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# OFFICER-BOARD REPORTS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

DECEMBER 2017 - ITSSU



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

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**PRESIDENT / UACHTARÁN**  
**MICHAEL KERRIGAN**  
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**Report of the President**  
**Tuairisc an Uachtarán**  
*Michael Kerrigan*

**Key Points since last National Council**

- *Technological Universities Bill,*
- *Students' Union Autonomy,*
- *Higher Education Funding,*
- *Policy Book Tracker,*
- *Voter Registration,*
- *Postgraduate Symposium,*
- *ESU Board Meeting 73,*
- *Pink Training 17'*
- *FEstival - NUS-USI.*

***Technological Universities Bill***

USI have been in consultation with the Department in Education on the TU Bill since 2014. We have made a considerable amount amendments and suggestions that have been taken on board, however, a number of amendments that were not.

We had these amendments submitted and discussed through several members of the Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills. We submitted 2 amendements on the functions of a technological University that have been moved to the report stage.

We submitted amendments on the number of student representatives on Governing Body and Academic Council, but these were thrown out as they were seen as a possible cost to the state and cannot be discussed at this stage of a bill. This is frustrating as the majority of student representatives do not receive payment for sitting on Governing Body or Academic Council.

We submitted an amendment to extend academic freedom to students, this was voting down due to it contradicting the IoT Act and the Universities Act. Our amendment on the definition

of a Students' Union was not passed, however we will be rewriting this amendment and will submit it through the Seanad.

We are concerned over amendment 51 that passed, which allows for a larger Governing Body when more than 4 institutions merge, but does not increase the size of Student Representation. We will be submitting amendments to this through the Seanad.

On a positive, the passing of amendment 49 which we discussed with the department will mean that although there will only be "at least 1, but not more than 2" student representatives on Governing *Body*, this number will be decided by the Students' Union.

### *SU Autonomy*

Since the Trilateral meeting in London, we have been using the Scottish framework for the development of strong and effective student associations as a basis for our proposal for a framework on Students' Union Autonomy.

Following meetings with the VP Campaigns, VP Academic Affairs and USI's solicitor, a meeting was arranged with the Department of Education. A broad outline of what we were looking for was discussed with department officials, who are happy to work with us on it and to try to include it in the Minister's plan of work for 2018.

I have since had a meeting with Sarah Lavery, Public Affairs & Campaigns assistant with NUS-USI to discuss how this framework could work, or be adapted to work for Students' Unions in Northern Ireland.

At the 73rd Board Meeting of the European Students' Union, USI hosted an open workshop on developing Students' Union autonomy. We received a lot of information from our European Colleagues and will be following up with many of them to discuss how their SU's work, especially around Students' Union legislation in Sweden and Germany.

We are currently drafting a paper for the department and will have this for discussion when the Independent SU committee meet before Christmas.

### *Higher Education Funding*

A meeting of the Coalition for Publicly Funded Higher Education took place on November 1st. The discussion included a review of Budget 2018, a review of the demonstration for Education, lobbying as a coalition, re-writing the coalition position paper and launching a general election manifesto.

From this, we have submitted a number of Parliamentary Questions (PQ) on clarifications from the budget announcement such as access measures, postgraduate funding, youth

employment scheme and a new internship scheme. We have also asked a PQ concerning the increase influence employers will have with the increase in the National Training Fund.

We are currently drafting a re-written position paper for the coalition as some of the information needs to be extended, there is also some information that is outdated.

Since the last National Council I have also spoken at the Right2Change conference, and given a workshop at the Labour Youth conference on higher education funding.

### *Policy Book Tracker*

I am working with Officerboard to ensure that our 314 page policy book is up to date, accessible and readable. This is taking much longer than anticipated but will be online before Christmas with policy code, policy Name, status, lead contact and comments all clearly outlines.

### *Voter Registration*

The work done by Students' Unions, societies and Officerboard around the country has been fantastic, registering 18,000 students to vote at such a critical time for students will give us a much stronger voice when meeting politicians and government officials.

I have also been working closely with SU Presidents to ensure that we had 23 local press releases sent as well as a national press release around the numbers. This should give Unions a stronger voice when meeting local politicians.

### *Postgraduate Symposium*

I have been working closely with the Vice-President for Academic Affairs on organising a postgraduate symposium in January. We met with the Minister of State for European Affairs, Helen McEntee, to discuss Brexit and European issues, and also to discuss possible funding from her department.

We have also met with the Department of Education about opening the event, possible funding and enquiring about hosing the event in the Department's Clock Tower Conference Centre. I have also discussed this event with the HEA's Graduate and Research Committee.

### *ESU Board Meeting 73*

Attending the ESU Board Meeting with the theme "Academia 2.0: Innovation, Entrepreneurship and linking networks" I have also held an open session on Students' Union Autonomy which I covered earlier. An update on the Board meeting will be given at National Council.

## *Pink Training 17*

The Vice-President for Equality and Citizenship put a huge amount of work to ensure that Pink Training was a huge success. My own involvement with the event involved, set-up and taking down of material, opening and closing the event, assisting with registration and handling any major issues which arose during the event.

I'd also like to thank NUI Galway Students' Union and GIGSOC who put in a huge amount of effort to ensure that the event was enjoyable and comfortable for delegates.

## *FEstival*

The Vice President for Academic Affairs and I attended NUS-USI's FEstival training event in Lorne House, Cultra, Co. Down. This is an area where USI is extremely under developed with a huge number of our membership who are frequently ignored. I delivered a presentation on the work of USI and also worked with SU officers from further education colleges on various workshops. Building USI's organisational capacity to work with further education students will be a priority for the rest of my term.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with USI Staff and Officerboard to look back on the previous week and discuss the week ahead
01/11/17	SU Autonomy Meeting	Meeting with the VP AA and VP Campaigns on next steps in SU Autonomy campaign
01/11/17	Irish Language Meeting	Meeting with the VP Gaeilge discussing Irish language mandates
01/11/17	SU Autonomy Meeting	Meeting with the USI Solicitor
03/11/17	National Council	National Council held in TCDSU

15/11/17	Campaigns sub committee	Discussed the next steps in the campaign for publicly funded higher education
17/11/17	SU Autonomy Meeting (Skype)	Meeting with Sarah Lavery, Public Affairs & Campaigns assistant with NUS-USI
17/11/17	OB Meeting	OB meeting to discuss the weekend ahead at Pink Training
17 - 19/11/17	Pink Training	Pink Training held by NUI Galway Students' Union
20/11/17	OB Meeting	Monthly OB Meeting to discuss the events of the previous month and planning ahead for the coming months
20/11/17	Further Education Meeting	Meeting the the VP Campaigns, VP AA and regional VPs to discuss how USI can better represent students in further education
21 - 22/11/17	FEstival - NUS-USI	Attended a 2 day training event in Cultra Co. Down for SU Officers from FE colleges in NUS-USI

#### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
31/10/17	HEA Training	Day long training on the role of a board member
01/11/17	Coalition for Publicly Funded Higher Education	Meeting with the coalition to discuss the budget, updating the coalition's position paper, actions ahead of a possible general election

04/11/17	Right to change conference	Spoke at the Right2Change conference about Higher Education Funding and USI's voter registration campaign
06/11/17	HEA Audit Committee	
07/11/17	HEA Research and Graduate Committee	
07/11/17	HEA Finance and Governance Committee	
08/11/17	DITSU Council	Gave updates to DITSU Council on the work of USI
08/11/17	NCI Affiliation referendum	Assisted the VP Dublin in the highly successful USI referendum in NCI Students' UNION
11/11/17	Labour Youth Conference	Gave a workshop on Higher Education funding to the annual Labour Youth Conference in Portlaoise
13/11/17	NStEP Network Launch	Attended, and spoke at the launch of the NStEP network in CIT
14/11/17	Department of Education	Myself and the VP AA met with government officials to discuss the TU Bill, Postgraduate and International fee regulation, a student charter, Students' Union Autonomy and our upcoming postgraduate Symposium
15/11/17	Future of Europe Launch	Attended the Launch of #FutureOfEurope with the VP AA which was an open dialogue with the Taoighseach, the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Minister of State for European Affairs. We also had a quick discussion with



		the Minister of state for European Affairs, Helen McEntee following up from our meeting last month
15/11/17	MSU Upskills Week	Attended MSU Upskills week to host a session on my journey to my position now
25/11-05/12/17	ESU Board Meeting 73	Attending the 73rd European Students' Union Board Meeting in Jerusalem. Also hosting a session on Students' Union Autonomy

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT / TANAISTE  
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## **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:**

- *Pink Training 2017, NUI Galway*
- *High Level Group on International Education*
- *Students For Choice*
- *Headstuff*
- *NWCI Femfest Conference*
- *USI Women's Network Gathering*
- *16 Days of Action against GBV*
- *World AIDS Day*

### ***Pink Training 2017, NUI Galway***

A significant amount of my time since the last National Council was in the planning, preparing, and organising of Pink Training 2017, in NUI Galway, including the registration process for delegates, catering, entertainment plans, accommodation, modules, communication with speakers, booklet content, materials and tshirts, etc.

I want to genuinely thank NUIGSU for pulling out all the stops in their commitment and resources put into this event, and to the leadership and volunteers provided by GIGSoc throughout the weekend.

A full report regarding Pink Training will be circulated at next National Council, to allow for the gathering of feedback from participants, and for Equality & Citizenship working group feedback.

The event featured 30 speakers with between 8 and 10 workshops an hour, expanding again on what was delivered last year, along with the management of Ice breaker leaders, delegate leaders, and SU Support Officers. It was an immense task but an incredible weekend. I look forward to presenting the report at the next NC.

### *High Level Group on International Education*

I attended the 2nd meeting of the year of the HLG on International Education, with key stakeholders across Departments, the HEA, ICOS, and Enterprise Ireland. The words 'markets' and 'consumer' were iterated far more than the word 'Student' and myself and others contributed in particular on the issues of Visas (and students not able to get home for Christmas), the lack of/price of Student Accommodation, and also highlighted the concerns around health insurance, once again. The key argument central to the meeting itself was regarding the visa issue, where the Dept. of Justice and Equality were under pressure regarding the visa wait times and how this was affecting not only students considering Ireland as an option for study, but also current international students' ability to be mobile.

