



Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

Tuairiscí Coiste Gnó
Coiste Gnó Reports

Samhain 2022 – Baile Átha Cliath
November 2022 – Dublin

Tuairiscí

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1. Uachtarán

President

Beth O'Reilly

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

Budget 2023

In the aftermath of USI's Pre-Budget Submission and lobby day this is the budget outcome we received. A minor step in the right direction but we have much further to go in terms of cost of living, PhD stipends, abolishing fees. There will also now be a review of PhD stipends.

Meeting with Minister Harris

Discussed the following issues:

- Student Contribution Charge (in light of Budget 2023)
- Rental tax relief for students
- PhD Funding and Stipends
- Maynooth Student Centre
- Student Union Bill
- Increase in student deferrals
- Issues facing Graduate Entry Medicine

National Student Walkout

#USIWalkout trended number one in Ireland on Twitter and received large amounts of media attention. Student issues were highlighted nationally. We look forward to our next action.

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
September 24th	Abortion Rights Campaign Protest	Outside Leinster House	
24th	Cost of Living Coalition	Marched with the COLC Student Bloc	
26th	MMM		
	It Stops Now Campaign Meeting		
27th	Connectivity Working Group	Department of Higher Ed	
	Budget 2023	Keep track of announcements relevant to students, assisted in formulating the response from USI	
28th	Meeting with MO		
29th	Coiste Gnó Meeting		
	Call with THEA	Spoke to Joe Ryan from THEA re: SU Protocol	
30th	Comhairle Náisiúnta		

October 1st	Presidents' Working Group		
3rd	Sick Leave		
4 th -5 th	Trilateral Meeting	Discussed relationship going forward between USI, NUS-USI and NUS in Belfast	
6th	MSU Walkout		
	Call w/ CMLOG	Call with LU don Gaeilge CMLOG	
	USI Governance Committee		
	Meeting with Minister Harris		
7th	Annual Leave		
10th	MMM		
	Together All Launch	Launch for World Mental Health Day	
11th	Youth Work Changes Lives - Post Budget briefing	Meeting with Paul Gordon NYCI	
12th	Media interviews	Newstalk, Morning Ireland, Newstalk News Bulletin	
13th	National Student Walkout	Joined thousands of students with TCDSU in walking out	
14th	Meeting with SETU SU		
18th	SUSI Grants Advisory Group		
19 th -28 th October	Medical Leave		

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>		
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí <i>Meals</i>		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche <i>Overnight Stays</i>		
Nach Iad <i>Other</i>		

Tomlán		
Total		

2. Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Clodagh McGivern

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

StudentSurvey.ie

Siobhan did a presentation for you about analysing the data and using it for lobbying purposes. The presentation is below and if you have any questions about the presentation, you can email Siobhan.

https://usiir-my.sharepoint.com/:p/g/personal/education_usi_ie/EXLMInurAptNoKgSiVjS7bYBdYeRi--4lTw5sCH6PD2VVA?e=WYe1ow

FOI requests

I've just received most of my FOI requests back, so I'm beginning to put them into a document together and calculate the national average. Once that's done, you will hopefully be able to see what your institution is like compare to the national average.

Academic Integrity Campaign

Academic Integrity Week started on the 17th of October. I hope the week went well for you!

The essay mill website is done. The link is here - <https://essaymills.usi.ie>

You will see that the list of resources on your campus are there for students. We are just waiting on the final ones to come back in the post. You'll then receive posters, business cards and beermatts that will look like they're a contract cheating service. You need to look out and see if your institution picks up on these as well to see how they respond to threats like that being on their campus.

Creative Arts Committee

Looking for creative arts students/student representatives to feed into the creative arts committee. This is in line with policy - 2022 AA 3. If you are interested or know someone interested, please join/send the whatsapp link - <https://chat.whatsapp.com/ECbHkBQaJyt89l6DjOyLXU>

Placement Campaign

Have reached out to OneMovement

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeachta <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
3rd Oct	USI x IFUT	Met with IFUT representatives with the VP for Equality & Citizenship to talk about the sample lecture recording policy. Both have expressed concerns about it and what we would like to see. We have decided to create templates ourselves and meet at a later date to reach an agreement.	2021 AA 4
3rd Oct	NstEP Steering Committee	Introduced to NstEP's plan of work for the year, budget and finances. Focus on strengthening engagement, developing the	20 AA 2

		leadership capabilities for students and supporting staff and student partnership.	
4th Oct	NCADSU	Campus visit. Stall at the NCADSU freshers fair.	
4th Oct	Level Up	Met with level up about the trip to Brussels	
5th Oct/6th Oct	SETUSU - Carlow	Campus visit relating to the class rep elections	
6th Oct	Harris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brought up the need for hybrid learning due to the accommodation crisis - Commuting and the lack of transportation to colleges outside of bigger cities - Placement and the McHugh Report 2021 - Subscription costs – spoke about Wiley and the need for investment into OER’s and subsidised text books on campuses - 20% of new recruits proficient in the Irish Language, spoke about the potential of introducing Irish Language Springboard courses to ensure the target is met <p>Notes made for meeting: https://usiir-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/education_usi_ie/EYFEfCNqdkL7ER0P0FIdcBqHAA1c_vFbcJxJO-WLueLA?e=Nf2AgR</p>	<p>2022 AA 2 (Placement)</p> <p>2022 AA 6 (Subscription costs)</p>
11th Oct	IUA EDTL Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Workshop in October around Sustainable and Forward looking approaches to digitally enhanced learning and teaching - Self paced digital training resources will be available early 2023 - Upcoming: Review of student digital skills training 	20 AA 9
12th Oct	Student Panel Questions	Academic Integrity Student Panel Met with Sue to run through the plan of action and come up with questions for the sabbatical officers	20 AA 6
12th Oct	Bernadette Savage	Met with Bernadette Savage who created a fake educational essay mill site for advice	20 AA 6
12th Oct	Student Survey	<p>Raised concerns from the last council at the Maynooth Innovation Lab – Strategic Reflection Workshop</p> <p>Questions changed recently, they change every four years.</p> <p>Need to continue to push for MO’s to have access to the data.</p> <p>Brought up EuroStudent Survey – this survey asks questions about students lives i.e., health</p>	2022 AA 8

		& wellbeing, income & expenditure, sociology-economic background, travel and accommodation. The survey - https://hea.ie/2021/02/10/eurostudent-survey/	
14 th Oct	Cathy Ellis	Leader in academic integrity in Australia Workshop from her with the rest of the NAIN members	20 AA 6
14 th Oct	NstEP Briefing	NstEP met student reps to talk about the courses they offer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction class rep training - Advanced class rep training (good for returning class reps) - Representing Diversity Training - https://studentengagement.ie/book-training/ Online Training <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the Student Learning experience - StudentSurvey.ie and you - https://studentengagement.ie/online-modules/ Email nstepdevelopment@usi.ie if you have questions	20 AA 2
17 th Oct	Academic Integrity Panel	Sabbatical Officers from member organisations of USI spoke about academic integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is academic integrity important? - What are critical issues that students are facing at the moment? - How can students be protected and supported? - What drives students to engage in academic misconduct? - What could and should be done to help students and promote academic integrity and by who? - In an ideal world, what would you like to see? 	20 AA 6 20 AA 3
18 th October	QQI Conference	Talks I attended: 9am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - International challenges facing the education system - Changing Europe and the impacts on Irish Tertiary Education - QQI working in partnership 10:45 Future-Fit Quality and Qualifications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview of future trends - Insight into higher education - DCU future experience 	20 AA 6 20 AA 3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of QA Guidelines for fully online programmes - Panel discussion on digital transformation <p>12:00 Internationalisation and the Irish Qualifications System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The challenges of transnational education - Internal agency activities - Irelands international education strategy - QQI international education activity <p>4:00 Influences on Future Quality Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Future of Quality Assurance - Climate Action - Future Perspectives for European Quality Assurance - What role will equality, diversity and inclusion have in education? - QQI and the future of quality assurance <p>Talks I spoke at: 2:00 Integrity for Life</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launch of the Global Academic Integrity Network <p>3:00 Cantering Students in Quality Assurance to Promote Equity ad Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Value of Student Staff Partnership - Launch of the StudentSurvey 	
19th Oct	QQI Conference	<p>Spoke at: 9am QQI x QAA Academic Integrity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assessment - Peer learning - Policies <p>11:45am Combatting the global threat to academic integrity: what can be done?</p> <p>Attended: 12pm Microcredentials and microqualifications</p> <p>Full depth regarding what I spoke about here - https://usiirl-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/education_</p>	<p>20 AA 6</p> <p>220 AA 3</p>

