

Minutes
Coiste Gnó Meeting
07/08/2021
In person
15:30-18:15

Present:

Emer Neville-Uachtarán

Adam Lambe-Leas Uachtarán

Eoin Connolly-Rúnaí

Kacper Bogalecki-International Officer (present for part of the meeting)

Akeno Barrett-Disability Officer

Jack McGinn-Education Officer

Reuban Murray-Uachtarán Oinigh

Saoirse Exton-Equality Officer

Salim Kajani-Sustainability Officer

Mohammad Naeem - RLSO

Quinton Kelly-Communications Officer

With Apologies:

Matthew Ryan-Welfare Officer

James O'Muirithe-Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Minutes by: Eoin Connolly-Rúnaí

1.1: Welcome and Introduction

1.2: Minutes of Last Meeting for Adoption

2: Matters Arising from Previous Meeting

Filling of Mac Vacancy: Secretariat reopened the election, eliminated the former officer on the first count and noted the results. The four current officers were elected alongside Jamie McElwain. There was a discussion on what the best course of action was to fill the vacancy, a by-election or co-option.

Points made;

- MAC recommend EA while noting pressure
- Noting constitutionality and MAC recommendation, a motion to hold an Extraordinary Assembly was raised
- Motion to hold Extraordinary Assembly with a by-election to fill the vacancy on the MAC was passed unanimously

3. ISSU Gifs-Comms Officer

Preferably used on ISSU accounts, shouldn't be used on personal accounts unless in an ISSU context

4. LC 2022: Contingency Plans and the Future-Education Officer

The Education Officer presented draft contingency plans for LC2022 that ISSU should lobby for.

“Fall-back plan

- *The SEC should start preparing for an option of Accredited Grades now so that a fall-back plan is in place and can accommodate for an easy switch over in the event the State Exams can no longer be run as intended.*
- *If schools are closed nationally for more than two weeks the SEC should start implementing the option of sitting the Leaving Certificate and an Accredited Grades option similar to the 2021 module.*
- *Students who have any medical emergency, at least COVID, in the close run-up or during their State Exam will be able to defer their exams to later that*

*summer without having to repeat the year. (Ik this was already agreed on but just good to have it on the same doc)
(Even if this fall-back plan isn't used, it's a very good piece of mind for students!)*

School safety

- *All stakeholders should be able to contact the NPHEP regarding community transmission in terms of the safety of schools.*
- *A team will be set up within the Department of Education and Skills that will receive, investigate and address any incidents or concerns regarding the safety of schools on the topic of COVID-19.*
- *Any issues or concerns raised by a union member through their union representatives should be fully investigated and addressed by the Department for Education and Skills.*
- *Any reports of misuse or missing CO2 monitors should be brought to the attention of the Department for Education and Skills immediately and serious repercussions should be handed out if negligence by school staff is to blame.”*

Points made;

- Uachtarán Oinigh believed 2 weeks was too short, also said it's important to include Junior Cert and Leaving Cert Applied Students in contingency plans. Also recommended that instead of national team for schools safety that a helpline be set up
- Uachtarán said that pushing for extra changes could be worthwhile in some areas, Uachtarán Oinigh said Languages and Practicals would be the best areas to push in
- Leas Uachtarán said these plans can be brought to the Advisory Group as there is a need for them to be brought to it
- Uachtarán Oinigh believed Accredited Grades wouldn't be announced by the Department as a contingency plan, only in the event they are needed would it be announced

5. Summer Skills Academy

Hope to hold an in-person skills academy later this year, one day events, hopefully in each province. Planning for Cork and Dublin Skills Academies in September. Officers will all be contributing workshops/resources to the events.

Planning will be led by the Rúnaí alongside the Uachtarán and Secretariat.

6. Student-Parent Charter-Uachtarán Oinigh

Student-Parent Charter is in committee stage, it's an act to make school boards draw up Student Parent-Charters and amend the Education Act 1998. ISSU needs to work on the bill and potential amendments to be made and the time is now. Should act on it before the next meeting.

Leas Uachtarán and Uachtarán Oinigh will take lead and contact the other officers to give updates, other officers will help with going through it.

7. Officer Updates

Uachtarán and Leas Uachtarán recorded a video with Spunout.

Uachtarán, International Officer and Education Officer reached out to King's College London as there were concerns raised about their compliance with UCAS to accommodate Irish students that have a delayed results date

Education Officer: "Get the Job" video successful

Has emailed the BT Young Scientist awards about exclusivity issues raised from the previous meeting.

Regional Liaison and Support Officer: Will hold a training with ROB on grassroots communication. Starting to plan regional councils

Equality Officer: Got in contact with the open community organisation alongside the International Officer. Amnesty International got in contact with ISSU and a video on Direct Provision is being produced.

Communications Officer: Working on ExitEntry partnership
Working on grassroots communication lines for Regional Officers
New Coiste Gno Updates page on the ISSU website and other website updates.

Disability Officer: Still working on Disability Stakeholder Group Submission.

Uachtarán Oinigh: Updates on government news
Recommended an Officer look into Inspectorate Strategic Plan.
Freedom of information policy proposals at the Department of Education.
The Minister For Education confirmed the full reopening of schools in the new year.

8. Secretariat Update:

The Secretariat has divided Coiste Gnó officers between them as first points of contact.

ISSU has been invited to TY Expo to have a stand and hold a Q&A.

9. AOB

Coiste Gnó Programme for Change-Uachtarán Oinigh:

Idea for something like a programme for government for the Coiste Gnó, where officers will outline priorities to students

Equality and Disability Officer planning on accessibility training for union bodies.

ROB engagement: Hold refresher course for current RO's and introduction for new RO's.

ISSU Logo Review: Communications Officer presented draft edits to the ISSU logo, minor adjustments to font and colour and an alternative logo for a wider image format.

Action: Uachtarán motioned to push full logo review back and additionally make the minor changes to the logo as suggested by the communications officer. **Vote: 9 in favour, 1 against**