

Coiste Gnó Updates January 2022

Uachtarán:

- **Return to School:**
 - Worked on the return to school, meeting with a number of stakeholders to advocate for a phased return.
 - Lobbied for further resources in schools such as HEPA filters to protect students in schools.
 - Drafting press releases, media etc.
- **State Examinations 2022:**

Wrote and launched the ISSU Survey on Covid-19 in Schools and the State Examinations 2022. Collected the views of over 41,000 students and validated this data by hand with SVDM.

 - Met with the Advisory Group on State Examinations Planning and the Minister for Education for a bilateral to discuss the survey.
 - Released numerous press releases to highlight the survey and its results.
 - Met with a number of stakeholders such as education spokespeople, the ombudsman for children and the parents council to discuss the survey and align our stances.
 - Clarity given on the exams on the 1st of Feb, met with the Advisory Group this morning to discuss the announcement.
 - Will be working with the SEC and the DES on making further changes to the exam papers, meeting to be held on Feb 4th.
- **Media:**
 - We made national headlines over the course of the last few weeks, featuring on radio, newspaper and television. Special thanks to the ROB and the 6th years for their work on this!
 - Will be a guest speaker at an EYP event.
 - Doing a webinar with Colm Markley and Minister Simon Harris on post-secondary school options and education reform.
- **ISSU Women's Conference:**
 - Drafted an event plan and agenda for the event.
 - Recruiting members for the ISSU women's conference working group to help organise the event, hoping to start in February.
- **Gender Equality in Schools:**
 - Drafting a student council resource on running for election, with specific emphasis surrounding women running for election.
 - Started drafting the consultation framework for a national report on S*xual Ass*ult in second-level schools, this will tie in with the ISSU Women's Conference - hoping to link with Active Consent on this.
- **50 Years of Student Voice:**
 - I've been working with SETL on the 50 years of student voice project putting plans in place for an event at the end of the year.

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- I will be working with the Irish Times on some articles, and will be pitching my own highlighting the former female ISSU Uachtarán (we've only had 5!) for international women's day.
- **An Chomhdháil Bhliain 2022:**
 - Working with SETL to plan An Chomhdháil Bhliain. Working group has been set up and the timeline is being planned.
 - Dates will be confirmed on Sunday. Venues to be secured.
- **BelongTo Education Sector Advisory Group:**
 - Met with the BelongTo Education Sector Advisory Group to review their draft inclusive school admissions policy and inclusivity training framework for second-level schools. We'll be meeting again in March to further develop these.
- **Oireachtas Submission:**
 - We were invited to make a submission to the Joint Committee on Education on the Future Funding of Higher Education
 - This is due on the 9th of February, currently working on this and will be meeting with USI to discuss their submission too.
- Helped the SETL and RLSO organise the ROB trainings, online and in person.
- Working on a memorandum of understanding between Universities and the ISSU.
 - Met with Carol and Lenka from UCC Nurturing Bright Future programme to discuss the ISSU's involvement in the programme and possible ways to link up, RLSO will take lead on this.
- **NCCA Membership development:**
 - Was contacted by the NCCA, alongside the Leas-Uachtarán and the Education officer, to confirm our seat on the NCCA is being considered!
 - Reviewed the NCCA Draft Strategic plan
- Attending the National Women's Council of Ireland 'Beyond Exploitation Roundtable'
- **The Minister for Education invited me to join a steering committee to review policy in schools.**
 - I will be attending a meeting in the Clock Tower to commence this on Feb 16th, starting with the DES anti-bullying procedure/policy.
- Organised Coiste Gnó check-in calls.
- General officer support wherever needed!

Leas-Uachtarán:

- Coiste gno check in calls
- Constitutional review WG met for the first time
 - Met also with secretariat and a SAD about constitution
- In the process of reviewing Directive Policy structure
- Engaged in media for LC 2022 and RSE
- Was contacted by NCCA, alongside the Uachtarán and Education Officer, regarding potential for an ISSU seat
- Working on AA
- Worked on survey for return to school and State exams 2022

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- Assisted in prep for AG calls
- Working with international officer on Charlemagne Youth Prize
- Planning for a Vote@16 educational exchange
- Invited to present at DES forum on Sustainable Development Education
- Followed up with the DES on Student and Parent charter with RLSO
- Helping with ROB training in Galway in February
- Engaged with NPCPP around return to schools
- Wrote press releases for return to schools/survey/report

Education Officer:

- **Return to School:**
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 - Lobbied for further resources in schools such as HEPA filters to protect students in schools.
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 - Was contacted by the NCCA, alongside the Leas-Uachtaarán and the Education officer, to confirm our seat on the NCCA is being considered!
 - Reviewed the NCCA Draft Strategic plan
- **LCA Survey**
 - LCA Survey is completed and is ready to be sent out to selected sample pool schools.
 - Special thanks to the Education Team, Emer and Emma <3

Communications Officer:

- Digital Communications Working Group:
 1. *Selection Panel Meeting*
 2. *Training Event*
 3. *Assignment of tasks*
- ROB Training Event
 1. Trained ROB on G-Suite (Drive/Docs/Chat/Calendar)
 - a. Emailing (BCC/CC, Email Signature, out of office, local schools/stakeholders)

b. Role of RO

- Work with RO's on Trade Union Connection / Using an office space
- Developing " Level Up! " Webpage and campaign
- Working on Merch planning and designs for promotional banners with Secretariat.
- Gained access to Wexford ISSU Office space whenever needed 24/7 and was trained on health and safety and security in the building.
- Published the Wexford ISSU Office Agreement.
- General Pull up banner designs
- Website:
 1. ROB Photos and Pronouns
 2. Third Level Info Resource Page
- Social Media:
 1. Return to school stance (Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories, TikTok, Snapchat, Website)
 2. Returning to school update(Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories, Snapchat, Website)
 3. ISSU Statement(Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories, Snapchat, Website)
 4. ISSU Survey (Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories, TikTok, Snapchat, Website)
 5. ISSU Survey Update (Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories,)
 6. ISSU Report on COVID-19 in Schools and the State Examinations 2022 (Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories, Website)
 7. Changes for Music Practical Updates(Insta, Facebook, Twitter, Stories)
 8. STAD (Facebook, Twitter, Stories)

Equality Officer:

- N/A

Rúnaí:

- **State Exams 2022:**
 - *Helped write the report on the ISSU survey*
 - *Writing pieces in media advocating for a Hybrid LC2022*
- **Disability**
 - *Leading the Disability Delegation Working Group*
 - *Looking into potential projects for the working group such as awareness posts on ISSU social media, contributing to the review of the EPSEN Act 2004, supporting the RespectForSNAs campaign*
 - *Holding the disability@issu.ie email in the absence of a Disability Officer*
- Assisting with planning for Annual Assembly 2022
- Part of the Constitutional Reform Working Group
- Developing a new, more dynamic format for joint meetings between the Coiste Gnó and Regional Officer Body

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Sustainability Officer:

- N/A

International Officer:

- N/A

Regional Liaison and Support Officer:

Regional Officer Body Training Online:

- Organised and facilitated an online training for the newly elected Regional Officer Body.
- Invited Lorna Fitzpatrick former USI president to attend to give a workshop on Public Speaking and Communications
- Barry Mccloughin from the Communications Clinic gave the ROB a media training
- Facilitated a workshop on Grassroots Communications + setting up google chat rooms

Regional Officer Body In Person Training:

- Organising three in person Regional Officer Body Trainings, Dublin 21st of February, Galway NUIG 22nd of February and Cork UCC 23rd of February.
- Worked on the event plan to send to the BOD for approval.
- Inviting guest speakers to the each training
- Setting the agenda + working on what the workshops will entail

Cork In-person Nurturing Brights Future Programme Training

- The ISSU was invited to the UCC Campus to get training on UCC's Nurturing Brights Future Programme and get a tour of the campus.
- Organising all the logistics behind the event alongside Carol Veiga UCC and the secretariat. The event will be held on the 25th of February.
- Worked on the event plan to send to the BOD for approval.

Student Council Resources Working Group

- Set up an internal working group to work on the creation of student council resources.
- We are currently working on a resource for students to make them aware about different supports/grants and scholarships that are available across different HEA's

Regional Officer Body

- Supporting Regional Officers settle into their roles
- Helping out with many regional press releases that have been sent out about the return to school and the state exams.
- Organised a bonding activity for the regional officers after their online training

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Aontas Daltáí Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann

Representing, Uplifting and Defending Student Voice



- Organising ISSU Fleeces for Regional Officers, set up a google form to see how many people would be interested in purchasing fleeces. I have ordered 40 + fleeces for the ROs who ordered and organised payments for these fleeces.
- Assisted the runáí in creating a new format for the CG/ROB 6 week calls
- Assisted Regional Officers set up google chats with ISSU School Reps in their region, we now have a room in every region. These will be used throughout the year to engage students on a local level.

WorldWide Global Schools:

- Worked with Laura Power the Education Officer at WWGS to set up a student advisory group for their annual conference on the 7th of April. We have 6 Regional Officers on this advisory group alongside myself.

Regional Officers using local Trade Union Offices:

- Working with Fiona One Movement National Co-ordinator to draft up a set of child protection guidelines/protocols for U18 Regional Officers using these spaces alongside the SETL
- Was asked to be a podcast guest on ONE Conversation, The Making of an Activist

Oifigeach na Gaeilge:

- N/A

Welfare Officer:

- *Developed Drugs campaign resources (Focused on Duhs and Alcohol)*
- *Sexual Education Working Group*
- *Report on gender based uniforms in mixed schools.*
- *Podcast*
- *Attended a meeting with HSE sexual health and crisis group.*

Uachtarán Oinigh:

- *Guiding and supporting the CG during the state exams*
- *Student Council charter launch with ETB*
- *ICTU memorandum*

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