



**NUI Galway**  
**Students' Union**  
**Comhaltas na Mac Léinn**  
**OÉ Gaillimh**

# Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2018/19

Volume: I

Period: 1st of June – 15th October

## Table of Contents

President – *Megan Reilly*

Vice President / Education Officer - *Eibhlín Seoighthe*

Vice-President / Welfare Officer - *Clare Austick*

Oifigeach na Gaeilge - *Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha*

Mature Students' Officer – *Chuka Paul Oguekwe*

Postgraduate Taught Officer – *Cameron Keighron*

Postgraduate Research Officer – *Jibran Abbasi*

Societies Chairperson – *Brandon Walsh*

Clubs Captain – *Ryan Guilfoyle*

Students' Union Council Chairperson – *Sabrina Vaughan*

Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies – *Rían McKeagney*

Convenor of the College of Science – *Scott Green*

Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences – *Liezel Ravenscroft*

Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law – *Clodagh McGivern*

Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics – *Roshan George*

International Students Officer – *Daniel McFadden*

Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer – *Alex Coughlan*

Disability Rights Officer – *Muireann O' Sullivan*

Ethnic Minorities Officer - *Victoria Chihumura*

## Megan Reilly

President, NUI Galway Students' Union  
Uachtarán, Comhaltas na Mac Léinn OÉ Gaillimh  
She/Her

su.president@nuigalway.ie  
086 385 5502 • 091 492746



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OÉ Gaillimh



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## Report of the President

Tuairisc an Uachtarán

*Megan Reilly*

### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

#### Accommodation crisis.

The crisis has dominated since we have come into office. A lot of work has been done in this area. We organised the crisis campout alongside GMIT and One Galway. Myself and the GMITSU President presented to the Galway Housing SPC around the need for more purpose built student accommodation. I have raised the issue with the President. The focus of the National Demo this year was accommodation, so we put a lot of work into promoting that.

#### Media

As the chief spokesperson of the Union, I have done extensive media since the job began in July, representing the student voice. Particularly around the news of the Journalism course having fees refunded, and around the accommodation crisis. Other than that, we put out a press release every week and I will usually be the contact. All in all, I have done radio, written and TV interviews for the following: RTE, Today FM, Galway Bay FM, BBC Radio Foyle, Connemara Community Radio, Castlebar community radio, SIN, The Galway Observer, The Connaught tribune, and the Galway Advertiser.

#### The team:

I have met with each part time officer individually to discuss their goals for the year. The Sabbatical officers have a meeting at the start of each week. Our Executive meetings happen about every two weeks and are chaired by me. I have no doubt this year that we have an incredibly hardworking and passionate team who are going to do amazing things.

### **Casework:**

Usually the President wouldn't do much Casework, but with the resignation of the Education officer myself and the VP Welfare and Equality split work between us, so I saw students on course issues, SUSI, and accommodation queries. Other than that, students contact me quite frequently with queries or to raise concerns.

### **Class reps:**

After the VP Education officer's resignation, I took over coordinating the class rep system. Responsibility was devolved to the convenors to elect within their own colleges, and if they were unable to elect then another officer would step in. I coordinated class rep training which was really well attended!

### **Ongoing issues:**

There are of course some major ongoing issues in the college that I am working towards fixing. Of course, new issues are always coming up, but here are a sample of a few that I am currently tackling:

*The lack of seating:* I have raised this with the President, there is a group being convened soon to discuss.

*Appeals:* the length of time appeals are taking to be heard is a real issue for students and I am following it up with the committee to see can we change the way it operates so that appeals can be heard sooner.

*The Levy:* I am investigating the levy and how much students are paying for certain things, with a potential view to having a referendum to reduce it.

### **List of meetings:**

#### **JULY**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Presidential Crossover	This was a two week long process of shadowing the former President and receiving training.

Meeting with the President	Brought up SU Council, lack of social space across the University, an on campus Music festival, the retirement of Pat Morgan, and issues of underfunding across student services.
SIN Interviews	Sat on the panel to appoint the new editor of our paper.
Students' Union Training	Week long training for officers hosted by USI
Team scoping exercise	Organised by me for the sabbatical officers to help us plan the year ahead
Parking management appeals committee	
Students complaints meeting	
Media Training	Kindly facilitated by the Media and communications office
Landlord information evening	Spoke at this event organised by the accommodation and welfare office about what the Union offers
Student Projects fund	
Monthly meeting with Pat Morgan	Meeting with the Vice President for the Student Experience to discuss issues
NSteP Evaluation	
SlipJig media	Met with Slipjig media to discuss filming of orientation video.

### August

Meeting/Event	Details
SUCS Board meeting	Meeting of Student Union Commercial Services

Student Progression and Exam compensation rules committee	This committee is to discuss carry forward of failed modules.
Meeting with Galway University Foundation	To discuss charity events throughout the year.
Spoke at reclaim the Night March	Spoke on feminism and tackling sexual assault
SUT+ in Coleraine	Three day top up training hosted by USI
Health Unit Board meeting	Brought up the fact that Undergrads are not seen during the summer
Preliminary disciplinary meeting	
Threshold meeting	Accompanied the welfare officer to discuss how we can work with Threshold throughout the year.
Brand Essence workshop	The University is rebranding to the Here is Where concept, and this was to explore that. Was the only student representative present.
Áras na mac leinn finance group	Got agreement to fund cloakroom wages for the year.
Met with An Runaí	Discussed SU membership at Governing body
Heads of function meeting	Brought up the new Sexual Harassment policy.
Meeting with the Registrar	Discussed issues around conferring and the new Dean of Students
Exec bonding	Organised a weekend of activities in Delphi.

Galway Pride	Hosted Pre pride breakfast in the Union and marched with the student Block.
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### September (Orientation time!)

Orientation talks to first years	Spoke with the other sabbatical officers to the 3,500 new first years on their first day. We discussed voter reg, the accommodation crisis and how the Union exists to represent them.
DSS Orientation	The Welfare Officer organised that we would speak for 5 minutes at the start of these orientations.
Yourspace development meeting	We are hoping to move the Class rep communication system online to Yourspace and have secured funding.
Freshers fair	Handing out diaries.
Mobile app Governance meeting	Agreed to put together a focus group of students to help improve the app.
Meeting with the head of Graduate studies	Discussed issues of PhD students and how we can work together throughout the year.
SU Comedy	Helped take tickets at the doors and introduced the comedy
Exam appeals committee	Sat in the exam appeals committee in place of the Education officer.
Academic Council Induction	Attended with the other Students' Union reps
Class rep elections	Elected a number of class reps for officers who were unable to
Executive meetings	Convened and chaired executive meetings
March for choice	Brought a bus of students to the March for Choice
Academic skills group	Attended in place of the Education Officer

Meeting with the President	Brought up the Student Levy, a Student Partnership agreement, confirmed that the President would attend the first council and that I will present to the next meeting of the University Management Team on Student issues.
Attended two day national council in Dublin	This comprised of working groups and training, as well as preparation for the National Demonstration.
Retirement party for Pat Morgan (Former Vice President for the Student Experience)	Spoke at the party for the VPSE and thanked her for the commitment to students and support to the Union.
Meeting with the Vice President for Equality and Diversity	Discussed the University's approach to Sexual Assault.

