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OFFICER-BOARD REPORTS TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

FEBRUARY 2018

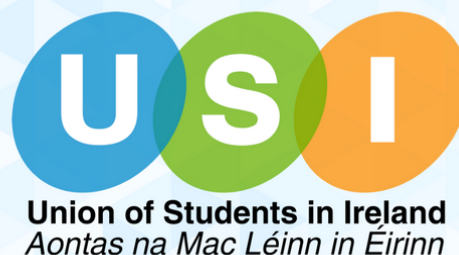


Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

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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

Policy Book Tracker

I created a google sheets document of all USI policies, their current status, the lead on each policy and a comments section for a description on what has been done.

The Current USI Policy Book has over 400 policies. Since the last National Council, I have met with each policy officer separately to discuss the progress on their policies, priorities for the next 6 months, and discussed what areas of work would not have time to complete in the remaining time. I then met with the regional officers to discuss their mandates, but also to delegate some areas of work from policy officers. The policy book tracker will be an item for discussion at National Council.

TU Bill

USI have been engaging with the Department of Education and Skills on the Technological Universities bill for over 5 years. Not all of our suggestions were taken during those negotiations, so we have submitted several amendments to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and through the Dáil. We prioritised 3 amendments, the definition of a Students' Union and the number of student representative on Academic Council and Governing Body.

These amendments did not pass, each losing narrowly by 3, 1 and 5 votes. The TU Bill has now passed through the Dáil and will go to the 2nd stage of the Seanad on Tuesday, January 29th. We are currently rewriting our amendments and will put them through the report stage in the Seanad.

Higher Education Funding

In November, the Minister for Higher Education announced that she would be seeking recommendations from the Oireachtas Committee on the future funding of higher education before Christmas. This has not happened.

The Coalition for Publicly Funded Higher Education will be meeting next week (January 31st) to finalise updates to our policy paper. I have arranged meetings with members of the committee to meet with members of the Coalition over the next couple of weeks. Dates and times have been finalised to meet Tony McLoughlin (FG) Thomas Byrne (FF) Jan O' Sullivan (LAB) Kathleen Funchion (SF) and Lynn Ruane (IND).

Students' Union Autonomy

Following our meeting with officials in the Department of Education and Skill, the Minister referenced out plans on developing a framework for supporting and developing Students' Unions. The VP AA drafted a proposal which was discussed at the Independent SU Committee in December, the proposal will be submitted to the department this week.

Repeal the 8th

I have met with the VP Equality and Citizenship on several occasions to discuss the campaign to repeal the 8th. I have also attended several High Level Group meetings with a number of organisations that we will be campaigning with, these meetings have mostly been about messaging. I also attended the Strike4Repeal gathering that took place outside Leinster House during the debate on the referendum.

USI Office

A significant amount of work has gone in to getting a home for USI. A lot of viewings, Finance Committee Meetings and negotiations took place prior to the extraordinary National Council in NCI. We are currently waiting for information on planning before we can go further with this deal. The majority of my work in this move should now be finished as staff and solicitors will be handling any issues.

USI Congress

The vast majority of USI Congress is organised by steering, however, in the last couple of weeks I have had to ensure that information on submitting motions and USI elections have been circulated. I have also organised a motions collaboration day for February 23rd to ensure that motions submitted are not similar/duplicates to each other, or policies already on the policy book.

Quarterly Review

A second round of quarterly reviews with Officerboard to discuss the performance and achievements over the past 6 months and the plans and priorities for the next 6 months.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
06/12/17	USI Mental Health Project Worker	Meeting to discuss the possibility of setting up an ethics committee to review

		the Mental Health Survey for Chats for Change Campaign
06/12/17	USI Finance Committee	
08 & 09/12/17	USI National Council	Held in IT Sligo
11/12/17	Launch of USI Student Support Card	Launched in Trinity College Dublin
12/12/17	Meeting with USI National Student Housing Coordinator	Meeting to discuss the homes.usi.ie report
14/12/17	OB Meeting	Monthly meetings to discuss the previous month and the upcoming months
15/12/17	USI Student Switch Off Dormitory Co-ordinator	
19/12/17	Extraordinary National Council	Held in NCI to discuss to possibility of USI purchasing an office
19/12/17	Independent SU Committee	Discussed the proposed framework for Students' Unions to be proposed to the Department of Education and Skills
23/12/17	Action outside Avoca	USI held an action outside Avoca to highlight their link to profiting through direct provision through their parent company Aramark
11/01/18	VP Campaigns	Meeting to discuss policies mandated to the VP Campaigns
11/01/18	VP Academic Affairs	Meeting to discuss policies mandated to the VP Academic Affairs

11/01/18	VP Welfare	Meeting to discuss policies mandated to the VP Welfare
12/01/18	VP Equality & Citizenship	Meeting to discuss policies mandated to the VP Equality & Citizenship
15/01/18	All day OB	Monthly meetings to discuss the previous month and the upcoming months
16/01/18	Regional VPs	Meeting with Regional VP's to discuss policies mandated to them and delegated some mandates from other members of OB
16/01/18	VP Gaeilge	Meeting to discuss policies mandated to the VP Gaeilge
19/01/18	Radisson Viewing	Viewed the Radisson Blu Royal ahead of the Student Achievement Awards
19/01/18	ITB Students' Union	Meeting with the VP Welfare

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
06/12/17	ITTSU/USI Referendum	Campaigning in IT Tallaght during the USI affiliation referendum
06/12/17	Thomas Byrne TD	Meeting with the FF spokesperson on Education ahead of the TU Bill debate in the Dáil
07/12/17	DITSU Council	Attended DITSU Council ahead of a motion on USI Affiliation

11/12/17	Internationalisation Conference	Attended a conference with the VP AA on Internationalisation organised by the HEA & QQI
12/12/17	National Coalition for Housing and Homelessness	Meeting and announcement of the National Day of Action happening on April 7th
12/12/17	Launch of the Youth Mental Health Taskforce report	The report of the taskforce, in which USI had a seat was launched in RCSI by Minister for Health Simon Harris
13/12/17	Repeal High Level Group	Meeting to discuss the messaging ahead of USI's Repeal Campaign
13/12/17	Coalition for publicly funded higher education	Meeting to discuss the Coalition policy paper and next steps in the campaign.
13/12/17	JOC on the 8th amendment	Attended the final meeting of the JOC on the 8th amendment
14/12/17	Final Negotiations on USI offices	Attended final negotiations with our lender for the purchase of an office
14/12/17	Repeal High Level Group	Meeting regarding messaging
20/12/17	Report Launch from the JOC on the 8th amendment	Attended the launch of the JOC in Leinster House
15/01/18	National Housing and Homeless Coalition	Planning day for the day of action on April 7th
17/01/18	Rachel Brook - University of Surrey	Interviewed by a professor researching the perception of students from several countries in Europe

17/01/18	UCDSU President	Met to discuss their upcoming referendum on Automatic SU Membership
17/01/18	Strike4Repeal Gathering	
20/01/18	Direction Provision Demonstration	Attended a demonstration against direct provision in Galway
22/01/18	High Level Repeal Group	Meeting regarding messaging
23/01/18	ICTU Housing Crises Conference	Attended on behalf of the coalition for Homeless and Housing
24/01/18	UCCSU Council	Attended with the VP South to give an update on the work of USI

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser

**DEPUTY PRESIDENT / TANAISTE
& VP EQUALITY & CITIZENSHIP**
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**Report of the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship
Tuirisc an Leas- Uachtarán do Chomhionannais agus Saoránacht**

Síona Cahill

Key Points since last National Council

Students for Choice & Repeal the 8th

A significant amount of time, which will be clear with a quick glance through my meetings below, has gone into my work and development of planning, relationships, and training ahead of referendum.

In brief, USI has supported any referenda SUs have run in relation to stances on 'repeal' or adopting a 'pro-choice' position. One such recent success was with DKITSU. I supported that campus in addressing students and discussing concerns or questions (of which there were little to no dissenting voices) with the VP Border, Midlands and Western Region.

We are developing a suite of trainings in consultation with the USI Students For Choice Taskforce, to include Canvassing training with Amnesty International, Conversations training through and with ARC (Abortion Rights Campaign) and info seminars. The content for these will be applicable to any taskforce to roll out with the assistance of the Regional USI VPs. I have organised also where possible for MOs to interact directly with high quality training. I will continue to make training as available as possible to all MO teams. We are developing the Students for Choice mailing list further and updates will be much more regular to keep you on track with campaign developments as they happen!

