

Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2019/2020

Edition: IV

Work Period: 26th November - 20th January

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Oifigeach na Gaeilge / Irish Language Officer - Erin Mac An tSaoir Societies Chairperson / Cathaoirleach na gCumann - Oissíne Moore

Clubs Captain / Captaen na gClubanna - Pádraic Toomey

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Report of the President Tuarascail an Uachtarán *Clare Austick*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Exam Buses to Leisureland

We were successful in lobbying the University to get all costs associated with exam buses covered by them. Going forward, students will not have to pay for the buses out to satellite exam venues. We strongly believe in breaking the barriers to accessing education!

Galway University Foundation

Had a lot of media around the Galway University's Foundation misspending of funding with the previous University President. Released a statement and arranged a meeting with the current President immediately. Policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again in the future. We have also requested to have a representative on the Board.

University Strategy

Spoke at the internal launch on the value of 'Sustainability' and was a panelist for the Seminar on 'Universities Driving Transformational Change' chaired by Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor.

Keep Cups & Sustainability Pledge

We distributed the Keeps Cups during study week and encouraged students to take a break and check in with their friends. We received positive feedback and had over 3000 students sign our Sustainability Pledge (which is now in the Students' Union).

HEA Legislation

Attended a meeting with USI and the Department for Education and Skills to discuss the HEA legislation reform and amendments USI suggested.

Pink Training

Hosted USI's (largest LGBT + Conference in Europe) Pink Training event and welcomed all the delegates to NUI Galway.

Water Coolers & Microwaves

In the process of sourcing funding for more water coolers and microwaves on campus.

Meeting Title	Details
Sabbatical Officer meeting	Weekly updates and work progress.
Student Project Fund	Went through applications received.
St <mark>udents' Union Commercial</mark> Services Itd.	Oversight of the performance of the company.
Executive Committee neeting	Weekly updates and work progress.
Standing and Strategic Planning	Sub-committee of Údarás discussing future strategic plans.
Memorial mass	
Podcast about Mental Health	Was interviewed by a student on mental health.
University of Sanctuary	Steering Committee meeting after the designation ceremony.
Meeting with President	Discussed student issues.
CUSP	Discussed progress made on campus in relation to sustainability.

Veg Soc	Meeting with Veg Soc about the animal pet farm and the welfare of the animals involved.
Keep Cups distribution	Distributed the cups during study week and got 3000 students to sign the Sustainability Pledge.
Strategy Development Group	Finalised the draft of the strategic plan.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Executive Committee meeting	Weekly updates and work progress.
Keep Cups distribution	Distributed the cups during study week and got 3000 students to sign the Sustainability Pledge.
Academic Council	Largest policy approving body in the university.
Charity Cake Sale and Pet Farm	Sold raffle tickets to raise money for our chosen charities.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Finance and Resource Committee	Sub-committee of Údarás.
Sabbatical Officer meeting	Weekly updates and work progress.
Executive Committee meeting	Weekly updates and progress made.
NUI Galway Employability Award	Spoke about the direction and future of the award.
Monthly meeting with Michelle Millar and John Hannon	Updates and addressed student issues.
Student Complaints Board meeting	Board member of the Complaints Procedure.

Video recording	Part of the 'Voices of NUI Galway' video for the University's Strategic Plan.
Student Experience Executive Committee	First meeting of the Student Experience Executive chaired by the Dean of Students.
Údarás	Governing Body of the University.
Galway 2020 launch	Attended the official launch.
National Council	Attended the Union of Students' Ireland Christmas National Council in IT Sligo where we discussed local and national issues facing our students.
Consent Implementation Framework	Working group on the implementation of the consent framework.
Student Digital Pathways	Spoke about more student involvement in the process.
Meeting with President	Discussed student issues.
Internal launch of Strategic Plan	Was on the panel discussion speaking to the value of sustainability within the strategic plan.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Students' Union Commercial Services Itd.	Oversight of the performance of the company.
International Orientation speech writing	Planned the format of our orientation welcome for international students.
HEA Legislation	Attended a meeting in Dublin with the Department of Education & Skills on the HEA legislation reform.
University Strategic Plan external launch	Attended the external launch.

