



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

Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2019/2020

Edition: V

Work Period: 20th January - 10th February

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Report of the President

Tuarascail an Uachtarán

Clare Austick

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

General Election

1) Overall work

It has been extremely busy since the General Election date was announced. There has been many media opportunities (radio, articles and comments) to talk about student needs and demands ahead of the upcoming election. The Union of Students in Ireland have released a student manifesto which can be found online. When the Leaders' Debate was on campus, I wrote a letter to all the political party leaders emphasising the importance of core funding in higher level education, the need for affordable student accommodation, an improved healthcare system which improved mental health and sexual healthcare facilities and a commitment to addressing the climate emergency (points that are in the student manifesto). We also received #BreakTheBarriers stickers that members of the Executive Committee have available to hand out to students to put on their windows for canvassers to see when they knock on the doors.

2) News Talk

We were involved in organising the live broadcast for the Moncrieff Show on the topic sustainability and the climate emergency.

3) General Election Hustings

We partnered with One Galway and GMIT Students' Union to host a husting on campus with Galway West and Galway East candidates. 11 candidates attended. There was no representation from Fine Gael or Fianna Fail. I co-chaired with Clem Shevlin from the One Galway Movement. We had a great attendance with over 100 people in the audience.

4) Quad Lock Out

Supported the Societies Chairperson in organising a protest about the lack of communication and consideration given to the stakeholders in the Áras na Mac Léinn building for the RTE Leaders' Debate. Students and societies were put out, particularly those who needed rooms in the student building for rehearsals. The messaging was aimed at the University to remember that students are the most important stakeholder in the University and should not be disregarded and locked out of students services (i.e Student Health Unit, the Students' Union, the Hub and kitchen facilities etc) for a third party.

Securing funding for more water coolers on campus

This has proven more difficult than it originally appeared. The initial attempt was through the Student Project Fund. However, in the past water coolers have already been funding through the SPF (the same project will not receive funding twice). I have been in contact with Buildings and CUSP looking for more funding avenues. I then spoke to the University President as Sustainability is a core value in the Strategic Plan. I have since applied to the University's Strategic Fund through the Dean of Students (University Management Team member). Hopefully, we will be successful in securing funding for 10 more water coolers. Will likely have an update at the next SU Council meeting.

Women Lead

Women Lead is an incredible event organised by the Union of Students in Ireland to empower young women to put themselves forward for leadership positions. I was invited to be a panellist at Women Lead this year, speaking about my experience as a woman in a leadership position. We had 5 participants from NUI Galway who engaged in different workshops.

Social Spaces

Met with the Dean of Students and Patrick Faherty from Buildings and Estates to progress on the social spaces working group (seeing as a meeting hasn't been convened in a year). The updates from the meeting are as follows:

→ Long-term goals

There is a social space document that needs to be referred to when any new buildings are constructed and developed. In the past there was no document, however now it's an essential.

→ Short-terms goals

- The current social spaces will be reviewed to see what can be improved on.
- Hub Central received funding and planning will be put in place in the next few months.
- A meeting will be convened in the next few weeks.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Recording of video	Outlined the proposed changes to the constitution.
Smokey's table	Informed students about the referendum that was happening.
Sabbatical officers meeting	Updates and work progress made.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Meeting with SIN	Interview.
Akumakon	Attended the reception.
Sabbatical officer meeting	Updates and work progress made.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Smokey's table	Informed students about the referendum that was happening.
T Fund	Met with GIGSoc and the Gender & LGBT+ Rights' Officer to progress the initiative.
Meeting with University President	Addressed student issues.
Societies Day	Had a stand informing students about the work of the Students' Union.
Clubs' Forum	Attended Clubs' Forum.
Video for the general election	Spoke about students issues and student manifesto in the lead up to the general election.