A lot of work has been in advocacy, working with other National Groups to support TDs and Senators. That work very much paid off last week with the contributions seen in Dáil Eireann by TDs across the political spectrum. A system was also developed in-house to make emailing public representatives easier, and I developed a resource called 'Email Your TD' which was made accessible to all MOs until I had the email system ready on the USI website. This system will now be usable for future campaigns on any issue, and the key is making it easy to find your local TD, and be able to make personalised email content rather than mass-mail drafts.

Activist Think-In: A lot of time and work has gone into a mapping exercise of MOs and societies to gather activists so we can have an all-island networking event. I hope this is well attended with at least one sabbatical officer from every SU with a mandate on repeal. This will be crucial for a co-ordinated campaign.

National Council training: It was agreed by USI Taskforce to ensure National Council itself was prioritised for training. Myself and the VP campaigns have agreed to suspend our own working groups in order to ensure a conversation space is created for sabbatical officers at this National Council.

Direct Provision: Action

After a number of weeks planning and discussions with migrant groups, we organised and led an action outside Avoca, to show publicly their links (through owners Aramark) to Direct Provision centres (3) in Ireland, which Aramark very poorly caters and profits from. The action was supported by MASI (Movement of Asylum seekers in Ireland) and ENAR (European Network against Racism) Ireland. Strong MO support came from TCDSU on the day, which was the day before Christmas Eve, so we caught peak shopper time. Most shoppers who regularly visited Avoca, didn't know it had been bought out by an american conglomerate.

HEA & Gender Equality

The HEA invited the USI to a stakeholder meeting with regard to a review of the Gender Equality Report undertaken in and published in 2016. This meeting ended up being a 1:1, with 15 HEA taskforce members (incl. A number of University/IT Presidents, Accenture, and officials from the Department of Education and HEA) and myself.

In a 40 minute interview, I discussed barriers for women's progression in academia, the importance and effect of representation (or lack thereof) of women in various fields or senior academic positions, the issues facing postgrad and PHD students around maternity leave, and implored the committee to seek to include trans and non-binary lenses in their framework, or I told them that the work of the taskforce is updated before it begins.

I attended a second stakeholder event of more than 100 people in The Gresham Hotel, Dublin to further discuss with Human Resources managers and others, the issues of promotion in academia and discussion of systems and approaches that can change them.

#WomenLead18

A lot of time has gone into the planning and organising of this event, which has seen over 60 self-defining women in student register. A double booking of a room left us without a venue for a time, but I managed to secure a suitable space in Smithfield. 18 beds were booked and filled almost immediately, particularly in the week before the event. Beds have been kept for those attending outside Dublin. There is no registration fee.

It's a two day event (an evening and full day) and begins with a networking evening to feature a speaker from the NWCI (National Women's Council of Ireland) and a film with discussion afterwards. The day of training will include basic campaigns training, a panel discussion of experiences from currently elected officers, training in social media use and preparing

speeches, some explainer about the work of the campaigns manager, and leadership and self-care. I am really looking forward to a great event.

Disability Seminar

I will be supporting the Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western region in preparing the content for the disability seminar. The date will be announced asap. We are already in discussion with a number of groups who will be advising and assisting on this important project. It is envisioned that the conference will bring together students who have disabilities across the spectrum of experience at third level, and will offer networking opportunities and to build leadership skills.

LGBTI+: Trans Healthcare and Upcoming Gender Recognition Submission

My work on the LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy continues, and further to that, I have committed to ensuring a national submission to the separate Oireachtas process which is reviewing (independently, through chair Moninne Griffith) the Gender Recognition Act 2015. It is important that submissions are put in regarding this, as in particular our students are affected due to issues from when they were under 18 around their treatment and legal identities, as well as non-binary students who as of yet are not essentially recognised by the state. Joined up submissions are important for this.

USI also supported, attended and I spoke at the recent protest outside Leinster House regarding Trans Healthcare. I sought out advice for my speech as always, conscious of my space as a supportive and active ally regarding this issue. I am still appalled by the utter mystery cloaking access to clear information and guidance around healthcare for trans people in Ireland. If you wish to follow this up further, please contact me.

National Access Plan

I sit on the steering committee for the review and implementation of the national access plan, which identifies target areas and groups who require support to ensure entry and success at third level in Ireland. The work on this is ongoing, but as part of the mid-term review of the plan, I will be seeking to put together a panel of students to speak with the consultant writing the report, in particular students from target groups: HEAR/DARE recipients, the travelling community, and mature students. I attended a half day forum along with the Vice President for Welfare and met and spoke with stakeholders in the sector (access and disability officers) regarding the plan and how it can be improved moving forward.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officerboard and staff detailing plan of work for the week ahead.
8/12/2017 - 9/12/2017	USI National Council	Hosted by ITSSU.

		Co-ordinated solidarity photo regarding a call for the ratification of UNCRPD for disability rights at NC (as members of NC unable to attend Dublin Protest)
14/12/2017	[Chaired] OB Day	Review of the year and planning ahead. Chaird on behalf of the President.
15/12/2017	[Repeal] Regional Planning, USI	Meeting with VP Campaigns and VPs of the Regions, planning and mapping. Amnesty joined meeting to discuss training plans.
18/12/2017 - Morning	[EU/Voter Reg] EU Citizenship Project Meeting, The Wheel	Supported by the USI PR Executive, attended parter meeting with Spunout and The Wheel upon being awarded significant funding to run an EU Citizenship project in the next few months around voter registration in particular.
19/12/2017 - Morning	Extraordinary National Council	Hosted by NCISU to decide the future accommodation of USI. I raised the upcoming action outside Avoca in AOB.
19/12/2017 - Afternoon	[Taskforce] Students for Choice	Meeting held in part after NC completed. Planning.
23/12/17	[Direct Provision] Action outside Avoca	USI led an action outside Avoca to highlight their link to profiting through direct provision through parent company Aramark. We were supported by MASI and ENAR Ireland.

10/01/18 - Evening	[Venue] Meeting to locate venue for WomenLead18	After an issue with venue booked, I had to find other options, and met with a rep from the Entrepreneurs Academy in Smithfield and viewed the facilities to ensure accessibility etc.
12/01/18	[Policy] Equality & Citizenship Policy Tracker	Met with the USI President to discuss policy updates and developments, as well as setting out 2018 priorities.
12/01/18	[WomenLead] Met with NWCi Women in Leadership officer	Met with Laura Harmon to discuss layout and modules for upcoming WomenLead18.
17/01/18	[Repeal] Meeting with VPs for the Regions	Co-ordination, mapping, planning
18/01/18	[Repeal] USI Students for Choice Taskforce Day	Brilliant day with the taskforce to discuss plans and training ahead.
23/01/18	[Repeal] Amnesty Training meeting, Amnesty.	Attended with VP Campaigns and planned training schedule for colleges and content for training.
23/01/18 - Evening	[WomenLead] Venue Walk Through	With VP Campaigns, visited Smithfield venue for WomenLead18.

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
30/11/17	[Repeal] Regional Co-Ordination Meeting	Co-ordination among nationally organising groups, attended with VP Campaigns
30/11/17	[Panel] HIV & Activism Panel, Maynooth University	Contributed as guest speaker to a panel

		discussion on the topic of HIV and activism
5/12/17	[USI Alumni] Met with last USI Women's Officer	Met with June Coghlan about her time in USI and discussed current work.
6/12/17 - Evening	[Council] Attended MSU Senate	Gave the USI Update on behalf of the VP BMW Region.
7/12/17	[Referendum] DKITSU Repeal Referendum	Supported the VP BMW Region and students on campus to answer questions and speak to students about the referendum. Very strong result to campaign for repeal.
12/12/17	Launch of the Youth Mental Health Taskforce report, RCSI	The report of the taskforce launched by Minister for Health Simon Harris. Former USI VP Welfare, Cian Power, sat on the taskforce.
13/12/17 - Morning	[Repeal] High Level Group meeting, messaging	Meeting to discuss the messaging ahead of Repeal Campaign
13/12/17 - Afternoon	[Repeal] Attended the Joint Oireachtas Committee	Ensured strong USI delegation by securing spots for USI VPs and VP Student Engagement (DCUSU), attempted to live tweet until I was caught by an Oireachtas Usher. Very historic JOC meeting, chaired by Catherine Noone.
13/12/17	[Repeal/Panel] Guest speaker for Artists for Repeal, NCAD	Spoke to gathering about the JOC committee, invited by Cecily Brennan. Historic

		moment as JOC voted on repeal simplicitor.
14/12/17 - Morning	[HEA] Gender Equality Taskforce, HEA Offices	Attended stakeholder 1 to 1 discussion on gender equality at third level in Ireland
14/12/17 - Evening	[Repeal] High Level Group	Discussion, review.
15/12/17	[Repeal] Regional Co-Ordination	Mappng between organisations.
18/12/17 - Morning	[Rights] SIPTU 'Alicia Brady' Commemoration, Padraig Pearse Centre, Dublin.	Spoke to gathering on the commemoration of young Dublin woman Alicia Brady, and gave out award for activism with the VP Gaelige, ISSU.
18/12/17 - Evening	[Meeting] Met with head of MASI	Met with Lucky from the Movement of Asylum Seekers in Ireland regarding planning and support for an action outside Avoca regarding their links to Direct Provision. He gave full support.
20/12/17	[Repeal] Advocacy Co-Ordination Meeting	Met with groups regarding advoacy plans
20/12/17	[Repeal] Report Launch from the JOC on the 8th amendment, Leinster House	Attended the report launch with the USI President and VP Southern Region. Live tweeted conference and met with Oireachtas members.
19/01/18	[Repeal] Advocacy Meeting	Discussed the Oireachtas (Dáil) debate on the report of the JOC. Discussed Micheal Martin's contribution to the debate. Discussed future plans and concerns.

