

# Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2018/19

Volume: III

Period: 12th November – 26th November

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# **Report of the President** Tuairisc an Uachtarán *Megan Reilly*

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

Since these two council have only two weeks between them, most of my work has been around the same issues that have arisen at the last councils and what I have been working on up until then. The Microwave in Zinc, seating for students, and conferrings have been some of the things I've been dealing with the past two weeks.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Academic networking lunch	Organised by the Women's network. Spoke up on the importance of creating allies within AC between students and lecturers who have common goals.
SU Big fat charity Table Quiz	MC'd most of the night and coordinated the team of officers helping out. Thanks to all who promoted!
Galway safe app photo shoot	Worked with Commerce students and the Western region drugs and alcohol taskforce to do a day of promotion on the app.
Meeting regarding Christmas festivities	I am on the committee which is planning the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. I have requested that it be held outside

	Aras na mac leinn instead of the Quad, have been in contact with student societies in terms of being involved, and I have suggested that we have students from Direct Provision light the tree in order to send a strong message of social justice.
Visit to UL Library	With the Registrar, Head Librarian and head of CELT to put pressure
National Council in Tralee	2 days of working groups and workshops with Student Officers from across the country.
SUCS Board meeting	Discussed financial matters of the company
Meeting regarding problems international students face	Met with 2 members of staff to discuss how we can further progress the agenda of international
Gave introduction at honorary conferring	I was the introducer for Dr. Clare O'Leary; who was the first Irish woman to climb Mount Everest.
Social spaces group	Won't have happened by the time I wrote this report so feel free to ask questions!
Disability Support Service Team meeting	Same as above.
EDICC and EDIC joint session	A joint session of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion committee and campus committee. Again, happy to give updates at council as it won't have happened yet!



# Report of the Vice President / Education Officer

Oifigeach Oideachais

Eibhlín Seoighthe

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

Paragraph explaining your work in this area. Etc. Lobbied the council, Crisis campout etc.

# **NUI Galway Meetings**

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President (NUIG or NUIGSU)	Discussed student issues

# Officer report: Vice President/ Education Officer Eibhlín Seoighthe October & November

First off my apologies to you all for my poor report at the prior council, my work load caught up on me and I do my upmost to make sure it does not happen again. Secondly, you might want to grab some tea while I bring you up to speed.

# **Meetings Attended:**

Adult Learning centre meeting: I attended this meeting with Megan where we discussed formalising the relationship between the and the Students' Union. I am delighted to say that we elected our first

part-time adult learner class rep two weeks after that meeting. There is more work to be done in this area to ensure we have as many reps from all areas of the student body.

**Financial Aid fund Meeting:** I was asked to attend this meeting in Clare's place as she was away at a conference. There is a review under way as to how the fund will work going forward. Clare will be able to give you more information in relation to this as it happens.

Academic Council: I attended this meeting with my colleagues from the executive and it was very insightful. Here the devolution of schools was discussed, a strategic plan between the students and the college, working groups for researchers, and a discussion of the role of college boards.

**Údarás:** Now this one was a long one. Main point of note for the students is that we will be getting a Dean of Students. They will report directly to the registrar. We have been reassured that the student experience will be at the core of this, are we happy to watch this space or would we like more clarity around the role?

**Emergency Financial Aid Fund Meeting:** Well what to say about this? An error was made when they were putting the information together for the payments. It was discussed the best way to approach this matter and we were informed students would be informed as soon as the powers that be went to the college lawyer.

Library Committee Meeting: Head librarian John Cox asked me to pass on his thanks to the Students' Union for the recent press that was warmly received in relation to our library. We discussed extended opening hours for the exam period. John Cox is hopeful that they will be able to offer this service again, they just need to make sure they have the staff for that period. Concerns were raised over the cut in funding in SUMS and the AWC. Due to the reduction in funding there will be cuts made. This is going to I have a direct impact for all students and we are working to try and find ways to make sure that these cuts will not happen in the second semester. Academic Skills Meeting: Hardly a surprise that the first thing we discussed was the cut in funding to SUMS and the AWC. We are trying to find other alternatives to fund these vital services for students. Concerns have also been raised about the role of The Dean of Students and as to whether the position will be sufficient to the actual needs of the entire student body. I also raised concerns from students enrolled with DSS and it was agreed to bring this issues forward to the next meeting as we ran out of time.

**Executive Meetings:** As part of my role I am making sure to attend these meetings and offer input and keep my colleagues up to speed with current campaigns. These meetings are also a great opportunity to see what everyone is up to in their specified areas. For the past couple of meetings I have been focused on our petition Chairlie and strategising where we will take it from here. Watch this space...

