



NUI Galway
Students' Union
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn
OÉ Gaillimh

Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2018/19

Volume: VI

Period: 11th February – 4th March

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 – *Liesel 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

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Report of the President

Tuairisc an Uachtarán

Megan Reilly

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Accommodation:

I was given the opportunity to present alongside Michelle Byrne, the Vice President for Campaigns with the Union of Students in Ireland, to the Joint Oireachtas committee on Housing, Planning and Local Government. This was essentially to give the NUI Galway story regarding Cúirt and Menlo. Sin did some great coverage on this which you can find here:

http://www.sin.ie/2019/02/26/usi-condemns-delay-in-enacting-legislation-affording-more-tenant-rights-to-students/?fbclid=IwAR230cF-Cyr_ZCRQ_XK8S4Ti3u78MDAJy73mKKEuWuw4cNtEaOcUZbrGSe0

In the meantime, in my last meeting with the President, I brought up that University Owned Accommodation and the fact that even though the legislation is not enacted yet, they shouldn't increase prices by more than 4% per year. We have also had confirmations from the Housing committee that legislation should be coming into effect in April.

Charity week:

This is a venture with two aims; firstly, to help us raise some much needed money for our two charities this year, and secondly, to increase student engagement across campus. I am coordinating this, and it will include events such as a line of coin, the return of sex toy bingo, a bake sale, a clothes drive, a pie in the face competition, and hopefully a superclub that will see ticket money go to charity. We are still in the planning stages of this themed week so if anyone would like to run an event or help us run one then please do get involved!

Éalú

I have had many meetings about this over the past while, and it looks like we will be ready to start launching our promotion of the event this Monday!

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Interview on Connemara Community radio	Regarding unofficial RAG week
Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Town hall meeting	A forum where Equality issues across the University were discussed
Standing and strategic committee	
Meeting with Sports director	Regarding club issues
SU Election Information night	Hosted the event.
Finance Resource committee	Discussed the need to keep a focus on building student accommodation
Sexual Harassment working group	Brought up the need for students to be adequately supported when making a complaint.
Academic council	Raised the issue of exam results being released so close to the fee deadline and asked that this be looked at going forward
Meeting regarding Éalú	With General manager and Events management company.
SU Comedy - Neil Delamere and Gearoid Farrelly	Helped volunteer on the night and introduced the acts
Meeting with the President	Asked that University owned student accommodation not rise by more than 4% per year.

	Also brought up student engagement with local politicians
Meeting with Postgrad Officer from USI	And our postgrad reps to discuss the issues on our campus
Presented to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Housing	A great opportunity, thanks to USI!
Attended the Seanad Debate on the tipping bill	We had worked with One Galway on this to ensure students and others working in hospitality have a legal right to tips
National Council in IT Carlow	Including motions collaboration for Congress
Meeting with Election Candidates	With the General Manager to discuss election regulations.
Executive meetings	
Meeting with Lit and deb	To plan collaborative hustings
Follow up meeting with the Bursar	To discuss levy 5% interest, a discussion will be had on this at council.
Hustings	Kept time at both hustings for the candidates
Governing Body (Údarás)	

Work on USI Motions	Wrote up NUIGSU Motions for Congress with the help of other officers.
Casework	

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Report of the Vice President / Education Officer

Oifigeach Oideachais

Eibhlín Seoighthe

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

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

Paragraph explaining your

NUI Galway Meetings

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

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

Clare Austick

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Report of the Vice-President / Welfare and Equality Officer

Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais

Clare Austick

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Fund the Future

I was elected on to the Union of Students in Ireland Campaigns sub-committee where I participated in the planning of national campaigns and demonstrations. The new education campaign calling for publicly funded education is called “Fund the Future” where we are organising a national walk-out for March 21st calling for:

- 1) The restoration and eventual increase of SUSI grants
- 2) Reduction of fees leading to publicly funded education
- 3) Increased investment (supporting staff, bettering infrastructure and improving/expanding services)

SHAG week

Sexual Health Awareness & Guidance week was on 11-14th February. It was very successful and many events were well attended.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Student	Casework

Mental Health Monday's	Ongoing weekly campaign to increase engagement across campus and address different areas around mental health
Met with reps from Western Region Alcohol & Drug taskforce	Met with Gary Kyne and Neil Wilson to discuss possible collaborations in the future regarding awareness around drugs and alcohol. He is presenting at the next SU Council
Student Resilience Project	Reflection on how the course went, comments were taken on how to improve the module in the following years
Financial Aid Fund Committee meeting	Updates
Student	Casework
Meeting with Mike Heskin, Kathy Hynes, SU President and SU Clubs' Captain	Casework
EDI town hall	Information on EDIC and EDICC to increase the visibility of the work of the committees
Gender Implementation policy	Meeting regarding the implementation of the gender policy
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Student	Casework

Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Mental Health Monday s	Ongoing weekly campaign to increase engagement across campus and address different areas around mental health
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Issues students with disabilities face on campus	Convened a meeting with the DSS, Buildings, Aoife Cooke (office of the VP for Equality and Diversity), IMPACTE and SU Disability Rights' officer to address the issues students with disabilities face on campus
National Council	I attended National Council with the SU President in Carlow
Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Mental Health Mondays	Ongoing weekly campaign to increase engagement across campus and address different areas around mental health

Student	Casework
Student	Casework
Seas Suas award ceremony	I was invited to attend the Seas Suas ceremony as a guest of the evening
University of Sanctuary steering committee	Updates and progression made
Financial Aid Fund Committee meeting	Updates



Tuairisc Oifigeach na Gaeilge

Irish Language Officer

Adhna Nic Dhonnchadha

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Focal an Lae

For SHAG Week, I uploaded a term in Irish that related to the themed week.

Valentine's Day

For Valentine's Day, I walked through campus with the Welfare & Equality Officer where we had handed out SHAG packs, chocolates, and sweets.

Dirty Circus

This was an event organized for SHAG week. Here, I handed out SHAG packs in Sult.

Executive Committee Meetings

On the 18th of February, I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed agenda points & upcoming events.

On the 28th of February, I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed agenda points & upcoming events.

Plean Teanga do Chathair na Gaillimhe

I met with Luke Callinan who is doing some research on campus in regards to the Plean Teanga. I had an interview with him about the Irish language and Galway City as a service town for a Gaeltacht. If anyone is interested in meeting with Luke, do not hesitate to send me an email, su.gaeilge@nuigalway.ie.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

I've been planning and discussing events for Seachtain na Gaeilge with other part-time officers, Aoife Ní Dhéisigh, and members of an Cumann Gaelach.

Chuka Paul Oguekwe

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Report of the Mature Students' Officer

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta

Chuka Paul Oguekwe

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Interview with Students Independent news

Did an interview for Students Independent newspaper, with regards to my role as the mature Students' officer.

Election talk

Attended and participated in Election talk evening, organized by the SU for students interested to run in the upcoming Students' Union election.

SU Executive Committee

Attended Students' Union executive committee meeting, where we discussed issues concerning students' welfare

Cameron Keighron

Postgraduate Taught Officer
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Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha

Cameron Keighron

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Executive Committee Meetings

On the 18th of February, I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed agenda points & upcoming events.

On the 28th of February, I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed agenda points & upcoming events.

SHAG week

I helped out at various events for our Semester Shag Week including Sex Toy Bingo.

Students Project Fund

Have been working with the team in CBPPL about moving forward with our focus groups.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President (NUIG or NUIGSU)	Discussed USI congress motions
Andrew Forde, USI postgrad rep	Discussed PGT & PGR local and national issues
Ciaran Morrison, Charles Spillane and Eibhlín	Discussed issues surrounding certain MSc courses

Jibran Abbasi

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Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer

Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

Jibran Abbasi

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

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

Brandon Walsh

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Report of the Societies Chairperson

Cathaoirleach na gCumann

Brandon Walsh

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

SHAG Week:

Helped out with many of the SHAG week events including Sex Toy Bingo etc.

Elections Talk:

Attended a talk organised by Megan about running for elections

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
● Meeting with society	Casework
● Meeting with Hub WELL Crew	Discuss conferring and the hub
● BICS Board meeting	Attended the BICS Board meeting in Athlone
● Meeting with society	Casework
● Exec meeting	Met with Exec committee to discuss student issues

Ryan Guilfoyle

Clubs Captain
Captaen na gClubanna

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Report of the Clubs Captain

Captaen na gClubanna

Ryan Guilfoyle

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Volleyball Intervarsities:

Helped to volleyball run a successful intervarsities and increase awareness around the event

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with Kathy & Mike	Discussed club issues
Meeting with Clare	Discussing an issue within a club
Meeting with Clare, Megan and sports unit	Club Issue
Meeting with new High Performance Director	Plans for rest of the year
Met with Swimming Club	Discussed plans going forward and swimming events
Met with Kathy & Dave Henry	Discussing plans for presidents cup final 2 events and encouraging student engagement

Sabrina Vaughan

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Report of the Students' Union Council Chairperson

Cathaoirleach na Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn

Sabrina Vaughan

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Irish Deaf Society (Lack of funding)

We know that the IDS is the principal advocacy organization for the deaf in Ireland and that they are running out of state funding.