20/01/18 - Morning [Saturday]	[Repeal] Coalition to Repeal the 8th Steering Meeting	Attended with the USI VP for Dublin Region. Agreed action for International Women's Day. Shared updates.
20/01/18 - Afternoon [Saturday]	[Protest/Trans Rights] Supported Trans Health Protest	Supported Trans Health Protest and spoke to large gathering of 200+ outside Leinster House after marching from Merrion Square.
22/01/18 - Afternoon	[HEA] Gender Equality Taskforce Stakeholder Consultation Day	Spent from 1-5pm at roundtable discussions regarding promotions, postgraduates, and the barriers to progression for many women in academia. Highlighted issues regarding unconscious bias, promotion practices, maternity leave, and trans as well as non-binary inclusion.
22/01/18 - Evening	[Repeal] High Level Group Messaging Meeting	Discussion and presentation.
24/01/18	National Equality & Inclusion Support Network, Gaisce Building, Pheonix Park.	Chaired by NYCI, meeting with groups incl. Scouting Ireland, BelongTo, YouthWork Ireland, Jigsaw, Spunout, to discuss initiatives and joint projects.
25/01/18 - Morning	[Women's Strategy] Pre-Meeting	Union and civil society groups pre-meeting, incl. National Women's Council of Ireland, Community sector and Irish Traveller Organisations, to discuss the progression of the strategy.

25/01/18 - Morning	[Women's Startegy] Steering group of the National Strategy for Women & Girls (NSWG), Department of Justice & Equality.	Discussion and implementation of report and recommendations, questioning the work and commitments made by Government departments.
25/01/18 - Morning	[Access] Attend latter half of the Annual Forum for the National Access Plan, Department of Education & Skills	Discussion of NAP, progress, where it needs improvement. Shared the meeting with VP Welfare as I cannot be at all of it due to the NSWG.
25/01/18 - Afternoon	[Steering Committee] 6th Meeting of the National Access Plan Steering Committee Meeting, Dept of Education and Skills (DES)	Review of morning, looking ahead, planning, critique.
25/01/18 - Afternoon	ESRI Discussion on UK Third Level Fees	Attendance along with VP Academic Affairs.

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser

**VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**
OISIN HASSAN
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Vice President for Academic Affairs
Leas-Uachtarán do Ghnóthaí Acadúla agus Dhearbhu Cáilíochta
Oisín Hassan

Key Points since last National Council

Education Campaign

The EducationIs...Success Roadshows were scheduled in December, and based on applications we were able to visit two MOs. I was able to attend the Roadshow in GMITSU due to a clash with travel arrangements back from Israel. The clash was entirely my mistake, and I want to apologise to GMITSU for being unable to visit them that day. The VP Campaigns and VP Welfare ran the event on the day. I attended the Roadshow in Bolton Street DITSU later that week with the VP Welfare. Thanks to DITSU and GMITSU for hosting USI!

NStEP Developments

The future of NStEP has been a key focus for a number of months. The proposal paper that I drafted for the expansion of the Programme has been discussed with the NStEP Partners (HEA, QQI, and USI, who meet regularly). The paper was to be revised, as mentioned at NC in IT Sligo, and that revision was submitted in early January. The HEA-QQI Memorandum of Understanding Forum was to discuss the proposal at a meeting on 23rd January, but this was postponed.

I have also taken up membership of NStEP Project Team 1 on 'The Role and Recruitment of Class Representatives', in order to feed in the national perspective from our Member Organisations. I aim to support the work of all 5 Teams if and when I can. All of the NStEP Project Teams are still open for new members. Please let me know if you would be interested.

Further Education and Training

From my last report you will know that I have been working on a proposal paper for engaging and supporting students in Further Education and Training. The Regional Vice Presidents

have also been a great help in mapping out FET in their Regions. I submitted the proposal to the Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) in early January, and I will update as that discussion progresses. A special thanks to Olivia Potter-Hughes and Keelin McGrogan of NUS-USI for their help and advice.

Postgraduate Students

The Postgraduate Representation Network met on January 12th, and there were representatives from 7 Member Organisations. This meeting was incredibly positive and useful to begin mapping out the priorities of any future Postgraduate Campaign, and toward planning for the Postgraduate Voice Symposium.

The 'Postgraduate Voice: A USI Symposium' event is on February 22nd, and I would encourage all Member Organisations to be present and take part in shaping discussions. There is much to be learnt from our postgraduate students. Registration is open on Eventbrite and I cannot stress enough how crucial it is that you promote the event and encourage your students to attend. I am always at the other end of the phone if you need any advice on how best to do this.

National Student Charter and SU Autonomy

In my last report I detailed the meeting that the USI President and myself attended in the Department of Education and Skills. Since then, the Minister for Higher Education has directly referenced those discussions in Dáil Éireann, primarily on developing a Framework for supporting and developing Students' Unions based on the Scottish model. I have since prepared a briefing paper on what this process would look like, and how it links to our aim for a national 'Student Charter'. SU autonomy and the student partnership agenda go hand-in-hand, and the proposed Working Group(s) would examine how best to build that practice in third-level institutions. I will continue to support the work of the USI President in achieving this.

Policy Subgroups of Academic Affairs

Two of the three Subgroups of Academic Affairs Working Group have now met (via video conference). Minutes have been circulated to AAWG with actions to take forward on developing capacity around Student Complaints Procedures and on procedures around Assessment and Feedback. I am now taking forward these actions, although they will require a significant amount of research on practices in our HEIs. My initial focus is on securing a meeting with the Ombudsman Office to discuss work on Student Complaints.

Student Achievement Awards Ireland (SAAI)

The Vice President Campaigns and myself have been tasked with organising this years SAAI. I have been supporting the VP Campaigns on organising the logistics for the event, and I will primarily be focusing on reviewing the Awards categories, the Marking Scheme

from 2017, and the process of nomination and judging. This is almost complete and ready for launch.

International Affairs

Applications were sent out for the 35th European Students' Convention in Tallinn, Estonia. The Convention focuses on international student issues and the internationalisation of Higher Education.

The 'Bologna With Student Eyes' Survey of National Unions was circulated by ESU before Christmas. Myself and VP Southern have now begun preparing and drafting USI's response. I am keen to meet Departmental officials soon to discuss USI's stance on issues of Bologna Implementation and our role in the upcoming Ministerial Conference in Paris.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
8/12/2017 - 9/12/2017	USI National Council	Hosted by ITSSU.
12/12/2017	EducationIs...Success Roadshow DITSU	Supported by the VP Welfare. Special thanks to DITSU Part-Time Officers who helped us out on the day.
12/12/2017	Meeting with USI Housing Project Manager [in her capacity as a member of my Academic Affairs Advisory Panel]	Discussion on the Bologna With Student Eyes Survey and her recent representation of ESU on the European Commission's Working Group for the Modernisation of Higher Education.
12/12/2017	Meeting with USI Mental Health Project Manager	Discussion on inclusion of postgraduate mental health in the Symposium.
14/12/2017	OB Day	Review of the year and planning ahead.
19/12/2017	Extraordinary National Council	Hosted by NCISU to decide the future accommodation of USI.
19/12/2017	Independent Students' Union Committee	Supported the USI President and VP Campaigns on the issue of SU Autonomy and link to work on the national partnership agenda. Prepared draft paper and took minutes.