International orientation	Welcomed everyone to NUI Galway and informed them of all the services we provide and how we can support and help them.
Meeting with President	Discussed studen
Semester 2 planning	Had a meeting with the two VP's and staff to plan the year ahead.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Seminar	Attended the 'Universities Leading Transformational Change' seminar and spoke on the 'Collaborating to maximise impact' panel discussion.
SIN interview	Upcoming referendum.
Executive Committee meeting	Updates and progress made.
ISSE 2020 planning	Planned for the launch of the ISSE survey.
Council agenda planning	Planned SU Council.
Student Project Fund presentations	
Meeting with Postgraduate Research Officer	
Meeting with student	Casework



Report of the Vice President / Education Officer Tuarascail an Leas-Uachtarán / Oifigeach Oideachais *Cameron Keighron*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Pink Training

Attended and helped to organise USI's Pink training. Provided tech support for the event and 3 workshops for delegates. Helped the VP Equality and Citizenship with organising the event from NUIG along with members of the GiGSoc committee and the rest of the Executive. I facilitated spaces, did AV set up for speakers and ensured that all AV requirements were met on the weekend along with the VP Welfare & Equality.

Extenuating Circumstances Working Group

Fed into the production of a new extenuating circumstances policy which will be used to influence exam deferrals and assignment extensions amongst other things.

> LGBT Staff Network AGM

Attended and got re-elected onto the LGBT Staff Network for the next academic year. Enjoyed the talk about activism in the University from Ailbhe Smyth.

> Signature collection for Referendum

Helped to collect the 500 signatures for our Referendum after being passed through council. Although the timing around exams wasn't great, it was a really great opportunity to talk to students about on the ground issues, not just the referendum. The signatures were formally submitted to the General Manager on January 9th.

> Galway 2020 x NUI Galway Launch

Attended the Galway 2020 launch with the sabbatical team and learned a bit more about the partnership between NUI Galway and 2020 for the upcoming year.

> Student Digital Pathways

Before Christmas I filmed a video with the Student Digital Pathways team on the importance of this project to students which was launched at the all staff address in December. Myself, the President and VP Welfare & Equality met with the steering team of this project to see how we can get more student engagement on this project. We gave a lot of ideas of different ways that students could get involved and hopefully these will be incorporated at the new steering meeting.

> UDL

Our project looking at inclusive learning and teaching has been approved for 120,000e funding to expand to Postgraduate students in the CBPPL and to students in Maths and Physics. This project will be ongoing for 2020 and hopefully will develop some key practices for better inclusivity in education. One of the most exciting aspects of this project is the potential introduction of software into BB which will highlight to lecturers how accessible their material is and also give students the option to convert documents into more accessible formats and different languages.

> Shannon

I have been trying to build up better relationships between the NUI Galway Students' Union and the Shannon College for Hotel Management. I visited their reps before Christmas to see how they were getting on, talk about issues they were having and getting ideas about how we can engage with them more. I visited them in Week 1 of Semester two to catch up on some of the things we had discussed in the meeting previously, to inform them about the referendum and how to remote vote, and about the upcoming Elections here. We have agreed a few actions to achieve over the next 6 months.

Meeting Title	Details
Memorial Mass	Attended the memorial mass for a student
Access Programme	Spoke to access students about the Union
Céim	Met with coordinator to catch up on the semesters work
Executive Meetings	Attended weekly Exec meetings
ENLIGHT	Attended meeting in Bordeaux with international officer and senior management

Teaching & Learning	Attended T&L committee meeting
Casework	Dealt with students concerns with exams and assignment deadlines, course choice and leave of absence
Employability Steering Meeting	Attended Employability Meeting about how the award is progressing this year
Monthly meetings with Dean of Students and Director of Student Services	Talked through some common issues arising from students including seating.
Údarás	Attended governing authority meeting
Seed Funding Applications	Reviewed and allocated money to seed funding applications for enhancing teaching
National Council	Attended national council in Sligo with USI
Financial Aid Fund Appeals	Reviewed appeals that had been received from students who had received their FAF allocation
Strategic Plan	Attended the launch of the University Strategic plan for 2020-2025
Meeting with Mature Students Officer for the University	Discussed greater mature student engagement on campus
International Student Orientation	Talked to the new international students about the Union and Societies
Athena Swan	Was co-opted onto the School of Medicine Athena Swan committee and attended it's first meeting of 2020
ESG Interviews	Sat on the panel for interviews for exam security breaches
President, VP Welfare and Equality & General Manager	Met to discuss potential plans of action for the student levy.

President, VP Welfare and Equality, Assistant Manager & General Manager	Planning what we can achieve in the next 6 months
Convenor for MNHS	Met to discuss role on Athena Swan application



NUI Galway Students' Union Comhaltas na Mac Léinn OÉ Gaillimh



Report of the Vice President / Welfare & Equality Officer Tuarascail an Leas-Uachtarán /an Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais Brandon Walsh

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January: .

