



NUI Galway
Students' Union
Comhaltas na Mac Léinn
OÉ Gaillimh

Students' Union Council Officer Reports 2020/2021

Edition: I

Work Period: 1st July - 9th November

Table of Contents

President / Uachtarán - *Pádraic Toomey*

Vice President / Education Officer // Leas-Uachtarán / Oifigeach Oideachais - *Emma Sweeney*

Vice-President / Welfare & Equality Officer // Leas-Uachtarán / an Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais - *Róisín Nic Lochlainn*

Oifigeach na Gaeilge / Irish Language Officer - *Erin Mac An tSaoir*

Societies Chairperson / Cathaoirleach na gCumann -

Clubs Captain / Captaen na gClubanna - *Kirsty Moran*

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

Convenor of the College of Science and Engineering / Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta agus na hInnealtóireachta - *Aoife Buckley*

Convenor of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences / Tionólaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte - *Evan O'Flaherty*

Postgraduate Taught Officer / Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha - *Martin Smyth*

Postgraduate Research Officer / Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde - *Sebastian Bierema*

Mature Students' Officer / Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta - *Michelle Mitchell*

Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer / Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+ - *Maeve Arnup*

Disability Rights Officer / Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais - *Patricia O'Mahony*



Report of the President

Tuarascáil an Uachtaráin

Pádraic Toomey

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

➤ Repeat Fees

During the Summer we launched our campaign #RipOffNUIG which dealt mainly with repeat exam fees in NUI Galway which cost €295. This is the highest in the country for a single repeat and our main issue is most other institutions waived it this year. We have brought it to Údurás(the governing body) of the university and were told to do one last set of negotiations with the university before reloading our motion to refund students.

➤ Reopening university

We were involved with some of the reopening university committees. They met 6 times between the 3 committees we were involved with.

➤ Media for students

A lot of media work has been carried out since the 1st of July between Radio, TV and even international TV with NBC. Mainly defending students and promoting positive messaging rather than “water cannons” or calling in the “army”.

➤ Post-grad issues

Work with SIPTU and our postgrad reps on postgrad issues especially regarding unpaid work they complete.

➤ Charity Challenge

We launched the Charity Challenge with over 200 people signed up already. We are continuing to sign people up and raise money for our SU charities this year which are Galway Rape Crisis Centre, Mental Health Helplink and Galway Autism Partnership.

➤ Hump Day Hoolie

A weekly comedy & speed friending event was launched for every Wednesday. So far it has been a massive success in getting people involved and a good chance to make friends.

➤ Events Crew

A new crew was set up with funding from the Student Project Fund to have events for students. Events are planned from the funding for this.

➤ Beach clean up

A monthly clean up was started with the first location being the Long Walk to Mutton Island. It continues to be planned monthly for when the guidelines allow.

➤ Walk and Talks

Massive success was found with our Walk and Talks for students a chance to make friends and walk with other students. Groups were kept to 15 to be within the guidelines.

➤ Governance for USI

Elected to the governance committee for USI to oversee the organisation which we are a member of.

➤ Officer planning

Work with our officers for plans for the year.

➤ Quad Pop-up SU

After a lot of discussions with the university on mask distribution. One of our key asks in the reopening was free masks for students. We were asked to distribute 3 masks to every student in NUI Galway.

Our Pop-up SU was a massive success and kept open as long as possible. Over 3000 packs were given out so 9000 masks. We also offered SU diaries, wall planners and SU cards at the station too.

➤ Sexual Experiences Survey and consent presentation to UMT & Heads of Schools + Departments

The SU presented to all upper management members with Active Consent NUI Galway on the survey and consent training for all staff.

➤ More study spaces

Work in continuing to get more study space for students. The library is at full capacity and after work 90% are showing up. More space is needed, the Bailey Allen has been identified but is needed soon.

➤ Instagram Q&As

Multiple Q&As were done to help students answer their questions. More to hopefully come soon.

➤ SU officer training (in-house and USI)

The full time team had training both in house with training we recognised as needed and completed USI's training which took place over 2 separate weeks.

➤ Lockers

After a lot of lobbying and work to get lockers access for students. Students' Union staff and officers worked to get access for students over a couple of weeks. We had to timetable students and accompany them to lockers as per the university rules to get access.

