

Minutes
Coiste Gnó Meeting
(Online)
05/11/2021
19:15-21:00

Present:

Emer Neville - Uachtarán

Adam Lambe - Leas Uachtarán

Eoin Connolly - Rúnaí

Denis Lynch - Welfare Officer

Reuban Murray - Uachtarán Oinigh

Kacper Bogalecki - International Officer

Quinton Kelly - Communications Officer

Jack McGinn - Education Officer

Mohammad Naeem - Regional Liaison and Support Officer

Salim Kajani - Sustainability Officer

Joanna Siewerska - Secretariat (present for staff updates and Regional Councils)

With Apologies:

Akeno Barrett - Disability Officer

Saoirse Exton - Equality Officer

Absent:

James Ó Muirthe - Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Minutes by: Eoin Connolly - Rúnaí

CG

Welcome and Introduction

The Uachtarán welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly the new Welfare Officer to their first Coiste Gnó meeting.

Meeting with DoE Officials on the NCCA

ISSU Officers have been working on establishing working relationships with the NCCA and to potentially get on the council. The Uachtarán, Education Officer and Leas Uachtarán will be meeting with the Department of Education Officials over the NCCA on Monday, November 22nd to discuss the ISSU x NCCA relationship

Regional Councils

The Uachtarán and RLSO spoke about the Regional Councils and urged officers to attend some. The Uachtarán noted that a bigger effort must be made to ring schools and attend Regional Councils if they are to go ahead in-person.

The Coiste Gnó discussed moving some of the Regional Councils online. There have been some concerns raised by school principals and there are chances of Secretariat Burnout. The RLSO wants them to go ahead, a lot of work has been put in already and we've already cancelled events in the past and it wouldn't look good to do

more. It was raised that at previous events people wouldn't register because it wasn't in person. The venues that have been secured for some are the start of valuable relationships with other organisations.

The Coiste Gnó recognised the strain on the Secretariat and discussed potential ways to relieve some of the pressure on them. Officers said it would be best to start looking into more Covid measures at events such as social distancing between participants and using digital resources instead of handouts.

The CG Passed the following motion: "Regional councils with secured venues, in line with restrictions, will go ahead in person. Those without venues secured by Monday will go ahead online. If Regional Councils need to be cancelled due to Covid then all other in-person ISSU events for CG, Staff and Board of Directors in November and December will also be cancelled".

***The Coiste Gnó held a call on Monday the 8th to expand on this decision as there was confusion over the implication of the motion, discussing the issue and passing the following motion that supersedes it** (Present were the Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtarán, Rúnaí, RLSO, Welfare Officer, Education Officer, Uachtarán Oinigh and the International Officer):

"All RCs with venues go ahead, RCs without venues (by their designated deadlines) go ahead online. All other events cancelled/moved online if 9 further Regional councils are moved

online], with the exception of ECMA until Jan 2022”.

Relationship with the MAC

The Coiste Gnó discussed their relationship with the MAC and agreed they should have a call with them to work out any potential issues.

Officer Updates

The Uachtarán is working with a parent who reached out to solve an issue between their daughter and their school regarding rules that go against article 13 of the UNCRC. The Uachtarán is also working to establish an organisational structure working group in conjunction with the Communication Officers Constitutional Reform working group.

The Leas Uachtarán and Uachtarán Oinigh met with Department of Education Staff about the Student-Parent Charter.

Uachtarán Oinigh is working on piloting the Student Council Charter with the Limerick-Clare Education and Training Board

The Education Officer has begun work with the Education Team, making an International exam system report with the International Officer. Looking into improving survey equipment for the ISSU.

The Sustainability Officer has been working on a campaign to introduce a scheme for school students similar to the Cycle to Work Scheme.

The Communications Officer has been working on updating graphics to match the new logo.

The Welfare Officer has started his term and is working out plans for the rest of the term.

The International Officer is continuing to work with Schools of Sanctuary and working with Abolish Direct Provision on introducing better education on Direct Provision into schools. Applied for membership of the UNESCO SDG Youth Network.