> Pink Training:

Attended the event as a co-organiser an AV person as well as SU support person. Helped the VP Equality and Citizenship with organising the event from NUIG along with members of the GiGSoc committee and the rest of the Executive. I facilitated spaces, did AV set up for speakers and ensured that all AV requirements were met on the weekend along with the VP Education. I also assisted USI in resolving certain issues that arose at points over the weekend and was present and available for delegates throughout the weekend and ensured people could use my office as a quiet space if feeling overwhelmed.

Extenuating Circumstances Working Group:

I was invited to sit on this Working Group to develop and refine a policy around extenuating circumstances so we could accurately capture and define these in the best way possible to represent students' needs. The point of this WG was to make it easy to categorize and define what exactly an extenuating circumstance is as to make it an easier process for students when applying for something under extenuating circumstances ie: Extensions and exam appeals etc. The Draft Policy has now been sent to the Registrar

> Health Unit Board of Directors

This was the first meeting of this board this semester and we welcomed the new Medical Director Dr. Eoin Mac Dhonncha. We discussed the plans for the Health Unit, How it has operated until then and discussed the accounts and the forecasted accounts for the coming year. The medical Director also brought up areas in which the Health Unit is lacking and things that he has put in place and wants to put in place to ensure the service is optimal.

> University of Sanctuary and Deportation Orders

I have been working closely with the University of Sanctuary Co-ordinator and the Irish Centre for Human Rights in drafting a letter to the President of the University to highlight what has to be done and the protections we have a responsibility to put in place since being designated an official UoS. This letter is in a late draft stage and is being ran over extensively to ensure that it covers all the bases and ensures that we can protect our students effectively. Once this letter has been sent I will be bringing a motion to council to ensure that the University adheres to the contents of said letter and to actively fight against and prevent our students from being deported. This is such an extremely important topic and I want to ensure that it is done correctly and in line with the input from the ICHR

> Casework:

I have been seeing a lot of students with various issues. One of the most prevalent ones has been issues with landlords in accommodations, where the landlord lives there too, not returning deposits to students, even when they have been given adequate notice of them leaving or the landlords have been charging for "damages". This is impacting a lot of international students as landlords often take advantage of their lack of knowledge of Irish laws. I am working with Louise Kelly and the Welfare and Accommodation Office to come up with something to tackle this.

> Exam Destress:

As a part of exam destress we gave out lots of fruit and sweets etc to students all around campus and in the CSI. This was very well received by students and we hope to do more this semester and keep up morale around the very stressful exam times.

> Signature collection for Referendum

The Other sabbatical Officers and myself worked very hard in the last few weeks of the previous term to collect all of the signatures (and more) that were required to hold the referendum that SU Council voted for us to have. This was a lot of work but it was very rewarding and it was really great to see students engaging and asking about the union and its structure.

NUL Galway Meetings	
Meeting Title	Details has na Mac Léinn
Met with Mike Heskin	Re: Kingfisher access for international protection applicants and sanctuary Scholars.
Creche Liaison Meeting	Discussing plans for the new tender agreement for the Creche in the coming months.
Extenuating Circumstances WG	Met with the group to discuss draft policy around extenuating circumstances for students for exams and assessments etc.
Health Unit Board of Directors Meeting	Discussed the performance of the Health unit and its spending to date and projected figures with the new Medical Director.
LGBT Staff Network AGM	Attended and enjoyed the AGM and talk with the speakers they invited.

Fair Trade Ireland	Meeting to discuss the up and coming Fair Trade Campaign
Consent Implementation Framework	Had a guest speaker from University of Bucknell and discussed national issues and updates.
Student Digital Pathways	Met with project managers to discuss next stages of plan
Student residences meeting	Met with the Accommodation office, international office and the heads of the private student residences.
Creche Liaison Committee	Discussing parents concerns and tender for the coming year
Registrars Christmas Dinner	Attended and spoke to various staff with President and VP education
Louise Kelly International Office	Meeting to discuss Christmas Day and New Years events for students staying in Galway over the break.
Strategic Plan Launch	Attended with the President and VP Education
Meeting with Staff and Full time officers	Planning out the next six months and making sure that we have a solid timeline of events in place so that we can hit certain targets at different key point throughout the semester
Students in India protesting fee increases	Met with students to organise a solidarity march for students in india being persecuted for striking against fee increases
External Launch of University Strategy	Attended the 3hour seminar on the strategic plan and Higher education in Ireland
International Students Orientation	Spoke at the orientation and got to tell the international intake about the union and what we do and how they can engage, have fun and use services!