➤ Orientation

Student Union Officers worked during orientation week for new students. I completed 30 talks during the week on the main campus. Students were introduced to the SU from it.

➤ Shannon Campus orientation

Student Union Officers visited the Shannon campus to give 8 orientation talks on the union, welcoming them and all student supports available to them.

➤ LGBT training for Health unit & Counselling service

Worked with the LGBT officer to get LGBT training for the services on campus.

➤ Class Rep training

Over 4 evenings, class reps were trained on what being a class rep is. I went onto the topic of debating, motions and referendums.

| Meeting Title | Details |
|--|---|
| Consent WG for training awareness | Discussed training for staff who would help students. |
| Céim interviews | Interviewing for Céim intern. |
| Student Experience and Supports | Committee to help student experience and how to support them. |
| SU Introductory Meeting and Priorities for 2020/21 | Meeting with Dean of Students on priorities for the year. |
| Casework | Student meetings to help them. |
| Teaching awards | Committee to give awards to some teaching staff. |
| Meeting with Law department | Specific student issue. |
| National Council | USI's council of member organisations. |
| Meetings with other unions | Met with other unions for info sharing. |
| Celt interviews | Interviewer for Celt intern position. |
| Uni of Sanctuary comms group | Work with UoS on their comms. |
| Galway pride flag raising | Event in Eyre square. Stayed within guidelines. |
| Student Sport Ireland | Handing over work to new officers for Student Sport Ireland. |
| SIN interviews | Interviewer for SIN editor. |
| Alive & Yourspace training | Training with Lorraine Tansey. |

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| Global Galway Project meeting | Meeting with Becky Whay. |
| Multiple post grad meetings | Work to help post grad especially unpaid work. |
| PPE distribution meeting | Discussion on how to get to all students. |
| Meeting with Deputy President | Student issues meeting. |
| National Council | USI's council |
| Health unit | Met with head of the health unit. |
| Meeting with Deputy President | Student issues meeting. |
| Campus Reopening Behaviour Change Working Group | First meeting about reopening and helping to stop the spread of covid among students. |
| Student Residences, Accommodation & Catering | First group meeting about the accommodation and catering on campus. |
| Briefing for UMT / SSDF / Heads of School: Supporting Student and Staff Consent | Briefed all members on consent and surveys that have gone out. |
| Filming for corrib/goldcrest | Welcome video to new students. Filmed up there. |
| Setup for Quad SU Pop-up | Setting up place so student can get free masks etc. |
| CUSP general board meeting | Meeting about environment and sustainability. |
| Intro to H.E.A.R. | Met with staff who support students. |

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| Orientation meeting. | Work on getting it running. |
| Board of Trustees | Trustees of the union meeting. |
| NUI Galway International Orientation | Online orientation welcoming. |
| Access Students orientation | Online orientation welcoming. |
| Meeting with TD | Eamon O Cuiv on student issues and #EducationForAll. |
| Standing & Strategic Planning Committee | Committee on planning for uni. |
| Meeting with councillor | Met with city councillor Clodagh Higgins about clean up in the city. |
| COVID planning meeting | Other SU officers with USI. |
| Behaviour Change Working Group Meeting | Meeting concerning how to get the message to student in a positive way. |
| Societal Impact Sign Off Meeting | Awards from university. |
| Messaging to students. | Meeting with marketing on positive messaging rather than negative. |
| Westwood student welcome | Welcomed new students to westwood and introduced ourselves. |
| Laptop Loan committee | Criteria for getting laptops discussed. |
| NUIG Learning Commons Project | New library interview meeting. |

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| Intro- MHSW/ Innovate Together | Intro to project. |
| ONE | Met with other trade unions from Galway. |
| FRC | Finance resource committee on financial matters with the university. |
| Student Welfare Support Group Meeting | How to support students. |
| Practical Eco- therapy | Project meeting. |
| Messaging for Students re Covid | Meeting with marketing. |
| Exec Meetings | Multiple meetings with the executive committee of the SU. Minutes can be found online. |
| EDIC | Equality, diversity and inclusion committee. Sub committee of the governing body. |
| SU Meeting with Library Management Team | Team meeting with library. |
| Consent Framework | Implementation Working Group. |
| Student Union Commercial Services meeting | Meeting on plan for year with services. |
| Sustainability Advisory Board Meeting | Sustainability for students and staff planning. |
| Operations Group Meeting (Laptop Loan Scheme) | Progress report on scheme. |
| National Council | USI's council. |

