
12/10/2017	Meeting with the VP for Welfare	I met with the VP for Welfare to discuss upcoming welfare campaigns such as, Online SHAG, Chats for Change and Healthy Living Week
13/10/2017	DITSU Class Rep Training	I presented to DITSU Class Reps on "Who are USI"
18/10/2017	ISSE Meeting	The communications working group of ISSE met to discuss FB live discussion, press release of this year's results, and promotional material for 2018.
19/10/2017	Fiona O' Loughlin Public Meeting	I attended Fiona O'Loughlin's public meeting in Kildare to speak to parents and students about going to third level and student accommodation.

20/10/2017	NYCI Board Meeting	I attended an all-day training and board meeting of NYCI.
21/10/2017	GALA Awards	I attended the GALA awards as the VP for Equality & Citizenship was nominated for an award.
23/10/2017	Education Is... Access FB Live	Myself and the VP for AA organised a Facebook live highlighting the dropout deadline approaching.

#### **Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
2/10/2017	Coffee	DCUSU President

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
THE SOUTHERN REGION  
MICHELLE BYRNE  
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**Report of the Vice President for the Southern Region**  
**Tuairisc an Leas- Uachtarán don Deisceart**  
*Michelle Byrne*

**Key Points since last National Council**

1. **Education Is... demo promotion**
2. **Human Tissues Bill submission & Organ Donor Cards**
3. **34th European Students Conference**
4. **Class Rep Trainings**
5. **#GetRegd - Voter Registration**

1. **Education Is... demo promotion**

The start of this month and the end of last month was dominated by the Education Is... National Campaign. I travelled to all MOs as often as humanly possible! During my visits I was doing whatever I could to support that MO - lecture shout outs, handing out flyers, selling bus ticket, approaching students on campus and social media support. I was regular in contact with MOs with ideas on how to increase sales, campaign and just general support.

I am ecstatic to say that the work that MOs and I did paid off - we more than doubled our numbers in the South from the previous year. I want to congratulate MOs on all of their work (and their patience with me!) over the course of the promotion of the campaign. You should all be very proud of yourselves. The day went off without issue and I was delighted with the energy that the South brought to the demonstration.

2. **Human Tissues Bill submission & Organ Donor Cards**

This month, there was an opportunity to submit to the Human Tissues Bill through a questionnaire. The questionnaire covered the topics of displaying of bodies, post mortems, the use of bodies for education & training and use of organs.

According to our mandate, USI support the implementation of an "opt out scheme" for organ donation so this was the only area that we approached in the questionnaire. I stated our views

as per our mandate, that believe that further actions should be taken to introduce an opt out scheme in Ireland and I suggested ideas on an information campaign if/when this is introduced.

### **Organ Donor Cards**

From August, I have been working with the Irish Kidney Association (IKA) to get 20,000 Organ Donor Cards out during Freshers Weeks. I have been working with our PR exec this month to ensure there has been promotion about the thousands of cards MOs received and that photos have been gathered for the IKA to use going forward.

### **3. 34th European Students Conference**

The VP for Academic Affairs and I represented USI at #ESC34, hosted by the European Students' Union (ESU) and NUS Wales in Cardiff from the 11th until 13th October. The Convention was themed as 'Securing Our Future', looking at the role of students in shaping the future of Europe. Brexit was a big topic of discussion, and it was an important opportunity for USI and NUS UK to build on our relationship at such a crucial time. The Convention also considered the future of the Bologna Process, a key piece of work for USI, ensuring the voice of Irish students is heard in future work to improve Higher Education in Europe.

### **4. Class Rep Trainings**

I have endeavored to attend all Class Rep trainings in the South to inform students of who USI is, what we can do for them and how they can engage nationally. I also touched on the history of USI. For those trainings I could not attend I ensured another member of OB attended. I have also been attending some NStEP sessions.

### **5. #GetRegd - Voter Registration**

I have been supporting officers registering students on campuses. This is an ongoing campaign until November and I will be using every opportunity I can to work with MOs to get as many students they can registered to vote.

### **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
18/9/17	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM)	Weekly team meeting to discuss upcoming week.
22/9/17	OB Meeting	Officerboard met to discuss the agenda for National Council in advance of council.

22/9/17	Southern Region Working Group	I chaired the Southern Region Working Group before National Council proper.
22-23/9/17	USI National Council	Held in LIT Moylish over two days.
23/9/17	OB Meeting	Monthly USI Officerboard meeting
24/9/17	OB Meeting	Education Is... Campaign Planning
30/9/17	March For Choice Pre-Rally	USI Student Rally in Trinity ahead of official march.
4/10/17	Education Is...In the Red March	Public protest for education which garnered 20,000 students and supporters from all around Ireland.
9/10/17	OB Meeting	Monthly USI Officerboard meeting
10/10/17	Quarterly reviews	Individual review of the last quarter with USI President
17/10/17	Saves2 meeting [Call]	Meeting with relevant USI staff and officers on co-ordinating the Saves2 Dormitory Campaign.

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
18/9/17	WITSU Freshers' Week	Assisting WITSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
20/9/17	IT Carlow Clubs & Socs Day	Assisting ITCSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
21/9/17	LITSU, Clare St Campus (LSAD)	Assisting LSAD SU officers with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
22/9/17	LITSU, Moylish campus	Assisting LITSU with their Education Is... campaign

		promotion and National Council set up.
25/9/17	Carlow College SU	Assisting CCSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
25/9/17	IT Carlow SU	Assisting ITCSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
26/9/17	WITSU	Assisting WITSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion and their 'Live Safe Work Together campaign'.
27/9/17	CITSU	Assisting CITSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
28/9/17	IT Tralee SU	Assisting ITTSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
29/9/17	UCCSU	Assisting UCCSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion.
30/9/17	March For Choice	Protest in Dublin for reproductive rights.
2/10/17	UCC campus visit	Assisting UCCSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion and National Council set up.
3/10/17	LIT Moylish campus visit	Assisting LITSU with their Education Is... campaign promotion and National Council set up.
10-13/10/17	34th European Students' Conference, Cardiff	A conference run by the European Students Union (ESU) and NUS Wales. Attended with VP for AA.

