# Undiscussed Motions from Congress [pt. 2]

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### 13 AAQA 4 MIGRANT EDUCATION ACCESS

**Congress notes:**

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

**Congress also notes:**

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

**Congress believes:**

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

**Congress mandates:**

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

**Congress also mandates:**

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

## 16 WEL 3 USI Financial Representation Policy

Congress Repeals

Motions 15 WE 24, 15 AAQA 3, and 14 UO 5.

Congress Adopts

The proposed USI Financial Representation Policy

[Link here](http://usi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Financial-Representation-Protocol.pdf)

## 16 WEL 8 Organ Donor Cards

#### Congress Notes:

Organ donor cards are free but not widely available. Many students would be happy to donate their organs after death but do not have a card due to poor accessibility.

#### Congress Further Notes:

Many people die while waiting for organ transplants every day. By agreeing to donate organs, a tragic death can save up to five lives and provide consolation for the person’s loved ones. Between 200 and 250 lives were saved in Ireland by organ donations and if the number of people willing to donate organs rises, many more lives can be saved or improved.

#### Congress therefore Mandates:

The Vice President Welfare to run a mini informative poster campaign informing students about the benefits of organ donation and where to get Organ Donor Cards.

#### Congress further Mandates:

That the Vice President Welfare liaises with the Organ Donor’s Association and distributes organ donation cards to all SU offices by the end of April.

That during inductions for first years and incoming students, beginning in September 2016, that they receive an organ donor card in their welcome pack.

## 16 WEL 13 Gambling Awareness Campaign & Protocol

#### Congress affirms

Motion 15 WE 25 Gambling, which mandates the VP Welfare to “work with the relevant organisations to develop a campaign to inform students of the effects of gambling and recognising an addiction.”

#### Congress regrets

That, despite growing students’ union attentiveness to student gambling addiction, there is a lack of established protocol for students’ union officers for casework related to gambling addiction.

#### Congress therefore mandates

The VP Welfare to liaise with the relevant organisations to develop a protocol for students’ union officers to deploy in casework relating to gambling issues.

## 16 EQ 2 Decriminalisation of Drugs

### Proposed by VP Equality and Citizenship

#### Congress Notes

On July 17th 2015, USI National Council formally adopted a stance that called for USI to support a call for decriminalisation of drugs, with a view to taking a similar approach to the one in place in Portugal. Following the adoption of this stance, the VP Equality and Citizenship made a submission to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Justice, Defence and Equality as part of their Drugs Policy Review process.

#### Congress Notes

College is a time when many students are exposed to drugs. For many students, this exposure can happen at an even younger age. There is currently very little information being given to students at second or third level about drug consumption or risks. There is a culture of fear amongst wider society around talking about drugs in an informed and responsible manner.

#### Congress Also Notes

That if a student gets a conviction for personal use, this can have lifelong implications. It can prevent a student from accessing a visa to certain countries, a job which requires Garda vetting, certain types of insurance, and can impede them from availing of further education or training. A criminal conviction also limits an individual’s chances of social mobility, which results in them becoming dependent on the state.

#### Congress Further Notes

On July 1st 2001, Portugal decriminalised drug use, acquisition and possession of illicit drugs when conducted for personal use as part of a comprehensive new policy. This quantity of personal use amounted to up to 10 days’ supply for personal use. The policy also included a significant expansion in drug treatment, including methadone maintenance, to help dependent users get away from injecting heroin.

#### Congress Believes

There is a need for health professionals, parents and educators to acknowledge the fact that young people often engage in drug use, and at the very least will be exposed to drug use at some point in their lives. Drug use cannot be tackled by policy measures which are only aimed at controlling the supply of drugs. It is futile to only have supply reduction strategies in place of more cost-effective and evidence based investments in harm-reduction and education.

#### Congress Mandates

Officer Board to lobby for the decriminalisation of drugs in line with the Portuguese Model. USI should also lobby for investment into treatment and health facilities along with education about drug use and risk for young adults and those of school age.

## 16 NA 1 Electoral Commission

### Proposed by the Vice President for the Southern Region

##### Note that to pass into policy, this motion will require a two-thirds ‘supermajority’.

#### Congress Notes:

In Ireland there is currently no Electoral Commission.