23/12/2017	USI Direct Provision Protest at Avoca	Supported the VP Equality and Citizenship to highlight to the public the role of Aramark (owners of Avoca) in the Direct Provision system.
11/1/2018	Meeting with USI President	Work on new Policy Tracker and updating on progress of Academic Affairs-related mandates.
12/1/2018	Meeting of the Postgraduate Representation Network	Meeting in Ceann Áras, with 7 MOs present. Thanks to the VP S
12/1/2018	Phone call with IT Tallaght SU President	Discussion on a number of key policy priorities for ITTSU.
15/1/2018	OB Day	Review and planning for the months ahead.
16/1/2018	OB Quarterly Review	Review and planning.
16/1/2018	AAWG Subgroup 1 on Student Complaints	The Subgroup met via video conferencing to discuss practices around Student Complaints Procedures, supporting Sabbatical Officers with casework, how Students' Unions can advocate for institutional procedural change, and how best to work with the Ombudsman Office on creating national guidance.
17/1/2018	AAWG Subgroup 2 Assessment and Feedback	The Subgroup met via video conferencing to discuss policies on assessment in institutions. The issues raised by MOs present focused on institutional regulations and Marks and Standards. This requires a review of MO experiences.
17/1/2018	Meeting with former VP Academic Affairs, Jack Leahy	Along with VP Campaigns, discussing planning, logistics, and feedback from last year's Student Achievement Awards Ireland (SAAI).
19/1/2018	Viewing of potential venue for	With VP Campaigns and USI President.

	SAAI	All will be revealed!
19/1/2018	Meeting with VP Campaigns	Planning SAAI18.
19/1/2018	Video call with VP Southern	To discuss approach to answering the ESU BWSE Survey and USI's response.

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
3/12/2017 - 4/12/2017	Workshops and exchange with Palestinian Student Council Forum (PCSF)	This event was organised by the Danish National Union of Students (DSF), who are in partnership with PCSF. We travelled to Ramallah, Palestine, after the ESU Board Meeting held in Jerusalem the previous week.
6/12/2017	Board of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education	I am a member of the Board as a USI nominee. The Board is of course confidential, but I took the opportunity to discuss the next theme of the NFETL, and there was wide agreement that the theme should be on student retention and related issues.
7/12/2017	NStEP Partners Meeting	Discussion focused on the proposal paper that was submitted by myself on the future expansion of NStEP. There was agreement that NStEP needs to grow, but aspects of the governance model needed reworked.
7/12/2017	Meeting with NStEP Coordinator	Discussion focused on gathering evidence of NStEP impact and on the work of the Project Teams.
11/12/2017	HEA QQI Joint Conference on the Internationalisation of Higher Education	A huge well done to Faisal Kadiri, QUBSU VP Student Activities, on his participation on a panel discussing some of the issues that institutions

		encounter. Faisal brought a much needed student focus to the event.
14/12/2017	Meeting with Association of Higher Education Careers Services Subgroup on Placements	Myself and the VP Welfare met with a Subgroup of AHECS to discuss issues students face on placement, especially in regard to SUSI. It was agreed we would circulate a questionnaire to the group so that we could get a firm view of the national picture, to help develop policy for Congress.
10/1/2018	Skype with Katrina Koppel, ESU Executive Committee	Regular catch-up on European issues, and review of the Board Meeting, including actions required.
16/1/2018	Phone call with NStEP Coordinator	Discussion on revision of NStEP proposal and on the upcoming Institutional Analysis sessions.
18/1/2018	IT Sligo NStEP Institutional Analysis	Attended as an NStEP Partner to observe. Thanks to ITSSU for having me. It was a pleasure to see how valued and active their SU is in IT Sligo.
19/1/2018	Meeting with potential MO election candidate	Details are of course private, but I am always more than happy to discuss national issues with any potential candidate, and to field their queries.
23/1/2018	Meeting of NStEP Project Team 1 on Class Representatives Role	The first meeting of the Project Team chaired by the NCISU President and the Head of QA in NCI was well attended and a useful first step toward developing national guidelines and best practice on Class Reps. It is worth noting that the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) were discussed under AOB.

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser

VICE PRESIDENT FOR WELFARE
NIAMH MURTAGH
WELFARE@USI.IE



Report of the Vice President for Welfare
Tuairisc an Leas-Uachtarán do Leasa
Niamh Murtagh

Key Points since last National Council

- Mental Health Survey
- Jigsaw Pilot
- Chats for Change
- ESU (European Students' Union)
- S.H.A.G - Sexual Health, Awareness & Guidance
- Consent
- Drug Testing Kits - Feasibility Study

Mental Health Survey

After reviewing the survey with the PCHEI, the mental health advisory group, the survey was then brought to a professional ethics committee for ethical approval.

The survey consists of various areas including mental health services on and off campus, knowledge of services, and variations of mental health difficulties that students may have faced or currently be facing.

The survey hopes to give us a proper insight into mental health issues that students are currently facing and what seems to be working or not working as the case may be.

We then hope to bring the evidence based data back to students' unions and the HSE which will hope to strengthen lobbying for additional services, and tailoring those services as well as campaigns and local and national initiatives.

Jigsaw Pilot

We are currently working with Jigsaw and have developed a workshop that will be peer facilitated. The two pilot colleges are DIT and IT Blanchardstown. Our Mental Health Project Manager has liaised with welfare officers in both institutions in recruiting suitable students to be trained to roll out the workshop.

The workshop consists of understanding mental health, help seeking behaviour and practical ways in which students can look after their mental health.

The peer training will consist of 3 four hour sessions before the trained peer facilitators can then provide the workshops on campus.

If these are successful we hope to scale up so the workshops can then be rolled out nationally.

Chats for Change

The Chats for Change Roadshow is hitting four campuses from January 29th - February 1st. 20,000 cups and 40,000 student support cards have been disseminated to students' unions across the country to celebrate the 5 year anniversary of the chats for change campaign.

This year we are focusing on what has helped your mental health and the new tagline "Have a chat, make a change" reinforcing the action of talking about our mental health.

The mental health research will also be promoted throughout this week to gain as many responses as possible.

ESU (European Students' Union)

After being appointed to the European Students' Union working group on Mental Health in Higher Education and the Student Movement, we met to discuss how we are to function moving forward.

As a group we aim to collect information from every nation involved in ESU on how mental health initiatives are rolled out in Higher education institutions. We are also looking at mental health attitudes in each Member country and national initiatives that exist in them also, both by the students' unions and government programmes.

I'm very excited to see what other member organisations with ESU are doing in relation to mental health and what we can learn from each other going forward.

To our knowledge this is the first time that information like this has been collected across the nations so we are really eager to collate the information and see what knowledge we can exchange.

SHAG (Sexual Health Awareness and Guidance)

The S.H.A.G week roadshow is taking place from the 12th - 16th February and will be focusing on consent as the overarching theme for the first time.

The consent aspect which is credit to students from Limerick School of Art and Design, gets the message of consent across in clear but fun way. Their Hashtag #GettingIt which has many facets really gets the point across while cleverly playing on words.

The week will have a myriad of information which a focus on a different topic each day. These will include Contraception, STI's, Consent, Crisis Pregnancy and the importance of STI screening and cervical smears.

We will also be launching the the website shag.usi.ie which has lots of interactive information as well as even having video game!

The "johnny's got you covered" street team will also accompany me on the roadshow and has backing from the HSE.

Consent

At present I am collecting data from MO's in relation to consent and what classes have been run in each institution. Gathering of this information will see what methodology is best practice and what will be the best way to proceed in designing consent classes that will go on to be train the trainer modules that can then be replicated across campuses nationally.

After the mental health survey has been run we will be focusing on a reprise of the say something survey which looks at sexual violence and students experience of harassment and unwanted sexual behaviour,.

Drug Testing Kits - Feasibility Study

As I am mandated to look at the feasibility of drug testing kits for the testing of illicit drugs. As part of this I have looked at various organisations such as Students for sensible drug policy, and others in Europe and Internationally who promote the use of drug testing kits.

I have also looked at the process of how drug testing kits work, both home kits and labs who work at night venues and festivals.

In terms of the benefits of using drug testing kits versus not, it has been vital in looking at how the testing process works, the likelihood of their use, and what users will choose to do dependant on the test results.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
Every Monday	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with Officerboard and staff detailing plan of work for the week ahead.
05/12/2017	Education Is Success Roadshow	Education campaign on GMIT campus with VP Campaigns
06/12/2017	SHAG Consult with HSE	Met with HSE Sexual Health

		Coordinator and USI GM on upcoming Sexual Health Campaign.
06/12/2017	Mental Health Progress Meeting	Meeting with USI Mental Health Project Manager on various ongoing projects.
08-09/12/2017	Christmas National Council	IT Sligo
11/12/2017	Student Support Card Launch	Trinity College Dublin
13/12/2017	Mental Health Progress Meeting	Meeting with USI Mental Health Project Manager on various ongoing projects.
14/12/2017	OB All day	All day Officerboard Meeting.
15/12/2017	Welfare Conference call	Conference call with Welfare Officers.
23/12/2017	Direct Provision Protest	USI and MRCI held an action outside Avoca to highlight their link to profiting through direct provision through their parent company Aramark.
11/01/2018	Welfare Policy Tracker	Meeting with USI President to go through status of all welfare policy.
15/01/2018	OB Day	All day meeting with Officerboard.
16/01/2018	Meeting with VP Campaigns	RE: Wellbeing Month
17/01/2018	Meeting with MH Project Manager	Meeting with USI Mental Health Project Manager on various ongoing projects.
18/01/2018	Students for Choice Taskforce Meeting	Planning day with Taskforce members in relation to repeal.
18/01/2018	Mental Health Advisory Group	Meeting to go through Mental Health survey.

