





















































Postgraduate Working Group Meeting #4 November 16th 2020 Online Call 4pm – 5pm.

Agenda

1. Introduction

Attendance as of 4:08 pm

	Kelsey Bruce, NUIG (Me)		
	Adam Clarke USI VP Postgraduate A... (Host)		
	Ciara Kealy (Co-host)		
	Gary USI (Co-host)		
	Marie Lyons, USI (Co-host)		
	USI - Kevin McStravock (Co-host)		
	Pádraic Toomey SU		
	Dajana Sinik		
	Lee Bennett		
	Luke Daly		
	Moya Browne		
	Naomi Algeo (NSTEP Postgraduate)		
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	Nicole Carr - MSU Postgrad Rep		
	Rachael Sarsfield Ryan IADTSU		
	Rhiannon Louise Kavanagh		
	Sarah Carter		

Also Megan O'Neil, USI; Martin , NUIG; Conor O'Reilly; Nicole PK; Kevin Pakenham, AITSU

2. Campus check-ins

- Rhiannon Louise Kavanagh had a great PG event on Friday (the 13th?) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eOTokItA_c) and has suggested a speaker for the PG Symposium in semester 2

- b. Dajana Sinik NCISU, is developing a guide for PG/Supervisor relationships and would like support from the WG
3. Items for information
- a. StudentSurvey & RGE StudentSurvey [Siobhan Flanagan]
 - i. Main ticket item: PGR students will have a fieldwork element to the survey. This is a biennial activity to avoid undue burdens on students. Siobhan wants help promoting this amongst our PGR communities. Response rates in the past have been around 30% nationally. Use this data to push institutions to make changes and reach out to Siobhan if there are things you want/need from the data.
 - ii. Promotional materials for the student survey available here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/empowerment-and-partnership-in-student-engagement-tickets-125311432869> (thanks for the link Kevin!). PG Student Lunchtime discussion will be 1:15-1:45 pm (thanks Naomi!)
 - b. Research and Graduate Education committee meeting update.
 - i. €30 million to invest in creating links between Northern Ireland and ROI. Unclear how this will be allocated.
 - ii. New award being created by the IRC (the Lauriet Award) that is more accessible funding for early stage researchers (first few years of their PhD).
 - iii. Next meeting isn't until May.
 - c. Postgraduate Funding Northern Ireland
 - i. Launch of #FundOurEducation campaign – course costs are rising and supports are not. USI has engaged with the social media campaign. Most of the data is very focused on the UK/NI connection, there is less info on the NI/ROI connection. Vp.education@uusu.org for more help.
 - d. Postgraduate Capacity Building
 - i. About half of the M.O.s have completed the survey. Will be closed over winter break.

4. Items for discussion

a. Postgraduate Taught fees 2020/21 [Nicole Carr]

- i. PG students are still paying fees but don't have access to resources like space in the library at Maynooth and fee reductions seem unlikely. Especially relevant to PME students who have a significant amount of work in person. There needs to be transparency about what the fees are going to.
- ii. Kevin: the fees from PGs are not supported by the government so there is less leverage. Institutions use PG and international fees to subsidise UG education. Especially re: transparency, it is justified to be calling for to see where our fees go. Must be cautious that we don't end up challenging the value of edu as a public good. May use FOI requests – Padraic Toomey from NUIG is an expert here.

1. Padraic: FOIs are time sensitive so move quickly. They can take time to get through. Ask for reference numbers.

b. #CantGetHome Campaign

- i. Soft launch is next week where social media will be used to gather the stories of international students who are unable to return home. Stories will be shared the following week. December 14th will be the full launch trying to get people to like and retweet. Hoping to get as many videos as possible, regardless of where international students are from and attending.

5. A.O.B.

- a. Naomi Algeo joins us from NStEP and is letting us know there is a survey coming up to get info on PG student engagement.
- b. Pink training is coming up in two weeks. Will have an individual coming in to talk about the intersection of PG, mature student, and LGBTQ identities.
- c.