18/10/17	IT Carlow SU Campus Visit	Presented at their Business & Humanities Class Rep training and reviewed new NStEP trainers. Also Energy Awareness Day.
19/10/17	IT Tralee SU visit - Ballymoe Heights Hotel	Presented about USI at their Class Rep training.
20/10/17	IT Carlow SU Campus Visit	Presented about USI at their Class Rep training.
21/10/17	The Galas, The Mansion House, Dublin	The awards honour LGBT+ people and organisations for their contributions to Irish society. They also to honour politicians, employers and others who are committed to advancing equality and social acceptance for LGBT+ people in Ireland. The VP for Equality in USI won the LGBT+ Student/Student Organisation award and we are very proud!
23/10/17	WITSU	Assisting with their 'What's a WITSU?' campaign, promoting what the union can do for students.
24/10/17	National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) Seminar in The Gresham Hotel, Dublin	The seminar was labelled 'Republic of Opportunity or State of Insecurity? Seminar on Precarious Work for Young People'. I attended the seminar on behalf of USI.

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
20/9/17	Taxi	ITCSU
20/9/17	Lunch	ITCSU
22/9/17	Lunch	LITSU General Manager
18/10/17	Taxi	ITCSU

18/10/17	Lunch	ITCSU
19/10/17	Dinner	ITTSU

**Thank you to all of the MOs who have offered lifts to and from buses/campuses also!**

# VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE BORDER, MIDLANDS AND WESTERN REGION

JIMMY MCGOVERN

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Union of Students in Ireland  
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

## Report of the Vice President for the Border, Midlands, and Western Region

Tuairisc an Leas- Uachtarán don Iarthar, Lár-tíre agus Teorainn

*Jimmy McGovern*

### Key Highlights since Last National Council

1. National Demonstration for Education
2. Voter Registration
3. Class Rep Trainings
4. Communication within the Region

#### National Demonstration for Education.

The vast majority of my time since the previous National Council was dedicated to being on campuses across the Region, making students aware of the campaign and selling bus tickets for the event. This included over 100 lecture addresses across the region and full day ticket sales by approaching students on campus.

#### Voter Registration

Registering Students to vote plays a crucial role in almost everything USI are lobbying for. In my lecture address to students across the region, I have been both encouraging students to register through their SU, and assisting SU Officers in approaching students on campus.

#### Class Rep Trainings

I have delivered a number of Class Rep Trainings across the region, explaining who USI are, what we do, and how Class Reps can get involved. I ensured to stress the importance of their engagement and the direct correlation with the success of both MOs and USI.

#### Communication within the Region

As a Vice President for a Region, much of my time is dedicated to travelling to campuses and the USI Headquarters, communicating with and updating Officers within the Region on what is currently going on. I have been updating Officers on trainings, events and the progress of what USI has been doing.

### USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
23rd & 24th September	Officerboard Meeting	After National Council,

		Officerboard met to plan the days ahead of the National Demo, as a means to maximise attendance and media outreach. [Limerick]
10th October	Quarterly Review	Met with the USI President to assess my work over the past 3 months, and to plan for the next 3. [USI HQ, Dublin]
17th October	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officer Board and USI Staff to discuss the week ahead [Phone-in meeting].
23rd October	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officer Board and USI Staff to discuss the week ahead [Phone-in meeting].
26th October	Meeting with the USI Vice President for Academic Affairs	Met with the USI VP AA to plan out a presentation I will be giving on Student Engagement and enhancement of Teaching and Learning. [USI HQ, Dublin]

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
20th September, 2017	Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)	Meeting with the WRDATF regarding the Galway Safe App. An App aimed at preventing loss of life in the Corrib River, Galway City. [Galway]
25th September, 2017	IT Sligo Ticket Sales	Worked with ITSSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. [Sligo]
26th September	St. Angela's College, Sligo Ticket Sales	Worked with STACSSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. [Sligo]

26th September	St. Angela's College, Sligo Class Rep Training	Delivered Training to the Class Reps of STACSSU, on USI and getting involved with the Student Movement. [Sligo]
26th September	St. Angela's College, Sligo SU Council	Attended the SU Council of STACSSU. [Sligo]
27th September	Letterkenny IT Clubs & Societies Day	Worked with LYITSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. I also assisted in promoting the work of the SU. [Letterkenny, Donegal]
28th September	Maynooth IT Clubs & Societies Day	Worked with MSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. I also assisted in promoting the work of the SU. [Maynooth]
29th September	NUI Galway Ticket Sales	Worked with NUIGSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. [Galway]
30th September	March for Choice	Marched through the streets of Dublin City, with a thousand of students from across Ireland. [Dublin]
2nd October	NUI Galway Ticket Sales	Worked with NUIGSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. [Galway]
2nd October	NUI Galway Emergency Class Rep Meeting	Attended and presented with the Vice President for Academic Affairs to the Class Reps in NUI Galway Students' Union, in preparation for the March for Education. [Galway]

3rd October	Dundalk IT Ticket Sales	Worked with DkITSU to sell as many bus tickets as possible for the National March. This is included lecture addresses along with campus wide sales. [Dundalk, Louth]
4th October	National Demonstration for Education	Marched through the streets of Dublin City, with thousands of students from across Ireland. [Dublin]
9th October	Cavan County Council Presentation	Presented to Cavan County Council with the aim of gaining support for the Publicly Funded Education, greater Grant Investment, and the opposition to the introduction of an Income Contingent Loan Scheme for Students. The Council have since wrote to the Minister for Education & Skills in support of the above. [Cavan]
10th October	Connemara Community Radio - Interview	Live radio phone-in interview with Connemara Community Radio regarding Student Mental Health. [Phone-in]
11th October	GMIT Class Rep Training	Delivered Training to the Class Reps of GMITSU, on USI and getting involved with the Student Movement. [Galway]
12th October	Athlone IT Class Rep Training	Delivered Training to the Class Reps of AITSU, on USI and getting involved with the Student Movement. [Athlone, Westmeath]
13th October	NCI Class Rep Training	Delivered Training to the Class Reps of NCISU, on USI and getting involved with the Student Movement. [Dublin]
19th October	Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force Steering Committee Meeting	Meeting of the WRDATF Steering Committee. Main student concern was substance induced harm and death in the waterways of Galway City.

		Currently working on promoting a safety app. [Castlebar, Mayo]
19th October	GMIT Mayo Campus visit	Met with the President for the Mayo Campus in GMIT, regarding local and national issues and campaigns. [Castlebar, Mayo]
20th October	NUI Galway Students' Union Voter Registration	Assisted NUIGSU in sorting and sending the 1,200 voter reg forms they have collect, to the relevant County Councils. [Galway]
25th October	Student Switch Off Campaign in Maynooth Students' Union	Worked with USI Staff in signing up Maynooth students to join the campaign on energy saving. [Maynooth]
25th October	Maynooth Students Union Senate	Attended and presented on the ongoing work of USI at the MSU Senate. [Maynooth]

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
25th September - 3rd October	In the Mayhem of the lead up to the National March, every campus I had been, each MO had ensure to buy me food and coffee. I mistaken had not taken notes, but do wish to express my gratitude to the region.	NUIGSU, GMITSU, ITSSU, STACSSU, LYITSU, AITSU, MSU and DkITSU.