		usi ie/EckDSsg0jblCjisFORxGXS8BIO_v7AHRQYTgnxAlrN5UQg?e=B1qsXh	
20 th Oct	SETU Carlow Class Rep Training	About USI https://usiirl-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/education_usi_ie/EWGhhj_MnUVBi9tpMLbMnnQBEWM4O3mcqxZvm012qayJwQ?e=YdsrVO	
20 th Oct	NCISU Class Rep training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - About USI https://usiirl-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/education_usi_ie/EWGhhj_MnUVBi9tpMLbMnnQBEWM4O3mcqxZvm012qayJwQ?e=YdsrVO - Academic Integrity https://usiirl-my.sharepoint.com/:p:/g/personal/education_usi_ie/EfHkMab9jtdKISysTTvJ8b4Bc5H12RBKID2Fx_m8Y92d0Q?e=ePupPr 	
21 st Oct	Campaign Strategy Committee	Meeting about upcoming campaigns and actions with the strategy committee	
22 nd Oct	Maynooth	Class rep training – How to be a good class rep?	
23 rd Oct	Trinity	Class rep training – about USI/who we are/how to get involved	
24 th Oct	StudentSurvey.ie	Autumn workshop series and strategic reflection – vocal about sabbatical officers not being given data, relevancy of the StudentSurvey.ie, how it's used to rank institutions, how topical the questions are etc.	2022 AA 8
26 th Oct	National Forum Board Meeting		
27 th Oct-30 th Oct	LevelUp	Trip to Brussels	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta Date	Tuairisc Description	Ceannaitheoir Purchaser
28 th /29 th Sep	Can of Red Bull Mocha Iced Americano	Maynooth SU
5 th Oct	Oxygen Goodie Bag	SETU Carlow SU
4 th Oct	Toasted sandwich	NCADSU

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír Item	Tuairisc Description	Méid Amount
Iompar Poiblí Public Transport	Train to Carlow (19/10) Train to Carlow (24/10)	128.20

	Taxis Carlow Maynooth Virgin Media Travelling with merchandise	
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí Meals	Lunch Carlow (18/10) Lunch Carlow (20/10)	10.55 12.50
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche Overnight Stays	Waterford	35.00
Nach Iad Other		
Iomlán Total		186.25

3. Leas-Uachtarán do Leas

Vice President for Welfare

Sarah Behan

a) Príomh-phointí **ón** Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

STI TESTING KITS

The free at home STI testing service is now available in all 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland. Anyone from the age of 17 with an address in the Republic of Ireland can now order a free home STI test kit on the online platform by visiting www.sexualwellbeing.ie

The HSE has re-branded this service. New posters, business cards and social media images are attached in the partner pack that I have included in this email. These new posters and business cards will be available shortly to order on healthpromotion.ie.

ENDING SEXUALL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT FUNDING

Simon Harris has launched a new implementation plan to address sexual violence and harassment in third level education. The new Implementation Plan builds upon and complements the wide range of initiatives currently in place to support a zero-tolerance approach to issues of sexual violence and harassment that currently exist in HEIs.

This is being done through €1.5 million in funding, which will support the appointment of Sexual Violence and Harassment (SVH) Prevention and Response Managers in HEIs. [On Twitter](#), Minister Harris announced that 7 new senior positions will be created. These new posts will further enhance the implementation of measures aimed at eradicating issues of sexual violence and harassment in our HEIs.

Funding will allow for 19 actions to be implemented to adopt a zero-tolerance approach to dealing with sexual violence on campus that will be delivered between 2022 and 2024.

TOO INTO YOU CAMPAIGN

Women's Aid are launching their #TooIntoYou campaign on 10th Nov – 8th Dec and they need your help to spread the word about it. While it can be exciting when someone is into you at the start of a relationship, if they are too into you, it can be a red flag for relationship abuse. That's why Women's Aid runs the #TooIntoYou campaign to teach young people about the red flags of abuse and to support those facing abuse through our dedicated website toointoyou.ie Women's Aid will be contacting you directly about how you can support the campaign, or you can email Mary Hayes at mary.hayes@womensaid.ie

You can follow the campaign on Instagram and Twitter [@toointoyou](#)

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht Meeting/Event	Sonraí Details	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
August 23rd	Jigsaw/ USI Catch Up	I had a meeting with Jigsaw to discuss how they could incorporate their peer mentoring programmes into the third level education sphere.	
August 23rd	Sick Leave	I took sick leave on mental health grounds.	
August 24th	Cost of Living Protest	I attended the Cost-of-Living Protest in Dublin.	
August 26th	It Stops Now Online Campaign Meeting	VP Campaigns, VP E&C and I had a meeting to discuss the It Stops Nows online campaign that would be taking place the following week.	2022 WEL 1 2021 WEL 3
August 27th	USI Information Stand DCU	VP Dublin, VP E&C and I attended the DCU Clubs and Socs Fair on their St. Patrick's campus. We held a USI information stall and voter registration drive in conjunction with DCUSU VP Community and Citizenship.	
August 28th	Sexual Violence Poster	I received the final draft of the sexual violence poster, which was approved by the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre, Rape Crisis Network Ireland and the USI President.	
August 30th	Comhairle Náisiúnta	I attended Comhairle Náisiúnta online due to mental health reasonings.	
October 1 st	Welfare Working Group	I held the Welfare Working Group online due to mental health reasonings.	
October 4 th - 6 th	It Stops Now Online Campaign	The It Stops Now online campaign took place over the course of 3 days. This included the USI account and the welfare social media accounts sharing assets and information on sexual violence and harassment in third level education.	2022 WEL 1 2021 WEL 3
October 4 th	World Mental Health Day Planning	The USI Mental Health Programme Manager and I met to discuss what we would do to mark World Mental Health Day.	20 WEL 9
October 4 th	STI Testing Kits Confirmation	I got confirmation that the at home STI testing kits were now available to all counties in the Republic of Ireland through the HSE.	
October 5 th	Medical Leave	I took one day of medical leave due to mental health purposes	
October 6 th	Meeting with Drugs.ie	I had a meeting with Nicki from dugs.ie to talk about upcoming campaigns and to talk about the drug testing that took place at Electric Picnic.	2022 WEL 7 20 WEL 7
October 6 th	Meeting with Minister Harris	I attended a meeting with Minister Harris alongside the USI President, VP Campaigns, VP Academic Affairs, VP E&C, VP Postgraduate Affairs, VP South and VP	

		Dublin. It was also attended by UL Postgraduate SU, Mary I SU, UCDSU and MSU.	
October 6 th	Call with VP Welfare SETU Carlow	I had a call with the VP Welfare SETU Carlow SU to discuss an upcoming campaign.	
October 7 th	Call with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science	I received a call from the DFHERIS regarding the drug and alcohol education campaign funding.	2022 WEL 7 20 WEL 7
October 7 th	Call with E&C and Academic Affairs	I had a call with VP E&C and VP Academic Affairs to discuss estrangement and upcoming campaigns.	
October 10 th	World Mental Health Day Video Launch	The World Mental Health Day video was uploaded to all USI social media accounts.	20 WEL 9
October 10 th	TogetherAll Launch	I attended the online launch of TogetherAll.	
October 11 th	IADT Campus Visit	I had a campus visit to IADT to attend a mental health talk that was given by USI Mental Health Programme Manager.	
October 12 th	Call with STACSU	I had a call with the STACSU president with VP BMW.	
October 12 th	Call with Eve McDowell	I had a call with Eve McDowell in relation to the stalking awareness campaign that I am working on.	2022 WEL 5
October 13 th	Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment Funding	I received confirmation that €1.5 million funding would be allocated to Ending Sexual Violence and Harassment.	
October 13 th	National Student Walkout	I attended the National Student Walkout alongside DCUSU on the St. Patricks Campus.	
October 13 th	Virgin Media Interview	I had an interview with Virgin Media News about the National Student Walkout.	
October 13 th	Meeting with Crainn	I had a meeting with Crainn about drug harm reduction.	2022 WEL 7 20 WEL 7
October 14 th	Sky News Interview	I had an interview with Sky News after the success of the National Student Walkout to discuss the cost-of-living crisis in Ireland.	

