

Coiste Gnó Updates November/December 2021

Uachtarán:

- I met with the Irish Universities Association (IUA) to discuss their Oireachtas submission on LC reform and our organisations mutual interests.
- I attended Regional Councils and supported the RLSO and SETL with organising them when needed.
- **College Awareness Week (CAW):**
 - I met with Dáire from CAW and discussed partnerships with the ISSU.
 - I chaired a panel discussion for CAW.
- **NCCA Membership Development:**
 - I worked on a proposal document, alongside the Education Officer and Leas-Uachtarán, asking for ISSU representation to join the NCCA Council. This can be read [here](#).
 - I met with the NCCA alongside the Education Officer and Leas-Uachtarán to discuss the ISSU joining the Council. This was a very positive discussion.
- I attended the OBESSU Training for Staff
- **State Examinations 2022 + COVID-19 in Schools:**
 - I spoke with Dalton Tatten from the Department of Education regarding COVID-19 in schools and the Leaving Certificate orals.
 - We met with the ROB to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 concerns in schools.
 - I began organising the State Examinations 2022 Working Group alongside the Education Officer. This will be a small subgroup of the Coiste Gnó who have the time to work on this topic when needed.
 - I began drafting a timeline and action plan for the State Exams and COVID-19 in schools.
- I met with Education Futures to discuss Publicly Funded Higher Education and the various subgroups they have.
- I attended the monthly Board of Directors Meeting.
- I've been working with the SETL and RLSO to organise the ROB 2022 Training.
- I met with the Ombudsman for Children, Niall Muldoon to discuss our organisations shared interests.
 - We have agreed to meet again and to look at collaborations on various education projects in the new year.
- **I met with the NPCPP to discuss:**
 - The NCCA Senior Cycle Reform Report
 - Covid ventilation and contact tracing.
 - Our Oireachtas Submissions.
 - Fundraising strategy and working together.
- **CAO Handbook:**
 - I've been having regular discussions with Beatrice Dooley from the IGC regarding the CAO Handbook no longer being available as a physical book, it's only available online.

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- We discussed a joint press release as a possible course of actions if our emails to Minister Simon Harris are not successful in resolving the issue.
- **IBSA Helpline: - Trigger Warning**
 - I've been looking into funding for the IBSA Helpline and have found some that seem promising. These applications would be due in March/April and will begin in the new year.
 - I've begun an outline for the IBSA/Sexual Assault in schools report I'm hoping to write.
- **ISSU Women's Conference:**
 - I've begun drafting the event plan for what will hopefully become an annual event, the 'ISSU Women's Conference.' This event will hopefully take place on March 8th and can do so in person or online (I'm aiming for in-person).
 - I have also found some promising funding opportunities for this event.
 - The primary purpose of this event is to collect data for the IBSA/Sexual Assault report, however, it is also to celebrate/promote women in politics and to empower our female membership. More details coming soon!
- **Media:**
 - I was a guest on the ICTU Podcast; "The making of an activist" and will be one of the featured people for their "12 day of Activism" Campaign starting on December 13th.
- I supported the current Donegal RO (Faye Maniti) and incoming Donegal ROs (Tara Toye and Ellen Griffin) with their submission to the WURI on rail lines in Donegal.
- I'm liaising with a member school in their campaign to get more than two gender options added to VSware (the schools management software).
- **Global Student Forum (GSF):**
 - Last year, I was selected to represent ISSU on the GSF Communications Working Group and still do. This week the GSF announced their new magazine titled "Global Perspectives" which will give ISSU members a chance to write articles about issues they're facing across the country.
 - I supported the current Donegal RO (Faye Maniti) and incoming Donegal ROs (Tara Toye and Ellen Griffin) with writing an article about Mica.
- I have been working with Sara Loughlin and the Northern Ireland Youth Forum to help them develop their election manifesto before Stormont Elections in 2022.
 - We will be arranging a meeting between NIYF and Coiste Gnó in the New Year.
- Inputting into various policies being written by the secretariat
- General officer support whenever needed!

Leas-Uachtarán:

N/A

Education Officer:

- **College Awareness Week (CAW):**

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- Liaised with Dáire from CAW regarding ISSU promoting CAW. Special thanks to the Uachtarán for attending the panel session and the Communications Officer for creating content.
- **NCCA Membership Development:**
 - I worked on a proposal document, alongside the Uachtarán and Less-Uachtarán, asking for ISSU representation to join the NCCA Council. This can be read [here](#).
 - I met with the Department of Education officials (Dalton Tattan, Evelyn O'Connor, ect.) alongside the Uachtarán and Less-Uachtarán to discuss the ISSU joining the Council. This was a very positive discussion.
- **State Examinations 2022 + COVID-19 in Schools:**
 - Uachtarán and I are taking the lead on this issue.
 - [Rejoined the Advisory Group for the State Examinations 2022](#)
 - Assisting with communications to Dalton Tatten from the Department of Education regarding COVID-19 in schools and the Leaving Certificate orals.
 - We met with the ROB to discuss the ongoing COVID-19 concerns in schools.
 - I began organising the State Examinations 2022 Working Group alongside the Uachtarán. This will be a small subgroup of the Coiste Gnó who have the time to work on this topic **if needed**.
 - I began drafting a timeline and action plan for the State Exams and COVID-19 in schools.
- **Education Team**
 - Began work on International Exam Systems Report.
 - Great progress has been made.
 - Possible publish date is January.
- **LCA Survey**
 - Survey questions approved by Coiste Gnó.
 - Inputting onto SurveyMonkey now.
 - Will be ready to go before Christmas, will release once schools return in January.
- **Irish Times**
 - Was asked to be in the annual IT 50 People To Watch in 2021.
 - Last year's article can be found [here](#).
- **Senior Cycle Reform Academic Research Paper with the ESRI**
 - Continuing work.
 - Waiting for ESRI to come back after the Christmas holidays.
- **Separating Church and State in Education**
 - Spoke at the Green Party Annual Conference on a panel discussion regarding Separating Church and State in Education chaired by Senator Pauline O'Reilly, Education Spokesperson.
- **Youth Voice NI SocDems' RSE Bill.**
 - Spoke with Dermot from Youth Voice NI regarding SocDems' new RSE Bill proposed by Garry Gannon.
 - I spoke about us supporting the Bill, it being an extremely good step in the right direction and that we will be lobbying all government parties to support Bill.

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- I also spoke about how we would like to assist in speeding up the process to ensure the bill doesn't get stuck in committee stage.
- I finally confirmed that Deputy Gannon did reach out to the ISSU specifically and that we are communicating with him at the moment.
- The article can be found [here](#).

Communications Officer:

- **Regional Councils:**
 - Graphics
 - Website Page
 - Social Media Posts
- **ISIC:**
 - Promo Material
 - Social Media Posts
 - Website Page
 - Videos
- **Website:**
 - **Climate Action Short Course**
 - **Form Hub update**
 - Working Group page updates
 - **Code injection for snow effect during December**
 - Winter logo on homepage
 - Disability Officer Resignation News Release
 - Coiste Gnó Updates Page Updates
 - Digital Communications Page Updates
 - Sexual Education Team page Updates
 - **404 Page Update**
 - General sizing and formatting issues
 - **Trade Union resource page**
- **Social Media:**
 - ISIC
 - Stand-Up Week
 - Transgender Awareness
 - College Connections
 - Regional Councils
 - Welfare Officer Intro
 - CAO Applications
 - CCC Event
 - Winter Banners for Facebook & Twitter
 - Winter Profile Photos

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- Winter Themed Logo
- **Newsletter:**
 - Monthly Newsletter - November
 - Monthly Newsletter - December
- **Working Group Application Form Template Creation**
- **Review of Confidentiality Agreements:**
 - Review with Secretariat and BOD
 - Reviewed and created Social Media Confidentiality Forms
- **Social Media Training**
- **Digital Communications Working Group:**
 - Graphics
 - Application
 - Website Page
- **Sexual Education Team Working Group:**
 - Graphics
 - Application Review
 - Website Page
- **Cork Consent Conference:**
 - Graphics
- **Student Advisory Member on School Board of Management Template Letter**
 - Draft Letter
 - Proof read by Coiste Gnó
 - Graphic
 - Upload to website
- **ISSU Document Cover Template Graphics**
 - Creation of six ISSU document cover templates
- **Digital Communications Working Group**
 - Launch
 - Application
 - Social Media Posts
- **Sexual Education Team Working Group**
 - Launch
 - Social Media Posts
- ISSU Code of Conduct Agreement for officers and procedure for use of officer space resources. (Wexford SIPTU Office)

Equality Officer:

N/A

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Rúnaí:

The Rúnaí has temporarily taken over the responsibilities of the Disability Officer while the Coiste Gnó looks for a replacement. This includes the disability@issu.ie email and the Disability Delegation Working Group.