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
THE DUBLIN REGION  
AISLING CUSACK  
DUBLIN@USI.IE**



**Report of the Vice President for the Dublin Region**  
**Tuairisc an Leas- Uachtarán do Átha Cliath**  
*Aisling Cusack*

**Key Points since last National Council**

1. **National Campaign**
2. **#GetRegd**
3. **Class Representative Training**
4. **#StudentsForChoice**

**National Campaign**

Our National Campaign for publicly funded third-level education and grant investment was a prominent feature of my work over the past six weeks. The USI National Demonstration took place on Wednesday, October 4th in Dublin City and much planning went into its organisation.

As Vice President for the Dublin Region, I worked closely with the Vice President for the BMW Region and the Vice President for the Southern Region, coordinating the rest of Officer Board into different campuses around the country. I was solely responsible for who would be where in the Dublin Region and worked closely with those on Officer Board who were in MOs within my region, monitoring progress and making suggestions as to how to best promote the campaign in the different campuses. In the lead up to October 4th, I delivered class addresses to students, handed out flyers, sold bus tickets and promoted the demonstration in any way that I saw fit.

I'd like to take this opportunity to commend my region for their dedicated work in the lead up to this campaign which was noticeably evident on October 4th when thousands of students from Dublin MOs took to the streets, showing our government that we have voices and we will make them heard.

**Get Reg\*D**

Over the last number of weeks, I have been working closely with MO leads on the #GetRegD campaign of voter registration. This has involved a knowledge share of ideas and helping to develop strategies on campuses to achieve the maximum output of students registered to vote. I have been regularly checking in with MO leads to monitor progress in my region and assist wherever needed or possible. I have physically registered students to vote in MO campuses and will continue to do so over the next few weeks. This campaign will continue for the next number of weeks and I will be continuing to contact MOs about the campaign.

**Class Representative Training**

Many training events have happened across the country for class representatives. It is a brilliant opportunity for class representatives to learn of the Union of Students in Ireland and how they can become involved. I delivered presentations to representatives where logistically possible and to those I could not attend, I delegated to another member of Officer Board ensuring no MO in my region missed this opportunity if they wished to avail of this. I also facilitated a training event for part-time officers and faculty convenors of Trinity College Dublin Students' Union.

### **Students For Choice**

In the lead up to the Abortion Rights Campaign March for Choice 2017 (ARC March), I liaised with campus ambassadors, outlining information for our attendance at the Students For Choice at the ARC March event in Trinity College Dublin Front Square. Over 1000 students gathered in the square. From there, we then marched up O'Connell Street to the beginning of the march and marched alongside 40,000 people in support of repealing the 8th Amendment of the Constitution of Ireland. I attended the Rally for Choice in Belfast alongside the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship where we joined the NUS-USI student block and took part in the march. USI were co-hosts of Repeal Day alongside TCDSU and the Repeal Project. I attended this event on behalf of USI Officer Board.

### **Mature Students Seminar**

The Mature Students Seminar took place on Friday, 27th October. Thank you to DITSU for hosting the event which took place in their Grangegorman campus. In preparation for this event I supported the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship. I organised the timetable, contacted the participants ahead of the event to confirm their attendance, and helped ensure the smooth running of the event.

### **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
15/9/17	NCADSU Garden Party	Attended NCADSU event for students in anticipation of term beginning the following Monday. [NCAD Garden]
18/9/17	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly Officer Board meeting. [USI HQ]
20/9/17	ITTDSU Demo Prep	[IT Tallaght]
22/9/17	National Council Day 1	Day 1 of a 2 day National Council. [Limerick IT]
23/9/17	National Council Day 2	Day 2 of a 2 day National Council. [Limerick IT]
23/9/17	Officer Board Meeting	OB meeting to plan campus preparation for the National Demo.
24/9/17	Officer Board Meeting	OB meeting to finalise which campuses OB would be on

		each day in the lead up to the National Demo.
25/9/17	DCUSU Demo Prep	[DCU Glasnevin]
26/9/17	ITBSU Demo Prep	[IT Blanchardstown]
27/9/17	TCDSU Voter Reg & Demo Prep	I worked with TCDSU Citizenship Officer on the #GetRegd campaign and promoted the National Demo simultaneously. [TCD]
27/9/17	NCADSU Poster Making	Attended NCADSU poster making night. [NCAD]
28/9/17	ITTDSU Demo Prep	[IT Tallaght]
29/9/17	ITBSU Demo Prep	[IT Blanchardstown]
29/9/17	ITTDSU Demo Prep	[IT Tallaght]
30/9/17	USI #StudentsForChoice pre-rally	Pre-rally for the Abortion Rights Campaign Annual March for Choice 2017. [TCD]
2/10/17	ITTDSU Demo Prep	[IT Tallaght]
3/10/17	DITSU Demo Prep	[DIT Bolton St. and DIT Cathal Brugha St.]
4/10/17	#EducationIs National Demonstration	[Dublin City]
9/10/17	MMM	Weekly OB meeting. [USI HQ]
9/10/17	OB Day	De-brief of #EducationIs National Demo. [USI HQ]
11/10/17	Quarterly Review	My first quarterly review with the President. [USI HQ]
11/10/17	DITSU Council	I attended DITSU Council to introduce myself and give a USI update and answer questions. [DIT Bolton St.]
13/10/17	ITTDSU Class Rep Training	I delivered a presentation on USI to ITTDSU Class Reps. [Rua Red, Tallaght]
13/10/17	ITTDSU Class Rep Council	I attended ITTDSU Council/ [Rua Red, Tallaght]

17/10/17	MMM	Weekly OB meeting. [Tele-meeting]
17/10/17	Saves 2	Met with regionals, PR Executive and Student Switch-off Coordinator on how to best promote the Saves2 survey. [Tele-meeting]
17/10/17	TCDSU	Met with TCDSU President and Communications & Marketing Officer to discuss plans for upcoming Class Rep Training event. [TCDSU]
18/10/17	NCI SU	Met with NCISU to discuss plans for #GetRegd and affiliation referendum. [NCI SU]
21/10/17 - 22/10/17	TCDSU Class Rep Training	I attended TCDSU Class Rep Training and delivered a presentation on USI and facilitated a training workshop for Union Forum. [Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, Galway]
23/10/17	MMM	Weekly OB meeting. [ USI HQ]
24/10/17	DITSU Voter Registration	I spent the day out in DIT Aungier St. registering students to vote and sorting completed forms into different County Councils.
26/10/17	Repeal Day	A vigil to remember Savita Halappanavar. [TCD]
27/10/17	Mature Students Seminar	Day of workshops and training for mature students. [DIT Grangegorman]

#### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
30/9/17	Abortion Rights Campaign Annual March for Choice	
14/10/17	Rally for Choice	Myself and the VP for Equality and Citizenship attended the

		Rally for Choice and marched as part of the student block with NUS-USI. [Buoy Park, Belfast]
26/10/17	Voter Reform Consultation	Met with different groups to discuss how voter reform could happen and what barriers exist currently to voter registration.