### **October**

Class rep training	Organised and MC'd. We had a full room of reps who received training on public speaking, activism and dealing with management.
National Demonstration	Did extensive promotion for the demonstration, and brought buses of students to March in the Student Lockout.
Attended National Forum on Consent in third level	This was an emergency forum convened by the Minister for third level education. I contributed by talking about the importance of funding for consent workshops and how policies must ensure students are supported.
Attended the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee	
Attended staff meetings in the office	I sat in as the Officer Representative.
Student Health and Wellbeing advisory group	Raised the importance of having structural supports for students across all colleges and



	the need for more social spaces.
Seas Suas	Spoke at the opening night of Seas Suas run by the chaplaincy
Executive meeting to discuss charities	Chaired meeting to choose our charities of the year.

Vice President / Education Officer  
Leas Uachtarán / Oifigeach Oideachais  
**Eibhlín Seoighthe**  
su.education@nuigalway.ie  
086 385 3658



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Students' Union**  
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn  
OÉ Gaillimh



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## ***Report of the Vice President / Education Officer***

Oifigeach Oideachais

*Eibhlín Seoighthe*

### **Key Points Since 27th of September (2018)**

Officer will give their officer report in Council.

This report will also be added to the next period of officer reports.

Vice President / Welfare and Equality Officer  
Leas Uachtarán / Oifigeach Leasa  
agus Comhionannais

**Clare Austick**

su.welfare@nuigalway.ie  
086 385 3659



**NUI Galway  
Students' Union**  
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn  
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[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



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## **Report of the Vice-President / Welfare and Equality Officer**

Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais

*Clare Austick*

### **Key Points Since 1st of June (2018)**

#### **Training Received**

Students in Distress

Students' Union Training (SUT)

Mental Health First Aid

How to run an effective mental health campaign

Students' Union Training + (SUT+)

Media Training - Mental Health Reform

"Handling the aftermath of rape and sexual assault" - Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

#### **Consent Workshops**

It was the first year NUI Galway Students' Union introduced consent workshops for the first year students living in Corrib Village and Goldcrest. We trained over 40 facilitators to deliver these workshops over two days. Over 400 first year students attended the workshops in the first 3 weeks of the semester which was a great achievement! We are looking for funding from the University to implement these workshops into orientation week and make them sustainable and compulsory to attend. We are also hoping to extend the SMART Consent programme to other years.

#### **University of Sanctuary Campaign**

I was involved with this initiative as part-time Equality Officer last year and have continued to be on the steering committee this year. The University of Sanctuary Campaign aims to make NUI Galway a more welcoming and inclusive campus for refugees and asylum seekers and Irish travellers. I have been attending the meetings and I am determined in making NUI Galway a University of Sanctuary this year.

#### **Mental Health Mondays**

Mental Health Mondays is an online collaborative mental health awareness campaign between GMIT Students' Union and Please Talk and NUI Galway Students' Union. Each Monday

addresses a different aspect of mental health. These include: Monday Blues, Who do you talk to?, Alcohol and Drugs, Pride & Prejudice, Finding your feet, Let's Talk about Sex (Baby), Gambling, Positive Self-Esteem, Body & Soul.

The Welfare Crew volunteers have been handing out free water bottles, apples and bananas to students each Monday as well as managing the stand in Smokey's Cafe to have a physical presence on campus. Mental Health Mondays will continue until the 26th November.

### **Media**

Engaged with the media in many different ways through many radio stations: Galway Bay FM, CRCFM, Flirt FM and iRadio and the Student Independent News (SIN) newspaper on consent, mental health and the accommodation crisis.

### **Welfare Crew**

The Welfare Crew are a fantastic bunch of volunteers who are essentially the backbone to the campaigns and themed weeks we run. They help with the packing and distribution of condoms and tampons. I love them all so much. I wouldn't be able to do half of the great things I've been working on without them. We've had one planning session so far and I'm hoping to have more regular meetings in the coming weeks. Anyone can join at any time.

### **Mental Health Week**

Have been in touch with a numerous amount of Societies to do collaborations for Mental Health Week. There were 22 events!!

### **Casework**

Answered queries and referred students on to relevant support services on the phone, via email and by meeting students in person. The President and myself split the education-related workload between us when the Education Officer resigned.

### **Committees/Boards**

These are the committees I've sat on to date: One Galway, University of Sanctuary Steering Committee, USI's Campaign's sub-committee, Safety Working Group, Student Projects Fund, Student Health Unit Board of Directors, Financial Aid Fund, Employability Award Steering Committee, EDICC (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion Campus Committee, Disciplinary committee, Appeals Committee. There are others that I sit on that haven't met yet.

### **European Students' Union Convention**

I was chosen as a delegate to represent the National Students' Union, USI (the Union of Students' in Ireland) at the 36th European Students' Convention in Vienna with the focus being on "Education as a Public Good."

### **Pink Training**

The largest LGBT + Conference in Europe ran by USI is hosted by us in November this year. The Union will be doing a lot of organising for it. The President and myself have had a meeting with the VP for Equality and Citizenship of USI and been in contact via email and phone calls.

### **USI Sub- Campaigns Committee**

I was elected on to the National Campaigns sub-committee at the first National Council. I helped in the planning of the National Demonstration.

### **Student Choice Awards for Teaching & Learning**

The President, The Education Officer and myself reviewed the applications and chose two winners worthy of the Student Choice Awards for Teaching & Learning. We chose two winners (Dr. Brendan Flynn and Dr. Mona O'Boyle) which hasn't been done before with a particular focus on inclusive teaching and learning and UDL (universal design for learning) ensuring that the main focus is always on the students they teach.

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

#### **July**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Welfare Crossover	Shadowed Megan (President and former Welfare Officer for 2 weeks).
Meeting with the President	Discussed student issues and manifesto points.
Meeting with Chaplaincy	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
Meeting with Counselling	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
Meeting with DSS	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
Meeting with Health Unit	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
USI Lobby Day	Lobbied TD's.
One Galway meeting	Planning for the Crisis Camp-Out event.
Meeting with Accommodation & Welfare Office	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
Meeting with Dr. Pat Morgan, VP for the Student Experience (retired now)	How to go about implementing my manifesto points.
Meeting with Pádraig Mc Neela	Discussed taking a lead on the consent workshops.
Postgraduate meeting	Insight into postgraduate students and their needs.
Review of Student Projects Fund	Reviewed last year's applications.
Meeting with library staff	Learnt about the service they have to offer.
University of Sanctuary Committee meeting	Updates on progress made.
Galway City of Sanctuary Committee meeting	Established a City of Sanctuary initiative
Meeting with Daniel, International Students' Officer	Equality Officer crossover
Monster planning session with Megan and Louis	Our plan for the year ahead.
Access English Class Presentation	Attended the presentation and ceremony.
BMW Bonding	Went to Delphi, met and bonded with all the other sabbatical officers in the BMW region.

