



Postgraduate Working Group

August 15th, 2022

Online Zoom Meeting (12:00-13:00)

Miontuairiscí/ Minutes

Attendance: -

Waqar Ahmed (Chair and VPPGA USI CG), Ross Boyd (USI CG), Bryan O'Mahony (SETUSU Waterford), Saoirse Daly (TUDSU), Christine O'Mahony (DCUSU), Jacky Casserly (CCSU), Jessica Perez (TUDSU), Wiktoria Szeremeta (SETUSU Carlow), Jenna Barry (TUSSU), Srujani Dash (UCCSU)

1. Introduction:-

1.1 Saoirse Daly (TUDSU) was elected Secretary of the PGWG.

1.2 Waqar will circulate a [Postgraduate working group sign-up sheet](#) to compile an updated list of PGWG members that can be uploaded to the USI website.

1.3: Chair informed that the next meeting agenda will be a working document and will be shared with members ahead of time.

1.4 The Chair informed that future meetings of the WG will also have virtual options to join.

2. Items for Discussion: -

2.1 Postgraduate Stipend

USI to continue lobbying for fair stipends for postgrads. Noting the petition that USI signed that calls for all postgraduates to receive €28,000 stipend as announced by the government, will be working on it as such. The results of the USI stipend survey will be utilized to feed into the campaign strategy.

2.2 Clarification to the USI Postgraduate Workers Rights Charter

Initial postgraduate charter was not worked in democratic manner. Work is being done to create a new charter. This involves consultation with PGWAI, MOs and other stakeholders to see how this could work more effectively and transparently. It was noted that the new charter will be brought to the national council within 6-8 weeks.

2.3 Postgraduate Representation

It was mentioned that there is a need to get more postgraduate representation in the upcoming bye-election and class rep councils. VPPGA stated that if anyone needed support with their postgrad bye-elections, they could contact him.

2.4 Motion on International and Postgraduate Fees (9D in congress)

Motion was 9D'ed due to the next national research strategy being published for postgraduates pay, but the strategy did not include what was asked for in the motion. Also notes how 2021 AA3 currently in effect would then be repealed if this motion passed. Amendments were suggested as such to the motion, especially on inclusion of the North, and will be proposed for September CN.

3. Local Issues:-

No local issues were brought up in the meeting. Jenna Barry (TUSSU) asked attendees about postgrad regulations in their colleges. Jessica Perez (TUDSU) encouraged attendees to get involved with the intervarsity postgrad events.

4. Items for Information:-

4.1 Postgraduate Engagement WG

Formed with QQI, NSTEP and USI and how Postgrads are heard in governance and structures, pilot survey has been sent to HEIs to see what structure for postgraduate representation is there and what gaps are there, to be compiled into a report.

4.2 Why Research Matters Competition

[Why Research Matters video competition 2022](#) will open on 20th August for all postgraduate students to share their research. It is hoped that the final winner announcement event will take place in person this year. The details of the event will also be shared in the all-sabbat email. The chair encouraged members to share the competition with postgraduate students.

5. A.O.B:-

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and participation before closing the meeting. Next meeting to be held in September.

Minutes taken by Saoirse Daly and Ross Boyd.