#### **Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
26/9/17	Coffee	ITBSU President
28/9/17	Lunch	ITTDSU President
17/10/17	TCDSU Fidget Spinner	TCDSU
21/10/17	Hotel Stay (Bed and Board)	TCDSU
24/10/17	Coffee	DITSU VP for Welfare



**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge**  
**Report of the Vice President for the Irish Language**  
*Laoighseach Ní Choistealbha*

**Key Points since last National Council**

1. Mórshiúl Náisiúnta AMLÉ: D'fhreastail thart ar 20,000 daoine ar an mhórshiúl náisiúnta, dé Chéadaoin an 4ú Deireadh Fómhair. Bhí rímead orm páirt a ghlacadh ann agus nascanna a chruthú le baill AMLÉ/USI *National Demo: around 20,000 people attended the national demonstration on Wednesday the 4th of October. I was delighted to take part on the day and also create new links and relationships with MOs of USI.*
2. Traenáil na gCumann: Ghlac mé páirt i dTraenáil na gCumann, a eagraigh Conradh na Gaeilge, agus fuair mé deis bualadh le Cumainn Ghaelacha ar fud na tíre. Tá súil agam go bhfaighidh mé deis obair go dlúth leo sa tsochaí. *I took part in the Societies Training organised by Conradh na Gaeilge, and I got the chance to meet with many different societies from around the country. I hope to work with them all closely soon!*

**USI Meetings/Events Attended**

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
18/09/2017	Cruinniú na Maidine, dé Luain <i>Monday Morning Meeting</i>	Phléigh bord na n-oifigeach imeachtaí na seachtaine agus na plananna do na laethanta a bhí romhainn. <i>The USI OB discussed the week's events and the plans we had for the coming days.</i>
22/09/2017	Cruinniú roimh Chomhairle Náisiúnta <i>Meeting before National Council</i>	Bhuail bord na n-oifigeach le chéile chun imeachtaí agus ceisteanna a phlé roimh thús an chomhairle. <i>OB met together to discuss events and questions before the beginning of the council.</i>

23/09/2017	Grúpa Oibre na Gaeilge <i>Irish Language Working Group</i>	Bhí mé mar chathaoirleach ar an chéad ghrúpa oibre na Gaeilge i mbliana. <i>I chaired the first Irish Language working group of the year.</i>
22-23/09/2017	Comhairle Náisiúnta, ITL <i>National Council, LIT</i>	D'fhreastail mé ar an Chomhairle Náisiúnta ar champas ITL. <i>I attended National Council on LIT campus.</i>
23/09/2017	Cruinniú na Míosa <i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Bhuail bord na n-oifigeach le chéile chun imeachtaí na deireadh seachtaine a phlé, agus chun plean a leagan amach don mhórshiúl náisiúnta. <i>OB met to discuss the events of the weekend, and to plan for the national demo.</i>
24/09/2017	Tuilleadh Pleanála don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta <i>Further Planning for National Demo</i>	Lean muid ar aghaidh leis an phleanáil ón oíche aréir. <i>We continued on with the previous evening's planning.</i>
30/09/2017	Réamh-mhórshiúl sa Chearnóg Tosaigh, Coláiste na Tríonóide, roimh Mhórshiúl ar son na Rogha. <i>Pre-Rally in the Front Square of Trinity College, before the March for Choice.</i>	Chuir mé fáilte roimh mhic léinn agus bhailigh mé ainmneacha do liosta ríomhphoist. <i>I welcomed students and collected names for a mailing list.</i>
03/10/2017	Cruinniú le Bord na nOifigeach <i>Meeting with OB</i>	An cruinniú deireanach roimh an mhórshiúl. Leagadh amach an plean aicsin don chéad lá eile agus tugadh ár dtrealamh dúinn. <i>The last meeting before the march. The plan was laid out for the next day and our equipment was given to us.</i>
04/10/2017	An Mórshiúl Náisiúnta <i>The National Demo</i>	Bhí bród orm siúl in éineacht le breis is 20,000 mic léinn eile chun ár gcearta oideachais a chosaint. <i>I was proud to walk alongside</i>

		<i>over 20,000 students in order to protect our rights to education.</i>
09-10/10/2017	Laethanta Léirmheasa do Bhord na nOifigeach <i>Review days for Officer Board</i>	Phléigh muid imeachtaí an mhí a bhí thart, agus na pleananna a bhí againn don mhí a bhí le teacht. <i>We discussed the events of the past month, and the plans we had for the coming month.</i>
10/10/2017	Léirmheas Ráithiúil <i>Quarterly Review</i>	Aiseolas ón Uachtarán maidir lenár n-obair go dtí seo agus na pleananna atá againn don bhliain. <i>Feedback from the President about our work and discussion of future plans.</i>

#### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
	Lá na gCumann <i>Socs Day</i> Coláiste San Aingeal, Sligeach <i>St. Angela's College, Sligo</i>	Chuidigh mé leis an Chumann Gaelach ar an lá. Chuir mé an mórshiúl chun cinn ar champas freisin - bhí cruinniú agam le Uachtarán an Chomhaltais, Aoife Deasy. <i>I helped out the Cumann Gaelach on the day and promoted the national demo on campus - I also had a meeting with the SU President, Aoife Deasy.</i>
21/09/2017	Cruinniú le Cónall Ó Córra, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, OÉ Gaillimh. <i>Meeting with Cónall Ó Córra, Irish Language Officer of NUI Galway.</i>	Ag an chruinniú seo, phléigh Cónall na pleananna a bhí aige don bhliain, agus thug mé comhairle agus smaointe dó maidir leis na pleananna a chomhlíonadh. <i>At this meeting, Cónall discussed the plans that he had for the year, and I advised him and gave him my thoughts on how best to put these plans in place.</i>