Outside of the wonderful world of meetings I have been kept very busy by the student body. Many issues that have been raised have been addressed and I will be bringing some concerns to USI as they require further discussion on a national level. And don't worry I have had my GDPR training so none of your data will be shared! We also received manual handling training in the past week, so if you need tips on best how to carry your books hit me up! I have also been busy working with the Great Scot Science Convenor with our petition for more seating on Campus. If you have not already signed it then drop me a line and I will bring it to you su.education@nuigalway.ie. At the next council I will have a report ready for you all to read in relation to the two conferences I have attended.

Feel free to ask me any questions or if you have any comments I will gladly welcome them.

Eibhlín



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

Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais

Clare Austick

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

Continued working on the areas I mentioned in the previous report. Seeing as last SU Council was two weeks ago, not much has changed. Areas include the University of Sanctuary Campaign, Mental Health Mondays, Pink Training, Casework etc.

I'd like to congratulate you all for participating in Council. You've done a fantastic job being a Class Rep! I'd like to wish you the absolute very best of luck in your exams. You've got this! Please don't worry or stress too much! I hope you have the most wonderful and magical Christmas ever. I can't wait to see what semester 2 will bring :)

Much love, Clare

Meeting/ Event	Details
Met with Helplink	Discussed the services they provide
Flirt FM interview with Science Convenor	About the Welfare & Equality role and SHAG week

Presented award to winner in Corrib Village as part of the SMART Consent workshops	Met with Pádraig MacNeela and Siobhan O'Higgins
Had Migraine Association Ireland on campus	Information stand in Smokey's Cafe
Had Sexual Wellbeing on campus	Information stand in Smokey's Cafe
Met with student	Casework
Met with student	Casework
Meeting with student	Casework
Mental Health Mondays	Handed out water bottles, apples, bananas and condoms across campus
Manuela Riedo Foundation	Attended the annual event for Manuela Riedo
SU Council	
SU Big Charity Table Quiz	Wrote up questions for the SU round and helped coordinate the event on the day
Safety Working Group	Discussed previous health & safety incidents that occurred. Talked about making conferrings safer in the case of a fire etc
GDPR Training	
EDI Project Fund applications	Assessed the applications sent in by students and staff for the EDI Small Project Fund
National Council	Attended National Council in Tralee with the President, where we discussed items in our working groups and debated motions brought forward
Weekly meeting with sabbatical officers	Updates
Mental Health Mondays	Handed out water bottles, fruit and condoms as part of the collaborative online mental health campaign. It's my favourite way to start the week

	as you get to engage with students across campus
Meeting with student	Casework
Best Practice in Student-Centred Education and Learning Conference	Travelled up to Dublin to participate in the conference organised by ISSE, THEA, USI, IUA and QQI
EDICC/EDIC meeting	Joint meeting between the two committees
AHEAD training in Dublin	Travelled up to Dublin to attend the training on students with disabilities, making SU events more accessible, and UDL (Universal Design for Learning)
Mental Health Mondays	Enjoyed the last week of Mental Health Mondays with the Welfare Crew handing out free water bottles, fruit and condoms across campus



# **Tuairisc Oifigeach na Gaeilge**

Irish Language Officer

Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# Gaeilge 24

Myself and members of the executive committee took part in Gaeilge 24 and raised some money for Conradh na Gaeilge.

I also helped the Cumann Gaelach during the day, handing out free tea/coffee, biscuits, and cupcakes.

#### **Big Fat Charity Quiz**

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the 'Big Fat Charity Quiz' due to illness. I did write questions for the 'Gaeilge agus Cultúir na hÉireann'.

#### **Voter Registration**

I helped print voter registration forms and helped students register to vote on National Voter Registration Day.

# **Voter Registration Crew**

I worked alongside members of the executive committee and Damien McClean from USI to get students registered to vote before the 25th of November.

#### **Executive Committee Meetings**

On the 20th of November, I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed plans and agenda points.

#### **Mental Health Mondays**

On the 20th of November, I volunteered to hand out condoms, free fruit & water bottles, and to get students registered to vote.

#### Merry Christmas!

Wishing you all the very best in your exams and happy holidays! I look forward to working with you all again in Semester 2!

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with Aoife Ní Dhéisigh and 'An Coiste	Discussed future events around
Cultúrtha' on the 22nd of November	the Irish Language



# **Report of the Mature Students' Officer**

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta

Chuka Paul Oguekwe

Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

Paragraph explaining your work in this area. Etc. Lobbied the council, Crisis campout etc.