22/01/2018	Chats for Change and SHAG PR	Meeting with VP Campaigns and USI PR Executive in relation to Press Releases.
22/01/2018	Meeting with GM about SHAG Pack information	Prep of Information to be included with Sexual Health packs.
23/01/2018	Mental Health Ethics Committee	Meeting to ethically approve mental health survey.
24/01/2018	USI Project Meeting	Meeting with PR Exec and Mental Health Project Manager to design Mental Health App.
24/01/2018	Mental Health Survey Data Protection	Meeting with USI General Manager, Mental Health Project Manager and PR exec to confirm Data Protection Protocol for Mental Health Survey.

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
01/12/2017	IT Tallaght Sit-In	Protest in relation to Secretary
04/12/2017	Jigsaw	Collaboration between USI & Jigsaw on Wellness Workshop.
06/12/2017	Fraud Smart	Meeting with VP Campaigns and FraudSMART about personal information safety.
07/12/2017	HSE Sexual Health Communications	Meeting with Committee for Sexual Health Communications.
11/12/2017	Chats for Change Partners Meeting	Meeting with Please Talk and St.Patricks Mental Health in relation to Chats

		for Change Roadshow.
12/12/2017	Launch of Youth Mental Health Taskforce Report.	Launch in RCSI Dublin.
13/12/2017	Samaritans	Meeting with Samaritans about upcoming initiatives.
22/01/2018	ESU Mental Health	Skype meeting with ESU members from Sweden, Denmark and NUS Wales on Mental Health in Europe.
24/01/2018	Jigsaw Pilot Workshop Development	Meeting to discuss peer mentor training for Jigsaw and USI pilot Mental Health workshop.
25/01/2018	National Access Plan	Attending first half of National Access Plan consult on behalf of VP Equality & Citizenship.

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
08/12/2017	Christmas Gift	CITSU VP Welfare
16/12/2017	Christmas Dinner & Accommodation	ITTSU
16/12/2017	Christmas Gift	ITTSU President

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

- Students for Choice campaign
- Coalition for Homelessness and Housing
- Election Training
- SAAI 2018

Students for Choice Campaign

I am going to take this part of my report in 3 sections:

- Materials
- Regional Repeal Group
- Campaign Events & Training

Materials: I am working with the Vice President for Equality and Citizenship to design and order all the Students for Choice materials that will be needed for the coming months. This will include:

- Students for Choice Regional Pull ups
- Students for Choice Posters
- Repeal the 8th Information Leaflet
- Canvassing Booklet
- “Answering difficult questions” booklet
- Breakdown of the Joint Oireachtas Committee recommendations
- Fact sheet
- MO Students for Choice Resource Folder
- Messaging pack
- Campaign tools
- “Reasons to be pro-choice” leaflet

Regional Repeal Group: I have been selected by the VP for Equality and Citizenship, to attend the National Regional Repeal group which will over the next few months look at how all organisations around the country campaigning for repeal can link up together. Once I have a comprehensive list, I will link in the VP for each region with the relevant colleges and organisations. This will be highly important for the campaign over the next few months, as we will be able to work together to run training, and share supports.

Students for Choice Campaign Events & Training: I am working with the VP for Equality and Citizenship to deliver a number of trainings and events over the next few weeks, these include the National Council Campaigns and E&C training module that will train sabbatical officers further on the repeal campaign, the National Students for Choice Think-in and Amnesty Collaboration Training.

Myself, the VP for Equality and Citizenship, VP for Dublin, South and BMW regions all met with members from Amnesty international Ireland to discuss the pilot training that was rolled out in 4 colleges in Semester 1, and to discuss how the training will improve and change for semester 2.

It was agreed that we will be collaborating together to roll out regional canvassing training, this training will be piloted at the national Student Think-in on February 9th.

Coalition for Homelessness and Housing

Since the last National Council, the coalition for homeless and Housing as officially launch the national day of action for the 7th of April. I will work with SU's and regional officers to ensure that we have a high student representation at this march. It is important to show nationally how affected the student population is in relation to rent prices, standards of accommodation and the lack of accommodation.

As part of the coalition I sit on two sub-committees, the social media and executive committee. With these committees, I am tasked with the planning the launch that took place in Mansion House in December, the national planning day to take place in February and the march in April.

The planning day in February is a vital day in which all colleges should send a representative as we will be discussing the national student accommodation crisis and creating a strategy to mobilise students for the 7th of April. This day will be held in Liberty hall, from 12pm- 4pm. It will include workshops and regional work.

Election Training

As per our mandate, 17 UO19, we will be running election training regionally over February. I am working with our regional officers to develop this training which will include modules such as: Introduction to being a SU officer, Campaigning 101, Elections & Social Media , Writing a speech & public speaking ,Managing a team , Officer Q & A session.

We will be putting a call out for host of this training in each region and would encourage any students thinking of running of any election to attend this training.

SAAI

Myself and the Vice President for Academic Affairs have been tasked with the organizing and planning of the Student Achievement Awards Ireland. The awards ceremony will take place on April 7th, in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin.

This year the evening will feature a 2 course meal for attendees and entertainment for after the awards are over. Myself and the VP for AA have also revised the awards for this year which will be announced on the 5th of February with closing dates the 16th of March. More information will be sent out to SU's in February.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
November 30, 2017	Regional Repeal Group Meeting	I attended the Regional Repeal Group meeting to discuss regional activity.
December 2, 2017	Coalition to Repeal the 8 th Amendment	I attended a coalition for repeal meeting on behalf of the VP for Equality and Citizenship
December 3, 2017	Crunniú faoi Feachtais Gaeilge	I met Laoighseach about the Irish Language campaigns coming up in 2018.

December 4, 2017	GMIT Education Is Success Roadshow	Myself and the VP for Welfare hosted the first day of the education is road show in GMIT.
December 6, 2017	Students for Choice Meeting	I met with the VP for Equality and Citizenship in relation to the Students for Choice campaign
December 7, 2017	IT Tallaght USI Affiliation Referendum	I canvassed at the IT Tallaght referendum for a Yes to USI vote
December 7, 2017	Coalition for Homeless and Housing meeting	I attended a coalition for homeless and housing meeting that planned the launch of the coalition day for the 12 th of December
December 8-9, 2017	National Council	I attended the December NC in Sligo where I chair the campaigns working group and Union Development working Group
December 11, 2017	Student Support Card Launch	I organise the launch of the student support card with the VP for Welfare. This took place in TCDSU.
December 12, 2017	Coalition for Housing and Homelessness launch	I co-organised the launch of the coalition for housing and homelessness in which we launch the national day of mobilisation on the 7 th of April and the planning day for the 10 th of February.

December 12, 2017	Online Election Voting Portal Focus Group	I attended a focus group which has received funding to create an election voting app to be rolled out in Ireland.
December 13, 2017	Big Start Coalition Meeting	We has a review of the campaigns so far in 2017, analysed the early years model, from feedback form the working group. We created pre-election demands for the campaign.
December 13, 2017	Coalition for Publicly Funded Education meeting	I was the secretary for the coalition for PFE meeting in which we discussed he coalition position paper, student manifesto for PFE, plans for 2018
December 13, 2017	SIPTU & USI Facebook Live Event	I hosted SIPTU in USI HQ for a Facebook live event in which we discussed worker's rights. The video has been viewed 1,800 times.
December 14, 2017	All Day OB	I attended an all-Day OB in USI HQ
December 15, 2017	Regional Repeal Group Meeting	I attended the Regional Repeal Group meeting to discuss regional activity.
December 15, 2017	USI Regional Repeal planning meeting	Myself and the VP for Equality and Citizenship met with the regional officers to discuss the

		students for choice campaign.
December 15, 2017	USI & Amnesty Repeal Training meeting	Myself, the VP for E&C and the Regional officers met with members from Amnesty to discuss the trainings that we held in 2017. We are currently making plans to roll out more training in 2017
December 18, 2017	Laois County Council presentation	I presented to Laois CC with the VP for BMW on behalf of the VP for the Southern region in relation to Publicly funded education.
December 19, 2017	Repeal Taskforce	I co-chaired the Repeal taskforce meeting in NCI
December 19, 2017	Special NC	I attended the special NC in NCI
December 23, 2017	Direct Provision Demo – Avoca Jam	I attended the USI demo outside Avoca in Dublin city centre against the catering facilities for those in DP.
January 9, 2018	Regional Repeal Group Meeting	I attended the Regional Repeal Group meeting to discuss regional activity.
January 15, 2018	All Day OB	I attended an all-Day OB in USI HQ
January 15, 2018	Coalition for Homeless and Housing meeting	I attended the coalition for H&H in which we begun plans for the strategy day on the 10 th of February