21/09/2017	<p>Cruinniú Skype le Alswyn Ní Aonghusa, Comhordaitheoir 3ú Leibhéal le Conradh na Gaeilge</p> <p><i>Skype meeting with Alswyn Ní Aonghusa, 3rd - Level Coordinator with Conradh na Gaeilge</i></p>	<p>Chuir mé glao ar Alswyn chun nuacht na seachtaine a thabhairt di - eolas maidir leis na cumainn a raibh mé i dteangmháil leo.</p> <p><i>I called Alswyn in order to pass on the week's news as regards the Irish societies that I had been in communication with.</i></p>
25/09/2017	<p>Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta, ITGM</p> <p><i>Publicity for National Demo, GMIT</i></p>	<p>Chuaigh mé go ITGM chun eolas a scaipeadh faoin mhórshiúl a bheadh ag tarlú. Labhair mé os comhair ranganna, dhíol me ticéid ar an seastán, agus bhí mé i mbun stocaireachta i measc na mac léinn.</p> <p><i>I went to GMIT to spread info about the national demo. I spoke in front of classes, I sold tickets at the stand, and I canvassed among students.</i></p>
25/09/2017	<p>Cruinniú le hUachtarán Chomhaltas na Mac Leinn, ITGM, Mark O'Brien</p> <p><i>Meeting with President of GMITSU, Mark O'Brien.</i></p>	<p>Phléigh muid ceist an Oifigeach Gaeilge sa Chomhaltas.</p> <p><i>We discussed the question of an Irish Officer in the Union.</i></p>
26/09/2017	<p>Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta, ITL</p> <p><i>Publicity for National Demo, LIT</i></p>	<p>Chuaigh mé ar champas ITL (Maoilis) chun an mórshiúl náisiúnta a fhógairt. Labhair mé le mic léinn agus bhí mé i láthair ar sheastán.</p> <p><i>I went on LIT campus (Moylish) in order to promote the national demo. I spoke to students and I womanned the stand.</i></p>
26/09/2017	<p>Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta, LSAD</p> <p><i>Publicity for National Demo, LSAD</i></p>	<p>Tar éis an seal a chaith mé ar champas ITL, chuaigh mé chuig LSAD chun bualadh leis an Chomhaltas ann, Ashling agus Ciara.</p> <p><i>After the spell I spent in LIT campus, I went to LSAD to meet with the SU there, Ashling and Ciara.</i></p>

29/09/2017	Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta, OCBÁC <i>Publicity for the National Demo, DCU</i>	Chuaigh mé ar champas OCBÁC in éineacht leis an Leas-Uachtarán do Chomhionannas agus Shaoránacht - rinne muid fógraí ranga agus chroch muid postaeir thart ar an champas. <i>I went onto DCU campus alongside the VP for Equality and Citizenship - we conducted class addresses and hung posters around campus.</i>
29/09/2017	Cruinniú le hAlswyn Ní Aonghusa, Comhordaitheoir 3ú Leibhéal, Conradh na Gaeilge - Baile Átha Cliath <i>Meeting with Alswyn Ní Aonghusa, 3rd Level Coordinator for Conradh na Gaeilge - Dublin.</i>	Phléigh muid Traenáil na gCumann agus na pleananna a bhí againn maidir le ceardlanna agus eile. <i>We discussed Traenáil na gCumann and the plans we had as regards workshops, etc.</i>
30/09/2017	Mórshiúl ar son na Rogha, Baile Átha Cliath <i>March for Choice, Dublin</i>	Shiúil mé le mic léinn agus teachtaí eile sa mhórshiúl. <i>I walked with students and representatives during the march.</i>
2/10/2017	Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta ar champas ITBAL <i>Publicity for the National Demo on AIT Campus</i>	In éineacht le baill an Chomhaltais, labhair mé le ranganna agus le mic léinn agus bhí mé i láthair ag an seastán. <i>With members of the SU, I spoke to classes and students and womanned the stand.</i>
03/10/2017	Poiblíocht don Mhórshiúl Náisiúnta ar champas OCBÁC <i>Publicity for the National Demo on DCU campus</i>	In éineacht leis an Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla, dhíol muid ticéid ag an seastán, agus labhair muid os comhair ranganna. <i>Alongside the VP for Academic Affairs, tickets were sold at the stand and we spoke in front of classes.</i>
10/10/2017	Cruinniú leis an Leas-Uachtarán d'Fheachtais <i>Meeting with the VP for Campaigns</i>	Phléigh muid na pleananna a bhí againn do Sheachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana. <i>We discussed the plans that</i>

		<i>we had for this year's Seachtain na Gaeilge.</i>
13-14/10/2017	Traenáil na gCumann	D'fhreastail mé ar Thraenáil na gCumann mar theachta d'AMLÉ. Bhuail mé le mic léinn agus cumainn éagsúla, agus chuir mé ceardlann ar fáil faoi chonas feachtas a eagrú. <i>I attended Traenáil na gCumann as a representative of USI. I met with students and societies, and I conducted a workshop about how to organise campaigns</i>
24/10/17	Moltóireacht ar Dhíospóireacht Chonradh na Gaeilge <i>Refereeing a debate in Conradh na Gaeilge</i>	In éineacht le beirt mholtóir eile, chuidigh mé maidir leis an fhoireann díospóireachta is fearr a roghnú a rachfas ar aghaidh do chraobh an Oireachtais. <i>Alongside two others, I helped as regards picking the best debating team that will go ahead to the Oireachtas tournament.</i>

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
26/09/2017	Tacsaí, Caife <i>Taxi, Coffee</i>	Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, ITL <i>LITSU</i>
26/09/2017	Tacsaí, Caife, Bunóg <i>Taxi, Coffee, Muffin</i>	Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, LSAD <i>LSADSU</i>
29/09/2017	Lón, Caife <i>Lunch, Coffee</i>	Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, OCBÁC <i>DCUSU</i>
14/09/2017	Lón <i>Lunch</i>	Conradh na Gaeilge

# NUS-USI President's Report |

## USI National Council

<b>Author &amp; Job title:</b>	OLIVIA POTTER-HUGHES, NUS-USI PRESIDENT
<b>Date Produced:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> October 2017