### *Students for Choice*

- **HLG:** Significant work is underway by USI and other key stakeholders regarding strategy ahead of the Referendum regarding the 8th amendment. We will be holding joint press conferences and strategising with other groups around the work with the Joint Oireachtas Committee, as well as sharing information and resources regarding regional trainings and development of groups in colleges.
- **STACS SU:** A referendum was held on 23rd of November in St. Angela's college Sligo, and myself and the VP for the BMW Region attended the campus to assist the student-led campaign on the ground. Polls opened at 9.30 and closed at 9.30, finishing with 20% turnout of online voting and an 83.3% 'Yes' response to the SU campaigning with a pro-choice stance to repeal the 8th amendment. Incredible result.

### *Headstuff Takeover*

I was approached by the organisation 'Headstuff' to do a Twitter takeover of their account over the weekend of the 4th and 5th of November. I used the opportunity to push out the USI campaign 'Get Regd' on National Voter Registration, among other student issues.

### *NWCI Femfest Conference*

It was incredible to be asked to address the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) Femfest event, aimed at empowering young women and girls between 16-25. I spoke as part of a panel with Eileen Flynn (Irish Traveller Movement) and Vanessa Lacey (TENI) speaking about our leadership journeys. I also ran two afternoon workshops with a TCD Student

regarding 'Diversity and Leadership' and I was truly inspired by the young women in attendance - they taught me a LOT.

### ***USI Women's Network Gathering***

Separate to Femfest, myself and the VP Campaigns and the VP Dublin region attended a gathering of the USI Women's Network, organised by the first ever female President of the USI, Trish Hegarty. The gathering was both formal and informal in part - we discussed how to support one another and share expertise, as well as network. We will meet again in the New year. It was incredible, inspiring, and really refreshing to hear the stories of previous USI occupations (of various Departments and Fianna Fáil Mount Street offices) as well as the practicalities and politics of student movement life across Ireland in previous years, and in particular we discussed activism on abortion rights for women in Ireland, a campaign led by the student movement in the late 80's and 90's, in which student activists went above and beyond to ensure information was accessible and that anyone pregnant who required an abortion was looked after both by their SU here in the state, but also in co-operation with our colleagues in NUS UK.

It became very clear just how crucial the Students' Union voice has been in leading this debate, and how much we need to ensure we are heard regarding the repeal of the 8th amendment.

### ***16 Days of Action against GBV***

USI partnered with the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre (DRCC) on launching the UN 'Orange the World' initiative as part of the first day of the 16 days of Action against Gender based violence in Ireland. The initiative has turned two prominent city centre locations 'orange' - the Mansion House and Dublin City Hall. GBV stands for Gender Based Violence.

### ***World AIDS Day***

As part of World AIDS day work, we will be hosting a fundraiser for a HIV related charity or organisation on Thursday December 7th, as part of our official Pink Training Reunion party with Prhomo Dublin.

I am also speaking on an 'Intergenerational Dialogues' panel in Maynooth University on Thursday the 30th of November, giving perspectives on the USI campaign with ActUp on access to Prep in Ireland.

The VP for Welfare will ensure information is circulated online on World AIDS Day, which is December 1st.

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

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with USI Staff and Officerboard to look back on the previous week and discuss the week ahead
03/11/17	National Council	National Council held in TCDSU
15/11/17	Campaigns sub committee	Discussed the next steps in the campaign for publicly funded higher education
16/11/17	Pink Training Packing Day	
17/11/17	OB Meeting	OB meeting to discuss the weekend ahead at Pink Training
17 - 19/11/17	Pink Training	Pink Training held by NUI Galway Students' Union
20/11/17	OB Meeting	Monthly OB Meeting to discuss the events of the previous month and planning ahead for the coming months
27/11/17	Monday Morning Meeting	Chaired in the President's absence. Discussed plans for the week.
30/11/17	'Intergenerational Dialogues: HIV and Activism'	Speaker as part of a Panel discussion, USI in partnership with ACTup Dublin, Media Studies in Maynooth & The Irish Queer Archive

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
4/11/17	Steering Committee - Coalition to Repeal the 8th Amendment	As members of the Coalition, I provide updates of USI's work in relation to repeal, and hear from other groups

		as well as feeding back on strategy and events
7/11/17	LGBTI+ Strategy: Outcome 5 SubGroup	Meeting with BelongTo, NYC and LGBT Helpline regarding recommendations from the Outcome 5 subgroup (Connected and Respected) to the DCYA (Dept of Children and Youth Affairs)
13/11/17	HLG Repeal	Startegy Meeting
13/11/17	HLG Repeal	Startegy Meeeting 2
20/11/17 [Evening]	Irish Family Planning Association [Board]	
22/11/17 [Morning]	LGBTI+ Youth Strategy / Inst. of Chartered Accountants Dublin	Steering committee meeting with Mazars Consultants regarding outcome areas, progress and feedback (½ day session)
22/11/17 [Evening]	ITCSU Students for Choice Meeting [Plenary Address]	Closing speaker to 'Students for Choice' gathering, spoke about the history of the student movement and repeal
23/11/17 [Full Day]	Referendum (STACS SU): Repeal Stance	Successful referendum, 83.3% in favour of repeal the 8th
24/11/17	Campaign Updates Strategy	Meeting with the VP for Campaigns regarding Students for Choice strategy
25/11/17 [Saturday]	Femfest [Plenary Address & Workshops]	Addressed the assembly of NWCi (National Women's Council of Ireland) Femfest and led workshops on leadership
25/11/17	DRCC/UN 'Orange the World' [Photocall, City Hall]	Gathered at the lighting of Dublin City Hall as part of the DRCC initiative for 16 days of Action against Gender Based Violence

26/11/17	USI Women's Network Gathering	Organised by Former President of USI, Trish Hegarty - gathering of women who were past officers of USI Officer board and also former officers of SUs affiliated to USI. We had dinner together and discussed creating a support network.
27/11/17	HLG on International Education	Meeting with key stakeholders regarding the Government's International Education strategy. I raised issues relating to visa access (or barriers) as well as health insurance problems and access and price of student accommodation.
28/11/17	WITSU Class Rep Council	Presented the USI Update
30/11/17	Regional Group Meeting Update	Meeting with key stakeholders along with VP Campaigns regarding regional developments relating to Repeal the 8th Campaign

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
3/11/2017	Glazed Offbeat Donut	IADTSU VP Welfare
19/11/17	GigSoc Sweatshirt	GigSoc, NUIG

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



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

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

### ***Education Campaign***

I've been working on the campaign with the VP Campaigns, who has put a lot of effort into making this a success. I worked with the General Manager to design the new USI Study Planner, and I really hope that you all like it when it arrives to your SU! The Planners focus in on the issue of procrastination, and we've really gone with a theme during the campaign of keeping your brain active between study sessions. The Roadshows will visit GMITSU and DITSU in December, and we'll reopen to interest from SUs for the January exams soon. The VP Welfare and the Mental Health Project Manager have also been working with Jigsaw to bring them on the Roadshow, and to provide materials, as we felt it was important to demonstrate how education and welfare issues go hand-in-hand.

### ***NStEP Developments***

The future of NStEP has been a key focus for me over the past months, and a proposal paper that I have been working on will go to the Partners for consideration on December 7th. We also launched the National Student Engagement Network, of which I am the chairperson, in CIT. Thanks to CIT and CITSU for hosting us. The aim of the Network is to bring together those working in student engagement and partnership, to develop thinking around best practice, and to really guide the work of NStEP in future. The next Network event will potentially be around April.

### ***Further Education and Training***

From my last report you will have noticed that I met with the ETBI, who were incredibly keen to work with USI. Since then I have been developing a project proposal for a partnership between the two organisations, so that USI can begin to rectify the issues it faces around representing FET, and that we can work to develop effective student voice in that sector with the ETBI. I also met with the USI President, Regional VPs, and the VP Campaigns to discuss the project and how we can best structure it.



Myself and the USI President also attended NUS-USI's FEstival in Lorne House, Cultra, County Down. It was the first time USI had been there in some time, and considering that the student leaders there represent a significant chunk of our membership, it can't be the last time either. We worked with the Officers during various workshops, building links and relationships. I also found it an important opportunity to talk to FE staff members on how best to engage the student voice in the sector.

### *Postgraduate Students*

It has been difficult to get the Postgraduate Representation Network going, due to a combination of a lack of nominees and difficulty in getting in contact with nominees. I hope to get in contact with the nominees before Christmas to arrange some form of meeting if they are interested.

I have also been planning a Postgraduate Symposium for late January. Myself and the USI President have been in discussion with Minister for European Affairs, Helen McEntee, to host a panel on Brexit and European issues. We have also been in discussion with the Department for Education and Skills about Minister for Higher Education, Mary Mitchell O'Connor, speaking at the event and about hosting it in the Department's Clock Tower Conference Centre. We're under pressure now to get the Symposium off the ground, but I am hopeful that we will be able to circulate a date soon.

### *Meeting with Department for Education and Skills*

The USI President arranged a meeting with Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor, that we were both to attend. Unfortunately a vote was called in the Dáil as we arrived. We instead met with the Minister's Private Secretary and a Senior Policy Adviser with the Department. We raised a number of issues, and extended an invite to the Minister to attend the PG Symposium. We raised the need for international and postgraduate fee regulation as a minimum standard, noting the USI mandate from two Congresses back. We discussed that this has been an ongoing issue for years, and that the Trinity case this year was just the tip of the iceberg. They were receptive to looking into this issue.

We also raised the need for a National Student Charter, but creating one in a way that is innovative, in partnership, and moves away from the traditional model of a Charter. The USI President also raised SU autonomy and the example of the Scottish Framework. The Department were receptive to investigating including this work, bringing together stakeholders, in the January annual plan of work for the Minister.

### *Brexit Symposium*

I was invited to give a speech to a Brexit Symposium organised by SIPTU and Impact, and sit on a panel about the freedom of movement of people. It's my intention to begin to develop

some resource around student issues, especially as Brexit comes closer and answers seem further away.