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| Charity Meetings | Met with all 3 charities separately for plan with Charity Challenge. |
| Events Crew meeting | Met with the group for brainstorming. |
| Academic Council | Full meeting with students and staff. |
| Charity Challenge | Prep and planning. |
| Údurás | Governing body of university. |
| Socialising Safely | Group to help students socialise safely. |
| City Drug & Alcohol Taskforce | About galway safe app and training available |
| Park City Launch | Launch to make Galway a park city. |
| International Office | Met with the head of the international office. |
| Meeting with other SUs | Updating each other on year and brainstorming |
| Accommodation Office | Helping get members for WG for new accommodation. |
| Charity Challenge | Launch and following meeting on checking on crew. |
| Draft Sustainability Strategy | Using feedback from survey on the document. |
| Library Strategy meeting | Strategy and general updates on library. |
| Galway Safe App | Promoting the app to keep students safe. |
| Strategic Heads of Function | Updates from each department dealing with students. |

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| Park City Galway | Collaboration for making Galway a park City. |
| LIFT | Leadership training for students in NUI Galway. |
| NSTEP | Not completed yet. |



Report of the Vice President / Education Officer

Tuarascáil an Leas-Uachtaráin / Oifigeach Oideachais

Emma Sweeney

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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- Reopening Campus

Sat on several committees for the reopening of campus. Also filmed a number of videos to try and promote a safe return.

Since then, I have been working with the other officers to try and lobby for additional spaces to be opened on campus for students to study.

➤ Socialising Safely

Regular meetings with Student Services and Societies to try and think of creative ways for people to get involved in student life this year and get as much student engagement as possible. The SU have provided a number of events to try and get students socialising safely - "Humpday Hoolie", Events Crew, Welfare Crew, Walk & Talks as well as the charity challenge. We have also been doing a weekly roundup on our social medias.

➤ Open Text Book initiative.

Took over from the previous Education Officer working with this. It is an incentive for lecturers to produce their own textbooks and publications and link them to Blackboard & the library. We are currently in the tender process and will be hoping to have a final production company soon to begin work on this.

➤ Exam Proctoring.

I have been working with ISS on a trial run of proctoring for the coming set of exams. It will be limited to a certain number of students. I hope to have more updates on this at the next council.

➤ Teaching Excellence Awards

Was involved in deciding who received Excellence Awards this year.

➤ Semester 1 & 2 planning

I have been sitting on the Teaching and Learning committee and giving feedback to academics on how students are fairing with online teaching. I have also been in frequent contact with lecturers and heads of schools giving feedback and trying to get policies put in place for the benefit of students.

➤ Working with the Library

I have been giving feedback to the library on how the space is being used, the opening hours and booking spaces in the library. I am continuing to try and get the time you have to book reduced so it will hopefully cause less anxiety for students.

➤ Postgraduate Issues

I've had many discussions with PG students on how they are being treated. Pushing to get a working group set up to discuss their issues and making sure that they are getting fairer conditions for the work they are doing. Also sitting on a forum where these issues are being discussed.

➤ Repeat Fees

Ran a campaign to try and get repeat fees waived for the Summer Repeats

➤ Enlight & EU webinar

Became involved in the Enlight initiative (aim to try and get more mobility and access to European Universities.) Attended a webinar with students and staff from many other European Universities and alliances to discuss what the future of a European University would look like and how universities are working towards it.

➤ Issues Facing Students

I have been in regular contact with staff and lecturers about how teaching and student experience can be improved. This includes issues on study space, the severe impact this semester and online learning is having on the mental health of students, issues with regards to recording live lectures and tutorials.