### Section 1 | NUS-USI Meetings & Events

Meeting/Event
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SUT+ - Queen's University Belfast – 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> NUS-USI Regional Council – NUS-USI Plan of work passed – Queen's University Belfast – 16<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• Meeting with Alan Chambers – Parliament Buildings - Stormont – 17<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• Meeting with Reclaim the Agenda – Trademark – Peace Wall Belfast – 21<sup>st</sup> August</li> <li>• NUS-USI meeting with Stakeholder public affairs regarding student TV licensing - 21 August</li> <li>• Meeting with Sinead Bradley – Parliament Buildings - Stormont – 23<sup>rd</sup> August</li> <li>• Meeting with NUS-USI International Students' Representative</li> <li>• NUS-USI Office Induction with Senior development &amp; campaigns advisor – Belfast – NUS-USI Office – 25<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• Partnership meeting with Alliance for Choice – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 25<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• NUS-USI REC Keeping You In Mind Campaign Meeting and Freshers Preparation – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 30<sup>th</sup> August</li> <li>• British Youth Council – London – 2<sup>nd</sup> September</li> <li>• NUS Democracy Reform meeting with Development Consultant James Robertson – Skype – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 4<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• South Eastern Regional College Freshers – Newtownards – 5<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• NUS-USI website and Keeping You In Mind Campaign meeting with Communications Executive Alison Hibben – 6<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• South Eastern Regional College Freshers – Lisburn - 7<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• South Eastern Regional College Freshers – Bangor – 8<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• NUS-USI Keeping You In Mind Campaign Meeting with NUS-USI Public Affairs and Campaigns Assistant Sarah Laverty – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 8<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Northern Regional College Freshers – Magherafelt – 11<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• North West Regional College Freshers – Strand Road – Derry/Londonderry – 12<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Northern Regional College – Ballymoney – 13<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• St. Mary's and Stranmillis Part-time Officer Training – St. Mary's University College – Belfast – 14<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Islands of Innovation Summit for British/Irish Young Leaders – Youth Action Northern Ireland – Belfast – 15<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Southern Regional College Freshers – Newry – 18<sup>th</sup> September</li> <li>• Integrated Education Fund Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week - seminar on the role of education in a post-conflict society – 20<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Metropolitan College Freshers – 21<sup>st</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rally Against the 2 Child Cap and Rape Clause – Causeway Exchange – Bedford Street – Belfast – 21<sup>st</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI Trustee Training – 21<sup>st</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI Trustee Board Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ulster University Freshers – Belfast – 25<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise Freshers – Enniskillen – 27<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS National Executive Council – Manchester – 28<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI provided insight at Department of Health Brexit event at NICVA – 28<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USI March for Choice – Dublin – 30<sup>th</sup> September</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USI Education Is Demo – Dublin – 4<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI attended Student Wellbeing Forum – Inspire – Belfast – 5<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Caoimhe Archibald – Stormont – 5<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – South Eastern Regional College – Lisburn – 10<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – Northern Regional College – Newtownabbey – 10<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – North West Regional College – Derry/Londonderry – 11<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – Southern Regional College – Portadown – 11<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – South Eastern Regional College – Lisburn – 12<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Society of Apprentices Roadshow – Southern Regional College – Greenbank – Newry – 13<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI Student Bloc at Rally for Choice – Belfast – 14<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI meeting with Anwar Mady of Belfast Islamic Centre on Shari'ah-compliant student loans – 18 October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trilateral Meeting – London – 20<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI attended a Northern Ireland Government Affairs Group Brexit event at the MAC theatre – 23 October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reclaim the Agenda meeting – Trademark – Belfast 23<sup>rd</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Belfast Metropolitan College President Ryan McNally – Belfast 25<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NUS-USI Student Governor Training – NUS-USI Office – Belfast 25<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Love Equality meeting with Student Leaders – LGBT Centre – Belfast – 27<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extraordinary Conference (to elect trustee) – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 27<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Council – NUS-USI Office – Belfast – 27<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with Gordon Lyons – Stormont – 30<sup>th</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March of the Mummies – Belfast – 31<sup>st</sup> October</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with the head of the European Commission – Belfast – 31<sup>st</sup> October</li> </ul>

### Overview/Additional

Since our first Regional Council, I have met with MLAs from the UUP, SDLP and Sinn Fein to discuss various issues such as:

The urgent need for restoration of devolved government to put in place budget and Programme for Government provisions to deliver:

- Fees being scrapped or remaining capped, and more investment in HE and FE
- Student financial support increasing on the basis of inflation
- A marriage equality bill
- A bill to deliver choice on abortion
- Progress to create a shared future and address unresolved legacy issues to deliver stability
- Safeguards and protections regarding the potential impact of Brexit

Objectives regarding the impact of Brexit:

- Guarantees on continued student mobility cross-border on the island of Ireland
- All EU citizens here must have the right to remain here
- Continued access to EU funding on teaching and learning
- No increases in fees for students studying on a cross-border basis
- All protections and rights within the 1998 Belfast Agreement must be retained

Other issues raised, Student Mental Health and need for increased funding in the sector.

NUS-USI attended 29 Freshers events:

SERC Newtownards Campus  
SERC Downpatrick Campus  
SERC Lisburn Campus  
SERC Bangor Campus  
NRC Magherafelt Campus  
NWRC Limavady Campus  
NRC Trostan Avenue Ballymena  
NWRC Strand Road Campus, Derry  
NRC Ballymoney Campus  
NRC Farm Lodge Ballymena  
SRC Newry West Campus  
SRC Armagh Campus Freshers: Lisanally Lane  
NRC Newtownabbey  
SRC Lurgan Campus  
CAFRE Greenmount Campus  
SRC Portadown Campus  
Belfast Met TQ Campus  
SRC Banbridge Campus  
SWC Dungannon  
UUSU Belfast Campus  
UUSU Jordanstown Campus  
UUSU Coleraine Campus  
QUBSU  
Stranmillis  
CAFRE Enniskillen Campus  
CAFRE Loughry Campus  
St Mary's  
QUBSU Hungry for change

NUS-USI also carried out two day mentoring training at Stranmillis,  
NUS-USI LGBT Committee training,  
NUS-USI Women's Committee training,  
UUSU senior reps training,  
Student Governor training,  
And NUS-USI Trustee Training.

NUS-USI is also engaging with the Student wellbeing forum – discussing the agenda of the student wellbeing conference which will be held in the new year. This forum will be useful in furthering the Keeping You In Mind Campaign.

I had the opportunity to speak at the USI Education Is Demo regarding student loans schemes and the detrimental impact that can have on a student's experience. Videos and images of the march and speeches can be viewed on USI's facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/USI.ie/>

I have attended two Reclaim the Agenda meetings to discuss the work being done by the women's sector and feed into the preparation for International Women's Day. Check out their facebook page to stay up to date with upcoming events (<https://www.facebook.com/ReclaimtheAgendaNI/>)

It has also been brought to my attention that some students have given negative feedback on their experience during Rally for Choice and I shall be looking into this issue and contacting relevant organizations.

## Upcoming

Other things in the pipeline include:

Exploring legislation to protect students unions.