### **ESU BM73**

A lot of my free diary time has been taken up by organising our delegation to the Board Meeting in Jerusalem. I will give a verbal report on the BM and I am currently considering how best to communicate our membership of ESU in future.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
2/11/2017	Meeting with VP Campaigns	Meeting to discuss the national education campaign.
3/11/2017	National Council	Hosted by TCDSU. I didn't hold a PG Affairs WG due to time constraints.
7/11/2017	Call with VP Southern Region	To discuss ESU BM73
13/11/2017	Meeting with USI President	Planning meeting agenda for Minister Mitchell O'Connor.
15/11/2017	Campaigns Sub-Committee	Review of the national campaign and planning for all eventualities when the Joint Oireachtas Committee make their report, and the subsequent decision of the Cabinet.
17/11/2017	Officerboard Meeting	Pre-meet before Pink Training
17/11/2017 - 19/11/2017	USI Pink Training	Assisted the VP Equality and Citizenship and the rest of OB in ensuring the event ran smoothly and everyone had fun!
20/11/2017	Officerboard Meeting	All day reviewing the previous month and planning ahead
20/11/2017	Further Education and Training Meeting	Meeting with USI President, VP Campaigns, and Regional VPs on proposal to ETBI

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
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31/10/2017	Assessment Symposium: Challenges and Enablers of Change	Symposium hosted by the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning (NFETL) with a number of diverse speakers and presentations. I was listed as a speaker providing the student voice, and was invited to respond to presentations. The work of the Forum is invaluable to improving pedagogy in Ireland, and the input of USI is one of valued partnership. Thanks to the VP Educations for WITSU, TCDSU, and QUBSU for also attending and giving such strong input to the day.
1/11/2017	HLG Subgroup 2 (International Education Strategy)	Subgroup considering a strand of the International Education Strategy, focusing on scholarships and funding for academics.
2/11/2017	NStEP Partners Meeting	Meeting on the work of NStEP, including review, planning ahead, and especially focusing on the future of the programme and planning the National Student Engagement Network Launch.
3/11/2017	QQI Board	Attended the Board meeting, meaning I had to miss a part of National Council. This was the last meeting of the current membership.
4/11/2017	Right2Change Conference	Assisted the President on the day.
7/11/2017	HLG Subgroup 1 (International Education Strategy)	Subgroup focused on “a national framework”. The meeting considered progress to date, and both ICOS and ourselves raised some concerns on information provision to international students, especially on healthcare. The group is also considering the development of the International Education Mark, which I think could act as a national charter for defending the rights of international students.
7/11/2017	NARC Skype	NARC (Non-Aligned Random Countries) of ESU regularly keep in contact about European issues and how best to work together. We discussed the upcoming BM.
8/11/2017	Call with ITSSU VP Education	Discussed some very innovative ideas and campaigns that ITSSU are considering.

8/11/2017	DITSU Student Council	Attended the Council meeting with the USI President and VP Dublin.
9/11/2017	QQI Consultative Forum	The Consultative Forum brings together stakeholders to inform the QQI's work. USI did not nominate to the Forum last time, approximately 2 and a half years ago. I found the Forum very useful in engaging with potential allies, and for ensuring the QQI is aware of our agenda.
13/11/2017	Launch of National Student Engagement Network	Chaired the inaugural Network, and was very pleased with the result. There was really significant engagement from students and staff on how to best develop and foster student engagement and partnership in Ireland.
14/11/2017	NStEP Project Team Meeting	Meeting of Project Team leads on the 5 Projects. Discussion centred on how to begin the work of the Projects. I also volunteered my time to support the work of the Groups where possible.
14/11/2017	Call with ITCSU President	Discussed upcoming BM73
14/11/2017	Call with DITSU VP Education	Discussed key priorities at the moment and areas of collaboration and support. Also discussed upcoming Roadshow.
14/11/2017	Call with GMITSU VP Education	Discussed key priorities at the moment and areas of collaboration and support. Also discussed upcoming Roadshow.
14/11/2017	Meeting with staff from Department of Education and Skills, on behalf of Minister Mary Mitchell-O'Connor	The Minister could not meet with us due to a last minute vote called in the Dáil. Myself and the USI President met with the Private Secretary and a Senior Policy Adviser
15/11/2017	#FutureOfEurope Dialogue Launch	Myself and the USI President attended the launch of the dialogue process. I also took the opportunity to speak with the Minister for European Affairs on the upcoming Postgraduate Symposium.
16/11/2017	Department for the Economy (Northern Ireland) event on Student Partnership	Attended on the invite of NUS-USI, alongside the NStEP Coordinator and the Intern. We presented on the work of USI and NStEP. This partnership event was very important to

		develop thinking on student engagement and on the need for a regional body like NStEP.
21/11/2017 - 22/11/2017	FEstival Training event (NUS-USI)	Event detailed above. Many thanks to NUS-USI for the invite.
23/11/2017	ISSE Plenary Group	The Plenary Group considered the launch of the National Report, and especially focused on the online availability of institutional data. This will be an important step in recognising the value of the the survey. We also discussed the need to promote student engagement further.
24/11/2017	Impact and SIPTU Brexit Symposium	Event detailed above. Held in Letterkenny, in the Mount Errigal Hotel.
25/11/2017 - 2/12/2017	European Students' Union 73rd Board Meeting	A verbal update will be given at National Council. We are being hosted by the National Union of Israeli Students (NUIS) in Jerusalem. We will also attend an event in Ramallah, Palestine. It is being hosted by the Danish National Union (DSF) and we will meet with the Palestinian Student Council Forum.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
3/11/2017	A very delicious donut from OffBeat	IADTSU VP Welfare
24/11/2017	A gift bag from IMPACT and SIPTU	IMPACT/SIPTU

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**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**

- ASRA
- Chemsex Training
- Mental Health
- Sexual Health
- Wellbeing Month
- Video Doc
- Alcohol Bill

## **ASRA**

Myself and the USI housing executive met with ASRA which is the Association for Student Residential Accommodation which deal with both the public and private sector.

At present ASRA in the U.K work with Unipol which run a number of accreditation schemes and train and promote best practice in student housing. ASRA in Ireland are hoping to create a version of these here for codes of practice surrounding student accommodation that will hope to safeguard and create minimum standards of accommodation for students.

## ***Chemsex Training***

Aids West offered a full days training on Chemsex. Chemsex is deem to be sexual activity which is engaged in while under the influence of drugs such as “G”(GHB) -  $\gamma$ -Hydroxybutyric acid  $\gamma$ -Hydroxybutyrate, “M”, Mephedrone/Methamphetamine and/or “T” (Tina/Crystal Meth).

It gave great insight into how these drugs are used, cause and effect and understanding around how Chemsex has become more popular in recent years.

There is not much information on Chemsex in Ireland so I felt it was important to gain as much knowledge as possible in dealing with health issues.

## ***Mental Health***

**Research** - At the moment we have our first draft of our survey which we will be launching for the chats for change roadshow starting January 29th. It is an extensive piece of research and

has been sent to various interest bodies such as the PCHEI to ensure we cover many areas to reap as much information as possible which we can then identify key areas around mental health difficulties that students are facing.

### *Student Support cards*

Student support cards have been redesigned and have an extra version added this year, with a card with Northern Ireland supports specifically being designed alongside a card with helplines active in the Republic of Ireland. They have been printed and will be disseminated to each MO at National Council in Sligo.

### *Mental Health Strategy*

USI passed a Mental Health Strategy in 2014 which was created at the time by the VP Welfare with consultation from other Welfare officers.

Myself and the Mental Health Project Manager have drawn up ideas of how to redraft it with up to date information and actions that reflect the current scope within mental health on 3rd level campuses.

### *Dear First Year Me*

Along with the Mental Health Project Manager and VP Campaigns, have designed a campaign to gather stories from students on what they would say to themselves when they first began their journey into 3rd level.

The transition into 3rd level is a dramatic change in anyone's life, which some find difficult to adjust to. The aim is to make a collection for Fresher students of these letters and stories as part of their welcome to college life.

### *Training*

We ran our second ASIST Training of this year which was hosted by DCUSU on November 23rd/24th. This is our 6th Session of Mental Health Training with four Mental Health First Aid courses ran and two ASIST this year.

### *Sexual Health*

- *World AIDS Day*: To highlight World Aids Day which falls on December 1st we will be disseminating information on Aids and HIV, statistics in Ireland and information on #knowyourstatus which is a campaign pushed out by the HSE also, on highlighting the importance of getting yourself tested for HIV.
- *S.H.A.G Week* - Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week is taking place on February 12th and travelling to 4 locations for the SHAG Week Roadshow. The SHAG packs have been redesigned also and will have extra interactive aspects on the roadshow. The HSE are coming alongside us, bring Johnny's got you Covered and at the launch also with condoms and lubricant.

## *Wellbeing Month*

Beginning on January 29th we will be kicking off USI's first ever Wellbeing month with:

Chats for Change	January 29th - February 2nd
Healthy Living	February 5th - 9th
S.H.A.G Week	February 12th - 16th
Alcohol and Drugs Awareness	February 19th - 23rd

February incorporates two Roadshows - Chats for Change Mental Health Campaign and Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week. Healthy Living and Alcohol & Drugs Awareness will be information campaigns based on our online platforms.

Chats for Change will see a collaboration with Please Talk and St. Patrick's Mental Health where we will visit a campus each day together and will be conducting our mental health research piece which will be accessible online for all students. We will be creating a chill out space for students to relax, and take time to have a chat and some tea and get some information on support services also.

Healthy Living Week will be looking at wellbeing as a whole, including aspects of physical health, managing stress, food and looking after your health and self day to day.

Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance Week will also be visiting a campus each day, with Johnny from Johnny's got you covered kicking off the week with us. The "*Johnny's got you covered*" street team will also be on the roadshow with us and we will be giving out condoms and lube all week as well as information on Contraception, STI's and Consent.

The last week in our wellbeing month will be focused on awareness on drugs and alcohol, where we will release factual information each day on the effects of a particular drug or alcohol.