Welcomed annual Chaplains Conference	Acknowledged the importance of student support services on campus
Meeting with Gender & LGBT+ Rights' Officer	Raised issues in relation to a scam.
Library Strategy Committee meeting	Discussed how the library will work towards the university's strategic priorities.
Meeting with John Concannon and Michelle Millar	Met with the VP for Development and Dean of Students to talk about the general election and what the Union had planned.
RTE interview	Had an interview on student issues in the lead up to the general election.
Executive Committee meeting	Updates and work progress.
Neil Delamere	Attended the SU Comedy gig and managed the entry of the crowd.
Meeting with student	Casework.
Meeting with Convenor for the College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies.	Work updates.
Student Missing Protocol	
Student Experience Executive Committee meeting	Analysed retention rates and how to improve the student experience.
Meeting with News Talk	Planned the News Talk live broadcast on campus.
Student Project Fund	Discussed applications.
Student Digital Pathways	Update on the process.
SU Council planning	Planned Council with the Education Officer and Council Chairperson.

Meeting with student	Casework.
Executive Committee meeting	Updates and work progress made.
Social Spaces	Met with the Dean of Students and Patrick Flaherty to talk about social spaces on campus.
Meeting with students	Complaint.
Executive Committee meeting	Updates and progress made.
News Talk	Live broadcast.
Connemara radio FM	Interview on the GE hustings.
Seas Suas	Welcomed students and spoke about the programme.
EDIC meeting	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion committee. Went through various reports.
SU Elections event	Spoke about the upcoming SU elections and informed potential candidates about running a campaign, what the roles entail and about the work of the Students' Union.



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

NSTEP

Have been working with the Dean of Students to reinstate the work we do around the National Student Engagement Programme. We are organising a meeting about true student partnership in March (the 23rd) that will have a mix of staff, management, admin and students in attendance.

Student Survey

Have been working heavily with the steering group of student survey this year. The survey launch on Feb 3rd. We have tables and stands book for the next two weeks to encourage students to take the survey, we are pushing to get 40% response rate this year. We have merchandise to give out and are recruiting student ambassadors to help out. I have raised the issue of doing this survey every year when action plans are only agreed around the time the survey launches again.

SU Council

I have helped plan and organise council with the team here. I am still exploring online attendance so that we can move away from paper sign ins. I hope to have this in place for council on Monday.

Shannon

I have been developing ongoing relationships with Shannon to ensure they feel a part of our campus, I have visited them 4 times this year to help hear their concerns and ideas for the union.

Inclusive Learning and Teaching

I have been working on this project for 2 years now and we have just launched our PG programme. We are helping to facilitate interviews with UG and PG students in the CBPPL about their experience in education, we are planning a symposium for June to highlight work in this area. We will also be trialing ALLY a blackboard add on that highlights to lecturers how accessible their documents and materials are, and how to make them a 100% accessible. This add on also allows students to download materials in several different formats including audio and different languages.

Údarás

I have been involved in two committees looking at the restructuring of our governing authority to try and increase the amount of student representation we have on this and will update at the next council officer report on this.

Quiet Spaces

I have progressed with developing a quiet and sensory appropriate space in the library with construction hopefully commencing in May. This space will be accessible by all students by online booking.

News Talk

We were involved in organising the live broadcast for the Moncrieff Show on 'Climate.'

General Elections Hustings

We partnered with One Galway and GMIT Students' Union to host a husting on campus with Galway West and Galway East candidates. 11 candidates attended. There was no representation from FG or Fianna Fail. I asked questions in relation to PG student support in terms of mental health and precarious work

RTE, Quad Lock Out

I participated in the Quad Lock Out protest to highlight that our student building was taken from us. Mostly, on the basis of how the decision was made, if UMT can make a decision within a couple of days without consulting relevant groups, does this mean they would do this again?

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Athena Swan - SoM	I now sit on the SAT for the school of medicine atena swan as their postgraduate representative
Exec Meetings	Haver attended weekly exec meetings bar one.
Referendum	Helped with the referendum
Clubs Forum	Attended the clubs forum
Casework	Casework has largely been around Exams, CA and Course choice

Library Strategy	Discussion about new library and current updates
CoSE Board Meeting	Update on course and budgeting
GEEC	Met with the GEEC team in advance of their shell competition this summer
Neil Delamare	Attended charity comedy event
Student Digital Pathways	Attended board meeting for going to tender stage of student digital projects
SU charity Collection Day	Helped out and managed charity collection day
COASSCC SSLC	Discussed action plan from last years student survey results
Elections information Event	Helped plan and deliver election event with VP Welfare and Equality and President
Akumakon	Attended opening ceremony
Interview	Interview with Flirt
USI Postgrad	Call to discuss PG issues