October 17 th	Open Up Campaign in TUS Athlone	I was on a campus visit with USI Programme Manager for the Open Up campaign in TUS Athlone.	
October 18 th	SUSI Advisory Group	I attended the SUSI Advisory Group, which focused on the SUSI process from this academic year.	
October 19 th	Targeted Initiatives with It Stops Now	I attended an advisory group with It Stops Now to discuss how consent frameworks can be rolled out on campuses.	
October 19 th	FM104 Radio Interview	I had an interview with fm104 to discuss the Unmute Consent campaign.	
October 20 th	Meeting with USI Mental Health Programme Manager	I had a meeting with the USI Mental Health Programme Manager to discuss what should be included in an Oireachtas Committee meeting.	
October 20 th	Meeting with VP Dublin	I had a meeting with VP Dublin to discuss current issues and campaign ideas.	
October 20 th	Oireachtas Committee Submission	I wrote and finalised a submission to the Oireachtas Committee about mental health in third level education.	
October 21 st	Campaign Strategy Committee	I attended the first Campaign Strategy Committee meeting.	
October 21 st	Too Into You Meeting	I had a meeting with Women's Aid about their Too into You campaign to see if there was any way that it can be tied into the stalker awareness campaign I am working on.	2022 WEL 5
October 22 nd	RCNI Rape Crisis Statistics	I attended a webinar hosted by the Rape Crisis Network Ireland. Here, they launched the rape crisis statistics for 2021	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta Date	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí		

<i>Public Transport</i>		
Iompar Féin	Taxi from IADT to train station	13.60
<i>Own Transport</i>	Taxi from TUS Athlone to train station	12.00
Béilí		
Meals		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche	Overnights from SUT+ (underclaimed)	70
Overnight Stays		
Nach Iad	Batteries for Megaphone	20
Other		
Iomlán		115.60
Total		

4. Leas-Uachtarán um Feachtais Vice President for Campaigns *Ross Boyd*

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

Student Walkout and future actions

Without a doubt, the student walkout was a major part of the work I did over the past few weeks in both designing graphics and in chants, materials and graphics and supporting MOs when needed to ensure a campaign plan was available to get the maximum engagement.

It was incredible to see that almost 20,000 students walked out of lectures across the country, which I have to give a major thanks to all yourselves as MO officers for achieving such a feat and some incredible turnouts on many campuses, including some campuses where this had been the first on-campus protest in years.

My current work has firstly revolved reviewing the action and looking at future actions for the rest of the semester to build upon this success.

Union Partnerships and Political Engagement

As per my plan of work, a lot of what I want to do this semester is focus on building partnerships with other trade unions with the aim of creating an overall collective movement. This has been noted through support of the walkout by SIPTU, IFUT, Fórsa among others who have informed members which include students of working together. I specifically want to give thanks to the VP Academic Affairs and VP Equality & Citizenship who worked collectively on this issue

My aim as such is to look at the first steps towards building a partnership with CATU and other housing unions and improve relationships with other unions on issues of common interest.

As such, following Campaigns Strategy Committee, agreement was made that the political action that would happen is a lobby action, on the 10th and 11th of November and done remotely.

Campaign weeks with other policy officers

Further to my own work, my work also revolves around supporting other policy officers regarding campaign weeks and campaigns important to students. I especially want to give a kind word to the VP Academic Affairs who held an academic integrity week and as per the release of the officer report will be launching the main bit of the campaign of a fake essay mill site, given many students will be focusing on assessments that they follow academic integrity healthily and are aware of what supports they can turn to in the HEI.

I also worked with the VP Welfare to ensure we could deliver the It Stops Now campaign alongside a busy campaign time in early October with the walkout and want to give thanks for her help on this, as well as starting initial planning on resources for January on (Trigger Warning) Eating Disorders and Anti-Bullying.

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht Meeting/Event	Sonraí Details	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
21/09	Campaigns & other actions Update	Meeting with the Coiste Gnó to discuss an update on the actions planned and re-focusing on the walkout	
23/09	Global Climate Strike	Attended the Global Climate Strike with VP Equality & Citizenship	
24/09	March for Choice	Attended the March for Choice protest on Abortion access with President, VP E&C and VP Dublin	
24/09	Cost of Living Coalition	Led the USI cohort of students and SU officers who protested about the Cost of Living	
26/09	It Stops Now Online Campaign	Met with VP Welfare and It Stops Now to discuss the campaign and how it would work	
27/09	StudentSurvey communications	Attended with VP AA to discuss actions in promoting student survey results to students	
28/09	Voter Registration in DCUSU	Supported voter registration efforts in DCU which saw over 200 students register to vote	
28/09	Accommodation Campout with CMLOG	Showed solidarity with CMLONG in their sleepout to protest the student accommodation crisis in Gaillimh.	
29/09	Campus Visit to MSU	Visited MSU with President and VP BMW to discuss the plans regarding the Where's My Levy campaign	
30/09-01/10	Comhairle Náisiúnta SETUSU Pórt Laraige	Attended SETUSU Waterford Comhairle Náisiúnta, which included Campaigns WG, minutes for BMW WG and elections to Campaigns Strategy Committee	
04/10	NCADSU Freshers Fair	Attended NCADSU's Freshers Fair with VP AA to support the walkout	
04/10	COLC meeting		
05/10	MSU Campus Visit	Attended MSU to talk about their own walkout planned for the following day	
06/10	MSU 2: Electric Boogaloo	Returned to support their SU in the	
06/10	Meeting with Minister Harris	Met with Minister Harris with USI to talk about post-budget, GEM students, PhD funding and action on accommodation	
07/10	Annual Leave		
10/10	Campus Visit to AMLCOC	Visited UCCSU to host a workshop on non-EU and postgraduate student/workers rights and support the walkout	
11/10	AMLCC	Visited CCSU to discuss local issues as well as their walkout.	

11/10	SETUSU Carlow Campus Visit	Briefly visited SETUSU Carlow to talk about their walkout and local issues.	
12/10	StudentSurvey Strategic Reflection Workshop	Attended this workshop to ensure the student voice was represented, including on issues on the student survey and perspectives as such.	
13/10	SETUSU Carlow (WALKOUT)	Returned to SETUSU Carlow to support their walkout of 500 people in that campus alone	
14/10	Half-day TOIL		
18/10	Pre-panel call with STAND	Call to talk about the panel and be prepared	
20/10	Gender Justice Now Panel with STAND	Moderated a panel on Gender Justice for STAND with Amnesty International, TENI and Disabled Women Ireland	
21/10	Campaigns Strategy Committee Meeting	Held the first official meeting of Campaigns Strategy Committee, which included reviewing the walkout and planning the next USI action.	
24/10	Student Survey Workshop	Workshop to talk about the positives and negatives of the survey and how other projects can help improve it	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta Date	Tuairisc Description	Ceannaitheoir Purchaser
5 th October	1 x Lunch	Maynooth Students' Union

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír Item	Tuairisc Description	Méid Amount
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>	Taxi for TUDSU visit Taxi to Buswells for Pre-Budget Lobby Day	€15.30 €15.52
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí Meals		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche Overnight Stays	Overnight for SUT+	€40
Nach Iad Other	Megaphone batteries	€17.97
Iomlán Total		€88.79

5. Leas-Uachtarán do Chomhionannais agus Saoránacht
Vice President for Equality and Citizenship
Maeve Richardson

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

Student Walkout

Congratulations to all MOs who took part in the national walkout. In the post COVID-19 context it is an amazing achievement to get so many students out. We are in the centre of a cost of living crisis- balancing casework, fighting your college senior management and organising your students only shows how strong the student movement is. And thank you to those who couldn't walk out but showed solidarity. Bring on the next action.

International Students

Description of Key Point Currently undertaking a content review of EducationInIreland.com to be presented to DFHERIS due to misleading marketing information on the website. Will be meeting the DFHERIS and Enterprise Ireland who co-run the site to address issues on site. Will also be discussing the contents of the ICOS accommodation survey.