## *Video Doc*

Video Doc is an online G.P service which is accessible through your phone or PC, through an App or desktop version. It gives patients access to G.P services from wherever they are and the current wait time to see a GP is under 10 minutes. We have been negotiating closely with them to work together during our wellbeing month to give students access to this healthcare online where they may be away from home or on work placement in another town or city.



## ***Alcohol Bill***

After facing much opposition from vinters and publicans and even some TD's the bill finally made it through the committee stage of the Seanad which has been waiting since 2015. The bill includes measures such as minimum pricing, restrictions on advertising and supply and sales. Since the Alcohol Bill has been waiting since 2015, an estimated further 2,000 lives have been lost to alcohol-related illnesses, over 100,000 children have commenced drinking and alcohol remains a factor in half of all suicides in Ireland.

USI has a mandate to support the Alcohol Bill in full with many students affected by alcohol in Ireland.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly updates and Plans with USI OB & Staff.
31/10/2017	Accommodation Survey	Meeting with Housing Exec
01/11/2017	Chats for Change Update	Meeting with Mental Health Project Manager
03/11/2017	National Council	TCDSU
08/11/2017	Sexual Health & consent Workshop	CIT
08/11/2017	Voter Reg	CIT
14/11/2017	ITBSU Mental Health Week	Assisted VP Welfare in Tea/Coffee Morning.
15/11/2017	Campaigns Sub-Committee	USI HQ
17/11/2017	Pink Training	NUIGSU
18/11/2017	Pink Training	NUIGSU
19/11/2017	Pink Training	NUIGSU
20/11/2017	All day Officer Board	USI HQ
22/11/2017	Accommodation & Finance Guide	Meeting with Housing Exec & VP Campaigns on edits for

		guide
22/11/2017	Self Care Workshop	Workshop to 4th year students on burnout and self care. -ITT.
23/11/2017	Road Safety Briefing	ITTSU

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
07/11/2017	HSE Sexual Health and Crisis Pregnancy Programme	HSE - Capel St
09/11/2017	CSSI Board Meeting	Confederation of Student Services Ireland - TCD.
10/11/2017	Chemsex in Ireland Training	Training on the affects of drugs used for sex.
13/11/2017	Homeless Initiative	Meeting with Liam Carnew on fundrasing for homeless charities.
16/11/2017	Video Doc	Meeting with CEO Video Doc on collaboration with USI.
23/11/2017	St.Vincent de Paul Fashion Show	Attended show raising money for students in difficulty.
28/11/2017	Video Doc Briefing	Meeting with VP Campaigns & PR Exec on online doctor service
28/11/2017	Video Doc	Meeting with Video doc - online doctor service with VP Campaigns & PR Exec
28/11/2017	Open Forum on the 8th Amendment	Trinity College Dublin.

29/11/2017	SUSI IGPS Steering Group	Meeting on the SUSI Integrated Grants Processing System.
29/11/2017	HSE Sexual Health Communications & Crisis Pregnancy Steering Committee	Met with other interest groups and HSE on roll out of new HSE Sexual Wellbeing Website

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
03/11/2017	Copious amounts of Monster Energy Drink	CITSU Welfare
03/11/2017	Off- Beat Donut	IADTSU Welfare
14/11/2017	Lunch	ITBSU
23/11/2017	Coffee, Dinner, Accommodation & Event Ticket	ITTSU

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR CAMPAIGNS**  
**AMY KELLY**  
**CAMPAIGNS@USI.IE**



**Report of Vice President for Campaigns**  
**Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán um Feachtais**  
*Amy Kelly*

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

- *National Campaign / Voter Reg*
- *NCI SU Affiliation Referendum*
- *Nationals Student Teacher Campaign*
- *Housing and Homelessness Coalition*
- *Repeal - Students for Choice*
- *Together Moving Forward Campaign*
- *Union Development*

### ***National Campaign/Voter Reg***

On the 2nd of November, the USI Campaigns Subcommittee met and planned the final phase of the national campaign for 2018. This meeting was also used to evaluate the campaign and where to improve for next year. From this, a number of key ideas arose on how to maintain engagement and what further actions should occur. The sub-committee will be doing short presentation on the plans for the coming months.

I have also been attending the Coalition for Publicly Funded Education in which we have been updating the coalition document and submitting PQ's on behalf of the coalition.

I also assisted the USI lead on Voter Reg, the VP for the Dublin region on the Voter Reg campaign. I created social media materials to be shared by partnering organisations and all involved on the national voter reg day. We successfully registered 18,000 students to vote, this give students a strong voice nationally. Well done to all that put the effort in, securing such a high number.

## *NCI USI Affiliation Referendum*

603 students from NCISU voted to remain with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) with a total of 620 votes cast. Polls opened at 10am on Thursday the 9th of November and closed at 3pm on Friday the 10th of November.

Final result was 97.2% in favour of remaining members of USI.

For this, I was tasked with designing all materials (t-shirts, flyers and posters), budgeting and ordering these.

I canvassed on the 9th of November on the NCI campus with the VP for the Dublin Region.

## *National Student Teachers Campaign*

We officially closed our Student Teachers Survey on the 25th of November 2017, this was the first step in the campaign planned. In total we received 2,911 responses creating strong data that will shape the campaign.

The second step will be compiling the data into a report. It will assess costs and spending for student teachers on placement and assessing how much financial support would be needed while on placement. The results will provide the foundation of our lobbying and campaigning efforts in the coming months. I met with a representative from ICTU regarding the data, in which we drafted up a plan of creating the report, with the aim to launch in January/ February.

The Third step will be to begin a lobbying campaign, building relationships with the various teacher unions and councils and mobilising student teachers to become active.

## *Housing and Homelessness Coalition*

I now represent USI on a national housing and homelessness coalition. The coalition has many members which include: Help 4 The Homeless Ballyfermot, Peter McVerry Trust, Focus Ireland, Dublin Simon Community, Merchants Quay Ireland, Br Kevin Crowley - Capuchin Day Centre, Housing Action Now, SIPTU, Right2Change, Trade Unions, Sinn Fein, Anti-Austerity Alliance, People Before Profit, Workers Party, Social Democrats, Young Workers Network, IMPACT, Mandate, Unite, CWU, Opatsi, DCTU, MRCI, Uplift, Pavee Point, Irish Traveller Movement, United Against Racism, Irish Refugee Council, North Dublin Bay Housing Crisis Community and more.

Currently we are planning three phases to the coalition. The first phase is a Alternative People's Housing Summit taking place on the 12th of December. This will be the first official meeting of all heads of the supporting organisation coming together to launch to the public the ICTU Housing document. After the morning event, there will also be a demonstration

outside the Dáil at 12.30pm to attract the public to get involved in the campaign, in which I will discuss further at NC.

The second phase of the campaign will be a full day of planning event in January, to plan a national mobilisation protest in Spring time. I will circulate more information as I get in relation to this day, which I think it would be fantastic to have student activists a part of.

### *Students for Choice*

I have been working with the VP for Equality and Citizenship regarding our plans for 2018 for students for choice. We have held meetings to find out the areas in which we need to focus on in the coming months including SU materials, supporting packs, and training. We will be in contact with SU's in the new year to roll out on campus activist training.

I have also been working with the VP for the Dublin region and Amnesty International on a partnership activist training between USI & Amnesty. I have designed the materials to be used in the training and also attended the training session in Trinity.

### *Together, Moving Forward Campaign*

I have been working on a ESU funded project called Together Moving Forward with our VP's for each region. We will be funding No Hate speech training on campuses in the new year, with applications accepted until December 13th. In the new year we will also be running a national campaign to highlight positive refugee-host interactions across Europe.

### *Union Development*

I have been working with the VP for each region to ensure that MO's complete the detailed Union Development survey circulated since the last NC. This is phase one completed on the Union Development strategy.

I have been working on compiling a report on the information received and will distribute it at our Union Development working group once approval is got from Presidents of MO's.

I am working with the USI President to conduct an external review on USI in the new year as part of phase one also.

## **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
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Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with USI Staff and Officerboard to look back on the previous week and discuss the week ahead
November 7, 2017	Chats for Change / Dear First year me	I met with the VP for Welfare & the mental health coordinator regarding the upcoming mental health campaign.
November 9, 2017	NCI Referendum	I was on NCI campus campaigning for the USI Referendum
November 14, 2017	ISSE Meeting	I attended a communications sub-committee of ISSE to plan the survey for 2018. We looked at materials, promotion and the launch of the results from 2017.
November 14, 2017	Housing and Homelessness coalition meeting	I attended the Housing and homelessness coalition meeting which planned the summit happening on the 12th of December.
November 15, 2017	Campaigns Sub-committee	I held an all day campaigns sub-committee meeting in which we look at the next few months of the campaign.
November 17 - 19, 2017	Pink Training	I attended and worked as part of the USI team at PINK Training 2017 in NUIG.
November 20, 2017	All Day OB	I attended an all day OB meeting in USI HQ.
November 21, 2017	NYCI Governance Meeting	I attended a subcommittee of the NYCI board on Governance of the organisation.
November 22, 2017	Accommodation & Finance Guide Meeting	I met with the VP for Welfare and Student housing project executive regarding the 2018 Accommodation & Finance Guide
November 23, 2017	Together Moving Forward	I had a skype call with the organisers of the Together

		moving forward project regarding our work and our plans for 2018.
November 23, 2017	Coalition for Housing and Homelessness meeting	I attended a meeting regarding the upcoming events we have planned in the coalition. This is further expanded in my OR.
November 24, 2017	Student Teachers Campaign	I met with a rep from ICTU regarding the results of the Teachers survey to examine where the campaigns will be going.
November 24, 2017	Repeal Meeting	Myself and the VP for Equality & Citizenship met to continue planning the USI Students for Choice campaign 2018
November 25, 2017	#16DaysOfActivism Campaign - DRCC	I attended the launch of the <b>#16DaysOfActivism Campaign</b> , a global initiative to end violence against women and girls around the world.
November 28, 2017	Video Doc	I met with representatives of Video Doc with the VP Welfare & PR Executive. We explored partnerships for 2018.
November 28, 2017	Housing and Homelessness Coalition Meeting	I attended a subcommittee of the coalition planning the logistics of the summit taking place on the 12th of December.
November 28, 2017	Repeal Debate	I attended a TCDSU repeal debate.
November 29, 2017	USI & Amnesty Repeal Training	I attended the USI & Amnesty Training event held in Trinity with the VP for the Dublin Region.