Students' Union Training	
One Galway meeting	Updates on Crisis Camp-Out.
Safety Working Group meeting	Went through reports.
Meeting with Megan, President	Updates.
Mental Health Mondays meeting	Planned the Mental Health Mondays campaign.
Mental Health First Aid Training	
Universal Design for Learning meeting with the DSS	Discussed where we could improve on UDL.
Student Projects Fund Applications	Reviewed the applications for this year.

### August

Meeting with Sharon Flynn regarding UDL	Ways to improve a universal design for learning approach.
Disciplinary Appeal	Discussed the outcome and appeal of a disciplinary complaint.
University of Sanctuary Committee meeting	Updates on progression made.
Pink Training meeting	Planning for the event.
USI sub-campaigns committee meeting	Planning for the National Demo.
How to run an effective mental health campaign training	
Feminist March	Protest.
Meeting with Megan and Louis	Updates.
SUT + in Coleraine	Top-up training.
Student Health Unit Board meeting	Discussed the finances.
Media Training	
Blackboard Festival panel discussion	Participated in a panel discussion on UDL (universal design for learning).
Meeting with Darcy from USI	How to make NUI Galway more sustainable and environmentally friendly.
Meeting with Dr. Pat Morgan	Discussed students who had their repeat fee waived.
Executive Team Bonding	Had the best weekend with the best team.
Threshold meeting	Met with Peter from Threshold who is our contact person if anything is needed.
Orientation talk meeting	Discussed orientation with Megan and Louis.
Employability Award Steering Committee meeting	Discussed ways to improve the programme.
Dublin Rape Crisis Centre training	
Become a consent ambassador training	Organised to have the facilitators of the consent workshops trained over two days.
Student Maternity Leave meeting	Developments on a new policy.

## September

HEAR orientation talk (Sunday before Orientation week)	Gave 2 introductory talks.
Orientation week	Gave 5 Introductions to the SU talks, 4 Student Services talks and 3 at the DSS orientation.
STAND 8x8 meeting	Discussed possible collaboration.
Crisis Camp Out	
Outdoor Cinema	
Welfare Training for Club Captains with Cameron, Postgraduate Taught Officer	Trans Inclusivity training & the work of the Union.
Societies Day	
Appeals	Sat on the appeals committee and reviewed applications.
Fresher's Fair	
University of Sanctuary meeting	Updates on progression made.
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Campus Committee meeting	Updates.
Appeals	Sat on the appeals committee and reviewed applications.
Meeting with GIG Soc	Mental Health week collaboration ideas.
Mental Health Mondays	Stand at Smokey's and handed out freebies across campus with the Welfare Crew.

## October

Welfare Crew meeting	Planned events, discussed ideas.
National Demonstration	
Meeting with Alex, Victoria and Muireann	Discussed our plans for the year ahead.
Interview with Journal Society	
Disciplinary hearing	
Michael D. Higgins	OH MY GOD - I'm still starstruck !!

## Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha

Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Sí/Í

su.gaeilge@nuigalway.ie  
087 174 9570

www.su.nuigalway.ie



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### Tuairisc Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Irish Language Officer

*Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha*

### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

#### An Coiste Cultúrtha

In July, I joined 'An Coiste Cultúrtha'. 'An Coiste Cultúrtha' consists of USI members and a few Irish Language Officers. This committee allows the Irish Language Officers to discuss important issues in regards to the Irish language, set out priorities for the year, and to organise events and campaigns. Aoife Ní Dhéisigh, LU don Ghaeilge, organises meetings to allow us to come together and brainstorm some ideas for the academic year.

#### Accommodation Crisis

Everyone is aware of the National Accommodation Crisis. I've had plenty of meetings with Raidió na Gaeltachta to discuss this issues and the severity of the crisis (as Gaeilge!). I spoke with them before and after the CAO offers, and I've spoken to them about the Crisis Campout. I attended the National Demonstration, #RaiseTheRoof, in Dublin along with students and members of the Students' Union executive committee. I also spoke with Meon Eile about the accommodation crisis on the day of the protest.

#### Scéim Teanga OÉ Gaillimh 2018-2021

Fuair mé an deis labhairt ar son Comhaltas na Mac Léinn ag seoladh an Scéim Teanga OÉ Gaillimh 2018-2021. Every 3 years, a new scéim teanga is implemented which aims to promote the use of the Irish language and provide services on campus through Irish. In my role as Oifigeach na Gaeilge, I am responsible for the implementation of the SU bilingual policy and the promotion of the Irish Language. With this new scheme, we have a Scéim Chónaitheach Ghaeilge in Corrib Village, with 6 students currently living there. This is amazing!! The Students' Union and the University have a bilingual policy and it's great to see a 'Teach na Gaeilge' in OÉ Gaillimh.



### **Part-Time Officer Training**

I attended Part-Time Officer training session that was provided by USI. Sabrina and I attended the Dublin Region training due to schedule clashes. We met with USI members and we were provided with information about upcoming campaigns, a public speaking workshop, self-care workshop, a talk about professionalism, and some pizza. We are both trained to be your Part-Time Officers! I will be attending another training session provided by Conradh na Gaeilge on the 12th of October. This training is aimed at Irish Language Officers and the Irish Language societies specifically.

### **Elections Committee**

In an executive committee meeting, myself and Sabrina were elected to the Elections Committee prior to the by-election due to the absences of the VP for Education and VP for Welfare and Equality. In this role, we remained impartial during the election week.

### **Volunteering**

I volunteered along with members of the executive committee on Clubs' Day, Societies' Day, SU Freshers' Fair, Voter Registration, along with advertising events on social media. I also attended the Class Rep Training and volunteered with the Welfare Crew. I elected a class rep for the Convenor of Science.

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Skype meeting with Aoife Ní Dhéisigh and 'An Coiste Cultúrtha'	Discussed priorities for the year, events, and campaigns for the Irish language
Executive Committee Meetings	Met with the executive committee to discuss SU events
Meeting with Alswyn Ní Aonghusa from Conradh na Gaeilge	Discussed plans and events for the academic year

# Chuka Paul Oguekwe

Mature Students' Officer  
Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta  
He/Him  
su.maturestudents@nuigalway.ie  
089 966 4053



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[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



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## Report of the Mature Students' Officer

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta

*Chuka Paul Oguekwe*

### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

1. Attended SU introductory talk with first years
  - a. \*introduce the SU and executives to the first years
2. Voters registration
  - a. \*getting students who are not previously registered to vote, to do so.
3. Meet with a few first year mature students
  - helped them to settle into college life
4. Meet with Mature students soc exec committee
  - how to get more mature student get involved.
5. Advertised and attended Crisis campout
6. \*In support of the housing crisis and homelessness
7. Elected Class Reps for my class
8. Advertised and attended Homelessness Demo in Dublin
9. Encouraged the setting up of a whatsapp group chat for a few mature student
  - Creating a social circle.
10. Attend SU exec meetings
11. 10 Attended class Reps training

## Cameron Keighron

Postgraduate Taught Officer  
Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe Teagasctha  
He/Him  
su.pgtaught@nuigalway.ie  
086 238 6183

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



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### Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha

*Cameron Keighron*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Orientation

I spoke at the international students orientation in relation to my role and how I could help. Also was an invited speaker at the CBPPL postgraduate induction and the School of Medicine postgraduate induction. This was to ensure they knew about the work that I do and how I can best support them throughout their time in college. I also attended the SU's officer SULT takeover.