#### Congress Further Notes:

That the establishment of an Electoral Commission was promised for the term of the 31st Dail , but wasn't established in the term of government.

#### Congress Believes:

That setting up an Electoral Commission allows for an Independent body outside government to recommend and submit strategies to improve the electoral turnout, and Voter Registration and educate on Electoral processes.

#### Congress Believes:

That it is in our Interest to see the establishment of the Electoral Commission during the term of the 32nd Dáil.

#### Congress Mandates:

The VP Equality and Citizenship with the assistance of Officer Board to lobby members of the Oireachtas and to establish the Electoral Commission in the term of the 32nd Dail

## 16 UO 1 Seanad Cultural and Educational Panel

### Proposed by BMW Committee

#### Congress notes

That the USI is not currently represented as a nominating body of the Cultural and Educational Panel of Seanad Éireann.

#### Congress recognises

The benefit of being a nominating body of this panel of Seanad Éireann would give USI additional lobbying strength, and encourage candidates to engage with USI.

#### Congress mandates

The President to apply to have USI added to the Register of Nominating Bodies of the Seanad Cultural and Educational Panel.

## 16 UO 5 USI Training Strategy

### Proposed by VP AAQA

#### Congress Adopts

The proposed USI Training Strategy.

[Link here.](http://usi.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Training-Policy-USI.docx)

## 16 UO 6 FE College SU participation

### Proposed by VP AAQA

#### Congress Welcomes

The nascent USI membership of a number of students’ unions from Further Education Colleges.

#### Congress Asserts

That for the national students’ union to be a truly legitimate representative for Ireland’s third level student population, many more such organisations must be assimilated into the organisation.

#### Congress recognises

That FE students’ union representatives are fulltime students, and face a number of significant challenges to participation in USI structures.

#### Congress Therefore Mandates

The President and the VP AAQA to request external funding from relevant bodies to support the participation of further education students within USI. This funding shall specifically be sought to cover costs such as fees for SUT, SUT+, participation in National Council and Congress, campaign materials, and related costs to both MOs and USI.

#### Congress Further Mandates

The VPAAQA to conduct an informal audit of USI structures with regards the participation of Further Education student representatives therein. Recommendations arising from this audit shall be presented to the June meeting of National Council for discussion.

#### Congress Also Mandates

The Regional Vice Presidents to actively campaign in their regions to recruit new Further Education representative organisations.

## 16 UO 7 Completion of Mandates

### Proposed by VP Equality and Citizenship

#### Congress Notes

There are a number of policies within the Policy Manual that have either passed their due completion date or have been completed.

#### Congress Further Notes

It can be very difficult to follow the Policy Manual which is not good for such a large organisation that seeks to be transparent in its operation.

#### Congress Therefore Mandates

When a mandate is completed it is to be noted as complete on the online version of the Policy Manual pending approval by National Council.

## 16 UO 8 USI Branding Guidelines

### Submitted by: Entertainment Committee

#### Congress Observes:

Branding identity embodies and communicates attributes that characterise the unique positioning of USI.

#### Congress Notes:

That branding guidelines therefore represents an indispensable investment in USI’s future, and like any investment it requires careful management to protect it and to allow it to grow in value. Branding guidelines ensure that all elements of identity are used in a consistent, considered and effective manner and add to the professionalism of USI.

#### Congress Further Notes:

The use of in-house graphic designers and outsourced graphic designers in designing and publishing documents and materials and the use of the USI logo by USI, students’ unions, and other relevant stakeholders.

#### Congress Mandates:

Officer Board to develop, and update when appropriate, clear branding guidelines to preserve the quality of the brand mark and to be adhered to by USI.

#### Congress Also Mandates:

Officer Board to make these branding guidelines accessible on the USI website.

## 16 UO 14 USI Union Development Vision 2020 Strategy

### Proposed by USI Vice President for Campaigns

#### Congress Re-affirms:

The role of the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) in empowering and enabling individual unions to better themselves, and the importance of this role in ensuring the longevity and growth of the student movement.