Sustainability Officer:

N/A

International Officer:

- **Working with Schools of Sanctuary on various projects as part of their steering group and engaging in discussion on the following topics:**
 - Afghanistan information session (29th Nov) and future events discussion.
 - Monitoring/assessing procedures review.
 - Framework for schools.
 - Lakeside fund proposal.
 - Schools of Sanctuary Across the Border Progress Report.
 - Plans for 2022.
 - Research request - Music teachers' experiences of teaching refugee and asylum-seeking young people in the Irish context. Anna Farrelly, Music Education TCD.
- **International Systems Report:**
 - Met with Jack's working group in this area.
 - Contacted AASU on their examination systems.
- **Attended OBESSU's COMEM:**
 - Exchanged ideas about mental health in schools.
 - Exchanged ideas about engaging membership in a post covid scenario.
 - Discussed forms of effective assessment in school systems in Europe.
 - Discussed how to mobilise students.
 - Spoke about inclusion in student-organisations.
 - Spoke about inclusivity and intersectionality.
 - Covered the report on project and policy updates and developments.
 - Covered the report of the WG on Education Funding and Reforms.
 - Generation Climate Europe.
 - Session on improving Membership strategy.
- **Working with Abolish Direct Provision Ireland:**
 - Working with the representatives, Eric.
 - Received Voices from Direct Provision and currently reviewing it.
 - Trialing it in schools.
 - Working on a strategy to implement it in schools across Ireland.
- **Working with the SDG 4 Youth Network (UNESCO):**

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- Working with the organisation: bi-monthly meetings/ capacity building programs to equip network members with leadership skills necessary to communicate their interests and positions at global meetings.
- Discussing strengthening partnerships and linkages with global youth and student education initiatives and discussing facilitating engagement of network members at major events such as the High-Level Political Forum and UN General Assembly.

Note: Chloe Anderson, Regional Officer for Carlow/Kilkenny has attended two of these meetings in my absence.

- **Working with Regional Officers:**

- Helping with establishing relationships with local stakeholders (ETBs etc.)
- Helping with engaging students in the locality, reaching out to schools, student councils and setting up local networks.

- **Engaging with membership:**

- Spoke with multiple individual students vis-à-vis this year's state examinations.
- Liaised with student councils regarding fundraising and starting an effective student council.
- Discussed ventilation in schools and its effect on students' ability to perform in class and possible resolutions.
- Engaged with students on COVID-19 protocols in schools.
- Engaged with students regarding issues of exam-integrity and its implications.
- Brought a concern from Accounting Students regarding the answer book for their accounting exam.

- **Engaging with CANAE:**

- Assisted CANAE in their mental health initiatives by illustrating the ISSU's work on the "How's Your Head Manual."

Regional Liaison and Support Officer:

- **Regional Councils**

- Planning Regional Councils alongside the Regional Officers.
- Promoted Regional Councils
- Executed over half the in-person Regional Councils myself or with the regional officers in the region.
 - Mayo Regional Council in GMIT Castlebar

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- Dublin City Regional Council in Killester College
- Cork City & Cork County Regional Councils in University College Cork
- Carlow-Kilkenny Regional Council in Carlow IT
- Longford-Westmeath Regional Council in TUS Athlone
- Kildare Regional Council in Rathangan Community Centre
- Galway Regional Council in GMT Galway
- Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown Regional Council in University College Dublin
- Out of 23 Regional Councils we held 14 Regional Councils in-person and the rest were put online. I attended many of the online Regional Councils along with this.
- Regional Councils have been very successful with good attendance and a huge interest in the role of Regional Officer. At many Regional Councils we had over 10 people running for the role of Regional Officer.
- Organised getting external trainers for Regional Councils with Fiona Dunne ICTU and giving out handbooks at Regional Councils on the topic of Activism.
- Organising a final call with all the Regional Officers within their regions and as a whole body
- Assisting Regional Officers fill in the internal event reports for their respective Regional Councils
- The present Regional Officers' terms finish on December 31st, and these officers have put in a tremendous amount of work from the start of their terms to the end. Working with them has been such a fantastic experience, and they are all just phenomenal. It will be very sad to see them all go but I'm excited to see what they do next and I wish them the very best! **ROB 2021 🍷 RLSO**
- **Regional Officer Body 2022**
 - Organising a training for the new Regional Officers
 - Organising a Introductory Regional Officer Body Call to allow all the new regional officers to get to know each other and ask me any questions
 - Set up Google Chat rooms with the ROB 2022
 - Working on Press Releases for all the new Regional Officers
 - Working with the Secretariat to ensure a proper plan for this years Regional Officers is put in place to prevent disengagement and burnout among officers
- **Cork Consent Conference**
 - Assisted the Cork Regional Officers organise a consent conference to educate TY students in Cork about consent, safe sex, sex in media, image-based sexual assault and the bystander program. Featuring special guests, Professor Louise Crowley from UCC, Mary Crilly from Sexual Violence Cork and Síobhan Higgins from Active Consent.

Oifigeach na Gaeilge:

N/A

Welfare Officer:

- *Began the sexual education working group.*
- *Started researching for my sexual education project.*
- *Made a term plan.*
- *Attended a HSE meeting about mental health.*
- *Started researching for my substance awareness project.*

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