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser





**VICE PRESIDENT FOR  
THE SOUTHERN REGION  
MICHELLE BYRNE  
SOUTH@USI.IE**



**Report of the Vice President for the Southern Region**  
**Tuairisc an Leas- Uachtarán don Deisceart**  
*Michelle Byrne*

**Key Points since last National Council**

- *GetReg\*d - Voter Registration*
- *Pink Training*
- *ITCSU Students For Choice - 'Let's Talk about Repeal' event*
- *Anat Shenker Osari Communications Workshop on Abortion*
- *Savita Halappanavar Vigil*
- *Teaching & Learning International Panellist work*
- *Ents & Marketing policy*
- *Non-affiliate engagement*
- *ESU Board 73rd Meeting*

***GetReg\*D - Voter Registration and National Voter Registration Day***

I have been working on a large voter registration drive across the Southern Region. I spent my time liaising with and supporting SU Officers across the region in promoting the GetReg\*D campaign. Overcoming any issues and recording updates. One of the most time consuming elements of this campaign was on-site visits assisting the SU officers in registering their students on campuses. I attempted to make as many campus visits as possible, including visiting satellite campuses.

As part of this campaign, we ran a National Voter Registration day on November 8th. This entailed a large media campaign around the work we were doing and a coordinated effort to have voter registration occurring on all campuses. Overall, 18,000 students were registered to vote. Officers in the Southern region put in an exceptional amount of work ensuring their students were registered to vote. I want to thank them for working with me on this and congratulate them on their hard work. #GetRegD

## *Pink Training 2017*

I, along with all members of Officerboard, were fully immersed in the many aspects of running of Pink Training over the weekend event. As a member of Officer Board, I worked with the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship in the lead up to the event, helping with any organising activities that arose; be they the setting up of the event, registering delegates, ensuring delegates leave the hostels in time and that sessions run to time and any other tasks or assignments. I supported the Southern Region delegations throughout the week and dealt with any follow up after the event. On the Friday, I delivered an icebreaker session for delegates. I also attended some sessions over the weekend.

## *ITCSU Students For Choice - 'Let's Talk about Repeal' event*

I was invited to present at the ITCSU Students For Choice event - 'Let's Talk about Repeal'. USI VP for Equality & Citizenship and Ailbhe Smyth of the Repeal Coalition also presented. I introduced USI's work on the Repeal Campaign, the work I have done for the campaign, USI GetReg\*D Voter Registration and how I can assistance to students in ITC in regards to both campaigns. I also covered other SU's respecting views and how we have got to this point. As requested by ITCSU, I spoke about the structure of the SU democratically and how an SU is there to represent each student regardless of views and in turn how the USI mandate came about.

## *Anat Shenker Osari Communications Workshop on Abortion*

I attended a communications workshop on abortion by Anat Shenker Osari. Anat has extensive experience and an international reputation as a leader in the work of communicating 'hard to talk about' issues to a public audience eg. reproductive health care in the US, rights of people seeking asylum and refugees in Australia and more recently the marriage equality campaign there.

She shared her experience communicating and framing 'difficult' and challenging issues and helping figure out ways to overcome some of the challenges we face in talking about abortion and choice. The workshop was extremely helpful and I hope to present my learning to the Students For Choice taskforce and integrate it into our work.

## *Savita Halappanavar Vigil*

I spoke alongside Rise & Repeal Waterford and Claire Cullen-Delsol of TFMR at a vigil for the remembrance of Savita Halappanavar's 5th anniversary of her death. There was a book of condolences signed by USI send to Savita's family. This was one of many vigils held in remembrance of Savita around the country.

## *Teaching & Learning Forum International Panellist work*

I was invited to sit on a panel of international experts to review projects funded by the Teaching & Learning forum. There were presentations on the work of the project which included projects on;

- Enhancing Digital Literacies for Language Learning and Teaching, REX – Research Expertise Exchange,
- Irish Engineering Graduates Advancing Global Manufacturing Competitiveness: Design Simulation for the Process Industries,
- The Geoscience e-Laboratory (Ge-LAB): Developing Digital Teaching and Learning Resources for the Virtual Microscope,
- Street Law – a module to enhance the transferable skills of law students through a digitally resourced and digitally supported module in community legal education,
- Technology Enhanced Assessment Methods (TEAM) in Science & Health Practical Settings, Developing a Professional Development Framework to promote, acknowledge and evidence Teaching and Learning professional development activities for staff at a disciplinary level (Engineering) within an institute of technology.

The presentations were extremely enlightening on the great work on teaching & learning been done around the country. I reviewed the projects and submitted a report on the positive aspects, areas in need of improvement and recommendations of what they could have done differently.

### *Ents & Marketing Policy*

Having now taken over as lead on the Ents & Marketing Working Group and policy in this area, I have been moving some of this forward over the last month. This includes dealing with the motion that was brought forward to NC from Congress on a USI Entertainments Agency, the policy on USI and Member Organisations Entertainments Collaboration, Entertainment Committees at National Council and Supporting Student Media.

I would like to thank Ben Dunlea and Seán O' Riabhaigh from UCCSU for their presentation on 'How to Run a Student Festival' at the last Ents & Marketing working group meeting as part of the entertainment committee policy. It was a fantastic insight to their work on Docklands and how this can be replicated elsewhere.

I have been working on collecting contacts for students & staff who work in Student Media. I have created relationships with ExpliCIT, Motley, UCC Express, Wired FM and Paddy's Speil in the Southern Region. I am also working with the other Regionals to collect student media contacts. Once I have a comprehensive list, I will be moving forward with the motion and creating a network of which may meet in semester 2.

### *Non-affiliate engagement*

I have been creating a database of Further Education colleges in the Southern Region. This is part of a wider campaign on increasing FE engagement in USI and supporting them in joining USI. I have also been supporting FECs in the USI membership application process, including WCFE.

I have been in contact with UL Students' Union. Following from a previous meeting on the work that USI do with USI President and the ULSU sabbaticals, I have been working with ULSU on progressing these conversations. ULSU sabbaticals and their executive considered USI presenting at their Class Rep Council which was supported and will happen in January. I hope to bring a motion forward for a referendum to be held on USI affiliation.

### ***European Students' Union 73rd Board Meeting***

I attended the 73rd European Students' Union Board Meeting (BM) in Jerusalem, Israel hosted by NUIS as the USI International policy support officer to the VP for Academic Affairs. USI President, President of ITCSU and LITSU President were also in attendance representing USI. The theme of the BM was Innovation & Entrepreneurship and the agenda ahead of the BM proper involved experiencing the country's culture, receiving lectures and getting involved with discussions on building student communities in the social and geographical periphery, startup accelerator dedicated to working with minorities, special innovative NUIS programs, NUIS's student activism, innovative research, Erasmus lecture and diversity of the modern international student.

I attended the ESU Women's Participation in the Movement Taskforce meeting. We prepared for the Gender Session in which some members were presenting, we also discussed our plan of work which includes reviewing the Gender Mainstreaming policy of ESU, gathering data on improving women's participation in the movement and creating policy around sexual harassment.

I presented alongside the ESU Equality officer and another taskforce member for the Gender Session as part of the agenda of the BM. I worked with the BM delegates on creating a Gender Equality Charter which will feed into the Gender mainstreaming policy. USI also facilitated an Open Organising session (OOS) on Students' Union Autonomy. I co-facilitated alongside, USI present, President of ITCSU and LITSU President.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
November 3rd, 2017	USI National Council	Chaired the Southern Region Working Group and the Ents & Marketing Working Group. Presented at National Council proper. [Hosted by TCDSU]

November 13th, 2017	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM)	Meeting with Officer Board and USI Staff to discuss the week of work ahead [Phone-in meeting]
November 14th, 2017	Campaigns - Regionals Meeting	Meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, the Vice President for the BMW Region and the Vice President for the Dublin Region on upcoming campaigns. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 14th, 2017	Campaigns Sub-committee	The Campaign Sub-Committee met to provide feedback on the National Demonstration on October 4th. We also discussed plans on the campaign going forward. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 17th, 2017	Officer Board (OB) Meeting	Pink Training Preparatory meeting [NUI Galway]
November 17th-19th, 2017	USI Pink Training	I, along with all members of Officerboard, were fully immersed in the many aspects of running of Pink Training over the weekend event. I also supported my Regions delegations. I also attended some sessions and delivered an icebreaker session. [Hosted by NUI Galway SU]
November 20th, 2017	Monthly all-day Officer Board (OB) Meeting	The USI Officerboard met for a full day to debrief the events over the past month, to plan for the month ahead and to discuss progression on mandates. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 20th, 2017	Further Education College (FEC) meeting	Meeting with the VP for Academic Affairs, President, VP for Campaigns and

		Regional officers to discuss the status of FE work and the strategy moving forward. [USI HQ, Dublin]
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### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
October 28th, 2017	Savita Halappanavar Vigil	I spoke alongside Rise & Repeal Waterford and Claire Cullen-Delsol of TFMR at a vigil for the remembrance of Savita Halappanavar's 5th anniversary of her death.
October 31st, 2017	Anat Shenker Osari Communications Workshop on Abortion	Attended this workshop on behalf of the VP for Equality & Citizenship.
November 6th, 2017	IT Tralee SU (ITTSU) Voter Registration Support	Working with IT Tralee SU officers to register students to vote on campus.
November 7th, 2017	Limerick IT SU (LITSU) Voter Registration Support	Working with LITSU officers to register students to vote on campus.
November 7th, 2017	ESU NARC Skype	Discussing upcoming ESU BM and amendments to be brought forward as part of the NARC grouping of countries.
November 8th, 2017	Cork IT SU (CITSU) Voter Registration Support on National Voter Registration Day	Registering students to vote on campus for the National Campaign day. CITSU Body & Soul Week was also happening. VP for Welfare supported me.
November 9th, 2017	Limerick IT SU (LITSU) Thurles Campus Voter Registration Support	Working with LITSU Thurles officers to register students to vote on campus. We registered 10% of their student population in just a couple of hours!