We also know that if the IDS closes, Deaf Adult Literacy Services (DALs) will close along with the Irish Sign Language Academy (ISLA) and its advocacy service for deaf people trying to access State services. So, from this, I have been in contact with my sister (who is deaf and was once an instructor), on what we as a Students' Union could do to help our hard of hearing and deaf students.

In short, some of us wrote letters in solidarity with the IDS and also letters to TDs. The IDS are waiting to hear back from the government.

Council VI

As soon as the 5th and unofficial 'council' finished, preparations for the next council begun. The new officer report document was made and agenda started. This council on the 4th of March will also include the USI (Union of Students in Ireland), hustings. So a lot of planning is required. Stay tuned.

Galway Rape Crisis Centre- Disclosure Training

Attended training on Tuesday 12th of Feb. Learned a lot about the services and supports they provide. Really useful training, would recommend to anyone considering to do it.

Sex Toy Bingo

Helped Clare (VP for Welfare & Equality) set up the bingo part of the night and assisted the MC of the night, Kiki St Clair. It was a tough job of clicking one button, but after the second round, we finally got

the hang of it. Shoutout to Brandon (Societies chair) for saving the night with his laptop and Alex (Gender and LGBT + Rights officer) for wedging their phone under the projector connection.

Election Talk

Attended Election talk with other SU officers. Giving an insight to the role and also some advice on running campaigns.

SafeTALK in NUI Galway

Successfully organized for students and staff of NUI Galway. Suicide Alertness For Everyone (SafeTALK) is a half day workshop (usually 3 hours), whereas ASIST is a two day (9- 5 workshop), that not a lot of students can avail of. There is a date organized for the 27th of February in the Westside Resource Centre. If you would like more information regarding safeTALK/ ASIST, please don't hesitate to get in contact!

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with the President (NUIGSU)	Discussed student issues
Meeting with the President (NUIGSU)	Planned council, liaised with USI candidates, officer reports, agendas etc.
Meeting with the executive	Issues regarding student concerns, campaigns etc.

Rian McKeagney

Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies
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OÉ Gaillimh



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

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

Rian McKeagney

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

I have attended several meetings, which are detailed below. Along with that I have worked on casework, met with students to discuss part-time officer elections, helped out with ISSE, went on Scott's radio show (I was the best guest they've had) and organised further consultation with BA Connect students to help improve their programmes.

I would like to note that the College of Arts won best College of Arts and Social Sciences in Ireland at the Education Awards on Thursday 21st of February and I want to congratulate everyone involved in this victory.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Academic Council	Discussed a wide variety of issues, including the cost of the LLB Programme
SSLC Timetabling Meeting	Discussed issues with timetabling within the College of Arts and came up with a number of suggestions
Exec Meetings	We examined a number of problems arising as well as future campaigns

Scott Green

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Report of the Convenor of the College of Science

Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta

Scott Green

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Well well well woudja be ... well? With the inevitable arrival of USI on the horizon it's important to reflect on the times we had together before we get overrun by hustings. So without further ado here's what I've been up to for the past few weeks

- Hosted the final Science faculty council.
- Eibh (Education officer), Muireann (Disability Rights Officer), Rian (Convenor of Arts) and I have been busy helping out with the ISSE survey to get student feedback.
- Lent a hand to some students who needed help with course issues.
- Partook in sex toy bingo (didn't win unfortunately) and also helped out distributing tickets and pens.
- Meet with the exec to discuss some of our plans for the next few weeks, met with Roshan (Convenor of the College of Engineering and IT) as well as interviewing Rian.
- Elected class reps and was interviewed by SIN. (The grind never stops).

Liezel Ravenscroft

Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences
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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

Liezel Ravenscroft

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

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

Clodagh McGivern

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

Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearaís Phoiblí agus an Dlí

Clodagh McGivern

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

- I attended an executive committee meeting where we discussed the points on the agenda.
- Got business class reps involved in a student survey Investigating Awareness of How Monitoring Mistakes Can Enhance Learning among BBS Students at NUIG

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting with a Class rep	Discussed a student issue
Met with a student	Discussed the query

Roshan George

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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 Previous Council (11th February):

- Met with students for casework.
- Organised the last Council of CoEI.
- Meeting with the Convener for the College of Science.
- Organising a meeting with Zinc.