##### SU events/Activities

Had a crossover meeting with Andrew Forde and Colm Duffy in July in order to get an idea of what the role was about and attended an induction to the SU by Chris Newell. I attended team bonding in Delphi with several members of the executive, overcame my fear of heights (proud of that one). I have also helped to pack condoms and tampons for various events throughout the last number of weeks. I attended the by-elections count to see our two new officers elected. I also gave an interview to SIN during the crisis campout.

##### Accommodation crisis.

I attended the crisis camp out in Eyre Square to highlight the lack of adequate accommodation for Students and people within Galway. Also attended the One Galway trade Union event the next day also highlight the accommodation Crisis. Also went on a mystery tour to find Sabrina's stolen bag, climbed a ladder at the back of a church and found her hoodie - a success I think.

##### Welfare Training

Delivered welfare training with Clare to clubs captains in the Kingfisher.

### **Students Projects Fund**

Have been working with the CBPPL on an inclusive learning project looking at making learning more inclusive for several minority groups including international students, students with disabilities, LGBT+ students and female students. Have organised a training event for significant lecturers in CBBPL for October 19th.

### **Class Reps**

Contacted over 200 postgraduate programme directors in order to try and get taught postgraduate students involved in both the Union and the class rep system. Significant amount of engagement from programme directors with several class reps elected or being elected. Also got all programme directors to share my details with their classes as a way of further highlighted the supports available to them. Designing a strategy that will make this work easier in the coming years and hopefully with increase postgraduate taught engagement.

### **Academic Council:**

Attended the Academic Council induction with other members of the SU Exec. We were given training as to how academic council works and what changes had been made this year.

### **Case Work**

Significant amount of case work relating to academic issues of both past and present students.

### **Michael D Higgins**

Attended Michael D Higgins address in the Town Hall Theatre. Got a photo op with him and his wife, invited them along with Alice Mary Higgins to come along to the Su. They did and some of the executive got a photo op with him. (I gave the President of Ireland my business card and my life is made)

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the SU President	Discussed plans for the year
5 x Meetings with CBBPL	Discussing inclusive learning project
Case work	Meeting with students relating to specific issues

CUSP - Sustainability	Represented SU at a sustainability meeting for the University
NUI Galway App Photo call	Photo call with the university president during the launch of the university app
Pride	Attended and organized pride events
Meeting with the Education Officer	Discuss plans for the year and how best to work together
Exec Meetings	Attended two exec meetings discussing plans for class rep elections, the national demo and training.

## Jibran Abbasi

Postgraduate Research Officer  
Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

su.pgresearch@nuigalway.ie  
086 134 2748

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



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[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

*Jibran Abbasi*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### SU events/Activities

I, together with Postgraduate taught officer had a meeting with former education officer, Andrew Forde and former postgrad officer Colm Duffy in July in order to get an idea of what the role was about and attended an induction to the SU by Chris Newell. We spoke about what we can do for postgraduate students both taught and research. We also spoke about the progress made during last postgraduate officer tenure. Colm duffy also presented us with the structure and prospect of postgraduate officers.

I attended team bonding in Delphi with several members of the executive and had bit of fun and broke ice between union executive members. Bonding was wonderful which induced the sense of team in us.

##### Postgraduate orientation September:

I gave presentation about SU postgraduate officer on graduate orientation where we met new postgraduate students and presented them with our Student Union and role of postgraduate officer. We also answered their question and bonded with them during lunch break.

##### Graduate studies board Pre-meeting:

Attended the pre board meeting with Prof Lucy and discussed the agenda of the meeting as well as spoke about different issues about research students. Raised couple of concerns about students GRC reports. Prof Lucy listened to us and appreciated the work union is doing. We also discussed the progress and suggestions made during previous year.

##### Graduate studies board meeting:

Attended the graduate studies board meeting. I gave my proposal on two main issues: i) all graduate students need to be paid equally especially if they are working in same department and more importantly in same lab. The pay gap discrepancy must be end. In engineering particularly, some PhD students are paid 1000 Euros a month and some are paid 1333 a month while other from SFI are paid 1500 Euros a month which creates sense of discomfort and

inferior complex among students who are working and sitting in same lab. ii) second issue was, PhD students could keep their email ID for at least two years after they finish their phd so that they can make full use of informations and contacts they made during the phd time. Board patiently listened to what we have to say and rolled dice on the issue of email and noted down issue of pay-gap for further actions.

### **Academic Council:**

Attended the Academic Council induction with other members of the SU Exec. We were given training as to how academic council works and what changes had been made this year.

Issues met and solved:

Since I took the office (metaphorically as postgrad officer do not have any office), i have met three different cases. Two of the cases were about postgraduate fee problem and one case was about student GRC meeting. I advise them accordingly and further their case to education officer who would look after fee issues.

### **Postgraduate orientation October intake:**

Presentation about SU postgraduate officer on graduate orientation again in October where we met new postgraduate students and presented them with our Student Union and role of postgraduate officer. We also answered their question and bonded with them during lunch break.

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the President	Discussed student issues
Meeting with former Postgrad officers	Discussed the role and progress of graduate officers
Meeting with PhD student	First case referred to postgraduate officer since took office. Case solved and sent to further considerations.
Meeting with Prof Lucy	Orientation meeting with Dean of Research Prof Lucy.
Pre board meeting	Meeting with Graduate studies board chairperson about the agenda and discussion of board meeting with SU
Meeting with Graduate Studies Board	Attended the Graduate studies board meeting
Meeting with Academic council	Attended academic council meeting

Meeting with two postgrad students	Listen to two issues of graduate students and gave them advice
Executive meetings	SU exec meetings to address regular issues



## Brandon Walsh

Societies Chairperson  
Cathaoirleach na gCumann

su.socs@nuigalway.ie  
087 677 8449

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)  [facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)  [twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Societies Chairperson

Cathaoirleach na gCumann

*Brandon Walsh*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### **Volunteering:**

Since the beginning of the academic year i have thrown myself into all the volunteering opportunities eg: Stands at Clubs' Day, Socs' Day, Freshers Fair, Volunteering Fair and doing voter registration. I also volunteer with the Welfare Crew giving out condoms and TomPax.

##### **Housing Crisis:**

Attended the Crisis Campout and various other events around the accommodation crisis. Featured in One Galways video on the crisis. Attended the National Demo in Dublin and screamed into a megaphone for an hour.

##### **Class Rep Elections:**

I helped to elect class reps whenever i was needed. I also assisted the President in inputting the class rep data to our spreadsheet.