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 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Following on from last year we'll try and separate meetings from other work. Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- **SHAG Week Planning**
- **Drug and Alcohol week planning**
- **Casework - lots around accommodation issues with landlords/housemates**
- **NUI Galway Positioning Statement on Deportation - still in process of being reviewed by UMT - Motion to follow**

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Referendum info table	Had a table at smokeys to talk about the referendum that was upcoming.
Sabbatical officer meeting	Met with other sabbats to discuss plans and projects for the upcoming week
Attended Clubs Forum	Spoke to clubs captains
National Consent Framework	Spoke about the national movement and the local movement here in NUIG and policy updates were given
Green Labs	Met with PhD Students involved in green labs initiative

Exec meetings	Met with committee and discussed agenda items
Neil Delamare	Did door sales and seating at event
Emergency FAF sub committee	Discussed and reviewed student cases
Health Promotion worker	Met with HP worker and discussed plans for Drug and alcohol awareness and plans for SHAG Week
Missing Student Protocol	Met with missing student protocol committee
Student Projects fund	Discussing round 2 applications and next steps
Student digital pathways	Met with board and discussed plans for the next phase of the project and implementation and student input
Athena SWAN SAT	I know sit on this committee with another student rep and feed into the overall university application
Charity Collection Day	Took part in charity Collection day with the two other exec members who volunteered as well as all of the amazing student volunteers who came out in force and raised over 600 euro
Sabbat meeting	Met with sabbats to discuss plans for the week
Exec meeting	Discussed agenda items
News Talk live broadcast	Attended event
GE Hustings	Attended event
Meeting with Uni of Sanctuary	Discussing campaigns and plans for upcoming campaigns as well as the NUI Galway positioning Statement that has been developed but still has to go through EDIC and UMT

SU elections information event	Organised the event and presented with other officers
FAF Steering group	Discussed FAF so far and improvements to be made
REACT Steering group	Discussed the revised policy for Drugs and Alcohol and any events for the next 6 months



Tuairisc an Oifigh Gaeilge

Erin Mac An tSaoir

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.

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

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.

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

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



Report of the Societies Chairperson

Tuarascail an Cathaoirleach na gCumann

Oissine Moore

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Following on from last year we'll try and separate meetings from other work. Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- Organised “Quad Lock Down” Protest
- Hosted two society forums
- Dealing with issues regarding noise complaints towards sult from societies
- Attended some of the societies training.
- Promoted Socs Day 2 on social media
- Promoted Give ‘em Socs Wednesdays
- Attended the Spring Launch for Societies

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with the SU President	To discuss the POA for the protest.
USCG meeting	Discussed the incident with Aras na Mac Leinn, and other society issues.
Societies Officer	Multiple meetings with the societies officer to find out more information about the closing of Aras na Mac Leinn.
Meeting with a student	Helped answer questions about societies for their final year project.

Executive Committee Meeting

Gave updates on the work I was doing and to hear other officers updates and discuss events coming up.



Report of the Clubs' Captain

Tuarascail an Captaen na gClubanna

Pádraic Toomey

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Following on from last year we'll try and separate meetings from other work. Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- **Clubs' Ball**
Finishing up work on Clubs' Ball with ticket sales and sorting out details.
- **Clubs' Forum**
Updated Clubs on the changes since the last forum before the end of semester 1. Gave plan for Clubs' Day and changes of the unit since Tanya is the new Interim Clubs' Officer.
- **Wheelchair basketball**
Contacted local clubs to get wheelchair basketball on campus and contacted the captains for their support in a day of it.
- **Living Wage WG**
Updated the group on a meeting with the placement officer and decided on a course of action for now.
- **Gaelic Tournament**
Worked further with the Sports unit and international officer to get training times for the students. Planning tournament in March. 120 NUI Galway students for training and 7 teams to play in tournaments from colleges such as Queens and Carlow.
- **Clubs' Day**
Helped plan and coordinated with the sport unit for the day.
- **Student Sport Ireland**
Invited and will be attending the SSI AGM next month. Working with other clubs' captains to make a network.
- **Charity Collection on Shop Street**
Collected money with other volunteers and SU members for our SU charities.
- **SASSI**

Planned for the SASSI survey next month.