November 10th, 2017	National College of Ireland SU (NCISU) Affiliation Referendum Support	I supported the work of the VP for the DUblin Region in promoting a Yes to USI vote in their affiliation referendum.
November 13th, 2017	University City Cork SU (UCCSU) Mental Health Week Support	I supported the work of UCCSU Welfare Officer and her team during their Mental Health Week.
November 14th, 2017	WITSU Voter Registration	I registered students to vote on their College St satellite campus, Granary satellite campus and the Cork Road campus.
November 14th-15th, 2017	Teaching & Learning Project Review Panels	I was invited to be part of a small panel of international experts to review funded projects of the Teaching & Learning forum.
November 21st, 2017	University City Cork SU (UCCSU) Voter Registration Support	Working with UCCSU officers to register students to vote on campus. We registered 750 students in 5 hours!
November 22nd, 2017	IT Carlow SU (ITCSU) Students For Choice presentation - 'Let's Talk About Choice'.	Presented at ITCSU Students For Choice event 'Let's Talk about Repeal'.
November 25th - December 2nd, 2017	European Students' Union (ESU) Board Meeting (BM) M73	I attended the 73rd European Students' Union board meeting in Jerusalem as the USI International policy support to the VP for Academic Affairs.
November 29th, 2017	ESU Women's Participation in Movement Taskforce Meeting	I met with the other members of the ESU Women's Participation in the Movement Taskforce meeting. We prepared for the Gender Session in which some members were

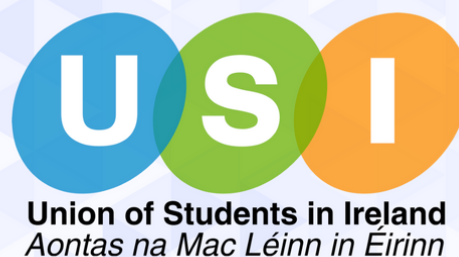


		presenting, we also discussed our plan of work.
November 29th, 2017	ESU Gender Session presentation	I presented alongside the ESU Equality officer and another taskforce member. I worked with the BM delegates on a Gender Equality Charter.
November 29th, 2017	ESU Open Organising Session - USI Autonomy presentation	USI facilitated an Open Organising session (OOS) on Students' Union Autonomy. I co-facilitated alongside, USI present, President of ITCSU and LITSU President.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
November 3rd, 2017	Chocolate covered donut	Andrew Martin, IADTSU
November 6th, 2017	Packet of Snacks crisps	Shaun Walsh, ITTSU

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE BORDER,  
MIDLANDS AND WESTERN REGION**  
**JIMMY MCGOVERN**  
**BMW@USI.IE**



**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**

- *Communication with the Region*
- *Students' Union Council Meetings*
- *'Teaching & Learning Champions' Project*
- *'Young People & Substance Use in a Digital Age' Conference*
- *NCI Students' Union's USI Affiliation Referendum*
- *National Voter Registration Day*
- *Pink Training*
- *IT Sligo Students' Union's Mental Health Seminar*
- *St. Angela's College, Sligo Students' Union's Repeal Referendum*

### ***Communication with the Region***

As the Vice President for the Region, a significant amount of my time is dedicated to travelling to campuses, events and the USI Headquarters, communicating with and updating the USI Officerboard and SU Officers within the Region on current affairs, such as trainings, events and the progress of tasks.

### ***Students' Union Council Meetings***

As the regional spokesperson, I have tried to attend every Class Rep Council that I have been inviting to, to give an update on the work USI has been doing to date. I have given information of the work each of the USI Officerboard members, and took any questions that Class Reps had. I have also used this platform to push voter registration numbers and overall engagement with USI events.

### ***'Teaching & Learning Champions' Project***

I presented at and attended the 'Teaching & Learning Champions' Project Conference of the West / North West Cluster in Letterkenny IT. The cluster is made up of the 4 Institutions of: GMIT; IT Sligo; St. Angela's College, Sligo; and Letterkenny IT. I spoke about the importance of including students in decision making processes, from classroom level right up to

management and governance. I spoke in depth about the structures and importance of a Class Representative system and the necessity for institutions to give a platform to Students' Unions and Class Representatives to be change makers and influencers in their institutes.

### ***'Young People & Substance Use in a Digital Age' Conference***

I was invited to present at a conference organised by the Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force in Galway. The conference was called '*Young People & Substance Use in a Digital Age*' and I presented on the topic of '*Adapting to the Digital Age*'. I spoke about how USI and Students' Union across Ireland utilize social media to engage with young people. I also spoke about how much social media exposes young people to substance use and why organisations and support workers need to include young people in their decision making process and strategy planning, as a means to adapt our supports in this digital age.

### ***NCI Students' Union's USI Affiliation Referendum***

NCI Students' Union held a referendum on their current affiliation with USI. The referendum was led by the Vice President for the Dublin Region, and I assisted in campaigning over the two voting days. The result was a 97% Yes vote to remain affiliated with USI, with students responding very positively to the information given by the USI Officerboard.

### ***National Voter Registration Day***

I was liaising with SU Officers across the region in promoting the Voter Registration Campaign and assisting them in registering students. The official day was November 8th, where we picked up most media attraction. I also did a number of local radio interviews in the lead up to and on the day regarding student voter registration. The BMW Region did exceptionally well in registration numbers, and I thank all of the officers for their hard work.

### ***Pink Training***

Pink Training was a weekend long (Fri-Sun) training led by the Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship, that required the full participation from the USI Officerboard, morning through to night. We had a number of tasks and responsibilities throughout the weekend and I was given the task of Speaker Liaison. The training was very successful and was of great benefit according to delegates. NUI Galway Students' Union very exceptional host, and we thank them greatly for their cooperation.

### ***IT Sligo Students' Union's Mental Health Seminar***

I was invited by IT Sligo Students' Union to speak at their Mental Health Seminar as part of their Mental Health Week. I presented on the topic '*Suicide intervention and Taking Initiative*', with an overall message of what you can do as students, to educate yourselves, train to learn the skills, and then making the everyday decision of taking initiative. It came across as very successful as students showed great interest. I sincerely thank IT Sligo Students' Union

and in particular their Vice President / Welfare Officer on giving me the opportunity to speak on what is such an important topic.

### ***St. Angela's College, Sligo Students' Union's Repeal Referendum***

St. Angela's College, Sligo Students' Union held a referendum on whether or not to adopted a pro-choice stance on repealing the 8th Amendment. I was joined by the USI Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship in campaigning across the campus alongside the St. Angela's College Repeal Society.

The result was an 83% Yes in favour.

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

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
November 3	National Council	Chaired the BMW Working Group and attend National Council. [Trinity College, Dublin]
November 13	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officer Board and USI Staff to discuss the week ahead [Phone-in meeting].
November 15	Regional Campaign Meeting	Meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, the Vice President for the Dublin Region and the Vice President for the Southern Region on upcoming campaigns and local activity. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 15	Campaign Sub-Committee	The Campaign Sub-Committee met to provide feedback on the National Demonstration on October 4, and gave direction on where the campaign is going from here. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 17-19	Pink Training	Pink Training was a weekend long (Fri-Sun)

		training that required the full participation from the USI Officerboard, morning through to night. I was given the task of Speaker Liaison throughout the weekend. [Galway]
November 20	Officerboard Monthly Planning Day	The USI Officerboard met for a full day to debrief the events over the past month, and to plan for the month ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 27	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officer Board and USI Staff to discuss the week ahead [Phone-in meeting].
November 27	Referenda Planning	Meeting with the Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship and the Vice President for the Dublin Region in relation to planning for upcoming referendums in both regions. [Phone-in]
November 28	Regional Campaign Meeting	Meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, the Vice President for the Dublin Region on upcoming campaigns and local activity. [USI HQ, Dublin]

### Meetings / Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
November 1	Western Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force (WRDATF)	Met with the WRDATF regarding an upcoming conference on ' <i>Young People &amp; Substance Use in a Digital Age</i> '. [Galway]

November 2	Teaching & Learning Champions Project, West / North West Cluster	Presented at and attended the Teaching & Learning Champions Project Conference of the West / North West Cluster. The cluster is made up of the 4 Institutions of: GMIT; IT Sligo; St. Angela's College, Sligo; and Letterkenny IT. [Letterkenny, Donegal]
November 6	IT Sligo Students' Union Class Rep Training	Gave presentation on ' <i>Who are USI?</i> ' and facilitated a session on Lobbying 101. [Sligo]
November 6	NUI Galway Students' Union SU Council	Gave the SU Council an update on what USI has been doing. [Galway]
November 7	'Young People & Substance Use in a Digital Age' Conference	This Conference was organised by the WRDATF, and I presented on the topic of ' <i>Adapting to the Digital Age</i> '. [Galway]
November 8	National Voter Registration Day	Liaised with SU Officers across the country in promoting the Voter Registration Campaign. [Galway]
November 8	Interview with Castlebar Community Radio	Interview on the National Voter Registration Day, highlighting the importance and the positives of registering to vote. [Phone-in]
November 8	GMIT Class Rep Council	Chaired the GMIT Class Rep Council and gave an update on what USI has been doing. [Galway]
November 9	Radio Interview with Connemara Radio	Interview on the National Voter Registration Day, highlighting the importance

		and the positives of registering to vote. [Phone-in]
November 9-10	NCI Students' Union Referendum	NCISU held a referendum on their current affiliation with USI. The referendum was led by the Vice President for the Dublin Region, and I assisted in campaigning over the two voting days. The result was a 97% Yes vote to remain affiliated with USI. [NCI, Dublin]
November 15	Maynooth Students' Union Senate	Presented at the MSU Student Senate, giving an update on what USI has been doing. [Maynooth]
November 20	NUI Galway Students' Union Council	Gave the SU Council an update on what USI has been doing. [Galway]
November 22	IT Sligo Students' Union Mental Health Seminar	IT Sligo Students' Union invited me to speak at their Mental Health Seminar. I presented on the topic ' <i>Suicide intervention and Taking Initiative</i> '. [Sligo]
November 23	NUIG & GMIT Students' Union's Charity Boxing Event	I attended the Charity Boxing event organised by NUI Galway Students' Union and GMIT Students' Union. [Galway]
November 24	St. Angela's College, Sligo Repeal Referendum	St. Angela's College, Sligo Students' Union held a referendum on whether or not to adopted a pro-choice stance on repealing the 8th Amendment. I was joined by the USI Deputy President / Vice President for Equality &