##### **Societies Training:**

As Socs Chair I got the opportunity to give society training this year. I gave training in Public Relations and in Event and Health and Safety.

## NUI Galway Meetings

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the President	Discussed plans and events for the coming academic year.
Executive Committee Meetings	Attended meeting with the exec and discussed various issues, events and plans for the year to come
Meeting with Ethnic Minorities Officer	Planned the Cultural Societies Council
Attended National Demo	Attended the National Demo that was Protesting the Housing Crisis on the 3rd of October
Met Michael D. Higgins	Shook his leathery hand twice.

## Ryan Guilfoyle

Clubs Captain  
Captaen na gClubanna

su.clubs@nuigalway.ie  
091 524 810

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



[facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)



[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Clubs Captain

Captaen na gClubanna

*Ryan Guilfoyle*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### **Orientation Week & Higher Options**

Gave a talk to incoming international students about how to join a club, what is involved and the clubs we have on campus and off campus

Assisted in the organization and running of Glow in the dark dodgeball for first years in the Kingfisher on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of orientation week .

Attended Higher Options in my capacity as clubs captain to represent the sports clubs and talk to prospective students about the sports opportunities available in NUIG

##### **Clubs Day**

Facilitated the running of the first clubs day, got the scanners from socs box and set up the tables etc. Made sure each club was aware of their location and ensured they were on the clubs dashboard so they could register new members.

##### **Clubs Forum**

Organized the first clubs forum for the 10th of September and brought up any issues that arose from this meeting with Kathy and Mike in the Sports Office.

##### **Welfare Training**

Organized welfare information training for club captains which was run by the SU

##### **Code of conduct, first aid training and coach education**

Currently working on a programme in conjunction with the national governing bodies and Galway city council to upskill and educate coaches and club members for their respective sports.

##### **Get moving week**

Facilitated the running of get moving week with the sport office, with events such as 3v3 basketball in the kingfisher for current students

##### **Finance Training**

Worked with Bank of Ireland to provide finance training for all of the club treasurers on how to use banking online and the bank of Ireland platform to ensure they can operate to their best ability as treasurer

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with Mike Heskin	Discussed student issues
Regular meetings with Kathy Hynes	To be current with ongoing club issues
Development Officer Meetings	To discuss the ongoing in each club from a development officer point of view
Meeting with Captains of the Water Sports	To discuss funding and current kingfisher entry situation
Meeting with Kingfisher	To try and and arrange a solution for the current problem of getting entry to kingfisher at training times
Met with SU president Megan	Discuss plans for the year and an issue that a certain club had and the current issue with the kingfisher

# Sabrina Vaughan

SU Council Chairperson  
Cathaoirleachna Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn  
She/Her  
su.council@nuigalway.ie  
085 176 2031



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Students' Union  
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OÉ Gaillimh



[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)  [facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)  [twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)

## Report of the Students' Union Council Chairperson

Cathaoirleach na Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn

*Sabrina Vaughan*

### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

#### 24th August

Attended executive briefing and SU history, carried out by NUI Galway Students' Union General Manager.

#### Students' Union talk (Tues 4th Sept and Thursday 6th Sept)

Spoke at SU talk to first years during orientation week. Spoke and promoted things such as, being a class rep, getting the most out of council, CEIM, nominations for Ethnic Minorities officer, getting involved in 1st year and the best way to experience college.

#### SU Take over SULT

Attended and promoted student engagement with SU officers in SULT (college bar). Answered questions and queries of two Arts Students.

#### Part Time Officer (PTO) Training (7th September)

Attended PTO Training run by the Union Students of Ireland (USI) in Dublin with Adhna (Irish language officer), as we were not available to attend the BMW region training on the 12th of October.

Attended weekly executive meetings

### Class Reps/ Officer Report

Met with Megan (President) regarding officer reports, formats and class rep organisation. Met regarding council.

### SU Volunteering

- Helped Clare (VP for Welfare and Equality) with packing and distribution of condoms, tampons & pads and voter registration.
- Manned table in Aras na Mac Leinn with Dean Athru to sell tickets for the national demo- Raise the roof (25th Sept).
- Crisis Protest
  - Promoted and attended Crisis Protest (11th Sept).
- Outdoor Cinema
  - Promoted and attended Outdoor Cinema (12th Sept).
- Comedy Night
  - Promoted and assisted Comedy Night (24th Sept). Met with the acts and assisted in directions (photo was taken yay).
- SU Snapchat
  - Assisted with snapchat 'take over', answered queries sent into the NUIGSU Snapchat and referred students to relevant officers/ services.

### Assisted college convenors

Assisted college convenors with class rep elections and lecture shoutouts.

### Elections

Sat on the elections committee for the By- Election of VP for Education and election for Ethnic Minorities officer. Liaised with Irish language officer, President (NUIGSU) and electoral candidates.

### Class Rep Training event

Attended and spoke at class rep induction training event (1/10/18).

Spoke with Jimmy McGovern (previous BMW officer for USI, former NUIGSU President 2016/17) regarding class reps/ students getting the most out of council.

### National Demonstration (Raise the Roof rally)

Promoted and attended National Demo re; accommodation (3/10/18). Liaised with relevant officers and students.

## Other

Attended Michael D Higgins Presidential (re-election) launch in the Town Hall Theatre (8th October). I was lucky enough to get a photo with the President, his wife, Sabina and Cameron (Postgrad Taught officer). We invited them to come to the campus, and make a stop by the SU Office. They came after they were finished with the launch and some members of the executive got a photo with him and wife. I was lucky enough to speak to both, but especially his wife, Sabina. She took my SU card with my face on it.. She also took a copy of SIN newspaper, SU diary with her as a 'souvenir'. (p.s. She also took a photo of our executive poster- so you could say the President's wife has me in her phone...)

Liaised with all officers regarding officer reports and compiled this document for distribution to class reps and students.

## Rian McKeagney

Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies  
Tionólaí Choláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh

su.arts@nuigalway.ie  
087 133 1473

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)  [facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)  [twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies

Tionólaí Choláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtaí Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh

*Rían McKeagney*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Housing Crisis

The housing crisis has been affecting Ireland for a number of years, so I was glad to hear that raising awareness and trying to combat it would be a large part of the Union's focus this year. With that in mind, I attended the Crisis Campout held in Eyre Square in the first week of the semester as well the National Demo on October 3rd, again protesting the housing crisis. I was particularly pleased when the motion that we were supporting was passed after the demo. I also helped promote the Demo, through things such as meeting with Aoife Ní Dhéisigh, USI's Irish Officer.

##### Class Rep elections

Given the size of Arts and the fact that we had no VP Education Officer, electing class reps has a long process. I am happy to say that there are nearly 100 Arts Reps, with a large number of them being first years. For those without reps yet, don't worry, elections will continue to be held until everybody is represented.

##### Academic Council

Attended the Academic Council induction meeting along with the other academic officers in the Union. Briefly discussed developing plans and strategies for future AC meetings.

##### Casework

Helped several students with a number issues, ranging from registration to coursework.