An overview of the current state of FE SUs and democracy.

NWRC FE development project

Tuition fees and tertiary education funding policy document.

Upcoming meeting with Shadow Secretary of State.

Department for Education Governor Event.

National Society of Apprentices leadership team meeting.

Student Partnership Event.

USI Pink Training.

FEstival 2017.

16 Days of Action Against Domestic Violence

Reclaim the Night

International Women's Day

## Section 2 | Campaign Areas

Campaign	Overview of recent campaign work
Love Equality	NUS-USI LGBT Officer Conor Loughran represented NUS-USI as part of the Love Equality Coalition in a series of meetings with party leaders at Stormont.

LGBT Campaign	<p>A meeting has been arranged between Love Equality and Student's Union officers to provide an opportunity to learn about the campaign and how Student's Unions can become involved.</p> <p>NUS-USI will continue to work alongside Love Equality coalition to campaign for Marriage Equality in Northern Ireland and assist the LGBT Officer Conor Loughran in the LGBT Campaign.</p>
Alliance for Choice	<p>I am absolutely delighted to say that NUS-USI will be joining a coalition headed by Alliance for Choice to lobby for free, safe, legal and local abortion access in Northern Ireland!</p> <p>Alliance for Choice is an activist organization that campaigns for abortion rights in Northern Ireland, an end to the criminalization of women, an end to the harassment of women using the Marie Stopes Family Planning Association in Belfast and supports the Repeal the 8th Campaign and their sister organization, the Abortion Rights Campaign in Ireland.</p>
Reclaim the Agenda	<p>Reclaim the Agenda is a collective of women sector representatives, grassroots feminist activists, trade union activists and interested individuals who campaign on 6 key themes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To live free from poverty</li> <li>2. To live free from discrimination</li> <li>3. To have healthcare services that meet our particular needs</li> <li>4. To live our lives free from domestic and sexual violence and abuse</li> <li>5. To live in a society where women are equally represented as decision maker</li> <li>6. To have access to good, affordable and flexible childcare provision</li> </ol> <p>NUS-USI will continue work with Reclaim the Agenda and assist Women's Officer Hannah Rooney in the Women's Campaign.</p>
Women's Campaign	
NSoA NI - Apprentices	<p>The National Society of Apprentices works with more than 120 training providers and employers, representing over 150,000 apprentices from across all sectors and industries, across the whole of the UK.</p> <p>Following Freshers, I went on a week-long tour with NSoANI and met with 250 apprentices from NWRC, SERC, SRC and NRC to talk about issues faced by apprentices in Northern Ireland. Some NWRC apprentices will be joining the NSoA leadership team in Wales in the coming weeks, to become part of the UK wide apprentice representation</p> <p>NUS-USI will continue to work alongside the National Society of Apprentices and assist the representatives of the National Society of Apprentices in Northern Ireland and NUS Apprentice Engagement Officer in their work.</p>

FE SUs	<p>FEstival is fast approaching which will focus on providing training and support to FE officers. Student Governor training has taken place and collaboration is beginning to be initiated to work with FE SUs to further their work following the recent FE elections.</p> <p>NUS-USI is currently carrying out an overview of the current state of FE SUs and democracy, exploring legislation to protect students unions, and working with FE apprentices and the NSoA.</p> <p>NUS-USI will continue to lobby for better provisions for FE SUs in terms of staffing, support and the wider sector and assist the FE Officer Louise Meek with FE Campaigns.</p>
Legislation for SUs	<p>Continued lobbying for legislative protections for SUs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An official definition of what constitutes an SU</li> <li>• Provisions to ensure that all FE and HE institutions are legally obliged to have an SU</li> <li>• Provisions to ensure that all HE and FE institutions are legally obliged to fund their SU</li> <li>• Measures to ensure the democracy of each SU</li> <li>• Provisions to ensure the autonomy of all SUs</li> <li>• Measures to ensure that there are at least two student governor places on each governing body at FE and HE</li> <li>• Guarantees that SUs are consulted in their education institution's decision-making</li> </ul> <p>A collaborative conversation took place between USI, NUS-USI and NUS at the Trilateral meeting in London, around the current state of SU legislation across the movements. Arrangements are being made to continue to work together to further this endeavor in both NUS-USI and USI, with assistance from experience in NUS and across Europe. NUS-USI is also currently individually carrying out research work in this area and</p>
Brexit	<p>A NUS-USI Strategy Paper on Brexit has been produced, lobbying is ongoing with upcoming meeting with Shadow Secretary of State and the Head of the European Commission.</p> <p>We are also collaborating with USI and NUS to approach this from multiple avenues. A joint statement was issued at the Trilateral in London from the three national union presidents and is available on our website.</p>
Student Wellbeing – Keeping You In Mind	<p>NUS-USI intends to assemble a mental health resources database for Student's Unions to utilize and to provide extensive mental health services contacts for individual students in collaboration with the Health and Social Care Trust. These contacts can be found on our website, however as work is still in progress this campaign has not been officially launched yet and it is not yet user friendly.</p>

	Preparation is beginning around officially launching this campaign and providing this database for SUs in tandem with lobbying being carried out around student wellbeing and funding for the sector.
NUS-USI and Liberation	NUS-USI are extremely keen to increase attendance at our Liberation Conferences, NUS-USI Conference and the NI representation at NUS Conference. We are going to be doing a lot of work around encouraging students to become involved and general awareness of our organization.

#### Further Comment

Any campaigns or Plan of Work areas not listed above are as last reported due to the majority of time between this and the last Regional Council being dedicated to Freshers and the NSoA Roadshow.

### Section 3 | Media Engagement

MEDIA	Date	Author/Outlet
<b>NUS-USI BLOGS :</b> <a href="http://nus-usi.org/blog-archive/">http://nus-usi.org/blog-archive/</a>		
Personal Independence Payment – an unacceptable system	Posted Monday, September 4th, 2017	By NUS-USI Disabled Students' Officer, Richard Moorhead : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/04/personal-independence-payment-an-unacceptable-system/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/04/personal-independence-payment-an-unacceptable-system/</a>
An Inspiration: My LGBT Experience at Freshers	Posted Monday, October 16th, 2017	By NUS-USI LGBT Officer Conor Loughran : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/16/an-inspiration-my-lgbt-experience-at-freshers/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/16/an-inspiration-my-lgbt-experience-at-freshers/</a>
NUS-USI President's Speech for USI Education Is in the Red Demo	Posted Tuesday, October 24th, 2017	By NUS-USI President, Olivia Potter-Hughes : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/24/nus-usi-presidents-speech-for-usi-education-is-in-the-red-demo/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/24/nus-usi-presidents-speech-for-usi-education-is-in-the-red-demo/</a>
<b>NUS-USI PRESS RELEASES :</b> <a href="http://nus-usi.org/press-news/current-news/">http://nus-usi.org/press-news/current-news/</a>		
Belfast Pride	Posted Friday, August 18th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/18/belfast-pride-2/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/18/belfast-pride-2/</a>
Student Leader says students have many positive options irrespective of results	Posted Thursday, August 17th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/17/student-leader-says-students-have-many-positive-options-irrespective-of-results/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/17/student-leader-says-students-have-many-positive-options-irrespective-of-results/</a>