		<p>Citizenship in campaigning across campus alongside the St. Angela's Repeal Society. The result was an 83% Yes in favour.</p> <p>[Sligo]</p>
November 28	Debate on the Eighth Amendment	<p>Upcoming to the National Referendum, I attended a debate on the 8th Amendment to educate myself further, where experts in the area discussed all aspects both legally and medically on the 8th Amendment.</p> <p>[Trinity College, Dublin]</p>
November 29	Photo Launch of the Galway Safe App	<p>I attended the photo launch of the Galway Safe App, joined by the Presidents of both NUI Galway &amp; GMIT Students' Unions. The App focuses on preventing loss of life by the waterways and connecting people to supports.</p> <p>[Galway]</p>
November 30	Meeting with Principal of Galway Technical Institute	<p>I met with the Principal of the Galway Technical Institute, one of Ireland's largest stand-alone Further Education (FE) Colleges, in regard to developing their Student Council into an official Union, and from there potentially affiliating with USI. The Principal spoke very highly of the importance of the FE voice nationally, and is liaising with the Student Council to set up further communications.</p>





**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**

- *Get Reg\*D*
- *USI Affiliation*
- *Pink Training 2017*
- *Students For Choice*

***Get Reg\*D***

This month saw the deadline of November 25th pass to get RFA1 voter registration forms into local authority offices. As campaign lead of the USI #GetReg\*D national campaign, I worked with Officer Board, particularly regional vice presidents to organise how to achieve maximum numbers of new students registered. This involved communicating with member organisations (MOs) and officers to arrange regional Vice Presidents on campuses to assist with voter registration. Myself, the Vice President for the Border Midlands and Western Region and Vice President for the Southern Region regularly checked in with one another to monitor progress in our respective regions.

I worked with the Vice President for Campaigns to organise materials for the campaign and the online resource folder whilst working with the Public Relations Executive and Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to ensure National Voter Registration Day was a success. USI partnered with SpunOut and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) for the event which was trending across Ireland on Twitter.

The campaign was extremely successful with over 18,000 students newly registered to vote and will prove to be an invaluable asset when approaching TDs with our asks. With the possibility of a general election and several referenda planned for 2018, this is an incredible achievement this year and more than 10,000 higher than 2017. The success of this campaign bears testament to the combined and concerted effort of all involved.

## *USI Affiliation*

On November 9th and 10th, the National College of Ireland Students' Union held a USI affiliation referendum which they were constitutionally required to do. As campaign lead, I organised members of Officer Board to be on campus during the polling days and campaigned myself during the week in the lead up to the referendum. The referendum resulted in a mandate for NCISU to be affiliated to the USI for another three years with an overwhelming 97.2% of students voting to remain members of USI.

## *Pink Training 2017*

As a member of Officer Board, I worked with the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship in the lead up to the event, helping with any organising activities that arose; be they setting up the event, registering delegates and other tasks and assignments that presented before, during and after the event. I checked in with my region and introduced myself to delegate leaders prior to the event and was available to assist them for the duration of the training. In addition to this, I was stationed in Kinlay Hostel, Galway for the weekend where I ensured delegates arrived to NUI Galway on time each morning.

Further to my responsibilities as a member of Officer Board, I also facilitated an 'ice-breaker' session for delegates on the Friday evening and on the Sunday, I facilitated a 'Lesbian Safe Space'.

## *Students For Choice*

I met with Amnesty International Ireland to discuss how we could co-facilitate training sessions for students providing them with the necessary tools to engage with their politicians on the subject of repealing the 8th Amendment. From this meeting, we further developed a workshop and a training manual begun before the Summer, and the Vice President for Campaigns carried out the design work.

I co-facilitated a training session alongside staff from Amnesty International Ireland on political lobbying for a repeal of the 8th Amendment in Dublin City University for the DCU Amnesty Society. The following week, I co-facilitated a similar training workshop for the TCD Amnesty Society. I hope further develop these sessions and roll out similar workshops in the future.

## **USI Meetings/Events Attended**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
October 31, 2017	Tuesday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with Officer Board. [USI HQ, Dublin]

November 3, 2017	National Council	Chaired the Dublin Region Working Group and attended and participated in working groups and National Council proper. [Trinity College Dublin]
November 6, 2017	NCI	Met with NCISU to discuss details for the USI affiliation referendum happening later in the week. [NCI, Dublin]
November 7, 2017	NCI	Campaigned for a 'Yes' vote for NCI students to remain as members of USI. [NCI, Dublin]
November 8, 2017	NCI	Campaigned for a 'Yes' vote for NCI students to remain as members of USI. [NCI, Dublin]
November 8, 2017	DITSU Council	Attended DITSU Council alongside USI President and VP Academic Affairs where USI gave an update to Council. [DIT Bolton Street, Dublin]
November 9, 2017	NCI	This was the first of 2 voting days in NCI on USI affiliation. I led the campaign team and campaigned for a 'Yes' vote. [NCI, Dublin]
November 10, 2017	NCI	After 2 days of voting, the affiliation referendum resulted in 97.2% of students in favour of NCI students remaining members of USI. [NCI, Dublin]
November 13, 2017	NStEP Network Launch	Attended and participated in the networking event. [CIT]
November 14, 2017	NStEP Training	I peer reviewed a new NStEP trainer in a session being delivered to DITSU

		class representatives. [DIT Bolton Street, Dublin]
November 15, 2017	Regional Campaign Meeting	Meeting with the VP Campaigns, VP BMW Region and the VP Southern Region on upcoming campaigns and local activity. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 15, 2017	Campaigns Sub-committee	The Campaign Sub-committee met to provide feedback on the National Demonstration on October 4, and gave direction on where the campaign is going from here. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 16, 2017	DITSU Voter Reg	I registered DITSU members to vote in their Bolton Street campus. [DIT Bolton Street]
November 17, 2017	Pink Training 2017	Attended, participated and facilitated sessions as part of Pink Training 2017. [NUI, Galway]
November 20, 2017	Officer Board Meeting	All day OB Meeting. [USI HQ]
November 21, 2017	Amnesty Meeting	Met with Amnesty to plan training workshops to be rolled out to students. [Amnesty International Offices, Dublin]
November 22, 2017	ITTDSU Voter Reg	I registered ITTDSU members to vote as part of the #GetRegD campaign. [IT Tallaght, Dublin]
November 23, 2017	USI/Amnesty Training	Co-facilitated training for students on how they can use their voice to effect change. [DCU Glasnevin Campus, Dublin]
November 27, 2017	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly OB Meeting. [USI

		HQ, Dublin]
November 27, 2017	Referendum Planning	Met with VP BMW Region and VP Equality & Citizenship to discuss repeal referenda happening in both regions. [USI HQ]
November 27, 2017	Met with NCADSU President	Met with NCADSU President. [Dublin]
November 28, 2017	Regionals Campaign Meeting	Meeting with the VP Campaigns, the VP BMW Region and the VP Southern Region on upcoming campaigns and local activity. [USI HQ, Dublin]
November 29, 2017	TCDSU Repeal Taskforce	I was invited to attend the TCDSU Repeal Taskforce meeting to discuss strategic planning for the Spring semester. [TCDSU]
November 29, 2017	USI/Amnesty Training	Co-facilitated training for students on how they can use their voice to effect change. [Trinity College, Dublin]

### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
November 4, 2017	ITTDSU Graduation Ball	I attended the class of 2016/2017 ITTDSU Graduation Ball in my personal position of a former sabbatical officer by invite of the current ITTDSU team.
November 25, 2017	UN #OrangeTheWorld	Attended the launch of the UN Orange the World, Leave No One Behind campaign. The messaging of this campaign is to end violence against women. [Mansion House, Dublin]

November 25, 2017	USI Past and Present Women Officers Meet-up	Attended an evening of discussion with many past and present female members of USI. Discussion topics included the many occupations of the past and the repeal the 8th campaign. [Dublin]
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#### **Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Purchaser</b>
November 22, 2017	Coffee	ITTDSU VP for Education
November 23, 2017	Cadbury's Roses	DCU Amnesty Society

**LEAS-UACHTARÁN DON GHAEILGE**  
**LAOIGHSEACH NÍ CHOISTEALBHA**  
**GAEILIGE@USI.IE**



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

**Key Points since last National Council**

- *Téarmaíocht LADTA/LGBTA terminology*
- *An Suirbhé Mór - Oideachas na Gaeilge/The Big Survey - Irish Language Education*
- *An Rún ag an Chomhdháil dheireanach - uasdhátú/ Motion at the last Council - update*

***Téarmaíocht LADTA/LGBTA terminology***

Ag obair i bpáirt le TENI (Transgender Equality Network of Ireland), rinneamar aistriúchán ar téarmaíocht a bhaineann leis an phobal LADTA (LGBTA). Chuir mo chomhleacaí, Cearbhall Turraoin, go mór leis an obair a rinne mé, ag moladh athruithe ar mo chéad dréacht. Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil leo as an chuidiú a thug siad dom. Ag Traenáil Bhándearg 2017, rinne mé cuir i láthair ar an obair a bhí déanta againn. Chuir mé in iúl gur tionscadal leanúnach a bhí an, agus go raibh tuilleadh oibre ag teastáil chun an tionscadal a chríochnú. Le seachtain anuas, labhair mé le BelongTo, agus fuair mé amach go raibh an eagraíocht sin ag obair ar an tionscadal céanna le blianta anuas. Mhol mé do BelongTo go mbeimis in ann obair a dhéanamh le chéile ar an ábhar seo - tá mé ag súil le cur chun cinn a dhéanamh maidir leis an tionscadal seo sa bhliain nua.