Voter Registration

ChecktheRegister.ie is currently transitioning so that anyone with a PPS number can register to vote online. This means all printable documents bar the RFA2 form have been removed

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasáí <i>Policy</i>
Sept 22nd	ICOS Board Members Meeting	Discussed governance & accommodation crisis	
	LGBT Domestic Violence Coalition		
	NCBI Equitable Education Launch	Equitable-education-report-final-and-fully-accessible.pdf (ncbi.ie) Report is above, recommend reading it. Spoke with Martin Conway	
	Call with Crohn's Ireland	Potential collaborations on invisible disabilities and disabled bathroom usage	
23rd	ICOS Orientation Day	Spoke to 250 forum fellows from ICOS about USI and being a student in Ireland	
	Global Climate Strike	Attended with VP campaigns	
24th	March for Choice		
	Cost of Living Coalition		
26th	MMM		

	It Stops Now Campaign Meeting		
	INHEF submission meeting		
27th	Voter Reg DCUSU	St. Pat's voter reg drive at societies day	
	Diversity Matters Mini Conference Meeting	Planning meeting	
29th	Coiste Gnó Meeting		
30th	CN		
1st	CN		
3rd	USI and IFUT Meeting	Met IFUT with VP AA to discuss common ground between USI and IFUT on lecture recordings	
5th	Annual Leave		
6th	Meeting-casework	Student Workers' rights	
	Simon Harris Meeting	Discussed -GEM students -Student accommodation -International student fees -The budget	
7th	Abortion Working Group	Discussed safe access zones legislation, abortion access, stickers to be provided to promote safe abortions from Leitrim for Choice	
8th	MMM		
	Consultation on PATH 5 Travellers' & Roma Students in HE		
	Ailbhe Smyth Meeting	Discussion of Savita 10 th anniversary march	
12th	Diversity Matters Conference	Discussing queerness and neurodiversity from the perspective of students entering the workplace	
	MTU Cork SU Student Council	VP South on leave, gave USI update	
13th	Student Walkout	MTU Cork SU, Bishopstown, massive success well down to the executive	
14th	Half Day TOIL		
	Meeting-casework	Racism related	
17th	MMM		

	MTUCSU PT chat		
18th	NYCI Equality & Inclusion Support Network	Provided transcription software	
	Savita 10 th anniversary press conf	Spoke about trans rights, students for choice, rural isolation	
20th	MTU Cork SU Student Council Training		
	Casework meeting	Workers' rights	
21st	Campaigns Strat Committee	Briefly popped in to introduce LUDG	
	Orientation w/ LU don Gaeilge	Meet LU in Limerick	
23rd	TCDSU Class Rep Training	Attended with VP AA in Carlow	
24th	MMM		
25th	UGSU Pink Training Meeting	Met admin staff for logistics of pink training	
	UGSU Trade Union Meeting	Meet Pres & Education officer of UGSU to discuss workers' rights initiatives	
	ATU Galway SU Class Rep Training	Replaced VP BMW who is on sick leave, ATUSU Galway have the best SU hoodies	
27th	ATU Mayo SU Class Rep Training	Had to attend online due to illness before travelling the day before	
28th	ISSU x USI Active Citizenship project Meeting	Watch this space	
	Meeting with USI PR & Comms Manager	Planning comms ahead of November	
29th	Savita 10 th Anniversary March	Garden of Remembrance, 1pm marching to the Project arts centre	
Nov 1st	Tuesday Morning Meeting		
	Meeting Equality PTO TUSU Athlone		
2nd	Voter Reg Drive UCCSU		

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>
25th	Class Rep training merch pack	ATUSU Galway

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>	€18 Cork to Dublin train	
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí Meals		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche Overnight Stays		
Nach Iad Other		
Iomlán Total		

6. Leas- Uachtarán do Átha Cliath
Vice President for the Dublin Region
Sierra Müller-Owens

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
22 September	NYCI Advisory Committee Meeting	This is a committee that advises and makes proposals to the board of the NYCI on international policies and facilities – we still haven't decided who is the USI member yet so I am attending until it has been confirmed.	
23 September	TUDSU Tallaght Campus Visit	I attended ACCESS orientations and gave a short talk about the walk out and general information about USI.	
23 September	TCDSU Campus Visit	I attended the SU offices during freshers' week.	
24 September	March for Choice	Attended the March for Choice which is an annual event demanding better abortion care on the island and abroad.	
24 September	Cost of Living Coalition Protest	No explanation needed! It was a super fun event and thanks to everyone who came. Special shout out to Beth who gave a great speech and helped organise the entire thing along with Ross.	
26 September	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM)	Upcoming plans for the week and problem solving as a team.	
27 September	DCUSU Campus Visit	Socs fair and voter registration at St. Pats!	
27 September	Budget Day	Not a specific event or meeting but lots of frantic note taking during the day and a lot of communication with the rest of the CG.	
29 September	TUDSU Blanchardstown Campus Visit	I helped out during orientations (gave introduction to walkout/myself/USI) and helped the Blanch deputy president with writing a motion.	
29 September	Team Meeting about Budget	A team meeting to go through the budget takeaways.	
3 October	MMM	Upcoming plans for the week and problem solving as a team.	
6 October	Meeting with Simon Harris	He said he 'fully accepts that there's an accommodation crisis' but his only solution was building accommodation on campuses partly funded by the government. When I asked him how we would ensure that the accommodation would be affordable for students, he said affordability is a continuum and some students might be able to afford more expensive accommodation. He didn't seem to have any other ideas for	

		addressing the accommodation/cost of living crisis. He also spoke to us about s1.4.3 of the new HEA bill and his proposed SU bill that would create a legal definition for what a student union is.	
17 October	MMM	Upcoming plans for the week and problem solving as a team.	
19 October	Check in with VP Welfare	Just a check in with VP Welfare x	
21 October	Campaign Strategy Committee		

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>		
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí <i>Meals</i>		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche <i>Overnight Stays</i>		
Nach Iad <i>Other</i>		
Iomlán <i>Total</i>		

7. Leas-Uachtarán don Iarthar, Lár-tíre agus Teorain
Vice President for the Border, Midlands and Western Region
Hannah Brennan

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

Key Point 1

Description of Key Point 1

Key Point 2

Description of Key Point 2

Key Point 3

Description of Key Point 3

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeachta <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasáí <i>Policy</i>
27 th Sept	MSU Visit	Academic Rep Recruitment	
28 th Sept	CMLÓG Visit	Campout/Protest on Eyre Square with VP Campaigns	
29 th Sept	MSU Visit	Walkout planning & strategy meeting with President, VP Academic Affairs, VP Campaigns	
30 th Sept & 1 st Oct	Comhairle Náisiúnta	Attended CN in SETU Waterford	
3 rd Oct	TUSSU Visit	Attended TUS Freshers Fair in Athlone with previous LÚ don Gaeilge	
5 th Oct	ATUSUD Visit	Attended ATUSU Donegal's Freshers Fair	
6 th Oct	MSU Walkout	Attended MSU walkout with President and VP Campaigns	
11 th Oct	DKITSU Visit	Attended DKITSU Class Rep training	
12 th Oct	STACS check-in	Had a meeting with STACSU President & VP Welfare	
13 th Oct	TUSSU Visit	Attended the Walkout on the TUSSU Athlone campus	
19 th Oct	Sick leave	I have been on sick leave since October 19 th due to Covid-19.	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>
29 th Sept	Coffee	Niall Daly, President, Maynooth Students' Union
5 th Oct	Lunch Voucher	ATUSU Donegal
11 th Oct	Lunch	DKIT Students' Union

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír	Tuairisc	Méid
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<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>		
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí Meals		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche Overnight Stays		
Nach Iad Other		
Iomlán Total		

8. Leas-Uachtarán don Deisceart
Vice President for the Southern Region
Caoimhe Walsh

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

- *Took annual leave – reminding you all to please take yours, we do not love burnout!!*
- *Working on possibility of voter registrations on campuses – will be sending out emails about it next week.*
- *Big well done to everyone on the walk out, ye smashed it.*
- *Working on better supports for apprentices – I've been researching numbers of apprentices in colleges as well as ETB centres and am looking into the possibility of setting up an apprenticeship working group.*
- *Regional PTO training – looking for suitable venues and will have a date decided before next CN, waiting for by elections to be over.*

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasáí <i>Policy</i>
26 Septem ber	Monday Morning Meeting	Meeting with the Coiste to plan out week and give updates.	
29 Septem ber	Coiste Gnó Meeting	The coiste met to discuss upcoming campaigns.	
30 Septem ber	Southern Region Working Group	I held my second regional working group at SETU Waterford.	
30 Septem ber	Comhairle Náisiúnta	Attended Comhairle Náisiúnta in SETU Waterford.	
1 Septem ber	Walk out posters	Arranged for walk out posters to be given or sent out to different MO's with other coiste members.	
3 Octo ber	MMM	Meeting to discuss our plans for the week.	
5 Octo ber	Campus Visit	I went to TUS Moylish campus for their frehsers fair and to discuss plans for the upcoming walkout	
6 Octo ber	Meeting with Minster Harris	I met with Minster Harris along with other members of the Coiste and UCDSU and UL Student Life. We discussed the budget and students' issues.	
10th – 14th Octo ber	Annual Leave	I was on AL this week, I am now encouraging all of you to take your leave as well!!!! It's worth it x	
17 Octo ber	Tuesday Morning Meeting	Coiste met and discussed plans for the week etc.	