January 16, 2018	Regional Repeal Group Meeting	I attended the Regional Repeal Group meeting to discuss regional activity.
January 16, 2018	ISSE Meeting	I had a skype call in relation to the ISSE 2018 materials
January 17, 2018	USI Regional Repeal Day	Myself and the VP for E&C met the regional officers to plan the next few months of the Students for Choice campaign
January 19, 2018	SAAI – Venue viewing	Myself, the President and the VP for AA went to the Radisson Blu Royal Hotel to view the hotel as a possible venue for SAAI 2018.
January 19, 2018	VP Gaeilge meeting	I met the LU don Gaeilge in relation to Seachtain na Gaeilge and the Irish Language conference.
January 22, 2018	USI Monday Morning Meeting	I attended the USI OB & Staff weekly Monday morning meeting
January 22, 2018	SHAG & Chats for Change PR meeting	Myself and the VP for Welfare met the USI PR executive to plan the social media content for both campaigns
January 23, 2018	Amnesty Training meeting	Myself, the VP for E&C and the regional officers met with members of Amnesty to continue planning the joint training events for 2018

January 23, 2018	Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness Strategy Day	I attended the Irish Coalition to End Youth Homelessness Strategy Day which planned the next steps of the campaign.
January 24, 2018	SIPTU meeting	I met with members of SIPTU in relation to the planning of the workers right road show campaign
January 26-27, 2018	Women Lead 2018	I attended the Women Lead event in Dublin. On the Saturday I presented a module called campaigning 101.

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
Tuirisc an Leas- Uachtarán don Deisceart
*Michelle Byrne***

Key Points since last National Council

- ESU Gender Mainstreaming policy
- Student Media Network
- Students For Choice Campaign
- #EducationIs - County Council motions on Publicly Funded Education
- Student Councils and local student media
- Further Education Colleges
- European Students Union - Bologna With Student Eyes Survey

ESU Gender Mainstreaming policy

As part of my workload on the European Students Union taskforce for 'Women's Participation in the Movement', I took lead on our first task of reviewing ESU's Gender Mainstreaming policy. One of the main recommended changes for the policy, was to use more inclusive language. It has also lead to the identification of another stream of work around the Gender Quotas in ESU elections and working out how to make them more inclusive for trans and non-binary people.

Student Media Network

Working with the VP for the Dublin region and the VP for the BMW region, we have created a database of people working in student media – from journalists to radio presenters and people running podcasts. I have established an online network and I am currently planning a Student Media Networking event to take place in the next month or two.

Students For Choice Campaign

I have been involved with a large body of work around planning for the upcoming referendum on the 8th amendment. I have been working to set up Taskforces on campuses, attended training events, attended the South East Coalition meeting, met with Amnesty to discuss building our own training and attended a couple of repeal planning days.

#EducationIs - County Council motions on Publicly Funded Education (PFE)

The VP for Campaigns and the VP for BMW attended Laois County Council to present on the topic of PFE due to my unavailability. The topic was received well, with almost all Councilors in support. A motion is to be brought forward to their next council for a vote. I am also following up on getting motions passed in Wexford and Cork City as previous presentations have been made there. There a couple of more Councils in the Southern Region that have yet to respond to me but I am still working on securing times to present to those councilors.

Student Councils and local student media

I have been working to provide updates at Class Rep Councils and to provide submissions to student media outlets in order connect more with the wider student community in the South.

Further Education Colleges

I have reached out to all FE colleges in the southern region and I am currently in conversations with four Further Education Colleges about USI membership - Ormond FE College, Kilkenny, Thurles College of FE, Carlow Institute of FE and Waterford Further Education College. The main topic of discussion has been developing constitutions.

European Students Union - Bologna With Student Eyes Survey

The 'Bologna With Student Eyes' Survey of National Unions was released by ESU. The VP for Academic Affairs and I are working closely in preparing USI's answers as well as working with other members of OB in their specific areas of policy mention within the survey.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 8, 2017	National Council	Chaired the South Working Group and the Ents and

		Marketing Working Group. [Sligo]
December 11, 2017	Regional Campaign meeting	Bi-weekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the BMW Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region in relation to current and future campaigns. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 11, 2017	Monday Morning meeting (MMM)	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week workload of each individual. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 11, 2017	SAVES2 Brainstorming Day	Meeting with the USI SAVES2 Coordinator, Vice President for the BMW Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region. The SAVES2 coordinator gave us a presentation and we then discussed ideas for USI sustainability campaigns.
December 14, 2017	Officerboard (OB) Day	The USI Officer Board met for our monthly review day to debrief the events over the past month, and to plan for the month ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 15, 2017	Regional Repeal Planning day	Meeting with VP for Equality & Citizenship, VP for Campaigns, VP for the BMW Region and VP for the Dublin Region regarding ongoing and future planning of the campaign to repeal of the Eighth Amendment. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 19, 2017	Extraordinary National Council	Meeting with one topic for discussion - the new USI office [NCI, Dublin]

January 12, 2017	Upcoming campaigns planning	Discussion with the VP for Campaigns in relation to upcoming campaigns in the Southern Region. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 12, 2017	Postgrad Network meeting	Attended the Postgrad Network meeting discussing current postgrad representation structures and planning the upcoming symposium. Chaired by VP for Academic Affairs [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 15, 2017	OB day	The USI Officer Board met for our monthly review day to debrief the events over the past month, and to plan for the month ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 15, 2017	MMM	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week workload of each individual. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 16, 2017	Policy meeting	Met with the USI President, the VP for the Dublin Region and the VP for the BMW Region where the President assigned tasks from the USI Policy Book. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 17, 2017	Repeal Planning day	Meeting with VP for Equality & Citizenship, VP for Campaigns, VP for the BMW Region and VP for the Dublin Region regarding ongoing and future planning of the campaign to repeal of the Eighth Amendment. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 17, 2017	SAVES2 partners meeting	Met with the staff in the partner institutions to discuss ideas for the project

		going forward. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 17, 2017	Repeal Communications Strategy meeting	Attended a strategy meeting with the VP Campaigns, VP for Equality & Citizenship, VP for the Dublin Region and the VP for the BMW Region. Led by the USI PR staff member. [USI HQ, USI]
January 18, 2017	Students for Choice Taskforce	Attended the Students For Choice Taskforce where we discussed the upcoming Activist Think-in and identifying activists on campuses. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 19, 2017	An Coiste Cultúrtha / Irish Language Advisory Group	Joined the discussion around Irish campaigns, upcoming USI Irish events and moving towards developing an Irish language strategy. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 19, 2017	Student Media Network event planning	Brainstorming with the USI PR staff member on our first ever Student Media Network event.
January 22, 2017	Regional Campaign meeting	Bi-weekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the BMW Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region in relation to current and future campaigns. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 22, 2017	Monday Morning meeting (MMM)	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week workload of each individual. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 25, 2017	Making a Home in the Irish Language	Attended this USI event around Irish Language [IADT, Dublin]

January 26, 2017	Election Training planning	Planning the upcoming regional election training with the VP for Campaigns, the VP for the Dublin region and the VP for the BMW Region. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 26-27, 2017	WomenLead18	Set up and participated in the 2 day Women Lead event led by the VP for Equality and Citizenship. [Generator, Dublin]

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 7, 2017	ITTDSU USI Affiliation Referendum	Assisted the VP for Dublin and the IT Tallaght SU in successfully passing a USI affiliation referendum [Tallaght, Dublin]
December 15, 2017	Amnesty	Met with Amnesty to discuss developing a training suite for students [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 17, 2017	Strike For Repeal Assembly	Attended the Strike for Repeal assembly event which took place during Dáil discussions on the 8th amendment. [Leinster House, Dublin]
January 18, 2017	Meeting with National Women's' Council of Ireland (NWCI)	The European Students Union Equality Coordinator and I meet with the NYCI on the topic of sexual violence. This meeting was part of my work on the ESU Taskforce 'Women's participation in the movement'.