##### Other



Volunteered during orientation week, had a lovely slow dance with Brandon, the Socs Chairperson, at the Crisis Campout, helped pack and distribute condoms and tampons and helped register voters. Got to be a shouty person at the National Demo, which was very enjoyable. Clare, our VP Welfare and Equality Officer, pulled the greatest prank of all time on me after the National Demo. Met Michael D, which was very enjoyable, especially because everyone was very star struck.

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the SU President, Megan	Discussed student issues, plans for the coming year and class rep election strategy. Wished her a happy birthday
Met with Science Convenor, Scott	Met in Penneys, the ideal place to discuss plans for the coming year, as well as ways to get an automatic timetable, class rep elections and student issues
Exec Meetings	Discussed our plans for the year, issues that have been raised, class rep elections and decided our charities for the year (I was even early for the first one!)

## Scott Green

Convenor of the College of Science  
Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta  
He/Him  
su.science@nuigalway.ie  
085 204 8786

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



[facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)



[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Convenor of the College of Science

Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta

*Scott Green*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Training

Attended handover training with former science convenor and Sean Guinan

Attended “Students in Distress” Training

Attended Consent Training Workshop

Attended the class rep training given before the Raise the Roof protest.

##### Events

It’s a busy time of year as such I had my fair share of events and launches to go to, first up there was **Galway Pride** which was, as always, a blast. After there was **team bonding** with the SU where our unhealthy obsession with Baby Shark was born. Within the college I attended **Academic Council Induction**, the **launch of the Scéim Teanga OÉ Gaillimh 2018-2021**, booklets were distributed, there may still be some available, and I was also at a **photoshoot for the NUIG mobile app**. I was also present for the **by-election votes counting**. On the protesting front I was able to attend both the **Crisis Campout** and the **Raise the Roof** rally, both highly successful protests both locally and nationally respectively.

Went on a **scavenger hunt** with SU Chairperson Sabrina, Societies chairperson Brandon and Postgraduate taught officer Cameron to find some of SU Chairperson Sabrinas belongings after they had been stolen, we won a ceim hoodie and some notes.

##### Research and Planning

I’ve been trying to keep busy, putting research and feelers out about my manifesto points mainly but also potential events that may be in the works. I’ve contacted the UCD Education Officer to enquire about their automatic timetabling system, emailed the Head of the Four School of Sciences to request that they ask all lecturers to number their slides before lectures/uploading slides onto blackboards, helped various students with requests related to

module registration/ locker booking/ results and various other topics. I've done brief research into skip hire for potential recycling drives and "designed" potential posters and into Dr. James (NUIGs lab coat providers) to see if it would be possible to get lab coat packages that included safety gloves but came up blank in this regard. I also discussed "Student Sitdown" with Megan briefly.

### **Class rep elections**

I've been electing reps for the past few weeks of college (who knows you might have seen me) and we've currently got approx 70 Science class reps (at time of writing and assuming I can count). Please bear with me on it I'm going as fast as I can.

### **Best of the Rest**

All work and no play would be pretty boring so here's a few "extra curricular" things I've been up to. I pranked, in conjunction with the societies chairperson Brandon, the SU Vice President for Welfare and Equality Clare and SU President Megan with a large model of Jim Brownes head. I also contacted multiple societies to gauge interest in a project codenamed "The Struggling Students Cookbook", responses were quite positive. I managed to get into the NUIG SU Science Twitter account that nobody knew about, a cheeky follow would be appreciated. I've joined the Welfare crew and packed condoms, tampons, pads and love hearts, as well as distributing said goods and others. I made some fire memes for the crisis campout and had assistance from LGBT+ and Gender Rights Officer Alex and SIPTU Member Clem in taping them up around trees and polls. I got interviewed by a reporter from the Irish examiner in relation to consent and male students views and attitudes towards it and also gave several consent workshops to first years in Corrib in conjunction with the SMART Consent programme. I also worked around campus during orientation week.

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Met with SU President Megan	discussed the unions plans for the year, went through respective hopes and projects for the year
Met with former SU Education Officer Louis	discussed plans related to open office hours, timetabling and class rep election
Met with Arts Convenor Rian	discussed team bonding, ideas for class rep election and meetings with the then SU education officer Louis

<p>Met with SU Chairperson Sabrina</p>	<p>Did a mock run through of council, talked about potential layout ideas both for the slides and seating</p>
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## Liesel Ravenscroft

Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences  
Tionólaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte

su.medicine@nuigalway.ie  
087 621 0216

www.su.nuigalway.ie  facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion  twitter.com/NUIGSU



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### Report of the Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences

Tionólaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte

*Liesel Ravenscroft*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Class Reps Elections:

Elected 52 class reps for the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science, which is about 80% of the class reps for MNHS. The only class reps that have not yet been elected are those in final year who are on placement, however plans have been made to elect them.

As part of class rep elections, I made a spreadsheet which has the details of all the class reps elected by members of the Executive Committee. I also made a spreadsheet on which the convenors could put times they need other members of the Exec to help out with class rep elections. As I was not available in week 1 due to family reasons, I organised with Medsoc to elect the class reps for medicine.

In order to elect class reps, I emailed admin staff of the colleges to get class timetables for all courses and years in the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Science.

##### SU Events:

In relation to SU events I attended and spoke at the SU Intro Talk during orientation week and attended the SU take over in SULT. I have also helped with packing condoms and tampons, as well as handing them out and registering students to vote.

Attended the following SU meetings: SU induction, SU bonding trip and weekly Exec meetings, last of which we chose the SU charities.

##### Study Spaces:

Students approached me to say that there are large study spaces in the Arts Millenium that are reserved for Masters students however they are not being used. I spoke to Megan about this to see what we can do and we are going to see if the restriction can be expanded to other students.

### **Vaccination Costs:**

A student expressed interest in whether or not other courses have to pay for the vaccines required to work in a hospital. I plan to look at each of the courses and see which vaccines are required and whether or not the students have to pay for them and how much they are.

### **Academic Council:**

Attended the Academic Council induction with other members of the SU Exec. As part of the induction it was highlighted how academic council has changed and what is the best way to move forward. At the previous Exec meeting (Monday 8th October 2018) Rían McKeagney mentioned that the members of the Exec attending academic council should meet before and after

### **Raise the Roof Protest:**

Unfortunately due to college I knew I wouldn't be able to attend the Raise the Roof protest in Dublin however I helped to sell bus tickets to the demo. I liaised with Medsoc so that the SU could sell tickets where Medsoc volunteers were registering for their very busy fundraiser Dean Artru. Lorcan would be proud.

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the SU President	Discussed ideas for the upcoming year. Megan gave tips on how to achieve goals set and what would be good to do at the start of the year.
Meeting with the former Vice President for Education	Met with Louis to talk about electing class reps and what would be the best way to elect class reps for students who are on placement.
Meeting with Medsoc Auditor David O'Sullivan	Talked to Medsoc about their upcoming events and when they would be in order to avoid a clash of events. Also talk about electing class reps as previously class reps were elected without being aware that they were reps for the SU.
Crossover with Previous Medicine, Nursing and Health Science Convenor Sarah Murphy	Had a coffee with Sarah and asked about previous projects such as the Human Biology Building Mural and sketchymedical being introduced to students. Sarah gave advice on how to achieve having meeting between class reps and year heads.