19 October	SETU SU WD class rep training	I was unable to attend in person due to being unwell but sent a video for the class rep training talking about USI.	
20 October	TUS SU class rep training	I attended the TUS SU class rep training and gave a talk on USI, my role and the benefits of USI.	
21 October	Campaign Strategy Committee	I attended the online meeting of the campaign strategy committee ran by VP for Campaigns online.	
24 October	Campus Visit	I attended SETU Carlow campus for the hard launch of the TU.	
24 October	Carlow College	I am returning officer for the Carlow College Constitutional Referendum.	
25 October	SETUSU CW	Wexford National Council.	
25 October	Carlow College	Closed the election and recorded the results for the constitutional referendum.	
26 October	MTUKSU	MTU Kerry class rep training.	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>	Bus Limerick to Waterford Bus to Cork	15.00 10.50
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí <i>Meals</i>		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche <i>Overnight Stays</i>	Waterford CN Overnight Tralee Campus Visit	35.00 35.00
Nach Iad <i>Other</i>		
Iomlán <i>Total</i>		95.50

9. Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge
Vice President for the Irish Language
Orlagh Ní Choistealbha

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since beginning the role

Gníomhaí Gaeilge

Attended Cumann Gaelach training with CnaG + Launch of Gníomhaí Gaeilge.

Stór focal d’imeachtaí AMLÉ

Gaeilge Mandates + Scéim Teanga

Began reviewing Gaeilge mandates and how I will implement them

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí

Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
Oct 14th-15th	Traenáil na gCumann Gaelach	Attended the launch of the Cumann Gaelach training with Conradh na Gaeilge in BÁC – lots of engagement with CG officer's/guest speakers.	
Oct 17th	Official start date	Commenced my role as Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge. Read handbook for LU do Ghaeilge, researched on going Gaeilge campaigns.	
Oct 18th	Launch of social media	Launched my social media accounts as the new LU don Ghaeilge.	
Oct 19th	Meeting with previous LU don Ghaeilge	Zoom meeting with Róisín discussing the role.	
Oct 20th	Crossover	Travelled to Galway to receive an in person cross over off previous LU don Ghaeilge.	
Oct 21st	Campaign Strategy meeting	Attended zoom meeting for campaign strat.	
	Orientation with VP E&C	Met VP EC in Limerick.	
Oct 24th	Induction with VPEC	Completed my first day in the office.	
Oct 25th	CnaG intro	Sorted weekly meeting with Conradh na Gaeilge.	
Oct 26th	Gaeilge24	Registered all Coiste Gnó for the Gaeilge 24 campaign that takes place on Nov 15.	

	Acht Anois	Irish language legislation for the north passed through Westminster.	
Oct 27th	Cruinniú with Conradh na Gaeilge	Discussed: All colleges – sending out introduction of myself, oireachtas na Samhna coming up and campus visits.	
	Meeting with VPEC	Further orientation	
Oct 28th	Foclóir Aiteach	Contacted Barry Ó Siocrú about the launch of Foclóir Aiteach.	

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>		
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>		
Béilí <i>Meals</i>		
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche <i>Overnight Stays</i>		
Nach Iad <i>Other</i>		
Iomlán <i>Total</i>		

10. Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Iarchéime
Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs
Waqar Ahmed

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

1- Meeting with NFDE and Minister of DFHERIS

On October 5th at NFDE Advisory Forum meeting, I raised the PGR stipend issue with stakeholders and representatives from HEA, DFHERIS, IRC, SFI, IUA, THEA, HRB, QQI, and HEIs. I highlighted discrepancies, gaps and inequities in the system. Lobbied for a support from IUA, HEIs, THEA members to push DFHERIS for and immediate measures to improve PGR stipend and working conditions.

On October 6th, I had meeting with Department for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science (DFHERIS). I brought up the following issues:

- Inadequate PGR Funding and Stipends (Gaps, Expense, Minimum National stipend, IUA 24K, PCAU 28k, Innovate for Ireland 28K).
- PhD working rights and conditions (research expenses, contracts, sick leaves, parental leaves etc.).
- Payment of academic support for PhDs
- Non-EU PhDs Issues (Working rights for spouses of PhD students, Stamp/naturalization, IRP& Insurance costs)
- Postgrad Fee standardization, as the cost of individual postgraduate courses, and courses for non-EU students is dictated by the institution delivering the course. The current lack of clarity on how these fees are distributed after payment. Lobbied DFHERIS to ensure greater transparency from institutions on the setting of international and postgraduate fees and how this money is used by institutions.
- Asked DFHERIS to hold a meeting with USI, and other PGR stakeholders (i.e., PCAU, PGWAI, Non-EEA PhD Society etc.).

The Minister for DFHERIS has promised a national review of state support for PhD researchers. The scope of the Review will include current PhD researcher supports, the status of PhD researchers, graduate outcomes for PhD graduates and visa requirements and duration for non-EU students.

The next line of action is to call on the DFHERIS to arrange a meeting with USI, and PGR groups in November 2022.

2- Postgraduate Workers Rights Charter

As the first stage of drafting the new national charter for PGRs, I sent the draft charter to postgraduate officers, all sabbatical officers, members of PGWG, PGWAI, PCAU, Non-EEA PhD Society, and ULPSU etc. to seek suggestions and amendments. The proposed charter includes: (1) Employee Status For All Postgraduate Researchers (2) Minimum Living Income And Benefits (3) Recognition And Payment Of Work (4) Access To Suitable Work Environment And Resources (5) Support For Teaching And Work (6) Appropriate Supervision (7) Appeal And Grievances Procedure (8) Provision of Suitable Accommodation (9) PGR Representation In Decision Making Bodies (10) Right to be Represented By Student Union And Trade Union (11) Non-discrimination (12) Rights For Non-EEA Researchers (13) Career Development Pathways (14) Equality of Opportunities (15) Standardization Of Postgraduate Fees (16) Open Access

I aim to bring the charter to the national council in December for approval, after a final consultation with student stakeholders.

3- *PGR StudentSurvey.ie*

I held meeting with PGR StudentSurvey.ie Group to look at the future of PGR StudentSurvey.ie and how best we support it. I emphasised the impact of financial pressures on students and encouraged the inclusion of more questions about funding in PGR StudentSurvey.ie. I submitted the need for more emphasis on results dissemination, particularly communicating back to the PGR students (about the results but also key topics like anonymity). It was agreed that there is a need to incorporating the results into QQI annual and cyclical review as well the utilisation of results by HEA and DFHERIS. The next meeting of group in December would layout future directions for the survey.

b) Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí Meetings/Events

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Cruinniú/Imeacht <i>Meeting/Event</i>	Sonraí <i>Details</i>	Polasaí <i>Policy</i>
26 th Sep	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM) [Baile Átha Cliath]	MMM is the weekly meeting with Coiste Gnó to go through the weekly schedule, plans, and updates on matters arising including, COLC Protest, Campaigns Meetings, Budget 2023, HEA Bill, Comhairle Náisiúnta and Media Requests	2022 UO 25
26 th Sep	Meeting with QQI and PGSE [Online]	Had a meeting with QQI, and NStEP to discuss the progress on the mapping survey on PGR student engagement practice in Irish HEIs.	20 AA 3 17 AA4
26 th Sep	1:1 UL PSU & USI VPPGA [Online]	Had a 1:1 Meeting with President, Vice President and PhD and Research Officer of the University of Limerick Postgraduate Students' Union (PSU). We discussed the role of USI on postgraduate representation. Some of the key issues raised were postgrad fee and funding, postgrad engagement, worker rights charter and other local issues.	20 AA 7
27 th Sep	Research Matters final social media and website posts [Online]	Prepared content for the research matters final and winners	
27 th Sep	Meeting of StudentSurvey.ie PGR Working Group [Online]	Had a meeting of PGR StudentSurvey.ie Working Group TO discuss the future of PGR StudentSurvey.ie. I emphasised the impact of financial pressures on students and encouraged the inclusion of more questions about funding in PGR StudentSurvey.ie	
27 th Sep	Budget Press Release related to phds [Online]	Issued a press release related to budget 2022-23. Emphasised the situation of postgraduate researchers not addressed in any substantial manner in this budget.	AA 19 – 6