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
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| Orientation | Deciding how orientation would be run and helping out at orientation itself by giving 36 talks on the SU |
| Reopening Campus WG | Working group to give the student perspective on reopening campus safely. |
| Behavioural Change WG | Working group with members of staff on how they can help to promote positive messaging to students and help with their safe return to campus |

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| Teaching Excellence Awards | Deciding members of the teaching staff that would get awards |
| Discipline Committee Meetings | Discussing cases of a breach in the Code of Conduct |
| Combined Calendar Project | Working with other offices in the university to try and capture all the important dates in the universities calendar and trying to get them in one place |
| Chaplaincy | Met with Ben and Jimmy to discuss our goals for the year and how best we could help students for the upcoming year |
| DSS | Met with the disability support service to also speak about how best we could help students and provide information on their services for the year. |
| Education and Students committee | Met regularly with the College of Science and Engineering to discuss plans for the upcoming academic semester and give the student feedback for those particular schools |
| CÉIM | Meeting with the CÉIM team with regards to plans for the academic year and answer queries from the CÉIM team. |
| National Council | Monthly meeting with the USI team to discuss motions and hear updates and campaigns that are being run |
| Exam Appeals Committee | Heard over 140 appeals with some instances having multiple appeals |
| Complaint Meeting | Advice about appealing complaint decision |

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| Library | Multiple meetings with the library to discuss plan for the year incl. Click and collect, reopening and plans to improve numbers taking up places |
| Creche | Discussion on the price increase |
| Erasmus | Discussions in week 2 of the role on Erasmus this year and how it could be improved in the future |
| Academic Planning | Meeting with Heads of Schools and several members of UMT on planning for the upcoming year - raised issues such as students mental health, study spaces and need for timetables |
| Blackboard Ally | Got training on Blackboard Ally feature on 2 seperate occasions |
| Global Galway Initiative | Internationalisation of campus and the city |
| Meeting with Senior Staff | Meeting with the Registrar Pól to discuss issues facing students including online learning, parking, labs, lack of space on campus |
| Meeting with Senior Staff | Meeting with Michelle Millar (Dean of Students) and John Hannon (Head of Student Services) to discuss issues students are having - especially around funding, mental health, lack of clarity on timetables etc. |
| Access Centre | Meeting to discuss the Laptop Loan Scheme and criteria. |
| Training with Alive | Training with Lorraine from Alive on the importance of volunteering and the different sustainable development goals |
| Exam Security Group | Meeting re/breach of exam security/exam regulations |

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| Meeting with residences | Meeting with residences and accommodation and welfare office in advance of return to campus |
| Academic Affairs working group (USI) | Meeting of all education officers in USI to discuss issues occurring in higher education institutes |
| BMW Working group (USI) | Meeting with officers in BMW region to discuss issues occurring in institutes as well as campaigns being run |
| Campaigns working group (USI) | Discussing upcoming campaigns and ideas. |
| Meeting with Convenors, Exec and individual members of the Exec | Trying to get class reps organised, discussing different issues happening in colleges and with postgrads as well as other officers from exec |
| Active Consent | Worked with the Active Consent Team to present SES to UMT, HoS and other members of Staff |
| Teaching and Learning Committee | Meeting with senior staff, Deans and Heads of Schools to discuss how the semester has been going and the issues staff and students are having |
| Financial Aid Fund Steering Group | Discussing how extra funding would be allocated for the upcoming year |
| YourSpace Development | Many meetings with creators of YourSpace to try and get class rep system up and running. Also discussion about how to improve YourSpace and new requirements for the website. |
| EDICC | Committee about improving equality and diversity as well as reports from the university and getting new policy enacted. |
| Skills week | Planning for skills week with members of CDC, employability award, socs box and CÉIM |

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| Conferring planning | Planning for improving online conferrings while constantly reminding the university how disappointed students were about a lack of physical graduation |
| Procturing | Discussion about proctoring for upcoming sets of exams |
| Library Strategy Committee | Discussing the plans for the upcoming revamp of the library - discussing the strategic plan that will be released |
| Academic Council Standing | Meeting with senior staff, discussing several areas including course changes and other policies to be passed. Report on CAO numbers for the year |
| Academic Council | Passing items that were passed at academic council standing. Discussing Strategic plan. Discussing student issues such as lack of space and issues with online learning as well as trying to get updates for semester 2. As well as updates from different committee across the university such as EDICC and graduate studies board |
| Údarás | Meeting with the governing body of the university. Issue of repeat fees was discussed. Will be discussed at UMT. |
| Case Work | I've been meeting students regularly to discuss issues such as changing courses, issues with courses/lecturers, appeals and several other issues |
| Exec | Weekly meeting with the Exec team |
| Charity Challenge | Meeting with students involved and the charities. |



Report of the Vice President / Welfare & Equality Officer

Tuarascáil an Leas-Uachtaráin /an Oifigeach Leasa agus Comhionannais

Róisín Nic Lochlainn

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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- Internal Union Training
- Students' Union Training (SUT)

Attended SUT organised by the USI. Within this there was many beneficial workshops and training on things such as campaigning, drugs and alcohol, boundaries, travellers in education, colonialism in education, student finances etc. We got to meet other student union officers, virtually, from around the country.

