

Coiste Gnó Updates February 2022

Uachtarán:

- **State Exams:**
 - *I continued to work on the state examinations with the DES and SEC.*
 - *A decision was made regarding the state examinations 2022 on February 1st.*
 - *I attended meetings alongside several education stakeholders (OCO, NPCPP, NPC etc.) to discuss the next steps of our organisations. It was decided that while the ISSU do criticise the decision, we recognise that it was the only feasible option and decided not to challenge it due to the mental health implications it could have on students.*
 - *I met with the SEC CEO Andrea Feeney and her team to discuss the changes to the papers and how we could improve them for students.*
- **Media:**
 - *Throughout February we stayed active in the media regarding the LC and the decision made, continuing to make national headlines.*
 - *Notably, the organisation featured on the RTÉ Six One News and Virgin Media Tonight Show.*
 - *Thanks to all the Regional Officers and Coiste Gnó members who did media!*
- **Department of Education Steering Committee:**
 - *Minister Foley invited me to join the DES steering committee for the action plan on bullying, you can read more [here](#).*
 - *The group met for the first time on the 16th of February in the Clocktower and will continue to meet in person and online with a hope of the review finishing in July.*
- **Oireachtas Submission:**
 - *I wrote a submission on the Future Funding of Higher Education for the Oireachtas Committee on Education, Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science.*
 - *This can be read [here](#).*
- **International Women's Day:**
 - *Took part in the prerecorded Work Equal roundtable discussion which will go live on International Women's Day alongside Senator Eileen Flynn, Lewize Crothers of ExitEntry among others.*
 - *We are on the subcommittee organising the IWD Rally in Dublin with the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi).*
 - *I'll be making videos with the NWCi at the rally on March 5th.*
- **ISSU Women's Conference**
 - *Organised the first annual ISSU Women's Conference (Massive thanks to the IWC Working Group!!) which is going ahead on March 8th. There has been massive interest among students for this event which resulted in us expanding the capacity from 30 to 50!*
 - *Bukky Adebawale will open the day with a keynote address.*
 - *Women for Election and Active* Consent are doing workshops.*

Irish Second-Level Students' Union

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- *We'll have a Women in Politics panel with Cat O'Driscoll, Pauline O'Reilly, Róisín Garvey, Clara McDevitt and Yemi Adenuga.*
- *Women in Sports panel is tbd.*
- *The day will be led by our wonderful Regional Officers! More information can be found [here](#).*
- **Education Change:**
 - *We were invited to join a group working towards a Citizens Assembly on Education.*
 - *We'll be taking part in press panels alongside Dr Niall Muldoon.*
- **ICTU Funding:**
 - *Met with Fiona Dunne from ICTU to discuss funding with Joanna.*
 - *Will be presenting to the ICTU national executive alongside Luke to try and secure funding for ISSU.*
- **50 Years of Student Voice:**
 - *I've been working with Emma on the 50 years of student voice project.*
 - *We are currently establishing a working group for this, you can sign up [here](#).*
- **An Chomhdháil Bhliaintúil:**
 - *I'm on the An Chomhdháil Bhliaintúil planning working group.*
 - *I have helped secure sponsorship for goodie bags for attendees and also secured the chair(s) Maeve Richardson & Craig McHugh and Returning Officer Nadine Toye.*
 - *Provisionally, I have secured the Ombudsman for Children's offices in Dublin as a venue.*
- **Constitutional Review:**
 - *I am a member of the Constitutional Review working group and have been working on that alongside the other members.*
 - *I will be establishing a working group of former Uachtaráin to discuss the role of the Leas-Uachtarán and the creation of a Presidential Protection Policy.*
 - *I will also be developing the ISSU Women's Conference into an annual event and will be looking at the feasibility of having it constitutionally mandated.*
- **Ombudsman for Children:**
 - *A priority of mine has been building better relationships with the Ombudsman for Children's office due to the overlap of our work. I have been working on this throughout the year and in February met with the team in person.*
 - *They offered us their Dublin offices to use for free whenever needed (pending approval from their office managers etc etc).*
 - *We'll be collaborating with the OCO and the UN Youth Delegate on LC Reform work going forward, with a specific focus on the UNCRC 2016 Report for Ireland where LC reform was recommended.*
- *Took part in a webinar on the future of education with MEP Colm Markey and Minister Simon Harris.*
- *I was a speaker at a roundtable discussion for Safer Internet Day with the EU Commission and OBESSU.*
- *Attended a call with OECD for their report on Calculated/Accredited Grading with Ciara & Reuban.*
- *Attended the ROB Training in Cork and helped with organising them where needed.*