# SU Exec Meeting

Attended SU Exec meeting, discuss students related issues

# Mature students' soc

I met with Mature Students' soc exec to discuss on how to get more mature students Involve with the soc, and further programs for mature students

Meeting/ Event	Details

Meeting with the President (NUIG or NUIGSU)	Discussed student issues	
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# Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha

Cameron Keighron

# **Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):**

#### Gaeilge 24

Took part in Gaeilge 24 with the Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

#### **Big Fat Charity Quiz**

I helped to run the Big Fat Charity Quiz, correcting all the answer sheets and writing the Dingbats round.

#### **Executive Meetings**

I attended an executive meeting on November 20th discussing issues relating to students and the executive.

#### **Academic Council**

Attended a networking lunch through the Women's staff network. This was to give members of AC a better idea of what the committee does and to answer any questions we may have. It was also an opportunity to meet other members of AC

#### **Students Project Fund**

Met with the CBPPL team in relation to our plan going forward for the Inclusive Learning and Teaching model we are creating.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with Students	Casework



# **Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer**

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

Jibran Abbasi

Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

# 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. The issue of Postgrad rep has been discussed and actions are proposed.

I also discussed the concern of the outcome of the survey conducted by former Postgrad officer about mental health and stipends of post graduate scholars across the university.

# Graduate studies board meeting:

Due to my lab commitment this time I could not attend the GSB meeting .

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President	Regular meeting with SU president to discussed procedure of post grad rep elections
Meeting with Education officer	Discuss the agenda of postgrad rep elections.
Pre GSB meeting	Meeting with Graduate studies board chairperson about the agenda and discussion of board meeting with SU



# **Report of the Societies Chairperson**

Cathaoirleach na gCumann

Brandon Walsh

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# **Big Fat Charity Table Quiz:**

Helped to write up the rounds for the table quiz. Attended the event and helped to hand out and collect the sheets.

#### **BICS Forum:**

Attended the BICS Forum, where I networked with students from other colleges. I was also picked to be the NUI Galway Networking Rep for a 2nd year in a row. I also attended many of the workshops and plan to bring them back to the NUI Galway Societies.

# Voter Registration:

Helped out with voter registration and gave lecture shout-outs along with Damian, Welfare Officer on USI.

# Mental Health Monday:

Helped the Welfare Officer with handing out fruit, water and condoms.

Big Fat Charity Table Quiz	Attended and helped out at the event. Also wrote up rounds for the quiz.
BICS Forum	Attended BICS Forum and many workshops about diversity and inclusion.
Meeting with Students	Discussed reviving a society.
Meeting with Society	Casework
Social Spaces Meeting	Postponed

VAAG Committee Meeting	Postponed	
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**Report of the Clubs Captain** 

Captaen na gClubanna

Ryan Guilfoyle

Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

Charity Quiz:

Helped to write a sports round for the charity quiz

#### President's Cup:

Helped with the organisation and running of the first 2 events of the presidents cup. With the aim to increase student participation in sport.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with Swim Club	In regards to swim gala
Meeting with Kathy Hynes	Weekly update on clubs and plan to increase participation of the presidents cup
Indoor 7 aside Soccer (Presidents Cup)	Attended the event and presented the winners with trophies
Met with revive active	To get them to attend the swim gala and provide free samples to the athletes taking place
Meeting with Mike Heskin	General meeting and to discuss SU representative at sports scholarship awards



# **Report of the Students' Union Council Chairperson**

Cathaoirleach na Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn

Sabrina Vaughan

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# <u>Council II</u>

I had forgot to mention the following in my previous report. I had met with Megan, (President NUIGSU) and Eibhlin, (Education officer) regarding the agenda and speakers for council. Liaised with speakers and officers on timing and subjects they were discussing. Circulated information to class reps, be it upcoming events before council, officer reports, motion and minutes from last council. Chaired and attended the second council of the term.

# Gaeilge 24

Myself and members of the executive committee took part in Gaeilge 24 (as much as I could, sorry Adhna). We raised some money for Conradh na Gaeilge, and I wrote some nice words as Gaeilge to Adhna. I also typed up the Irish round in Irish, so I was happy enough with that..

# **Big Fat Charity Quiz**

I helped out with the questions and answers for the quiz (mainly contributed to the Geography round, and did an online quiz with Megan). Also helped out with the running of the event, be it signing people in on the night, team names, reading out the answers and typing up all the questions to be shown on the projector for teams to read.