Exec Meeting	Discussed agenda items with exec
Levy meeting	Meeting to discuss POA for the levy with GM and Sabbatical officers



NUI Galway Students' Union Comhaltas na Mac Léinn OÉ Gaillimh



Tuairisc an Oifigigh Gaeilge Erin Mac An tSaoir

- 1. Ag eagrú crinniú do mhic léinn faoi cén chaoi gur féidir linn an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san ollscoil.
- 2. Ag obair le Clíodhna Ní Dhufaigh i gComhaltas na Mac Léinn Éireann chun imeacht a sheoladh le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge.



Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 14th of October:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.

Details of Work Undertaken from the 12th of November to the 25th of November:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.



Report of the Societies Chairperson Tuarascail an Cathaoirleach na gCumann *Oissíne Moore*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- > Briefly spoke to international students about societies at the orientation
- Co-ordinated the volunteers and worked closely with USI's VP for Equality and Citizenship for Pink Training.
- > Working with the Informal Investigative Committee regarding complaints.
- Attended Christmas dinner with USCG, Socs Box, Wellness Crew, Hub Central, Hub South, Flirt FM, and Student Services.
 - Promoted a sensory screening for Little Women in Palás to all societies.

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with the Societies Officer and Bank Of Ireland Rep.	We discussed the applications to the BOI Bursary and allocated funding accordingly based on their application.
Exec Meetings	Gave updates to the rest of the committee and discussed matters at hand.
USCG Meetings	
DramSoc Meeting	Casework
Meeting with SU President	Giving updates on my work



Report of the Clubs' Captain Tuarascail an Captaen na gClubanna Pádraic Toomey

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Student levy WG

Meeting about the student levy and continuing on for what students would want.

Intro to Union

Met with students completing part time courses to let them know about the union, what we do, how we can help them and elected class reps. Also got feedback on how to make their lives easier.

SASSI survey

Worked on setting up for next semester to run national survey on all students.

 Club Captain gathering of Ireland with partnership of Student Sport Ireland

Working with the Clubs' President of UCC to host a gathering of sports officers for various colleges & universities.

Keep cup distribution

Helped give out cups of 2 of the days.

Charity collection on pet farm day
Collected money for our SU charities.

Meeting Title	Details
Annette Dolan - Placement Office	Met with Annette about the living wage that was passed at council.

Nigel Collins - International office	Continued work on Gaelic tournament for international students.
Chris Newell & Joanna Brophy - SU manager & assistant manager	Meeting about clubs' ball, plans and tickets.
Ryan Guilfoyle - Sports unit	Clubs' Day preparation and plans.
Weekly meeting with Mike Heskin - Director of Sport	Issues clubs are having etc. and upcoming plans.
Meeting with President	Update of sports and clubs in general.
End of year meeting with Mike Heskin - Director of Sport	End of year discussion.



NUI Galway Students' Union Comhaltas na Mac Léinn OÉ Gaillimh



Report of the SU Council Chairperson

Tuarascail an Cathaoirleach na Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn Scott Green

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- > Volunteered for Pink Training Weekend.
- > Helped in the distribution of the keep cups over multiple days during study week.
- Answered student queries about exams and deferrals.
- > Answered more student queries in relation to module changes in Semester 2.
- Attended the lighting of the University Christmas tree.
- > Prepared minutes for exec meetings.
- Prepared Officer Report template for officers to fill in.
- > Prepared draft press release about the US Military's presence at Shannon Airport.
- > Contacted media outlets on campus like SIN, Flirt FM, and Journos to agree to have them on the mailing list for Council which serves as functional press invites.
- Was interviewed by Padraig Murphy about my opinions on the upcoming referendum.

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with the SU President, SU Education Officer, and SU Welfare Officer	Meeting to organise the agenda for SU Council.
Executive Meeting 13/01/19	Discussed things such as the upcoming referendum, SU Council and deadlines, the national disability forum amongst other things.