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- *I attended the Curriculum Change within Policy and Practice: Reforming Second-Level Education in Ireland" School of Education Trinity College Dublin Book Launch.*
- *I attended the NWCJ Beyond Exploitation Roundtable.*
- *I have begun drafting the CG Annual Report for An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil.*
- *I'll be attending the Áras an Uachtaráin International Women's Day reception.*

Leas-Uachtarán:

N/A

Education Officer:

- **State Exams:**
 - *I workED on the state examinations with the DES and SEC with the Uachtarán.*
 - *A decision was made regarding the state examinations 2022 on February 1st.*
 - *I attended meetings alongside several education stakeholders.*
 - *It was decided that while the ISSU do criticise the decision, we recognise that it was the only feasible option and decided not to challenge it due to the mental health implications it could have on students.*
 - *I met with the SEC CEO Andrea Feeney to discuss the changes to the papers and how we could improve them for students.*
- **Limerick Regional Offices**
 - *I have been working with the trade unions to secure an ISSU Limerick Regional Office.*
 - *We are in the final stages of getting this through.*
- **LCA Survey**
 - *Finalised LCA Survey questions.*
 - *Inputted questions into Survey Monkey*
 - *Created a sample pool of schools*
 - *Schools contacted and confirmed*
 - *Survey sent out to schools*
 - *Special thanks to the Education Team and Emma <3*
- **TY Report**
 - *Beginning brainstorming and research for the questions for the TY Report.*
- **CBA Handbook**
 - *Brainstorming into the design of the handbook.*
 - *Review of the content that was created.*
 - *Special thanks to the crew of ROs behind this!*
- **Young Carers**
 - *Grant application approved by UCC (submitted by ISSU with Family Carers Ireland).*
 - *Assisting Dr. Kelleher with initial research development.*
- **Irish Water Safety**

- *Joshua from the ROB had an excellent idea regarding water safety and rescue skills for a potential TY Programme. Joshua and I are contacting relevant bodies to get this project started.*
- **Other:**
 - *February was very busy but successful for me, but I'd like to give a special thanks to the Education Team who have continued to do amazing work. On top of the above I have also been giving internal support to the Uachtarán as well as performing general Coiste Gnó duties in the planning of the Annual Assembly. If you want to get involved in any of my work please let me know.*

Communications Officer:

A chairde, February was an extremely challenging but rewarding month for myself. I was out of office for most of this month and at a lower capacity due to 6th year mock exams. Most of the work completed this month would not have been possible without the support and work of the Digital Communications Working Group and I'd like to extend my thanks to them and all others for their support in ISSU.

Work completed/ongoing with the Digital Communications Working Group:

- Mock Completion Post
- 50 Years of Student Voice Logo
- Annual Assembly Graphics
- ROB Contact Map Poster
- State Examinations Changes - Subject Breakdown Graphics, alongside the Department of Education and SEC Communications Department. (65 Instagram Graphics)
- ISSU Women's Conference Graphics
- NWC #NoWomanLeftBehind Rally Graphics
- RespectforSNAs Graphics (see "Rúnaí")
- Level Up! Graphics
- This month I also helped supervise the ROB Training event in Dublin and used the opportunity to create in-person ISSU content. Similarly at the UCC Nurturing Brights Future Programme Training Day.
- I have been helping in my role on the Constitution Reform to ensure deadlines are met.
- New email signature template created alongside tutorial video.