January 22, 2017	WITSU Be You, Be Proud campaign launch	Attended WITSU campaign launch 'Be You, Be Proud' which was led by the WITSU VP for Welfare and encompasses positive mental health and body image.
January 22, 2017	Ormond College of Further Education	Discussed Call]
January 22, 2017	Claire from Athena Swan group in Maynooth University	
January 21, 2017	ITCSU Beat the January Blues campaign	ITC Wexford Campus
January 21, 2017	Amnesty	Training [Call]
January 22, 2017	UCCSU Class Representative Council	
January 23, 2017	ITCSU Class Representative Council	

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser

VICE PRESIDENT FOR THE BORDER, MIDLANDS AND WESTERN REGION

JIMMY MCGOVERN

BMW@USI.IE



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

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

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

Jimmy McGovern

Key Points since last National Council

Communication with the Region

As the Vice President for a Region, a significant amount of my time is dedicated to travelling to campuses, events and the USI Headquarters, communicating with and updating the USI Officer Board 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 meeting that I have been invited to, to give an update on the work USI has been doing to date. I have given information on the work of each of the USI Officer Board members, and took any questions that class reps had. I have used this platform to push engagement with USI events.

Dundalk IT Students' Union's Repeal Referendum

Dundalk IT Students' Union held a referendum on whether or not to adopt a pro-choice stance on repealing the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution. I was joined by the USI Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship in campaigning across campus. We as USI Officers gave numerous lecture addresses and canvassed countless students. The result was a 90% Vote in favour.

County Council Presentation on Higher Education Funding in Ireland

The Vice President for Campaigns and I presented to Laois County Council on the current Higher Education funding situation. We presented with the aim of gaining support for publicly funded education, greater grant investment, and the opposition to the introduction of an income contingent loan scheme for students. The Council were supportive but reluctant to

pass a motion until Councillors had more information. The decision was agreed to be taken at the next Council Meeting, where USI were invited back to speak.

Repeal Referendum Preparation

A significant amount of my time has gone into brainstorming, planning and preparing for USI's leadership of the student movement involvement in the upcoming national referendum on repealing the 8th Amendment of the Irish constitution. I, along with the other members of Officer Board will be facilitating canvassing training for students. We have also been working to build a network for student leaders and activist to share knowledge, expertise, ideas and upcoming events, in relation to repealing the 8th Amendment.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 8 & 9, 2017	National Council	Chaired the BMW Working Group and attended multiple Working Groups before attending National Council. [Sligo]
December 11, 2017	Regional Campaigns Planning Meeting	Biweekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigns. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 11, 2017	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 11, 2017	Saves Brainstorming Day	Meeting with the USI Saves Coordinator, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region to brainstorm ideas for future USI sustainability campaigns.

December 14, 2017	Officer Board Monthly Planning Day	The USI Officer Board met for a full day to debrief the events over the past month, and to plan for the month ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 15, 2017	Regional Repeal Planning Meeting	Meeting with the Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship, Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigning on the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 19, 2017	Extraordinary National Council	Attended the Extraordinary National Council. [NCI, Dublin]
December 19, 2017	Students For Choice Task Force Meeting	Attended the latter of the Repeal Task Force meeting. We discussed in depth communication and defusing confrontation tactics. [NCI, Dublin]
January 15, 2018	Officer Board Planning Day	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the weeks and months ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 16, 2018	Quarterly Review	Meeting with the USI President to review my performance over the past quarter and raised any concerns about the months ahead. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 16, 2018	Policy Assignment	Met with the USI President where he assigned tasks from the USI Policy Book.

		[USI HQ, Dublin]
January 17, 2018	Repeal Planning Day	<p>Meeting with the Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship, Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region and the USI Public Relations Executive regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigning on the repeal of the Eighth Amendment.</p> <p>[USI HQ, Dublin]</p>
January 18, 2018	Students for Choice Task Force Meeting	<p>Attended the Students For Choice Task Force meeting, where we discussed in depth how to campaign for the upcoming national referendum, and planned for the our Activist Think-In event.</p> <p>[USI HQ, Dublin]</p>
January 19, 2018	An Coiste Cultúrtha (Irish Language Working Group / Advisory Panel)	<p>Attended the first meeting of the An Coiste Cultúrtha, chaired and directed by the Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge, to discuss and plan for Irish Language events for the semester ahead.</p> <p>[USI HQ, Dublin]</p>
January 22, 2018	Regional Campaigns Planning Meeting	<p>Biweekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigns.</p> <p>[Phone-in]</p>

January 22, 2018	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week ahead. [Phone-in]
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Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 5, 2017	IT Sligo Students' Union Class Rep Council	Gave the Class Rep Council an update on what USI has been doing for IT Sligo Students nationally. [Sligo]
December 5, 2017	GMIT Students' Union Council	Chaired the Class Rep Council Meeting, and also gave an update as to what USI has been doing for GMIT Students nationally. [Galway]
December 6 & 7, 2017	Dundalk IT Students' Union Repeal Referendum	Campaigned alongside the Deputy President / Vice President for Equality & Citizenship in Dundalk IT, for a 'Yes' vote in the Students' Union referendum on whether or not to adopt a pro choice on the 8th Amendment. We as USI Officers gave numerous lecture addresses and canvassed countless students. The result was a 90% Vote in favour. [Dundalk]
December 13, 2017	Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution	Attended as a spectator the discussions and votes taken by the Joint Oireachtas Committee. Was also joined

		by other members of USI Officer Board. [Leinster House, Dublin]
December 15, 2017	Amnesty International	Meeting with USI Officer Board and members of Amnesty International, regarding collaboration in campaigning to repeal the Eighth Amendment. [USI HQ, Dublin]
December 18, 2017	Laois County Council Presentation	Presented to Laois County Council with the aim of gaining support for publicly funded education, greater grant investment, and opposition to the introduction of an income contingent loan scheme for students. The Council were supportive but reluctant to pass a motion until Councillors had more information. [Portlaoise, Laois]
January 17, 2018	Saves Partners	Meeting with the USI Saves Coordinator, Vice President for the Southern Region and Vice President for the Dublin Region and the various partners of the Saves initiative from NUIG, MU, DCU and UCC. We brainstorm ideas for collaborating on future USI sustainability campaigns. [USI HQ, Dublin]
January 19, 2018	Interview with Athlone Community Radio	Interview on USI's mandate to campaign to repeal the 8th Amendment of the Irish Constitution, emphasising the weight of the students

		movement in this referendum. [Phone-in]
January 20, 2018	Direct Provision Demonstration	Protested alongside the USI President and NUI Galway Students' Union against the Direct Provision system here in Ireland, which is a system that poorly accommodates Asylum Seekers. [Galway]
January 22, 2018	NUI Galway Students' Union Council	I attended NUI Galway Students' Union Council, with the intention to give an update on the work of USI and the upcoming Women in Leadership event. [Galway]
January 23, 2018	Amnesty Training Meeting	I attended a meeting with Officer Board and Amnesty International to discuss developing a canvassing training to facilitate for students, in regards to the repeal referendum. [Phone-in]
January 23, 2018	GMIT Students' Union Council	Chaired the Class Rep Council Meeting, and also gave an update as to what USI has been doing for GMIT Students nationally. [Galway]

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
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December 6 & 7, 2017	Lunch & Dinner	Dundalk IT Students' Union were incredibly hospitable and accommodating, providing all meals during the time of their on campus referendum.
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**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

- Students For Choice
- USI Affiliation
- Planning

Students For Choice

On December 7, 2017, IT Tallaght Students' Union held a referendum for the Union to adopt a Pro-Choice position, in support of the national campaign for full reproductive rights, which includes a woman's right to abortion, whether elective or medically necessary. I coordinated members of USI Officer Board on the campus to campaign for a 'Yes' result in this referendum and was successful with 82% of the voters voting 'Yes'.

Over the past month, I have met with the Vice Presidents for Equality and Citizenship, Campaigns and the regional Vice Presidents to plan, discuss and strategise for the coming months in the lead up to a referendum. There have also been two Taskforce meetings since my last officer report, of which I have attended both.

After delivering training towards the end of 2017 alongside Amnesty International, around the areas of lobbying politicians and talking to them about repealing the 8th Amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann, I hope to deliver future trainings with a different focus and a shift towards canvassing and speaking to the general public. We are currently creating a document with Amnesty and hope to roll trainings out regionally across the country.

USI Affiliation

IT Tallaght Students' Union held a referendum to determine whether or not their members would remain members of USI alongside the referendum on adopting a pro-choice position. I worked with the VP Campaigns to organise materials for this campaign and coordinated and managed a campaign team which resulted in a 'Yes' win with 98.2% of the total valid poll.