## Clodagh McGivern

Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law  
Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearaí Phoiblí agus an Dlí

su.business@nuigalway.ie  
091 524 810

www.su.nuigalway.ie  facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion  twitter.com/NUIGSU



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### Report of the Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law

Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearaí Phoiblí agus an Dlí

*Clodagh McGivern*

#### Key Points Since 1st of July (2018)

##### Bonding Trip

24/Aug-26/Aug/18-At the beginning before the academic year commenced, I went on a bonding trip to Delphi with the majority of the executive committee. Over the weekend we did all from kayaking to zip-lining, which was beneficial to all of us as it helped us all to get to know each other and work as a team as the activities over the weekend were mainly orientated around teamwork.

##### Training

30/Sep/18- I attended a Consent training day in order to become a consent ambassador for NUI Galway.

1/Oct/18- I attended the Class Rep training day.

##### Class Rep Elections

10/Sep/18-...-From the beginning of the academic year until now I have been electing class reps from all years. The way that I have been electing the students is by going to the lecture and asking who is interested in being a class rep and if a larger amount volunteered than what was needed I held a vote with the other students, I held a paper vote when I could but for the larger classes I had to use the method of asking the students to keep their head down and put up their hand for whoever they want to vote for to try and keep it anonymous as best as I could. There still is some reps that need to be elected but that should be done by the end of the week.

##### Consent Classes

Myself and two of my friends teamed up and worked together to give the consent workshop classes. We gave the classes to the first year students of NUI Galway who lived in Corrib Village. I delivered the workshops on two occasions- 7:30-9:30 on the 11/Sep/18 and the 18/Sep/18. The classes involved us showing student the importance of consent and normalising its ok to ask for consent through teaching involving fictional stories where the students made up their own mind was consent given, facts and figures regarding consent. The class was orientated around students making up their own mind to what consent is!

### **National Demo**

3/Oct/18- I attended the National Demo with the executive committee from NUI Galway Students Union, I acted as a steward and proudly waved the NUI Galway Students Union Flag. The protest this year was focused on the accommodation crisis in Ireland. The '#RaiseTheRoof' protest was extremely successful to the point that we made an impact in the Dail as they passed a motion in relation to the accommodation crisis that day.

### **Exec Meetings**

I have attended the following executive meetings.

10/Sep/18 where we mainly discussed ways in which to elect the class reps and were notified about Louis resignation.

17/Sep/18 where we discussed class reps and began to put ideas into force on how to push the national demo.

9/Sep/18- I attended the second half of this meeting. In this we picked our chosen charities (which was an extremely difficult decision for us all).

### **NUI Galway Meetings**

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting the SU President, Megan Reilly (31/July/18)	Met with Megan and discussed the points that were on my manifesto and student issues.
Meeting the Education Officer, Louis Courtney (31/July/18)	After my meeting with Megan, I called into Louis' officer where we met and discussed students issues in regards to education and how we could solve them.
Meeting with a law student (11/Sep/18)	Met with a law student who was worried about appeals after hearing of Louis resignation as he had dealt with Louis a lot through the appeals process. I listened and sent him in Megan's direction. (Update: The appeal went through!)



## Roshan George

Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics  
Tionólaí Choláiste na hInnealtóireachta agus na Faisnéisíochta

su.engineering@nuigalway.ie  
089 223 7676

www.su.nuigalway.ie  facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion  twitter.com/NUIGSU



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### Report of the Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics

Tionólaí Choláiste na hInnealtóireachta agus na Faisnéisíochta

*Roshan George*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Meetings:

- 1) Attended a meeting with Aodh Dalton (Chief Technical Officer). We discussed matters such as:
  - a. A study space in the engineering building.
  - b. The lack of cleaning with the microwaves in the engineering building.
  - c. Updating the timetables on doors in the engineering building.
  - d. A final year computer space - for FY students to focus on project work.All the points discussed were followed up with.
- 2) Represented the CoEI at the executive committee council.
- 3) Attended and represented the Students Union at the Engineering Board Meeting. The topics discussed were:
  - a. Merging of the College of Engineering and Informatics to the College of Engineering and Science. Talked with the President of NUIG (Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh) and the Dean of Engineering and Informatics (Peter McHugh) about the merging of the two colleges, also the future of the College of Informatics was discussed.
  - b. The Admission, Progression and Attrition of students was discussed.
  - c. Student Feedback and Student Attendance was discussed. It was finalised that each programme director had to follow up and act on the student feedback from the results from the Irish Survey of Student Engagement (ISSE) and end of the year module surveys.
  - d. Programme Reviews for 2018/2019 – Accreditation.
- 4) Attended a meeting with Noel Harrison (Programme Director for Undergraduate Mechanical Engineering). Class representative elections was discussed, and concerns about

it was raised. Student Liaison meetings was discussed, and the possibility of using this as an opportunity for students to raise issues about their discipline.

**Casework:**

1) An issue about a lecturer was raised with me. I convened with the respective class reps and raised this issue with the lecturer. It is important to note that, this initiative was mainly driven by the class reps themselves. The lecturer took the complaints on board and is acting on all the issues raised.

**Additional Work:**

- 1) Microwave Issue in Zinc.
  - a. Contacted Buildings and Estates to raise this issue.
  - b. Planning to meet with Zinc to discuss the cleaning of the microwaves and longer opening times of the microwaves.
- 2) Study Space.
  - a. Met with Aodh Dalton to discuss the possibility of a study space in the engineering building, Aodh is to follow up on this matter with Buildings and Estates.
  - b. Contacted Buildings and Estates regarding this matter.
- 3) Student Events.
  - a. Planning a Coffee Morning for engineering students. This acts as a bonding event between the engineering students and an opportunity for the students to engage with their exec members and to talk to the class reps.
  - b. Planned the possibility of an exam distress event during week 11/12.
- 4) Class Rep Elections.
  - a. Elected 52 class reps for the CoEI.
- 5) SU Activities.
  - a. Answered questions via SU snapchat.
  - b. Attended Class Rep Training.
  - c. Advertised several SU activities such as Crisis Campout, SU movie night, 'Raise the Roof' Demo, etc.