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*Working in conjunction with the Transgender Equality Network of Ireland, we translated terminology related to the LGBT community. My colleague, Cearbhall Turraoin, helped me a lot and contributed a lot to this project, suggesting many changes to my first draft. I would like to sincerely thank them for the assistance that they gave me in this project. At Pink Training 2017, I presented the work that we had completed. I also put across that this is an ongoing project, and that much more work was needed to complete the project. In the last week, I spoke to BelongTo, and I found out that they had been working on a similar project for the past few years. I recommended that we would be able to work together on this matter - and I am looking forward to improving the terminology in the new year.*



## *An Suirbhé Mór - Oideachas na Gaeilge/The Big Survey - Irish Language Education*

Chun tuilleadh eolais a fháil amach faoi thuairimí na mac léinn maidir le hoideachas na Gaeilge sna scoileanna, chuir mé Suirbhé Mór le chéile chun ceisteanna a chur ar mhic léinn dara agus tríú leibhéal maidir lena dtaithí sa scoil agus iad ag foghlaim na teanga i suíomh an ranga. Baineann neart dár rúin Ghaeilge in AMLÉ le staid na Gaeilge (.i. Curaclam, agus araile) sa scoil. Beidh mé ag labhairt air seo ag an Chomhdháil Náisiúnta, agus tabharfar tuilleadh sonraí ansin. Ba mhaith liom buíochas a ghabháil leis an Leas-Uachtarán d'Fheachtais, an Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla, agus d'Oifigeach na Gaeilge, ISSU, as an chuidiú a thug siad dom, agus mé ag cur an suirbhé le chéile.

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*In order to find out more about the opinions of students regarding the education of the Irish Language in schools, I put a survey together in order to put questions to second- and third-level students as regard to their experience at school when they were learning the language in the context of the classroom. Many of our Irish Language mandates are related to the state of Irish in schools (i.e. curricula and others). I will be speaking on this at the National Council, and more detail will be given then. I would like to thank the VP for Campaigns, the VP for Academic Affairs, and ISSU's Oifigeach na Gaeilge for the help that they gave me when I was putting the survey together.*

## *An Rún ag an Chomhdháil dheireanach - uasdhátú Motion at the last Council - update*

Chuir mé an rún sealadach faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla ar aghaidh ag an Chomhdháil Náisiúnta deireanach mar chreid mé go raibh orainn scéim nó córas teanga de chineál éigin a chur ar fáil in AMLÉ, toisc go mbeidh struchtúr agus soiléiriú ann maidir lenár ndualgais don Ghaeilge. Tá mé tar éis an cheist seo a phlé in Oifig an Choimisinéara, agus moladh dom scéim teanga a eagrú leis an Roinn (Gaeltachta), seachas leis an Choimisinéir féin: ní féidir leis an Choimisinéir féin scéimeanna a eagrú, ach maireann an ról sin chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na scéimeanna a shocraíonn an Roinn leis an gComhlacht. Moladh dom freisin scéim a chruthú 'i spioraid na reachtaíochta': scéim a bheadh cruthaithe, agus féinscrúdaithe ag AMLÉ. Caithfidh mé na roghanna seo a phlé agus a mheas le mo chomhleacaithe, sula roghnaím an bealach is fearr chun Scéim Teanga AMLÉ a chur i bhfeidhm.

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*I put the interim motion regarding the Official Languages Act forward at the last National Council as I believed that we as an organisation needed a scheme or system in order to provide structure and clarification as regards our responsibilities to the Irish Language. I am after discussing this question in the office of An Coimisinéir Teanga, and I was advised that it would be better for me to ask Roinn na Gaeltachta for assistance on this matter, instead of An Coimisinéir himself: he cannot himself organise the language schemes, since his role exists only to examine and supervise the schemes that are settled by the Roinn with the*

company. I was also advised that I could create a scheme ‘in the spirit of the legislation’: a scheme that would be created and self-monitored by USI. I must firstly discuss these option with my colleagues, before I chose the best method as regards creating USI’s first Scéim Teanga.

#### USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
31/10/2017	Cruinniú Mhaidin dé Mháirt/Tuesday Morning Meeting	Nuacht, pleananna aicsin, agus uasdhátú don fhoireann. <i>News, action plans, and updates for the team.</i>
27/10/2017	Cruinniú leis an Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla/Meeting with Vice-President for Academic Affairs	Plé ar an suirbhé mór Gaeilge a bhí á scríobh agam. <i>Discussion on the Irish language survey I was currently writing at the time.</i>
1/11/2017	Cruinniú leis an Uachtarán maidir le teanga na Gaeilge in AMLÉ/Meeting with the USI President regarding the Irish language in USI	Plé ar an léirmheas deireanach agus ar pholasaithe na rún a bhí in lámhleabhar AMLÉ. <i>Discussion of last review and also on the USI policies regarding the Irish language.</i>
3/11/2017	Grúpa Oibre na Gaeilge, Comhairle Náisiúnta/Irish Language Working Group, National Council	Bhí mé mar chathaoirleach ar ghrúpa oibre na Gaeilge ag an Chomhairle Náisiúnta deireanach. <i>I chaired the Irish Language woNuacht, pleananna aicsin, agus uasdhátú don fhoireann. News, action plans, and updates for the team.rking group at the last National Council.</i>
3/11/2017	Comhairle Náisiúnta/National Council	D’fhreastail mé ar an Chomhairle Náisiúnta uilig. <i>I attended the entirety of the National Council.</i>

5/11/2017	Cruinniú Mhaidin dé Luain/Monday Morning Meeting (Skype)	Nuacht, pleananna aicsin, agus uasdhátú don fhoireann. <i>News, action plans, and updates for the team.</i>
17/11/2017	Cruinniú le Bord na nOifigeach, OÉ Gaillimh/Meeting with Officer Board, NUIG.	Nuacht, pleananna aicsin, agus uasdhátú don fhoireann. Pleanáil don Traenáil Bhándearg. <i>News, action plans, and updates for the team. Planning for Pink Training.</i>
17-19/11/2017	Traenáil Bhándearg, OÉG/Pink Training, NUIG	D'fhreastail mé ar an Traenáil agus chuidigh mé leis an eagrúchán. <i>I attended the Training and I helped with the organisation.</i>
18/11/2017	Cuir i láthair ar 'Gay-lige', Traenáil Bhándearg/Presentation on 'Gay-lige', Pink Training	Chuir mé obair AMLÉ agus TENI i láthair ag TB, maidir leis an téarmaíocht LADTA a chruthaigh muid. <i>I presented USI and TENI's work at PT, regarding the LGBTa terminology we created.</i>
20/11/2017	Lá Bhord na nOifigeach	Phléigh muid TB, nuacht, pleananna aicsin, agus an mhí a bhí thart, gan trácht ar na spriocanna a bhí romhainn don chéad mhí eile. <i>We discussed PT, news, action plans and the month that had passed, and also the goals we had for the next month.</i>

#### Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
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1/11/2017	Cruinniú le Cearbhall Turraoi, TENI/Meeting with Cearbhall Turraoin, TENI	Phléigh muid an téarmaíocht LADTA. <i>We discussed the LGBTA terminology.</i>
2/11/2017	Cruinniú Skype le Sorchá Ní Chonghaile, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, ISSU/Meeting with Sorchá Ní Chonghaile, Oifigeach na Gaeilge, ISSU	Phléigh mé an Suirbhé Mór le Sorchá. <i>I discussed the Irish Language survey with Sorchá.</i>
4/11/2017	Seoladh Bhliain na Gaeilge/Launch of Bliain na Gaeilge (Oireachtas na Samhna)	Mar chuid d'eagraíochtaí Bhliain na Gaeilge, d'fhreastail mé ar seoladh na Bliana. <i>As one of the organisations taking part in Bliain na Gaeilge, I attended the launch event.</i>
4/11/2017	Cruinniú le Sorchá Ní Chonghaile/Meeting with Sorchá Ní Chonghaile (Oireachtas na Samhna)	Phléigh mé an Suirbhé Mór le Sorchá. <i>I discussed the Irish Language survey with Sorchá.</i>
4/11/2017	Comórtas Díospóireachta ag an Tríú Leibheál/3rd Level Student Debates (Oireachtas na Samhna)	Toisc go raibh mé mar mholtóir ag ceann de na réamh-bhabhtaí, d'fhreastail mé ar an bhabhta deireanach. <i>As I had been a judge at one of the earlier rounds, I attended the last round.</i>
5/11/2017	Comhairle na Mac Léinn, OÉ Gaillimh/NUIGSU Class Rep Council	In éineacht le mo chomhleacaí, LU do Cheantair na Teorann, Lár-Tíre agus an Iarthar, chuir mé obair AMLÉ i láthair ó thaobh na Gaeilge de. <i>Alongside my colleague, VP for the BMW region, I presented USI's work on the Irish Language.</i>
08/11/2017	Lá Náisiúnta do Chlárú na Vótálaithe, ITGM/National Voter Reg Day, GMIT	Ó 12-2, chuidigh mé le ITGM CnM maidir le clárú na vótálaithe i gCearnóg an

		Chomhaltais. <i>From 12-2, I helped GMITSU regarding the registration of voters in Union Square.</i>
08/11/2017	Comhairle na Mac Léinn, ITGM/GMITSU Class Rep Council	Chuir mé obair AMLÉ i láthair maidir leis an Ghaeilge, agus d'iarr mé ar an chomhairle Oifigeach na Gaeilge a roghnú don chéad Chomhairle eile. <i>I presented USI's work on the Irish language, and I asked the council to elect an Irish Language Officer for the next Student Council.</i>
28/11/2017	Cruinniú leis an Choimisinéir Teanga, an Spidéal	Phléigh muid an rún a cuireadh ar aghaidh ag an Chomhairle Náisiúnta deireanach. <i>We discuss the motion that was put through at the last National Council.</i>

#### Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
5/11/2017	Dearbhán Dí <i>Drink Vouchers (x4)</i>	Comhaltas na Mac Léinn, OÉG NUIGSU