30 th Sep	Research Matters Event [Baile Átha Cliath]	Delivered Postgraduate Support Session in Early Career Researchers Event 2022 for IRC postgraduate awardees. Winners of the USI-IRC Postgraduate Research Competition were announced and given prizes.	
1 st Oct	Postgrad Working Group Meeting [Online]	Chaired the second meeting of the USI Postgraduate Working Group. We discussed USI Postgraduate Workers Rights Charter, Postgrad Researchers' Payments of Work, Non-EEA and International Postgraduate Students.	2021 AA 7 20 AA 7
3 rd Oct	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM) [Baile Átha Cliath]	MMM is the weekly meeting with Coiste Gnó to go through the weekly schedule, plans, and updates on matters arising including student Walkout, issues of part-time postgrad officers not being invited to postgrad WG, we also looked at developing a part-time mailing list to ensure engagement of all PTOs	2022 UO 25
4 th Oct	Postgrad worker rights charter	As the first stage of drafting the new national charter for PGRs, all MOs and PGR rights groups were sent the first draft of the new Postgraduate Researcher Rights Charter.	2021 AA 8 AA 19 – 6
5 th Oct	Meeting with NFDE Coordinator and HEA [Online]	Pre-Meeting with HEA Senior Manager - Policy, Strategic Planning and Research and NDFE Forum coordinator to include postgrad stipend agenda in the upcoming meeting.	2021 AA 7 AA 19 – 6
5 th Oct	NFDE Meeting [Online]	Attended National Framework for Doctoral Education (NFDE) Advisory Forum meeting. Raised the PGR stipend issue as an agenda item with stakeholders and representatives from HEA, DFHERIS, IRC, SFI, IUA, THEA, HRB, QQI, and HEIs. Highlighted discrepancies, gaps and inequities in the system. Lobbied for immediate measures to improve PGR stipend and working conditions.	2021 AA 7 AA 19 – 6
6 th Oct	Meeting with Minister for DFHERIS [Baile Átha Cliath]	Meeting with the Minister for Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Brought up the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inadequate PGR Funding and Stipends (postgraduates' poverty, stipend gaps, inequities, Minimum National stipend). PhD working rights and conditions (research expenses, contracts, sick leaves, parental leaves etc.). 	2023 UO (NC) 2 2021 AA 8 2021 AA 7 AA 19 – 6

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment of academic support for PhDs • Non-EU PhDs Issues (Spouse, Stamp/naturalization, IRP, Insurance) • Postgrad Fee standardization. • Asked for a meeting of DFHERIS with USI Postgrad students stakeholders (PCAU, PGWAI etc.) 	
10 th Oct	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM) [Baile Átha Cliath]	MMM is the weekly meeting with Coiste Gnó to go through the weekly schedule, plans, and updates on matters arising including Campaigns Update, Drug and Alcohol Funding, Suicide or Survive, HSE Weight Gain in Your 20s, PGR Charter, Affiliations and Anti racism training	2022 UO 25
13 th Oct	USI Walkout [Baile Átha Cliath]	Went to DCUSU to participate in student walkout to demand Renters Protection, Rents Reduction, Subsidisation of Affordable PBSA from Public Funds, Abolishment of the Student Contribution Charge and Minimum Wage to Match Living Wage for postgraduate researchers.	2023 UO (NC) 1
18 th Oct	Tuesday Morning Meeting (MMM) [Baile Átha Cliath]	Had the weekly meeting with Coiste Gnó to go through the weekly schedule, plans, and updates on matters arising including MO Updates, PGSE meeting, Academic Integrity Week, conflict resolution and issues training for MOs and Comhairle Náisiúnta schedule.	2022 UO 25
20 th Oct	Meeting with stakeholders of PGSE WG [Online]	In the meeting with QQI, and NStEP, we reviewed the responses to the mapping survey on PGR student engagement practice in Irish HEIs. The agenda and plans for upcoming meetings were finalised.	20 AA 3 17 AA4
20 th Oct	Call with Non-EEA PhD Society	Had a call with Non-EEA PhD Society on national Phd review. Worker rights charter, non-EEA postgraduate researchers' issues. The proposal for a wider meeting with all postgrad rights groups was discussed.	2021 AA 7 2021 AA 8 AA 19 – 6 20 CZN 1
20 th Oct	Irish Examiner Interview	Had a call with Irish Examiner on the national review on PhDs.	2022 UO 21
24 th Oct	Monday Morning Meeting (MMM) [Baile Átha Cliath]	MMM is the weekly meeting with Coiste Gnó to go through the weekly schedule, plans, upcoming events, and updates on matters arising including SETU Carlow PhD Stipend issue, Student Survey, Mailing Lists and November Comhairle Náisiúnta in NCISU	2022 UO 25

24 th Oct	Draft PGWG Agenda [Baile Átha Cliath]	Drafted the agenda for the Postgraduate Working Group (PGWG) November meeting	
24 th Oct	Policy update [Baile Átha Cliath]	Provided available October updates regarding the mandates on the policy tracker for CN.	2022 UO 25
24 th Oct	Officer report [Baile Átha Cliath]	Finalised officer report for November Comhairle Náisiúnta.	2022 UO 25
25 th Oct	PGR charter work draft amendments	Made proposed changes to the Postgraduate Researcher Rights Charter to be presented to PGWG.	2021 AA 8
25 th Oct	PGSE Working Group meeting [Online]	Chaired the meeting of Postgraduate Student Engagement Working Group. The meeting focused on the experience completing the survey and discuss its suitability to map current PGR student engagement practice in Irish HEIs.	20 AA 3 17 AA4

c) Fógairt Bronntanais/Fáilteachais

Declaration of Gifts/Hospitality

Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>
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Dáta <i>Date</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Ceannaitheoir <i>Purchaser</i>
NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA

Éileamh Costais

Expenses Claimed

Mír <i>Item</i>	Tuairisc <i>Description</i>	Méid <i>Amount</i>
Iompar Poiblí <i>Public Transport</i>	Travel to IRC Research Matters Event	16.40
Iompar Féin <i>Own Transport</i>	NA	NA
Béilí <i>Meals</i>	NA	NA
Tréimhsí Thar Oíche <i>Overnight Stays</i>	NA	NA
Nach Iad <i>Other</i>	NA	NA
Iomlán <i>Total</i>		16.40

11. Uachtarán ANML-AMLÉ

NUS-USI President

Chloe Ferguson

a) Príomh-phointí ón Comhairle Náisiúnta deireanach

Key Points Since Last Comhairle Náisiúnta

Uachtarán ANML-AMLÉ

NUS-USI President

Chloe Ferguson

Hi folks! I am going to do this a little differently this time round due to administrative mix ups and confusion over the role of the NUS-USI Officer on the USI Executive team! I have merged my last three Officer Reports into an update below to give insight on what I've been up to, how I work with the different teams and where I sit in relation to our governance procedures.

To give a quick beginning, I'll start off by explaining again what NUS-USI is, otherwise known as National Union of Students- Union of Students in Ireland. This means, because of the Trilateral Agreement I always go on about, NUS-USI is technically one third UK, one third the South of Ireland, and one third the North of Ireland. This means I sit on both the NUS UK Executive Team and the USI Coiste Gnó. Balancing this isn't always the easiest thing, but to give insight in terms of the working relationships, NUS UK is my administrating union. This means they look after all the admin surrounding NUS-USI, including the payment of staff, our day-to-day needs and expenses, and a lot of campaign planning. However that doesn't mean I don't communicate and work with the USI Exec Team, it just makes our interactions very purposeful.

I can be held accountable and officially communicate with members through the following forums to both HE and FE members:

- Attending Comhairle Náisiúnta, and writing up an Officer Report
- Any USI Team Overall Scrutiny
- The National Scrutiny Committee for NUS UK (this holds accountable and scrutinises the NUS UK Officer Team as a whole, particularly in relation to the three nation campaign)
- NUS-USI specific Membership and Accountability Meetings

I've really loved working with all of you so far, and can't wait to continue for the rest of my term!

