



USI/Postgraduate Working Group Meeting minutes

Location: Maynooth Comhairle Náisiúnta

Date: 16/10/21

Attendees: Jenna Barry,

Time: 10:00 – 11:00

USI Account is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Postgraduate Working Group

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81447642616?pwd=OGxCMjFsaGJGbmg3MnlVU2huYWpFZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 4764 2616 Passcode: 213609

Agenda items

- Welcome

- Volunteer to take minutes

- Local Issues

- Items for Discussion
 1. Postgraduate Symposium
 2. PGRstudentsurvey
 3. AHSS Postgraduate access to facilities during COVID
 4. Tracking of Research Careers WG
 5. Postgraduate Career Profiling WG
 6. NFDE
 7. Postgraduate Funding and Stipends

- Items for Information
 1. Postgraduate Engagement

2. Next National Research Strategy Submission

- AOB

Notes

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Action Items	Owner(s)	Deadline	Status
[Action item]	[Name(s)]	[Date]	[Status, such as In Progress or Complete]

- **Local Issues**

DCU PG Christine raises the concern that the only evening bus from DCU region towards Meath/Kells/Navan is at 5pm leaving a huge number of postgraduate students with evening classes which run until 8pm, stranded.

UUSU Grace raises the issue that they are waiting since June to receive funding grants from their department

- i. They are awaiting to see if Stormount will see the funding as a priority coming from the consultation ongoing at the moment.

Items for Discussion

- **Postgraduate Symposium**

Jenna introduces the Postgrad Symposium

- **PGRstudentsurvey**

Launching next Wednesday. Each institution already received their results and MTU used the results to gain additional funding.

- **AHSS Postgraduate access to facilities during COVID**

VPPGA looks for feedback on how access to facilities are going for AHSS students, especially over the last year or so as it was raised with her in another working group.

IADTSU reports that there don't seem to be too many issues for them.

- **Tracking of Research Careers WG**

Jenna seeks feedback on how there can be work done on supporting Postgraduates on the Career opportunities available.

- **Postgraduate Career Profiling WG**

- **NFDE**

- **Postgraduate Funding and Stipends**

Discussing Campaign opportunities with Beth next week.

Megan notes that this can be built into the National Campaign and will expand further following a

Items for Information

- Postgraduate Engagement

Christine raises that social issues are also a huge priority. Jenna notes the possibility of creating Postgraduate

- Next National Research Strategy Submission

Jenna notes that although the strategy has already been submitted, she is still looking for

- AOB

Campaign Planning

Key Asks

Stipends

Increase and Equity of Stipends across HEI's with oversight from the HEA.

Teaching

Pay for lecturing hours.

Contracts

Provision of Services

Accommodation Allocation in all new PBSA

Library allocations

Supports

Maternity Leave (IRC pushing for it)

Sick Payment and Holiday leave

Welfare – Family Income supplement and HAP

Disability allowances

Non-EU supports. Stamp 2 visas do not allow your family to join you.

Megan notes that there are 11 EU countries with postgraduate workers rights, with Sweden being one of the best practice examples.

Charter

Megan asks if there should be two separate charters – one for PHD's and one for Taught Masters/Studying.

Jenna to arrange meeting with PGWA to discuss this further.