# Voter Registration

I helped print voter registration forms and helped students register to vote on National Voter Registration Day (14th of November). I met someone from Clare.

# Secret Santa

I am currently organising a Secret Santa with members of the executive this year. We are still in the planning stage. Hopefully to do the exchange after the Pink Training weekend, or during Study Week. Stay tuned.

# **Minutes from Executive meetings**

I took the minutes from our previous executive meeting (5th November 2018). They will be seconded at our next meeting (19th November). I will then send them on to Lorna, the SU receptionist to make public on the SU website (should be public once this report is sent out). I am very happy this system is in place now.

# Council III

Met with Megan, (President NUIGSU) regarding the agenda and speakers for council. Liaised with speakers and officers on timing and runthrough of council. Circulating information to class reps, be it upcoming events before council, officer reports, items for discussion and minutes from last council.

# Council Feedback Forum

I am currently in the process (and will hopefully have it up and running when this report is public), of making a Council Feedback Forum for Class reps and students who have attended the previous council. I think peoples feedback is very important to review where we need to improve, be it the organisation of council, the speakers we have or just the general running of the event. I will try and have the link for the forum open for a couple of weeks after council. I will then raise it as an item for discussion for the Council on the 21st of January and hope to have a good amount of responses.

# SafeTALK in NUI Galway

As NUI Galway Students' Union already facilitate ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training), I have been incontact with relevant people from the HSE, the chaplaincy and Megan (SU President), on organising SafeTALK (suicide alertness for everyone) events on campus. SafeTALK is a half day workshop (6 - 10 pm in most cases), whereas ASIST is a two day (9- 5 workshop), that not alot of students can avail of. I would love to see if we could facilitate SafeTALK workshops as part of our Life Skills opportunities, through the SU. More updates to follow in the New Year.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President, Megan Reilly	Discussed student issues as well as the agenda for the third council. Discussed possibility of carrying out a feedback forum to Class Reps regarding council. Worked with Megan to get a good grade in Geography knowledge.
Met with Convenor of Science	Carried out our weekly meeting regarding council, part time officer issues and general discussion regarding plans for the future (campaigns/ council etc).
Met with Students	Regarding council and feedback- (they organised this themselves)
Executive Committee Meeting (19.11.18)	Attended and added items for the agenda. Discussed student issues, upcoming events including council. Asked for feedback regarding previous council, timing etc. Ran through the agenda

for the next council (council III), and asked for input. Asked for feedback and input regarding Council Feedback forum.



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

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

Rían McKeagney

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# Within the College:

In the College of Arts I have hosted Arts Council (after the time of writing but I'm gonna go ahead and say it was the greatest one ever), had an impromptu meeting with Kathy Reilly and assisted Class Reps with certain issues they were facing.

# In the University and wider world:

Attended exec meetings, went to the rally outside the Courthouse to protest the rampant misogyny present in our criminal justice system and helped with the Big Fat SU Charity Quiz (drew with Brandon for best MC of the night, he also took home the prize for sassiest).

I have thoroughly enjoyed the semester and working with everybody throughout it. I am looking forward to doing it all again next semester. Good luck with your exams and enjoy the holidays - you thoroughly deserve the time off!

Meeting/ Event	Details
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Meeting with Kathy Reilly	Had an impromptu meeting where we discussed funding for Céim, Sums and the AWC, SSLC and BA Connect Programmes
Arts Council	After time of writing but before Council. If you have any questions please ask
Exec Meeting	Discussed various issues and topics arising in the college
Meeting with SU President	Discussing casework and other issues arising for students



# Report of the Convenor of the College of Science

Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta

Scott Green

A quick correction before I begin my report, last report I mentioned a meeting between myself, the other convenors, the postgraduate reps and the education officer which was due to take place on the Wednesday after reports were due but before previous council. As it transpired that meeting didn't happen and in the spirit of honesty I thought I'd tell you. Anyway that's that on that, on to this report.

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

#### In the cool college:

Within the college of Science I have hosted Science council (which was great as usual), helped a student with a DSS issue, helped a class rep write a letter about an exam timetabling issue, spoke with lecturers about issues brought to me via students and tried to work on a solution and have been gently encouraging Biochem students to finish an essay they've all been procrastinating for. I also convinced two students to get SU cards.