#### Congress Acknowledges:

Article 5.6.5 of the USI constitution “The VP/Campaigns shall have overall responsibility for the coordination of Union Development, in liaison with the President and in accordance with Schedule M.”, article 5.9.1 “The Vice President for the Southern Region, (hereinafter referred to as the VP/Southern) shall be responsible for Union development and liaison in their region. They shall also be responsible for the overall direction of the work of their region in conjunction with and reporting to the Officer Board.” and article 5.8.1 “The Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region, (hereinafter referred to as the VP/BMW) shall be responsible for Union development and liaison in their region. They shall also be responsible for the overall direction of the work of their region in conjunction with and reporting to the Officer Board.”

#### Congress Notes

The lack, heretofore, of a comprehensive, long-term strategy for Union Development with measurable, tangible goals and guidance for USI.

#### Congress Further Notes

The importance of having a strategy in place to guide the USI Vice President for Campaigns with the responsibility for Union Development and USI Vice President for the Southern Region, USI Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region and USI President.

#### Congress Therefore Repeals

* (15 UO 22) Strategic Planning
* (15 U0 34) External Review of USI
* (15 UO 34) Championing Strong Unions
* (14 UO 12) Championing Strong Students’ Unions
* (13 UO 1) On-Campus Training and Engagement
* (13 UO 6) Institutional Memory of USI
* (13 UO 11) USI Campus Crossover Tour
* (12 UO 17) Crossover Training
* (14 UO 14) Increased Support for Part-Time Officers
* (14 UO 17) Community Engagement
* (12 UO 6) Quality Review of USI
* (12 UO 8) USI Publication
* (12 UO 9) Promoting the USI
* (12 UO 14) Communicating with Membership
* (13 UO 7) Communication with Students
* (12 UO 21) Social Media Strategy
* (12 UO 16) Online Promotion and Web Development Strategy
* (11 UO 4) Finance Guide
* (10 UO 4) Campaign History
* (15 NA 3) Relationships with Trade Unions
* (13 UO 14) Affiliations Against Austerity
* (15 UO 17) Support a Coalition of Staff and Students in 3rd Level

#### Congress Adopts

The Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Union Development Vision 2020 Strategy

#### Congress Mandates the Vice President for Campaigns with responsibility for Union Development:

To both follow the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Union Development Vision 2020 Strategy and assist local officers in following through with its recommendations by disseminating the strategy at the start of the year and to continue throughout the year.

## 16 UO 15 Student Sport and SSI

### Proposed by Athlone ITSU

#### Congress Notes

That participation in sport can play an important part in the maintenance of good mental health.

#### Congress also notes

That sport tourism is playing an important role in the recovery of Ireland as a tourist destination.

#### Congress Observes

That currently the Union of Students’ in Ireland currently does not hold a position on the board of Student Sport in Ireland (SSI) formally CUSAI, the governing authority of the majority of student sports in Ireland.

#### Congress Mandates

That the Vice President for Welfare seek a position on the board of SSI before the end of 2016.

## 16 UO 17 Democratic Review

### Proposed by the Presidents’ Committee

#### Congress notes:

The Union of Students in Ireland makes every attempt to be as transparent and democratic as possible in its dealings.

#### Congress further notes:

Even with consistent effort procedures can sometimes be overlooked or ignored.

#### Congress mandates:

The President (who may delegate to a nominee) to establish a review group to carry out the following work:

1. Review the democratic procedures of the organisation including but not limited to:
   1. Officer Board elections
   2. Committee elections & nominations
   3. Oversight of all areas reviewed.
2. Consult with members of the reviewed committees on said committees’ operations.
3. Investigate to what extent the National Council is aware of such procedures.
4. If necessary to make a recommendation/series of recommendations to National Council on proposed reform to be subsequently submitted to Congress for debate.

## 16 UO 18 Promoting Candidates for USI

### Proposed by the Presidents’ Committee

#### Congress Notes

That all members of USI are eligible to run for election to USI Officer Board

#### Congress Further Notes

The positions on the Officer Board are predominantly sought by members of National Council and that grassroots members may not be adequately informed about the elections.

#### Congress Mandates

The Vice-President for Campaigns to work with students’ unions to ensure all members are informed of, and encouraged to participate in USI elections

## 16 UO 19 FE Representation

### Proposed by : CDCFESU

#### Congress Notes

The addition of many Further Education Colleges into the Union of Students of Ireland over the past few years.

#### Congress Applauds

Each USI Officer Board for helping to integrate the new Students Unions into the Union of Students in Ireland.