Daniel McFadden

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Report of the International Students Officer

Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta

Daniel McFadden

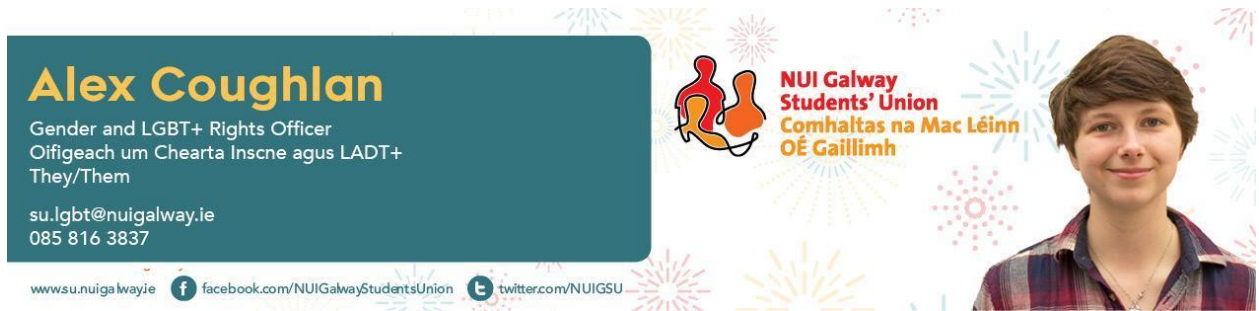
Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

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



Report of the Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer

Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+

Alex Coughlan

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

Ally Program

The University Ally Program for staff is now live. Staff members can sign up online.

SHAG Week

Helped out with condom runs, etc during the week. Assisted with Sex Toy Bingo on the night - giving out bingo sheets, raffle, etc.

Athena Swan

Met with members of the Self Assessment Team, to review and finalise the Student Culture Survey.

SIN Interview

Was interviewed by SIN as part of their election coverage, following up with this year's Officers.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
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Meeting with GiGSoc, Megan (President), and Tonya Watts (VP Equality and Diversity Office)	Discussed launch of the University Ally Program
Academic Council	Attended with others representing students
Exec Meetings	
School of Psychology	Met regarding the Student Culture Survey, as part of the Athena Swan Process
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Campus Committee	Attended regular meeting to represent student issues
Student meeting	Met regarding the Student Culture Survey, as part of the Athena Swan Process
Casework	

Report of the Disability Rights Officer

Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais

Muireann O' Sullivan

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

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

This month has been one of my busiest yet. Missed SHAG week almost in its entirety as campus was unfortunately way too loud for me to handle.

ISSE

Experienced true rejection when I started helping out with the ISSE (Irish Survey of Student Engagement) and found that students ignore you more than during full time su elections.

GCN

Did an interview for Ireland's LGBT magazine Gay Community News for their March issue alongside some other queer gals that are student leaders. Focused on what we need to do to ensure that LGBT women with disabilities or ongoing illnesses feel safe and welcome in universities and unions.

[I'll be signing copies of it after council (I won't really)]

Elections

Chatted to some people at various points about my role who wanted to run and also answered questions for SIN on my past year.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
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Casework	
GCN	
Executive meeting	
ISSE	Irish Survey of Student Engagement. Helped promote survey to relevant student outside old print that space.
Postgraduate Project	Meeting with student in the MA in Public Activism and Advocacy and a related staff member to plan a project around disability awareness
Issues students with disabilities face on campus	meeting with the DSS, Buildings, Aoife Cooke (office of the VP for Equality and Diversity), IMPACTE and SU Welfare and Equality. Thank you to Clare (Welfare) for chairing and organising.
Mental Health Mondays	Promoted positive mental health in engineering building
Congress motions	Helped write motions for USI Congress. NUI Galway SU gets to submit 5 so I proposed one motion and offered thoughts on other alongside SU President and Postgraduate Taught officer.
Meeting with commercial services	Met with representatives from masterchefs, foodspace and sodexo to discuss what needs to change to accomodate students

	<p>with disabilities to experience equality of access to campus restaurants. A representative from IMPACTE was also present as was SU Welfare & Equality and both made vital contributions. The representatives committed to more staff training and to make their services more accessible.</p>
<p>Meeting with staff of the Disability Support Services 27/02</p>	<p>Discussed student issues that had been emerging in my casework. SU Education also attended so she mentioned issues that had been emerging.</p>
<p>Executive meeting 28/02</p>	

Victoria Chihumura

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Report of the Ethnic Minorities Officer

Oifigeach um Eithneach Mionlach

Victoria Chihumura

Key Points Since Previous Council (11th February):

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting/ Event	Details
Meeting	discussed motions for USI Congress