Planning

With it being the beginning of a new semester, USI Officer Board have had day long meetings to strategise and plan for the next six months. Part of this planning was delegating policy from the USI Policy Book to regional Vice Presidents. I have been tasked with several new items to work on and am excited to work on these policies as well as work with Dublin Member Organisations (MOs) over the next semester and prepare for USI Annual Congress.

USI Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 1, 2017	ITTDSU Student Sit-in	I attended and supported a sit-in protest in IT Tallaght where the Students' Union called for the restoration of a Students' Union Secretary position.
December 7, 2017	ITTDSU Repeal Referendum & USI Affiliation Referendum	Led a campaign teams to wins in each of the referenda.
December 7, 2017	DITSU Council	I attended DITSU Council.
December 8, 2017	National Council	Chaired the Dublin Region Working Group and attended other working groups.
December 9, 2017	National Council	Attended working groups and National Council Proper.
December 11, 2017	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week ahead.
December 11, 2017	Saves Brainstorming Day	Full day of brainstorming with the Saves 2 Project Manager, VP BMW and VP South.
December 12, 2017	Homelessness Is Not Normal	Attended the Homelessness Is Not Normal event in Dublin to kickstart the national movement to combat homelessness in Ireland. [Molesworth St. Dublin]
December 13, 2017	Meeting with DITSU VP	[Dublin City]

	Welfare	
December 14, 2017	OB Day	The USI Officer Board met for a full day to debrief the events over the past month, and to plan for the month ahead.
December 15, 2017	Meeting with NCAD students	[Dublin City]
December 15, 2017	Regional Repeal Planning Meeting	Bi-weekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigns.
December 15, 2017	Amnesty	Met with Amnesty staff to discuss future training plans and review the current training document.
December 18, 2017	Meeting with NCAD students	[NCAD]
December 18, 2017	Meeting with NCAD Head of Academic Affairs	[NCAD]
December 19, 2017	Students For Choice Taskforce	Taskforce meeting to discuss and plan the future of the Students For Choice campaign and future events. [NCI, Dublin]
December 23, 2017	Direct Provision Protest	Attended protest outside Avoca informing the public about Aramark and how they treat those in Direct Provision. [Suffolk St. Dublin]
January 15, 2018	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week ahead. [USI HQ]
January 15, 2018	OB Day	Full day OB meeting to review and plan the months ahead. [USI HQ]

January 16, 2018	Regionals Policy Meeting	Meeting with VP BMW, VP South and the President to delegate policy to regional VPs. [USI HQ]
January 16, 2018	Quarterly Review 2	Quarterly review meeting with the President. [USI HQ]
January 17, 2018	Repeal Meeting	Day or planning re: Students for Choice with VP Campaigns and VP Equality.
January 17, 2018	Saves Partners	Met with the Saves Partners to discuss how the campaign can succeed. [USI HQ]
January 17, 2018	Students For Choice Communications meeting	Strategy meeting with the PR Executive and members of OB.
January 18, 2018	Students for Choice Taskforce	Taskforce meeting to discuss and plan the future of the Students For Choice campaign and future events. [USI HQ]
January 19, 2018	Meeting with ITBSU VP Welfare	[IT Blanchardstown]

Meetings/Events Attended

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
December 13, 2017	Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Eighth Amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann	Attended a meeting of the Joint Oireachtas Committee as a spectator. [Leinster House, Dublin]
January 17, 2017	Strike For Repeal Assembly	I attended the Strike for Repeal Assembly outside of Leinster House. [Dublin]

January 20, 2018	Steering meeting of the Coalition to Repeal the Eighth	Attended steering meeting alongside VP Equality. [NWCI, Dublin]
January 20, 2018	Transgender Healthcare Protest	Attended the protest in Dublin demanding an improvement to healthcare services for those in the transgender community. [Merrion Square, Dublin]
January 22, 2018	Regional Campaign Meeting	Bi-weekly meeting with the Vice President for Campaigns, Vice President for the Southern Region regarding ongoing and future planning of regional and national campaigns.
January 22, 2018	Monday Morning Meeting	Weekly meeting with USI Officer Board and Staff to discuss the week ahead.
January 23, 2018	Amnesty Meeting	Met with Amnesty to further discuss training going forward for students on winning a repeal referendum. [Amnesty International, Dublin]
January 23, 2018	Trinity Graduate Students' Union	Attended Town Hall meeting where the Chief Operations Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Dean of Graduate Studies presented to students and were asked questions on the fee increases facing Postgraduate and non-EU students in Trinity College Dublin. [Hamilton Building, TCD]

January 23, 2018	IADTSU Council	Presented to IADTSU Council on the work of USI. [IADT, Dún Laoghaire]

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser
December 1, 2018	Coffee	ITBSU President
December 23, 2018	Ice-cream	IADTSU VP Welfare



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

Key Points since last National Council

Athbhliain faoi Mhaise do chách!/Happy New Year to all!

Téarmaíocht LADTA (TENI agus BelongTo)/LGBT Terminology (TENI and BelongTo)

Tá lúcháir orm a rá go mbeidh mé ag obair go dlúth le TENI agus BelongTo anois chun an téarmaíocht LADTA (ar labhair mé faoi ag an Traenáil Bhándearg) a leathnú agus a fheabhsú. Beidh cruinniú againn go luath chun an obair a phlé, agus tá súil againn an téarmaíocht a sheoladh go hoifigiúil le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge.

I'm delighted to say that I will now be working closely with TENI and BelongTo in order to improve upon and expand the LGBT terminology that I spoke about at Pink Training. We will be having a meeting soon in order to discuss the work, and we hope to launch the terminology officially during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

An Coiste Cultúrtha (Céad Chruinniú)

Ar an 19ú Eanáir, bhuail an Coiste Cultúrtha le chéile don chéad uair chun an Ghaeilge in Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn a phlé. Phléigh muid Seachtain na Gaeilge, feachtais eile na bliana, Scéim Teanga AMLÉ agus araile, agus bhí aoichainteoir againn ó Chonradh na Gaeilge. Beidh an chéad chruinniú eile ar siúl ar an 2ú Márta, i Luimneach (áit dhíreach le deimhniú).

On the 19th of January, the Coiste Cultúrtha met for the first time in order to discuss Irish within USI. We talked about Seachtain na Gaeilge campaigns, other outstanding campaigns, a USI Irish Language Scheme, etc., and we also had a guest speaker from Conradh na Gaeilge. The next meeting will take place on the 2nd of March, in Limerick (exact location TBC).

'Making a Home in the Irish Language'

Ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a ghabháil le IADTSU as an chuidiú a thug siad dom agus mé ag eagrú 'Making a Home in the Irish Language', ócáid a bheidh ar siúl ar an 25ú Eanáir ar

champas IADT. Cuirfear fáilte roimh aoichainteoirí éagsúla, a labharfaidh faoina dtaithí le húsáid agus le labhairt na Gaeilge.

I would like to give a special thanks to IADTSU for the help that they gave me in organising 'Making a Home in the Irish Language', an event that will be taking place on the 25th of January on the IADT campus. Various guest speakers will be welcomed that will speak on their experiences with the use and speaking of Irish.

Cruinnithe/Ócáidí AMLÉ

Date	Meeting/Event	Details
3ú Nollaig	Cruinniú leis an LU d'Fheachtais <i>Meeting with VP for Campaigns</i>	Phléigh muid feachtais Ghaeilge don bhliain seo chugainn. We discussed IL campaigns for the next year.
14ú Nollaig	Lá na nOifigeach <i>OB Day</i>	Pleanáil agus Plé don téarma nua agus léirmheas ar an fhéilire <i>Plans and discussions for the new term and review on calendar</i>
20ú Nollaig	Ócáid Nollag AMLÉ <i>USI Christmas Event</i>	D'fhág muid slán leis an chéad téarma le chéile. <i>We bade farewell to the first term together!</i>
23ú Nollaig	Gníomhaíocht ag AVOCA, Baile Átha Cliath <i>Action at AVOCA, Dublin</i>	Chuaigh mé chun páirt a ghlacadh sa ghníomhaíocht seo maidir le caighdeán bia i láithreáin 'Soláthar Díreach' <i>I went to and took part in this action regarding food standards in DP centres.</i>
15ú Eanáir	Lá na nOifigeach <i>OB Day</i>	Pleanáil agus Plé don téarma nua <i>Plans and discussions for the new term.</i>
16ú Eanáir	Plé ar Pholasaithe leis an Uachtarán <i>Discussion of Policies with the President</i>	Phléigh muid caighdeán agus obair na bpolasaithe atá agam mar LU don Ghaeilge. <i>We discussed the standard and work of the policies that I have as LU don Ghaeilge.</i>

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Date	Description	Purchaser