#### Congress Regrets

That with the addition of Further Education Colleges, there is no structured representation for FE Colleges.

#### Congress Mandates

Thhe USI VP for Academic Affairs and Quality Assurance to accept the responsibility of being a point of contact for Further Education Colleges alongside their other responsibilities.

## 16 AF 2 Living Wage

### Proposed by the President, USI

#### Congress recognises:

The definition of the living wage as “a wage which is high enough to maintain a normal standard of living.”

#### Congress recognises:

The value of leading by example and the existing motion 14 NA 1 which outlines our comprehensive policy on the issue.

#### Congress notes:

The work undertaken by various representative groups, including USI, and some employers to ensure that workers be paid the living wage in order to maintain a decent standard of living.

#### Congress further notes:

That USI has a number of staff and officers working full time for the organisation.

#### Congress mandates:

That USI becomes a living wage employer and that Officer Board encourages other Students’ Unions to do the same.

## 16 IL 2 Múineadh na Gaeilge

## 16 IL 2 Teaching of the Irish Language

### Molta ag an Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge

#### Aithníonn an Chomhdáil

Na fadhbanna fadbhunaithe maidir le múineadh na Gaeilge sna bunscoileanna agus iarbhunscoileanna.

#### Aithníonn an Chomhdáil chomh maith

An easpa dul chun cinn aontaithe nó gníomhach leis na fadhbanna seo a réiteach.

#### Cáineann an Chomhdáil

An tionchar diúltach atá aige seo, toisc nach bhfuil polasaí soléir deartha, a fheabhsódh teagasc na Gaeilge, agus gur féidir le lucht na Gaeilge a thacú agus a bhrú.

#### Sainordaíonn an Chomhdáil

Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge le taighde a stiúradh, i bpáirt leis na hAontais múinteoireachta, na heagraíochtaí Gaeilge , coláistí oideachais, idir dháltaí, mhúinteoirí, agus eile, agus comh-thuairisc a fhoilsiú, a leagfadh amach straitéas fórásach, cuimsitheach, agus iltaobhach i leith múineadh na Gaeilge sna bunscoileanna agus iarbhunscoileanna. Is gá é seo a dhéanamh roimh dheireadh 2016.

#### Congress notes

The long-term failures surrounding the teaching of Irish at primary and post primary level.

#### Congress further notes

The lack of a united and collaborative effort to find a solution to these failures.

#### Congress condemns

The impact that this has had, in the absence of clearly defined policy that would improve the teaching of Irish, and that the relevant Irish language and educational groups could support.

#### Congress mandates

VP for the Irish Language to direct a study, in collaboration with the relevant Irish language organisations and teachers’ unions, teacher-training colleges, between students, teachers, and others, and to publish a collaborative report, that would set out a progressive, comprehensive, and multilateral strategy regarding the teaching of Irish at primary and post primary level.

## 16 IL 4 Extension of the Official Languages Act to the private sector

### Proposed by NUI Galway Students’ Union

#### Congress notes:

The bi-lingual policy of USI.

#### Congress believes:

The promotion of the Irish language by USI and Irish language bodies like Conradh na Gaeilge etc. is integral to the status of the language.

#### Congress commends:

The Irish language schemes which promote the language In public services.

#### Congress acknowledges:

That the language schemes in Wales and Canada extend to private bodies as well as the public ones.

#### Congress mandates:

The VP Irish language to lobby the Minister for the Gaeltacht to extend the remit of the Official Languages Act to private bodies as well as public ones.

## 16 CZN 2 Students’ Unions Multicultural Festival

### Proposed by DITSU

#### Congress Notes:

That Ireland has become far more diverse and multicultural in the last 20 years.

#### Congress Further Notes:

That this promotes recognition, understanding and acceptance of people who come from different cultural backgrounds.

#### Congress Further Notes:

The importance of celebrating the many different cultures which have had a positive impact on Irish Society.

#### Congress Therefore Mandates:

That the VP for Equality and Citizenship and the VP for Campaigns, working with all the Equality Officers and/or Welfare Officers and the many different multicultural groups, institutions and organisations in Ireland to run an annual Students’ Unions Multicultural Festival which celebrates these many different cultures, and promotes the excellent opportunities available within all Students’ Unions.