- Orientation Video Shooting
- Instagram Q&As
- Orientation Week
- Virtual Societies Day Planning
- Alive/YourSpace Volunteer training with exec by Lorraine Tansey
- World Mental Health Day Action by the Quad
- Education For All action by the Quad
- Attended socially distanced protest in Eyre Square about direct provision #MoveThemOut campaign
- Attended socially distanced climate strike
- Sexual Assault and Disclose training given by Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- HSE Mental Health First Aid Training over a period of 2 days
- Trained in Active Consent
- Worked with other full time officers and the active consent team to plan delivering consent framework to University Management Team and attended the launch of the Active Consent E-Toolkit
- Repeat Fees campaign
- Done many radio, tv and newspaper interviews with TG4, Radio na Gaeltachta, RTÉ, Galway Advertiser, Irish Independent, Irish Examiner, The Times and more
- Meeting monthly with private accommodation providers to try and get refunds. Successfully lobbied Corrib Village/Goldcrest in issuing refunds

- Launched a postal service for students who need period products/condoms/pregnancy tests
- Sat on Financial Aid Steering Committee with Emma where we gave input into how much funding each fund would be allocated following the government's decision to double student assistance funding
- Working with Oifigeach na Gaeilge on implementation of SU Irish classes
- Attended RTB Info session on renter's rights. In regular contact with threshold
- Walk and Talks and SU beach cleanups
- Planned dates for themed weeks/campaigns throughout the year
- Planned Mental Health Week
- Had a night of action for #EducationForAll / #RipOffNUIG trending on twitter
- Plan for Sexual Health during Covid campaign December 2020
- Met with other officers, led by UL, to form a group plan for national diversity week
- Signed up for Gaeilge4All
- Working with Jigsaw Youth Galway on mental health week collaborations
- Contacted councillor Owen Hanley about bringing a motion regarding student accommodation refunds to council
- Completed LivingWorks suicideintervention training

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|--|---|
| Meeting with the Sabbatical Team | Discussing plans for the year |
| Orientation Planning | Worked with other officers and staff to decide how orientation was going to be run and delivered around 36 orientation talks on main campus and Shannon |
| Student Project Fund | Meeting with Dean of Students to discuss SPF |
| University of Sanctuary in Politics planning meeting | Sub-group to organise University of Sanctuary's week in politics event |
| CÉIM | Meeting with the CÉIM team with regards to plans for the academic year and see how CÉIM works and how we can work together with everything going online |

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| DSS | Met with the disability support service to see how best we could help students and provide information on their services for the year |
| Introductory meeting and Priorities for the year | Met with the President, the Dean of Students and the Director of Student Services to discuss our priorities for the year |
| Health Unit | Introductory meeting and business for year |
| University of Sanctuary Communications and Media subcommittee | Sub-committee for media relations for the university of sanctuary scheme |
| Financial Aid Fund | Sat on the committee for approving financial aid fund applications from the new Covid hardship fund |
| SUT | Student Union Training provided by the USI |
| Chaplaincy/Seas Suas/Staff | Met with chaplaincy and other senior staff to discuss Student Death Protocol. |
| Student Welfare Support Group | Meeting with members of staff to discuss issues arising for students and how to solve them and improve student life. New committee set up as a result of Covid-19 |
| Chaplaincy | Met with Ben and Jimmy to discuss our goals for the year and how best we could help students for the upcoming year |
| Corrib Village | Met virtually to discuss implementation of consent workshops and social activities |
| Discipline Committee Hearings | Discussing cases of a breach in the Code of Conduct |