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with Volleyball Club committee	Meeting about 3 day intervarsities of club.
Boxing Meeting with new Captains	Q&A with also updates and how to get started for brand new captains.
Health Promotion Officer Aisling Harlington	Intro and how we can work together.
Director of Sport Mike Heskin	Club casework.
Tolteca Sponsorship Meeting	For sponsoring clubs. Info etc.
Director of Sport Mike Heskin	Updates, Student Sport Ireland, staffing plans SASSI survey.
Meeting with Basketball Captains	Updates and wheelchair basketball.
Nigel Collins International Officer	Further work on international student gaelic training and tournament



Report of the SU Council Chairperson

Tuarascail an Cathaoirleach na Comhairle do Chomhaltas na Mac Léinn

Scott Green

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Following on from last year we'll try and separate meetings from other work. Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- Notified reps about Quad Lockdown by email, said email was then plagiarized not only by the clubs captain but the societies chairperson too.
- Attended the Quad Lockdown and the after protest outside Aras na Mac Leinn, lost my voice if you find it let me know.
- Briefly attended the Galway Housing Groups Protest outside the RTE Leaders Debate.
- Attended meeting of the Union Living Wage Working Group.
- Was interviewed by SIN about the result of the recent SU referendum and surrounding issues.
- Valiantly went looking for the Union's Club Day Desk but unfortunately there wasn't one, no one is more disappointed than me (except maybe Padraic)
- Review of Fitness to Study Policy

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
30/01/20 Meeting with the SU President and Education Officer	Meeting to plan out the Council Agenda

30/01/20 Executive Meeting

Exec Meeting to discuss general election, su
elections, women lead, and the charity
collection thing.



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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

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- **Canvassed for the Referendum on re-structuring the Student Union**
- **Hosted Arts Council where issues were raised and have been looked at**
- **Casework - January 20th - February 10th**

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Meeting with the SU President	Discussion of various issues and problems and Work Updates
Meeting Acting Associate Dean	Discussed the Action Plan of the Irish Survey of Student Engagement 2019 - Undergraduate Students and Taught Postgraduate Students - COASSCS
Meeting with Student	In relation to examination results and referred to Cameron
Executive Meetings	Issues were raised and have now been resolved
Meeting with Student	Casework
Meeting	Update with Catherine Mc Curry - COA



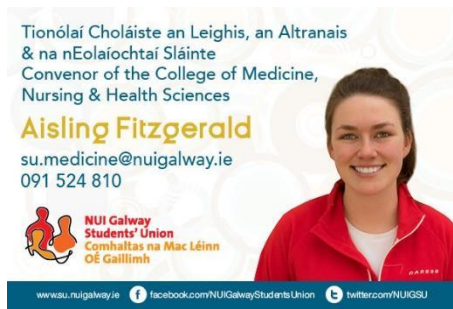
Report of the Convenor of the College of Science

Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta

Kenny Cooke

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



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 20th of January to the 10th of February:

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Report of the Convenor of the College of Business, Public Policy & Law
Tuarascail an Tionólaí Choláiste an Ghnó, an Bhearaís Phoiblí agus an Dlí
Clodagh McGivern

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

- *Chaired Engineering Council, discussed issues being faced by class reps and followed up on them*



Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer

Tuarascail an Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha

Dheeraj Gudluru

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer

Tuarascail an Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

Emily Tock

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.

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

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



Report of the Mature Students' Officer

Tuarascail an Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta

Chuka Paul Oguekwe

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.

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

- I was out of the country for this period.



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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:
Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.



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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

Following on from last year we'll try and separate meetings from other work. Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- Referendum - campaigned for a No vote
- Living Wage Working Group - planned for the semester with other members
- Review of Fitness to Study Policy
- Casework
- Exec meetings
- Attended Quad Lockdown Protest, and continued with Societies Chairperson and Council Chairperson to Aras na Mac Leinn at request of attendees
- Briefly attended Galway Housing Network Protest
- Co-wrote motion with Societies Chairperson

NUI Galway Meetings

Meeting Title	Details
Living Wage Working Group	Updates and planning for the semester



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

Details of Work Undertaken from the 20th of January to the 10th of February:

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

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

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.

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

Officer has not submitted a report for this period it will be attached to the next set of reports.