#### In the world at large:

In the two weeks between Councils I have attended a rally outside the courthouse to oppose sexism in the legal system, Helped host the big fat su charity quiz (myself and the Postgraduate Taught Officer formed a dynamic duo to correct all answers), I was also briefly in attendance at the academic council networking lunch, interviewed the societies chairperson on the radio, worked on some voter reg with Oifigeach na Gaeilge (it was a quiet day) and again when USI came to town, attended an exec meeting and worked with Oifigeach na Gaeilge to translate some newly designed posters.

#### On a personal note:

It's been a great pleasure to work with this exec and all my class reps this semester and I just wanted to thank you all and express my hope that we can continue our awesome work heading into the new year, assuming we all live through exams bold of me to assume I know.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Met with the Education officer and Ethnic Minorities Officer	Discussed a potential event in the vein of an arts festival.
Met with the Education Officer several times	Spoke about the Student Sitdown seating protest, Charlie (the chair), next steps and future protest ideas.
Met with the Council Chairperson	Talked about council ideas and feedback.



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

Tionólaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte

Liezel Ravenscroft

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# **Big Fat Charity Quiz**

I helped in the making of the quiz questions and answers. I made the general knowledge round, the Harry Potter round and the where in the world round. However Megan said my questions were too hard so not sure if they were used.

<u>NUI</u>	Galway	<u>y Meetings</u>

Meeting/ Event	Details
Academic Council Networking Lunch	Attended the event organised by the Universities Women's network, received advice how to make the most of my position on Academic Council.
Gaeilge 24	Baked good for the bake sale
Exec Meetings	Attended Exec meeting. Was not able to attend one week due to the change in time which means its during college hours when I have lectures.
Health Science Council	Chaired council, updates class reps on what had been done since the previous council, discusses any issues that were brought up.

SU Council	Attended and participated in SU council
Meeting with premed class reps	Help class reps with organising events and hoodies.
Voter Reg	Helped with voter reg on the day and sent Adhna the class timetables for students who would be on the concourse



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

Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearais Phoiblí agus an Dlí

Clodagh McGivern

Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

Meeting/	



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

Tionólaí Choláiste na hInnealtóireachta agus na Faisnéisíochta

Roshan George

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

- 1. Met with several students for casework.
- 2. Contacted and discussed the possibility of bringing a dog to the engineering building for exam destress.



# **Report of the International Students Officer**

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta

Daniel McFadden

Please excuse my absence at the last council, I was travelling Slovakia and Austria.

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

- 1) Worked on an ICOS forum with Brian from ICOS
- 2) Met with students for case work
- 3) Spoke to SID about translating the Proof of registration for intl' students
- 4) Met with Intl' Office over events during the holidays
- 5) In contact with Megan about the status of students having hardships with getting the visa/residency card/GNIB card
- 6) Met Intl' Student officer for GMIT

**For your holidays:** Hope you all enjoy your holidays, wherever that may be and celebrate it in good company. Don't get stuck on that ferris wheel at the market too!

Meeting/ Event	Details



# Report of the Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer

Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+

Alex Coughlan

# **Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):**

#### First key point of your work e.g. executive meeting:

Paragraph explaining your work in this area. Etc. Lobbied the council, Crisis campout etc.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President (NUIG or NUIGSU)	Discussed student issues



# **Report of the Disability Rights Officer**

Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais

Muireann O' Sullivan

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

# **EDICC Working Group on Disability**

The Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Campus Committee has established a working group with a specific focus on Disability. I represented the Students' Union on the working group on the 16th November.

I won't be present at this council but please email me with any questions or Megan, SU President, will answer questions for me at council.

Meeting/ Event	Details
SU Council	
SU Big Charity Table Quiz	Wrote up questions for the SU round and found out that naming the 5 commercial services is actually a hard question
Disability Working Group of the EDICC	
Executive meeting 19/11	
Voter Registration	Helped USI Welfare and other part-time officers in registering students to vote as well as registering graduates for the seanad

Disability Support Service Meeting	On the 23rd so hasn't happened
	yet



# **Report of the Ethnic Minorities Officer**

Oifigeach um Eithneach Mionlach

Victoria Chihumura

# Key Points Since Previous Council (12<sup>th</sup> November):

#### Letters about the closure of the direct provision centre in salthill

Started writing letters about the closure of the eglinton hotel that will be available to students on monday 26 november 2018

# Started planning direct provision and refugee awareness week

Started making plans for direct provision and refugee awareness week which will be on january 21-24 2019.

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President (NUIG or NUIGSU)	Discussed student issues

Weekly executive meeting	Discussed
Big fat table quiz	Helped with the running of the event and making questions for a round
Meet with student	Casework