Please find below a summary of each section of work, and my key meetings across the July-November Period:

Cost of Survival/ Cost of Living Campaign:

The Creation:

As decided through consultation with both students and student officers, the flagship NUS-USI campaign for this academic year is on the Cost of Living Crisis. Please find linked here the full campaign briefing on our website-. The process to get this campaign to where it is now began at the first NUS UK Team Residential where we narrowed down our priorities for the year in relation to both our manifestos and current political context. It became extremely clear from the outset that Cost of Living

needed tackled- the question was just deciding how we did that. Throughout July and August through numerous meetings the NUS UK Team decided on the general themes, which then at a NUS-USI perspective, we took and created specific policy asks in relation to Northern Ireland. These were extensively researched, and then taken to a HE Officer Campaign Session where HE NUS-USI Officers had a choice and a voice on these policy asks through discussion and voting. This also included the branding (name and visuals) of the campaign, which I, along with the NUS-USI Campaigns and Influencing Consultant, created. This is where the “Cost of Survival” Campaign was born.

The Action so Far:

This is then where the campaign strategy and timeline took shape. We decided as a team to prioritise the Freshers’ Period, travelling everywhere between Omagh to Belfast. Instead of using this as an opportunity to promote the organisation itself, we took a different approach and marketed our space as a campaigns stall, promoting the Cost of Survival Petition and getting a chance to speak and connect with students who have lived experience. We utilised both digital and paper signatures, now currently at approximately 1,500 signatures. We focused heavily on digital comms, including launching a new tiktok account, focusing on content creation to reach new students and increase awareness of our emergency asks: Cost of Living Payment, Rent Freeze and Free Transport, as well as our vision for education and society in the future.

This then pivoted student attention from signing petition signatures to attending one of our public meetings either in Derry and Belfast, where we both successfully lobbied for support across four political parties (Sinn Fein, SDLP, Alliance and PBP) with attendance and commitments from MLAs, and gained campaign volunteers. We have also been able to work with political reps to place questions to the relevant ministers on our asks.

After back and forth, we secured a meeting with Gordon Lyons MLA, Caretaker Economy Minister. This meeting took place on Tuesday 25th October where the following was discussed and raised:

- The Departments budget in relation to Cost of Living Payments
- DUP Party Commitments to Costs impacting students
- Funding Transport
- Finance Minister and Treasury of Westminster
- Lived Experiences and Case Studies of Students in hardship.
- The Hardship Fund and FE Financial Support

Out of this, we received a definitive commitment by the Minister and Officials to investigate barriers to the Hardship Fund, and how to increase accessibility.

Next steps include the COS Campaign Meetings Online, every other week, for any student or officer to join, to create action around the Westminster budget allocation (which so just happens to coincide with International Day of the Student), engage in meetings with Civil Servants and lobby political parties for support during the upcoming Assembly Election.

Key Wins so Far:

- Undergraduate Maintenance Loans are going to increase by 40% for the first time since 2010
- Secured a commitment to an upcoming full review of financial support in the HE and FE Education System in Northern Ireland
- Increase in Postgraduate Tuition Fee Loan Support

These wins come with their own complications- but we should still celebrate the difference we are making in our students lives so far.

NUS Charity and what that means for NUS-USI!

NUS UK and NUS Charity are two different organisations- so how do they stay connected? NUS UK and NUS Charity used to be the same organisation, but two years ago the orgs reformed to be two separate entities, whilst allowing students' unions to retain membership of both. NUS UK, the organisation which I am on the Executive Officer Team of, carries all lobbying and campaigning activity, whilst NUS Charity focuses on Union Development, Officer Training, Liberation and Trading. These are still sister organisations who work very closely together, and to ensure student representation in this organisation, 2-3 NUS UK Officers are invited to sit on its Board of Trustees.

For this year, I am one of these Trustees, but also Chair of the NUS Charity Board, meaning I am the Head of this organisation. This is why you will see a lot of work in relation to NUS Charity in this report- I took post at the beginning of September and began working on Governance, Freedom of Expression and day-to-day needs of Unions. I was happy to accept this position as I am utilising it to ensure Northern Ireland voices are not left behind and get access to development and training.

Belfast Pride

It was absolutely amazing to see so many of you turn out for Belfast Pride this year, and stand up for our LGBTQIA allies in the student movement. We remembered pride is still a protest, with a particular focus on Banning Conversion Therapy, but still celebrated who we are and our identities. Belfast Pride work was divided into promotion, organisation of the Pride Breakfast, and then the Student Bloc itself. Thanks so much to UUSU for hosting us!

FE Engagement:

NUS-USI represents a wide range of students, and something we are incredibly conscious of, is how we can continue to nurture and grow the student movement across Further Education Colleges. Due to the Officer Election cycle being very different to Higher Education Institutions, we engage with these officers (in the main) later on in the year, and work with a lot of Further Education Staff on the ground. Between engagement with Belfast Met SU's President, SERC's Governor and staff across other further education colleges, we have fed into discussions on FE Support Payments, BAME Experience and Cost of Living, particularly transport and food costs, in these colleges.

Climate Activism and COP27:

NUS-USI are members of Climate Coalition NI, the largest environmental network in Northern Ireland, with other organisations like the National Trust, Friends of the Earth, and RSPBNI. This is impactful to engage in as this group is currently focusing in on the intersectionality of the climate crisis and the cost of living crisis. Both in relation to the upcoming COP27 (for Belfast, the Global Day of Action on Climate), and policy/lobbying asks. This includes housing conditions, energy bills, clean transport and food poverty.

In my personal capacity, I am also Vice-Chair of the network, which has led to the student perspective being prioritised in top-level climate briefings heavily. We are currently working towards delivering the student bloc of the COP27 March in Belfast on Saturday 12th November.

Gender Violence:

This piece of work is our secondary campaign for my time in term- we will be focusing on this in more detail post-Christmas. For now, we have worked with our local Union members who maintain representation on key groups, particularly in relation to the Strategy on Violence against Women and Girls. We have made representations to local councils and Political Representatives on spiking culture, speaking on Good Morning Ulster about the importance of putting spiking testing centres in bars in Belfast.

Student Housing Cooperatives:

NUS-USI passed a motion at the last conference in support of housing cooperatives and gave a mandate to work with the Belfast Student Housing Cooperative Group. This work is primarily led by Ryan Harling, previous UUSU Officer, with amazing leadership exhibited by Grace, UUSU President, and Robert, UUSU VP Belfast. I have supported this group where I can by attending meetings, giving input on student engagement strategy, sharing information on NUS-USI Social Media and Newsletters and raising the cooperative to politicians.

Due to stretched resource, particularly in relation to the NUS-USI Staff Team shortage due to a member of the team being off on Maternity Leave, I have not been as hands on as I would have liked to have been. Going forward it will be great to discuss how NUS-USI can involve other staff members and impactfully contribute to the group.

Quality Assurance Agency:

The Quality Assurance Agency is a UK based firm, contracted by the government, further education and higher education institutions to monitor, evaluate and record best practice of teaching and learning across the four nations. This covers Northern Ireland. Post engagement through meetings surrounding the importance and needed implementation of an external review for institutions here, I was invited to speak at their day-long, online, NI specific conference on Embedding Quality Enhancement across Institutions. I delivered a small section on student voice, and participated in the key note panel discussing the benefits of student staff partnership on these matters.

Trilateral:

As I have previously mentioned, the Trilateral Agreement is what keeps NUS-USI, NUS-USI. It celebrates cross country solidarity and embraces collectivism and collaboration across the student movement of UK and Ireland. The official structure of this agreement allows for three formal meetings a year: one in the North, one in the South and one in England. We hosted the first one in Northern Ireland in October shortly post Freshers where reps from NUS UK and USI came and discussed SUT, the IIA, collaboration and training, a new framework of engagement and NUS-USI's 50th anniversary. At this meeting it was decided NUS-USI would host a celebration in February.

Freedom of Expression

Currently, passing through the House of Lords, is a Bill in relation to Freedom of Expression. Through my role in NUS Charity, I have supported both Durham SU and staff to create a "Write to the Lords" action highlighting the position of student officers of threatening both their right to opinion and protest.

