

**Minutes**  
**Coiste Gnó Meeting**  
**(Online)**  
**28/11/2021**

**Present:**

Emer Neville - Uachtarán

Eoin Connolly - Rúnaí

Jack McGinn - Education Officer

Denis Lynch - Welfare Officer

Quinton Kelly - Communications Officer

Salim Kajani - Sustainability Officer

Mohammad Naeem - Regional Liaison and Support Officer

Kacper Bogalecki - International Officer

James Ó Muirthe - Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Present for part of the meeting)

Reuban Murray - Uachtarán Oinigh

**Absent:**

Saoirse Exton - Equality Officer

Adam Lambe - Leas Uachtarán

**Minutes by:** Eoin Connolly - Rúnaí

## **Officer Updates**

The Uachtarán and Uachtarán Oinigh met with ICTU to discuss a formal agreement on our partnership.

The Uachtarán is working with the SSUNI Vice-President Clara McDevitt on getting a student seat for the two unions on the NWCi All Island Forum. They also spoke at the ICTU biennial conference.

The Sustainability Officer intends to reopen the ESD Working Group for applications.

The Education Working Group is continuing work on their report on other countries' education systems. Also working on covid policy in schools and student representation in schools on these policies.

The RLSO has been working on Regional Councils which are almost over.

The Welfare Officer attended a welfare discussion with the HSE and is planning on implementing their manifesto points.

The Communications Officer will be setting up a Digital Communications Working Group in the coming months

The Rúnaí is going to be holding the first meeting of the Disability Delegation, along with the Uachtarán and Equality Officer.

The Uachtarán, Leas-Uachtarán and Education Officer met with the Department of Education about getting onto the NCCA.

## **Social Democrats' RSE bill**

The Rúnaí brought the RSE bill proposed by Gary Gannon to the attention of the Coiste Gnó. The bill has been delayed by the Government by 9 months. Its proposals were to standardise RSE, make it fact based and remove religious influence.

Action Point: The relevant officers will get in touch with Gary about what we can do in the future for the proposal

## **LCA Survey**

The Coiste Gnó approved the questions for the LCA survey

## **Covid and Schools**

The Coiste Gnó discussed issues related to Covid for schools and the Leaving Cert like the shortage of substitute teachers and how it is affecting students.

Action Point: The Coiste Gnó will be consulting with the ROB on the ongoing Covid-19 situation in schools

## **Disability Officer Vacancy**

The Disability Officer has resigned for personal reasons.

Action Point: The Coiste Gnó will be consulting the MAC on the best course of action going forward. In the meantime the Rúnaí has taken over the [disability@issu.ie](mailto:disability@issu.ie) email and the leadership of the Disability Delegation Working Group and will be liaising with the Equality Officer.

## **Irish Times Boycott**

For the past few weeks the Coiste Gnó has been discussing the Boycott of the Irish Times started by the Trans Writers

Union in August that has recently been gaining momentum with University Student Unions and other organisations. The Coiste Gnó held a final discussion and vote on whether or not the ISSU will join. There were 3 votes in favour of joining the boycott and 6 against.

Action Point: The ISSU will not join the boycott, however we stand firmly with Trans rights. We will be putting our rhetoric into action in ways that will achieve meaningful change, working on several projects in the remainder of our term on issues affecting gender non-conforming students.

### **AOB**

It was raised by the International Officer that there are calls from students and organisations to change the exam booklet for the Accounting exam as it doesn't have adequate space for students to do their accounts.