SUT Plus	Posted Friday, August 18th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/18/sut-plus/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/18/sut-plus/</a>
Student Leader says get careers advice after GCSEs to help make right choices	Posted Thursday, August 24th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/24/student-leader-says-get-careers-advice-after-gcses-to-help-make-right-choices/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/24/student-leader-says-get-careers-advice-after-gcses-to-help-make-right-choices/</a>
Share the gLove – GAA gloves launched to promote LGBT+ rights	Posted Saturday, August 26th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/26/share-the-glove-gaa-gloves-launched-to-promote-lgbt-rights/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/08/26/share-the-glove-gaa-gloves-launched-to-promote-lgbt-rights/</a>
Student movement and PSNI create student survival guide	Posted Thursday, September 14th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/14/student-movement-and-psni-create-student-survival-guide/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/14/student-movement-and-psni-create-student-survival-guide/</a>
Student Leader says apprentices must get paid for offsite training	Posted Monday, September 18th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/18/student-leader-says-apprentices-must-get-paid-for-offsite-training/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/09/18/student-leader-says-apprentices-must-get-paid-for-offsite-training/</a>
NUS-USI tours NI Freshers' fairs	Posted Tuesday, October 10th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/10/nus-usi-tours-ni-freshers-fairs/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/10/nus-usi-tours-ni-freshers-fairs/</a>
NUS-USI expresses solidarity with Bombardier staff and Unite and says protect apprenticeships	Posted Thursday, October 12th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/12/nus-usi-expresses-solidarity-with-bombardier-staff-and-unite-and-says-protect-apprenticeships/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/12/nus-usi-expresses-solidarity-with-bombardier-staff-and-unite-and-says-protect-apprenticeships/</a>
UK and Ireland student leaders condemn Brexit chaos in Northern Ireland at student summit	Posted Friday, October 20th, 2017	NUS-USI : <a href="http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/20/uk-and-ireland-student-leaders-condemn-brexit-chaos-in-northern-ireland-at-student-summit/">http://nus-usi.org/2017/10/20/uk-and-ireland-student-leaders-condemn-brexit-chaos-in-northern-ireland-at-student-summit/</a>
<b>NUS-USI IN THE MEDIA</b>		
£4.8m spent to educate Republic of Ireland students in NI	July 28 <sup>th</sup>	BBC News article By Robbie Meredith BBC News NI Education Correspondent : <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-40746153">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-40746153</a>
A-Level results: Girls cream of crop once again in Northern Ireland exams	August 18th	Belfast Telegraph article by Victoria Leonard : <a href="http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/alevel-results-girls-cream-of-crop-once-again-in-northern-ireland-exams-36043620.html">http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/education/alevel-results-girls-cream-of-crop-once-again-in-northern-ireland-exams-36043620.html</a>

NI bucks UK trend with improving GCSEs	August 24 <sup>th</sup>	BBC News article By Robbie Meredith BBC News NI Education Correspondent : <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-41031209">http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-41031209</a>
The NUS-USI Are Launching An Initiative To Promote LGBTQ+ Rights Through GAA Gloves	August 28 <sup>th</sup>	Campus.ie article by Clodagh McMeel : <a href="http://campus.ie/surviving-college/college-news/nus-usi-are-launching-initiative-promote-lgbtq-rights-through-gaa">http://campus.ie/surviving-college/college-news/nus-usi-are-launching-initiative-promote-lgbtq-rights-through-gaa</a>
With Rainbow-Coloured GAA Gloves, New NUS-USI Scheme will Promote LGBT rights	August 29 <sup>th</sup>	University Times Article by Matthew Murphy : <a href="http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/08/with-rainbow-coloured-gaa-gloves-new-nus-usi-scheme-will-promote-lgbt-rights/">http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/08/with-rainbow-coloured-gaa-gloves-new-nus-usi-scheme-will-promote-lgbt-rights/</a>
Derry twin sisters receive identical GCSE grades	August 30 <sup>th</sup>	Derry Now article : <a href="https://www.derrynow.com/news/derry-twin-sisters-receive-identical-gcse-grades/182488">https://www.derrynow.com/news/derry-twin-sisters-receive-identical-gcse-grades/182488</a>
Students should not be saddled with debt, says Minister	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	The Irish Times article by Carl O'Brien : <a href="https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/students-should-not-be-saddled-with-debt-says-minister-1.3243771">https://www.irishtimes.com/news/education/students-should-not-be-saddled-with-debt-says-minister-1.3243771</a>
It's Time for Historic Decisions, USI President Tells 6,000-Strong Crowd at Education March	October 4 <sup>th</sup>	University Times article by Dominic McGrath and Niamh Egleston : <a href="http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/its-time-for-historic-decisions/">http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/its-time-for-historic-decisions/</a>
NUS-USI President Interview with Q Radio RE: need to protect apprenticeships at Bombardier	October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Q Radio
Students Join 2,500 on Belfast's Streets, Demanding Abortion Reform	October 14 <sup>th</sup>	University Times article by Dominic McGrath and Kathleen McNamee : <a href="http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/student-s-join-2500-on-belfasts-streets-demanding-abortion-reform/">http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/student-s-join-2500-on-belfasts-streets-demanding-abortion-reform/</a>
Student Leaders Unite to Condemn Brexit 'Chaos'	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	University Times article by Matthew Murphy : <a href="http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/student-s-leaders-unite-to-condemn-brexit-chaos/">http://www.universitytimes.ie/2017/10/student-s-leaders-unite-to-condemn-brexit-chaos/</a>
Student leaders condemn Brexit 'chaos'	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	The Irish Times article by Simon Doyle : <a href="http://www.irishnews.com/news/educationnews/2017/10/21/news/student-leaders-condemn-brexit-chaos--1167802/">http://www.irishnews.com/news/educationnews/2017/10/21/news/student-leaders-condemn-brexit-chaos--1167802/</a>

End of report.

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**our site for students** | [www.nus-usi.org](http://www.nus-usi.org)