Equality Officer:

- **OCO Beyond Limits Youth Advisory Panel Membership**
- **Continued engagement with National Homeless and Housing Coalition**
- **Traveller Engagement**

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- I contacted the Irish Travellers Movement and the Involve movement in the hopes of making connections with the Irish Traveller Community
- **Herstory.ie Lightshow**
 - A massive success! Several youth activists and students from across the world were projected on to Trinity College and the GPO in Dublin for a whole night. It was awesome to see such a celebration of student power for St. Brigid's Day (Herstory are the people behind the new bank holiday that will come into effect in 2023)
- **BeLongTo Education Sector Advisory Meeting**
- **ISSU as an endorser of the #LoveNotHate Campaign for Anti-Hate Speech Legislation**
 - We provided our support as a final push towards handing in their petition. Thank you to everyone who showed their support through signing the petition!
- **Period Poverty**
 - The Welfare Officer and I are currently working on trying to revitalise the Period Poverty working group so we can start towards creating the report!
- **Accessibility Updates:**
 - I ensured that the Accessibility Guidelines were up to date, so we can continue to have a union that works for all
 - I advised some officers on how to ensure their documents could be more accessible, including font differences, colour contrasts, the importance of descriptive links and titles etc.
- **VHI Project Brainstorming**
 - Along with the Welfare Officer, we did some brainstorming on potential project ideas surrounding Anxiety in young people as well as other potential themes that all circulate around mental health and wellbeing
- **STAD (End Direct Provision Coalition) Meeting**
 - Although I personally wasn't able to attend, ISSU was represented at our very first meeting as a member of STAD.

Rúnaí:

- Meeting all obligations for **minutes** and organising meetings
- Met with the **RespectForSNAs** campaign to discuss ISSU support for the campaign, which was proposed to the CG by the Rúnaí and passed unanimously
- Organising upcoming **joint meeting with the ROB** using the new format
- Working in the Constitutional Reform Working Group
- Continuing to support other officers where needed

Sustainability Officer:

N/A

International Officer:

N/A

Regional Liaison and Support Officer:

Regional Officer Body In Person Training February:

- Organised three in person Regional Officer Body Trainings, Dublin TCD 21st of February, Galway NUIG 22nd of February and Cork UCC 23rd of February.
- Attended and facilitated all three trainings. At each training we had 4-5 guest speakers.
- For the lobbying stakeholders workshop we had,

Dublin: Malcolm Byrne

Galway: Owen Hanley

Cork: Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire

- **I chaired three panels across the week which had the following panellists,**

Dublin: USI VP Dublin Region, Megan O'Connor USI VP for Academic Affairs, Fiona Dunne ICTU.

Galway: USI VP BMW Region, Mairead Farrell TD , Clem Shelvin SIPTU

Cork: USI VP Southern Region, UCCSU President, Linda Kelly FORSA

- **The following people facilitated an excellent Boundaries and Welfare workshop**

Dublin: TCDSU Welfare Officer

Galway: NUIGSU Education Officer

Cork: UCCSU Welfare Officer

- **The following people facilitated an excellent Planning an effective campaign workshop**

Dublin: Beth O'Reilly USI Campaigns

Galway: NUIG SU President

Cork: Maeve Richardson UCC Comms & Engagement

- The trainings were a great success, we had three fantastic days across the mid-term and it was a great opportunity for the ISSU to build a relationship with all the SU's at each university, 3rd level institutes, USI, politicians and speakers from the trade unions.

Regional Officer Body In Person Training April:

- I have started organising the next in-person training for the ROB which we hope to hold on the 2nd of April. This will be for the full Regional Officer Body.
- Started working on the event plan

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 was meant to be held on the 25th of February but was postponed due to organisers being sick, and will be held sometime over the Summer.

Supporting Regional Officers with their Work

- Held catch up calls with all regions to check up how they are doing with their roles etc

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Aontas Daltaí Iar-bhunscoile na hÉireann

Representing, Uplifting and Defending Student Voice



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

Work Experience

- I did my LCVP Work Experience at the ISSU for one week, worked on a range of different things and went to Liberty Hall for one day of the work experience to work from the office.

- The Regional Officer Body Fleeces were delivered to Liberty Hall, distributed at the trainings.

- Helping with the planning of An Chomhdháil Bhliantúil.

Oifigeach na Gaeilge:

N/A

Welfare Officer:

- *Prepared for your review and podcast.*
- *Held a Sexual Education Working Group meeting.*
- *Gendered uniforms research began preparing a survey.*

Uachtarán Oinigh:

- *Attended NAPD Symposium*
- *Worked on the Political Party Platform*
- *Submitted the Student Council Charter to the EU Charlemagne Youth Prize*
- *OECD call with Ciara and Emer*

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