# Daniel McFadden

International Students Officer  
Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta  
He/Him

su.international@nuigalway.ie  
083 884 4332

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



[facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)



[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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## Report of the International Students Officer

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta

*Daniel McFadden*

### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

1. Working with ICOS on a forum for international students in November
2. Ran an event with the counselling service during Mental Health week about Homesickness and how to Combat it
3. Emailing yall (with much love)
4. Discussing with local vendors on an ID card that will help get students discounts
  - a. Learning it might be best to team up with other SU's on this
5. Partnering with ISS on an international dinner type event for Global week
6. Thinking up Ideas for Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion fund
7. Emailing around college departments for getting a new poster board for accommodation related leaflets/advertisements
8. Attended weekly SU meetings
9. Elected class reps with a smile :)

## NUI Galway Meetings

<b>Meeting/ Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Meeting with the President	Discussed student issues
Meeting with Geraldine Connolly	Discussed mental health issues affecting intl' students
Meeting with Claire Murphy	Discussed services in CDC with intl' students

## Alex Coughlan

Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer  
Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+  
They/Them

su.lgbt@nuigalway.ie  
085 816 3837

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



[facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)



[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer

Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+

*Alex Coughlan*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of June (2018)

- Met with LGBT staff student network to discuss plans for the year, and coordinate areas where we can work together, eg diversity in learning
- Met with GiGSoc (LGBT+ society) to plan and coordinate for the year ahead.
- Met with Femsoc to plan and coordinate for the year ahead.
- Met with the Ethnic minority and Disability rights Officers as well as Vice President for Welfare and Equality to plan for the year and discuss events and campaigns
- Elected class reps
- Attended students in distress training
- Aided VP for Welfare and Equality during mental health week.
- Assisted with the running of the SU Snapchat
- Represented students at the Parking Appeals process.
- Condom packing!

#### SU Events:

SU outreach at clubs day, socs day 1, volunteer fair, and orientation week. Attended the Crisis Campout Attended the March for Choice. Attended the Raise the Roof rally.

#### Case work:

Assisted students with the name/gender change process within the University.

## Muireann O'Sullivan

Disability Rights Officer  
Oifigeach um Chearta Míchumais

su.disability@nuigalway.ie  
089 456 7106

[www.su.nuigalway.ie](http://www.su.nuigalway.ie)



[facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion](https://facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion)



[twitter.com/NUIGSU](https://twitter.com/NUIGSU)



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### Report of the Disability Rights Officer

Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais

*Muireann O' Sullivan*

#### Key Points Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July (2018)

##### Summer 2018-planning for the year ahead

Attended numerous events during Galway Pride and volunteering my expertise as a disabled member of the lgbt community to a meeting about the Students' Union involvement in Galway Pride.

Found out that diet coke in Sult has been raised from €1.45 to €1.50 which I understandably was very upset about and meetings on the impact this 5c will have on students who drink litres of it daily (me) will follow.

Started planning for the year with the executive team and attended team bonding.

Case Work around disabled students concerns appealing examination results & I attended an appeals meeting on 12th July detailed below.

##### September & October

##### Disability Rights work

Liasoning with DSS around certain issues that students were having

Casework around advising students with disabilities and mental health difficulties on the services available to them and life on campus in general.

Aided and participated alongside VP Welfare and the Welfare crew in mental health week as students with (diagnosed) mental health conditions fall under my remit and mental health advocacy is an area I am super passionate about.

As many students were coming to me asking about mental health conditions and what one needs to register with the DSS I coordinated with the SU President and VP equality to

##### Other equality work

March for Choice: attended the 7th annual March For Choice with the Union of Students' in Ireland.

Work with other equality officers to plan events for the semester particularly our involvement in upcoming themed weeks.

#### Accommodation crisis (September & October)

Crisis Campout (11th September) : attended march and gathered signatures for petition, left before Sabrina's bag was stolen (rip)

Attended solidarity march for Take Back the City activists on 13th September.

Raise the roof rally : Sold tickets at smokies and did other promotion throughout the week leading up the march, attended the march and lost my voice (temporarily) leading people in chants, stopped the bus on the way back from the march for a toilet break (sorry clare)

#### Welfare crew

Packed a lot of condoms & tompaxs

Handed out said condoms and tompaxs

Attended welfare crew meetings

Planned mental health week generally as well as my involvement as a disability rights officer.

#### SU things that I could not fit into a category

Electric Picnic with Fairtrade & USI promoting sustainability and buying fairtrade.

Orientation Week events (3rd- 7th): Failte Fair & other events introducing first year students and international students to Galway and the society.

Voter registration & SU promotion at socs day, clubs day,

Fresher's fair- voter registration & handing out diaries

Spoke to students interested in the position of Ethnic Minorities Officer about my role and the similarities they have and answered their general queries about being a part-time equality officer.

Voter registration generally throughout the month of September

Class Representative Elections

Class Representative Training

Learned how to use snapchat again and aided in answering queries and posting snapchat stories during both the march for choice and the raise the roof rally.

Attended a photo-op for the USI's Rainy Day fund proposals

I didn't meet Michael D Higgins because I am super sick right now and at the time thought I could have the mumps and I didn't want to give Michael D Higgins the mumps accidentally (I don't have it because I actually have none of the symptoms and also the vaccination).

## NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President	Discussed my plans for the year and where I fitted within the Students' Union as a brand new role.
Meeting with Welfare & Equality Officer	Discussion on how Welfare Officer can best support me in my plans for the year.
Meeting with Welfare & Equality Officer, Gender and LGBT+ officer, and Ethnic Minorities Officer.	Discussed plans for the semester and how we could work together on campaigns.
Executive Committee meetings	Three executive meetings; one which I minuted and distributed said minutes and one in which we picked the students' union charities for 18/19
Appeals meeting- July 12th	Advocated on the behalf of students who had failed modules in the summer sitting  Attended on the behalf of the now resigned Education Officer
Appeals meeting - September 27th	Advocated on the behalf of students who had failed modules in the autumn sitting  Attended as the Education officer had not been elected and both the president and vp education were busy in other meetings.



# Victoria Chihumura

Ethnic Minorities Officer  
Oifigeach na Mionlach Eitneach

su.ethnicminorities@nuigalway.ie  
085 231 3107

www.su.nuigalway.ie



facebook.com/NUIGalwayStudentsUnion



twitter.com/NUIGSU



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## Report of the Ethnic Minorities Officer

Oifigeach um Eithneach Mionlach

*Victoria Chihumura*

### Key Points Since 27th of September (2018)

- Got elected on the 27th of September
- Elected class reps for the convener of arts, social sciences and celtic studies
- Worked along with the welfare and equality officer and welfare crew to pack condoms and TOMpax and gave them out during the work of the on the 1st and 2nd of October and on 9th of October during mental health week
- Attended class rep training
- Helped with the voter registrations on the 2nd of October 2018 and the 8th of October 2018
- Went to the raise the roof rally on the 3rd of October
- Held culture council with the socs chairperson and auditors of the cultural socs on the 11th of October
- Took a picture for “a rainy day fund” for USI
- Working with relevant officers on donating sanitary products to the direct provision centre

### NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with Welfare & Equality Officer, Gender and LGBT+ officer, and disability rights Officer.	Discussed plans for global week, shag week and trans remembrance.
Meeting with socs chairperson	Discussed plans for culture council and how its going to be run for the year

Meeting with the general manager of the students union	Discussed
Meeting with the exec	Discussed and picked charities that we're going to fundraised
Culture council	Discussed plans for global week & culture fest and any possible collabs between the SU and the relevant societies