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

Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste na nDán, na nEolaíochtai Sóisialta & an Léinn Cheiltigh Mairtin Mac Gabhann

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- > Involved in the distribution of keep cups throughout study week
- > Attended the student levy working group
- Answered emails with issues and information about exam results and exams in \geq general Students' Union

Meeting Title	Details a tas na Mac Léinn
Meeting with the SU President	Concerns and Issues raised with students
Executive Meeting	Raised issues in relation to exam buses and concerns relating to exam venues
Meeting with students	Students raised issues about the delay in the release of examination timetables. Concern about the cost of buses to Salthill / Leisureland
SU Council	Attended last SU council of the year



Report of the Convenor of the College of Science

Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta Kenny Cooke

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- > Was Heavily Involved in the Distribution of a Rake of Reusable Cups to the Students to encourage a reduction of Single Use Cups
- Engaged with Students having Concerns regarding the Christmas Exams and/or Lecturers not playing ball.

> Attended Academic Council in the Middle of Study Week.

NUL Galway Meetings Students' Union	
Meeting Title	Detailsa tas na Mac Léinn
SU Executive Committee	Meeting to Discuss Direction and Future Actions of the Students' Union.



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

Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte Aisling Fitzgerald

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- > Attended academic council on Wednesday Dec 4th
- > Attended weekly exec meetings.
- > Helped distribute the keep cups during study week
- Liaised with students to relay information with regard to the upcoming Nursing and Engineering Ball
- Met with students to discuss the repeat examination for 2MB and put them in contact with the education officer
- Liaised with the Mary Murphy (Athena Swan Lead for the School of Medicine) and began organising 2 student representatives

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with SU educational officer to discuss Athena Swan on Jan 15	



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

Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearais Phoiblí agus an Dlí *Clodagh McGivern*

Three Points of Discussion

- 1. Engaged in emails/phone calls with others in relation to queries etc.
- 2. In contact in relation to NUIGs relationship with HK afters protests in regards to their study abroad programme.
- 3. In contact with lecturers in relation to tutorials.
- 4. In contact with Alex (Disability Rights Officer) about sensory issues due to microphones/ speakers in lecture halls.
- 5. Spoke about the changes that are being proposed in the upcoming election to students who wanted it to be explained.

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with Student	Casework



Report of the Convenor of the College of Engineering & Informatics Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste na hInnealtóireachta agus na Faisnéisíochta Sachi Sinha

Helped to resolve an issue regarding study spaces in IT building





Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach na nlarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha Dheeraj Gudluru

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Meeting Title	Details Way
SU Executive Committee	Meeting to Discuss Direction and Future Actions of the Students' Union.
	Gaillimh



Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach na nlarchéimithe i mbun Taighde *Emily Tock*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.





Report of the Mature Students' Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta *Chuka Paul Oguekwe*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.





Report of the International Students Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Idirnáisiúnta Avery Fenton

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- Went to Bordeaux to continue ENLIGHT meeting with the Education officer \triangleright
- > Spoke at international student orientation for incoming second semester international students

Went through some work for a work project for the ENLIGHT conference \triangleright Gal

NUI Galway Meetings	udents' Union
Meeting Title	Details altas na Mac Léinn
Exec Meeting	Gaillimh



Report of the Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+ Kaushik Narasimhan

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

> Attended the christmas tree lighting event and later assisted the SU president in collecting funds for charity.

	II Galway
Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with Mike Cubbard, the mayor of Galway	Spoke to the mayor about my work at the students' union, and requested him to accept my invitation to attend any future events.
Meeting with Padraig Murphy	Discussed about my opinion on the upcoming SU referendum.



Report of the Disability Rights Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais *Alex Coughlan*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

- Pink Training volunteer for the weekend, ensuring the smooth running of the event
- Delivered NStEP training to postgraduate reps
- Case Work
- Assisted with distribution of Keep Cups during Study Week
- Review of Fitness to Study Policy (QA269)
- Followed up on Library Redevelopment Plans
- In contact with the Counselling Unit on a potential training event
- Wrote motion with International Officer
- > Contact with SIN editor about the upcoming referendum
- > Work on Living Wage arranging meetings, upcoming meeting of working group
- > Raised issues with buildings office
- Exec meeting
- > Confirmation of living wage review in budget in July for the Union

Meeting Title	Details
Padraig Murphy	Interview about the upcoming referendum
Chris Newell	General manager, meeting about living wage



Report of the Ethnic Minorities Officer Tuarascail an Oifigeach um Eithneach Mionlach *Victoria Chihumura*

Details of Work Undertaken from the 26th of November to the 20th of January:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 14th of October:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.

Details of Work Undertaken from the 12th of November to the 25th of November:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period they will append it to the next set of officer reports.