Apprentices

I have been working with the National Society of Apprentices to further the position and rights of Apprentices across Northern Ireland. In the Apprentice Strategic Advisory Forum we raised issues directly in relation to the Cost of Living Crisis, and for the first time by industry leaders and the

Department of the Economy got recognition that there needs to be reflection and work progressed Fair Pay for Apprentices. This has recently become particularly prominent due to the move by Department of Economy to promote all age Apprenticeships, as lack of financial compensation rules out a lot of potential students with responsibilities, and creates a class issue in terms of access. Civil Servants in DfE are going to be following up on this in the coming weeks.

Key Meetings: July to August

Cruinnithe/Imeachtaí : Meetings/Events

Date	Meeting/ Event	Details
4 th July- 7 th July	NUS UK Team Induction	Residential in Chichester, England for team bonding and getting to grips with campaign ideas.
11 th - 15 th July	SUT	Attending and Supporting Students' Union Officer Training in Dundalk.
14 th July	Media First Media Training	Day Long training on pressurising Cost of Living Comms by external organisation "Media First"
20 th July	Belfast Pride Planning Meeting	
20 th July	Issues impacting Students Session	
22 nd July	Youth Climate Commission Belfast Meeting	
26 th - 28 th July	Lead and Change Leeds & NUS UK Officer Training	
30 th July	Belfast Pride (Student Bloc Coordination)	
1st- 3 rd August	Lead and Change Chelmsford & NUS UK Officer Training	
4 th August	Student Housing Cooperatives Meeting	
	Climate Coalition Strategy Meeting	
5 th August	NUS UK Democratic Structures Induction	
8 th August	ANNUAL LEAVE	
9 th August	NI Public Affairs Induction	
	National Society of Apprentices Meeting	

	NUS-USI Irish Language Taskforce Planning Meeting	With the USI Gaeilge Officer
10 th August	St. Mary's College Campus Visit	
	Press and Media Induction	
11 th August	QSU Education Officer Catch Up	
15 th August	SICK LEAVE	
16 th August	Friends of the Earth Documentary Filming	Surrounding the recent Net Zero Climate Bill Journey, and student role in that
	Belfast Climate Commission Youth Working Group	
	NUS UK Three Nation Campaign Objective Finalising	
17 th -19 th August	SUT+	

August- September Meetings

Date	Meeting/ Event	Details
22 nd August	NUS Trustee Training	
23 rd August	QSU Campus Visit to staff	
	Level 4 & 5 Qualifications DfE Meeting	Reflection on the qualifications and what should be utilised going forward.
	Belfast Climate Commission YWG Meeting	
24 th August	UUSU President Catch Up	
25 th August	Climate Change Committee UK Pre-Meeting	
	NUS-USI Team Campaigns Planning Session	
26 th August	QSU President Catch Up	
	QSU E&D Officer Catch Up	
31 st August	UUSU Derry Campus Visit	
1 st September	Quality Assurance Agency UK Meeting	Introduction to Director and Support Staff, as well as general delivery of work
	HE Member Organisation Meet Up Planning Session	
2 nd September	NUS-USI Comms Strategy Session	
	Photography	
5 th September	Trilateral Run through	
	BBC Radio One on Rent Controls!	
	NUS-USI President & NUS VP FE Meeting	

6 th September	European Students' Union Briefing	Originally, I was a delegate for ESU this year for the UK. However on reflection around time allocation and resource, I felt it was more suitable for me to pass this opportunity to put more time onto the Cost of Living Campaign.
7 th September	Cost of Living Campaign Planning Session w/UUSU and QSU Officers	
12 th September	NUS UK Executive Sign Off of Campaign Plan	This campaign is three nation- England, Northern Ireland and Wales.
14 th September	NUS Charity Board	
	NUS UK Board	
	Secondary School Union Meeting	Introduction to the newly elected priorities and matching up on campaigns
15 th - 16 th Sept	Visit to USI Office & Trilateral Chats/ USI Plan of Work Day	
19 th September	BANK HOLIDAY	
20 th September	Media and Press Briefing (UK Party Conferences)	
	SERC Lisburn: Freshers Fair	
21 st September	Chairs Meeting NUS UK & NUS Charity	
	Charity Board Trustee Shortlisting	
	IIA Meeting: Context on Political Landscape and current legislation	
22 nd September	Belfast Metropolitan College: Freshers Fair	
	Liberation and BAME Experience in FE Meeting	
26 th September	SRC Newry: Freshers Fair	
27 th September	Good Morning Ulster Radio Interview	
	UUSU Belfast Campus Freshers	
28 th September	NUS Charity Board Trustee Interviews	
	A failed attempt to visiting the Derry Campus	I got to Coleraine and then there was livestock on the line!
29 th September	QSU Freshers Fair	
	NUS Charity Management and Charity Board Officer Monthly Meeting	
30 th September	HR Committee Member Interview Panel	

October-November Meetings

Date	Meeting/ Event	Details
3 rd October	NUS Charity Campus Visit to QSU	
	NUS Charity Campus Visit to UUSU	
	NUS Charity Officer Induction	
4 th October	NUS Charity Officer Induction	
	Trilateral Dinner	
5 th October	Trilateral Meeting	
	Cost of Survival Catch Up w/HE Officers	
6 th -10 th October	ANNUAL LEAVE	
10 th October	Public Meeting Check-In w/ NUS-USI Team	
11 th October	Campaigns & Influencing Chat Three Nation Campaign	
	Cost of Survival Public Meeting in Derry/Londonderry	In Holywell Trust, Derry.
12 th October	Climate Coalition NI Membership Meeting	
13 th October	Apprentice Strategic Advisory Forum	
	COP27 Sub-Group Student Engagement Meeting	
	COL Presentation to Campaigns Staff across UK	
	NWRC Student Survey Meeting w/ Staff	This survey was discussing the experience of the BAME students in Northern Ireland. Key to note that whilst this meeting was with NWRC, this has potential to be rolled across all six colleges.
14 th October	Quality Assurance Agency pre- conference meeting	
	Union Organiser Interviews	
17 th October	Engagement Event with the Electoral Commission	- Representations on Votes at 16
18 th October	Union Development Meeting w/NUS Charity	
	Cost of Survival Public Meeting in Belfast	In Mandela Hall, Belfast.
21 st October	NI Skills Council Meeting	
	COP27 Rally Coordination Meeting	

	QAA NI Conference: Introduction to Quality for Student Officers	
	QAA NI Conference: Panel: Embedding Quality Enhancement Across Your Institution	
24 th October	NUS-USI Team Campaign Planning Session: Evaluation, Reflection & Next Steps post Public Meetings	
25 th October	Meeting with Economy Minister	See notes above.
26 th October	NUS UK Senior Management Team and Officers Strategy Meeting	
	NUS Charity Director Meeting	
	Union Organiser Induction	
27 th October	Freedom of Expression Bill Response Meeting	
	NUS UK Officer Team Meeting	
	NUS Charity Management and Board Meeting	
28 th October	NUS UK Officer Team Meeting	

Looking ahead from time of writing this!

November:

Date	Meeting/ Event	Details
1 st November	HR Sub Committee in Birmingham Students' Union	
2 nd November	International Day of the Student & FE Engagement Strategy Session	
3 rd –4 th November	Comhairle Náisiúnta	
7 th -8 th November	NUS Charity Board in Macclesfield (outside of Manchester!)	
12 th November	COP27 Rally	Student Bloc will be meeting at Cornmarket for the march to begin at Noon.
14 th -15 th November	NUS UK Board in Macclesfield (just outside of Manchester!)	
16 th November	NUS-USI Membership Meeting	Please Come!
17 th November	International Day of the Student & Westminster Budget Day!	
	National Scrutiny Committee (NUS UK Team)	
22 nd - 25 th November	Strategic Conversation Conference in Cardiff	This is a conference for SU Staff.

We are also currently planning a big tour of all our Further Education Colleges with the National Society of Apprentices, and will be responding to whatever comes out of the NI Assembly Election decisions from the Secretary of State.

Policy Tracker

The USI Policy Tracker is a way for the Coiste Gnó to update Member Organisations on the status of policies and mandates that were ratified by Comhdháil. If a policy is deemed “Completed” by Comhairle Náisiúnta, it can be taken off of the policy file.

The full USI Policy File for 2022-2023 is available [here](#).

Plan of Work Tracker

The USI Plan of Work Tracker is a way to keep up to date with how the Coiste Gnó Plans of Work are progressing. A Team Plan of Work will be provided at the August Comhairle Náisiúnta for approval by Member Organisations. Once this has been approved, a tracker document will be attached to all Tuairiscí Coiste Gnó.

The USI Policy Tracker is available [here](#).