

## MINUTES

**Coiste Gnó Meeting - 09/09/2022 17:00-18:30**

### **Attendance**

#### **Present:**

- **Uachtarán: Caitlin Faye Maniti**
- **Runaí: Andrew Victory**
- **Education Officer: Jack McGinn**
- **Welfare Officer: Anjelica Foley**
- **Equality Officer: Rebecca Livingstone**
- **International Officer: Shari Irfan**
- **Communications Officer: Aoibhín Ní Gleasáin**
- **Oifigeach Na Gaeilge: Gráinne Ní Ailín (Partially Present)**
- **Sustainability Officer: Jamie Mac Giolla Bháin**
- **Disability Officer: Eva Grace**
- **Uachtarán Oinigh: Emer Neville (Partially Present)**

#### **With Apologies:**

- **Leas Uachtarán: Denis Lynch**
- **Regional Liaison & Support Officer: Mohammad Naeem**

#### **Absent:**

**N/A**

Minutes completed by Andrew Victory

#### **Irish Second-Level Students' Union**

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## Agenda

**Coiste Gnó Meeting 24/09/2022**

**Online**

**18:00-19:55**

<b>1.1 - Welcome and Attendance</b>	18:00 - 18:05
<b>1.2 -Officer Check In</b>	18:05 - 18:25
<b>2 - ASTI Meeting Update</b> - Uachtarán and Leas Uachtarán	18:25 - 18:35
<b>3 - Internal Policy Writing Working Group</b> - International Officer	18:35 - 18:45
<b>4 - European Youth Fund Application</b> - International Officer	18:45 - 18:50
<b>5 - Disability Awareness Training Update</b> - Disability Officer	18:50 - 19:00
<b>Break</b>	19:00 - 19:05
<b>7 - TUI/Worldskills Apprenticeship Update</b> - Uachtarán and Runaí	19:05 - 19:10
<b>8 - Student Voice Policy Platform</b> -Uachtarán Oinigh	19:10 - 19:15
<b>9 - Shared Drive and Calendar Reminder</b> - Uachtarán Oinigh	19:15 - 19:20
<b>10 - Freedom of Expression Stance</b> - Equality and Welfare Officers	19:20 - 19:30
<b>11 - Any Other Business(AOB)</b>	19:30 - 19:55

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## **1.1 - Welcome and Attendance**

## **1.2 - Officer Check In**

### **2 - ASTI Meeting Update** - Uachtarán and Leas Uachtarán

On the 14th of September, Uachtarán, Leas Uachtarán and Education Officer attended a meeting with the President of the Association of Secondary Teachers in Ireland, Miriam Duggan.

They discussed the work of both unions, and issues prevalent to the education stakeholder community.

### **3 - Internal Policy Writing Working Group** - International Officer

Following the OBESSU Summer Skills and discussions with fellow international officers, the International Officer proposes a working group with the ISSU to create internal policy. Many members of OBESSU have working groups designated for policies such as in Denmark and Bosnia, where there are representatives of each internal body that form said working group.

Uachtarán Oinigh - This sort of internal policy is not the remit or responsibility of the coiste gnó

International Officer - we have contacts with organisations that can assist but understands the constraints with this matter

Uachtarán - we could be creating a working group to focus on some policies but suggests need to decide which ones

Runáí - suggests we decide over

Uachtarán Oinigh - this has been tried and tested. It is not the remit of the coiste gnó or regional officers. Suggests we seek CG training and revisit the topic later, and that we reach out to the staff to offer support. It also crosses the line of the staff remit.

Education Officer - 'I think as well that this falls between the staff and Directors, and probably more so to the Directors. As well the staff is under a lot of stress at the moment so I'd park it until after regional councils and then after regional councils go to the student advisory directors about it.'

Uachtarán Oinigh - proposes that we revisit this after the regional council season when both ourselves and the staff have more capacity.

Motion is passed with no objections, we will revisit this matter after Regional Councils season.

**4 - European Youth Foundation Funding Application** - International Officer

We got approved as an EYF organisation.

Staff is on low capacity so CG assistance is needed to write the application.

The application is welcomed by the Uachtarán and Coiste Gnó

**5 - Disability Awareness Training Update** - Disability Officer

The Disability Officer welcomes the support of her recently conducted internal disability awareness training.

The Disability Officer reminds officers that the training is mandatory and must be completed as soon as possible if officers missed the training

**7 - TUI/Worldskills Apprenticeship Update** - Uachtarán and Runaí

On the 14th of September, Uachtarán and Runaí attended the Teachers' Union of Ireland/Worldskills Apprenticeship Conference.

Both the Uachtarán and Runaí send great reports of the conference and remark it as an insightful opportunity.

**8. Student Voice Policy Platform** - Uachtarán Oinigh

The Uachtarán Oinigh updates the Coiste Gnó on the progress of the Student Voice Policy Platform. The launch of the Platform will be the 17th of November.

The launch will only be attended by the Uachtarán, Uachtarán Oinigh, and the Runaí as a result of low capacity with regional council season and child protection .

**9 - Shared Drive and Calendar Reminder** - Uachtarán Oinigh

The Uachtarán Oinigh reminds all officers to ensure they are using the shared drives when working on ISSU projects and work.

Runaí - On top of this, please use the shared calendar and respond to meeting forms as soon as they are issued.

**BREAK**

## **10 - Freedom of Expression Stance** - Equality and Welfare Officers

Uachtarán received an email regarding if the ISSU has a stance on body piercings. We currently do not have a stance on this so both the equality and welfare officers wish to develop a stance on.

Proposed Stance:

*The ISSU holds the position that students' right to freedom of expression should be respected in education settings. This is laid out in the OBESSU declaration of School Students Rights (The school must respect the individuality of school students. Equality in education shall not mean uniformity: students have to be allowed to develop their personal abilities and identities towards the direction they want to.). In relation to piercings and other forms of self-expression such as but not limited to hair colour, hairstyles, and makeup, the ISSU believe students should have the right to freedom of expression unless there are genuine health and safety or other valid concerns.*

Runáí - Directs questions to coiste gnó officers who have served on a previous coiste gnó.

RLSO - issues to do with hijab bans and hair colours have previously been previously discussed by the coiste gnó but unsure about body piercing

Communications - caution on the health and safety argument presented by schools however welcomes the stance.

Multiple Officers agreed with the points previously mentioned.

Equality officer - echoes the extent of the issue.

International Officer - this issue is part of OBESSU policy so it is best practice to implement it.

Welfare - most important to create a stance since a student queried it. It will also help to support future projects on uniforms.

Uachtarán - echoes the points from the other officers

Runáí - would it be worth adding on religion expression to this stance of creating a separate official stance.

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Welfare - wishes to create a separate stance on religion

Runaí - believes it could be beneficial to have them in the same stance.

Equality Officer - The Equality Officer will be working on a religious expression stance in the coming weeks.

Runaí - doesn't see the benefit of having the separately stance or have them approved them separately.

Disability - get back to students and highlight that we will create a stance on religious freedom of expression.

Equality Officer - "Along with this stance on self expression I will be working on a stance on freedom of religious expression and it will be brought up at the next Coiste Gnó meeting for formal approval"

Proposed motion on this stance:

Yes - 10/10

No - 0/10

Abstain - 0/10

The motion was passed, and the ISSU formally recognises the aforementioned stance with regards to self expression and commits to creating a similar official stance of religious expression as soon as possible.

**11 - AOB:**

N/A