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| Coiste Stratéiseach | Committee for NUI Galway Irish language strategy. Joined sub-committee for saol na mac léinn - student life |
| USI BMW Regional Officer | Met to discuss local issues |
| National Council | Attended USI national council |
| Safety Working Group | Working group to discuss student safety around campus - reopening buildings, health and safety resources, return to teaching, Covid-19 behavior |
| Substance Use Steering Group | Led by the health and wellbeing officer, steering group dedicated to drafting NUI Galway's substance use policy |
| Welfare and Accommodation Office | Met to discuss current issues |
| University of Sanctuary Steering Committee | Discussing current issues and scholarship procedures |
| Student Digital Pathways | |
| University Creche Parents Committee | Met with committee to discuss any updates - in particular the creche fee hike |
| SU Exec Meetings | Exec-related activities |
| USI Welfare Working Group | Met with other welfare officers around the country to compare and discuss issues and come up with solutions. Planning campaigns and themed weeks. Brought up many issues on behalf of students |
| Community Pledge | Met with Dean of students to discuss the pledge |

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| Library Management Catch Up | Met with library management to discuss any issues students are facing and how we can best work together |
| USI Gaeilge Working Group/Coiste Culturtha | Met with other student officers to work on national plans for gaeilge and discuss local issues |
| USI Campaigns Strategy Committee | Elected to the committee at council. Planning campaigns on a national level, planned Education For All |
| Charity Selection Meetings | Met with Exec Committee to select this years charities |
| SIN Interviews | Did interviews with SIN about student levy, education for all, accommodation... |
| NUIGSU + SIPTU | Discussed co-operation between staff and student union |
| Widening Participation | |
| App and Web Governance Meeting | Meeting to review the app and website, updates to it as a result of Covid-19 |
| Welfare Crew Meetings | Launched and met regularly with the welfare crew to discuss issues and plan themed weeks |
| Student Residences Managers Meeting | Met with local accommodation providers and NUIG staff to get updates on bookings, policy, refunds etc |
| Mental Health Funding Strategy | Discussing how to allocate the HEA recently allocated funding |
| Counselling | Met with counselling services to plan for the year ahead and how we can work together. Discussed Mental Health First Assist Training |

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| Met with Noirin Mannion | Met with counselling staff to discuss WRAP and mental health issues |
| Ally Training | |
| Drug Safety Awareness | Met with staff to plan an SU and staff collaboration on promoting awareness around drug safety |
| EDICC | Equality Diversity Inclusion Committee |
| CUSP | University Sustainability Advisory Board. Planning draft sustainability strategy and ways forward in nuig |
| T-Fund and Pink Training | Met with USI VP Equality, NUIGSU LGBT+ Gender Rights Officer to discuss the T Fund and 2020 Pink Training |
| Mairéad Farrell TD | Met with local Galway West TD to discuss fees and accommodation |
| Rose Conway-Walsh TD | Spoke with Sinn Féin Higher Education spokesperson about student accommodation issues which were brought up in the Dáil |
| Socialising Safely | Meetings with staff and student members of the University to design a strategy of student involvement based on the allowances of the different government levels. Trying to maximise student engagement - welfare crew, events crew, walk and talks, hoolie etc. |
| Casework | Lots of 1 on 1 casework with individual students |



Tuairisc an Oifigigh Gaeilge

Erin Mac An tSaoir

Sonraí don obair ó 1ú Iúil - 9ú Samhain

- **Traenáil na gCumann-** Lá a bhíonn á eagrú ag Conradh na Gaeilge do na Cumainn agus na hOifigigh Gaeilge fud fad na tíre
- **Pobalbhreith-** Rinne mé pobalbhreith ionas go mbeadh uirlis stocaireachta agam chun níos mó seirbhísí Gaeilge a fháil ar champas.
- **Gearrán Leabharlainne-** Sheol mé gearrán isteach chuig an leabharlann maidir le rochtain seirbhísí Gaeilge san Ionad Scríbhneoireachta Acadúla.

NUI Galway Meetings

| Cruinniú | Sonraí |
|--|--|
| Coiste Straitéiseach na Gaeilge | Ag plé le bainistíocht na hOllscoile maidir leis an bplean atá á cruthú acu don Ghaeilge go dtí 2025 |
| Cruinnithe Seachtainiúla an Chumainn Gaelach | Ag plé leis an gCumann faoin nasc atá eadrainn a neartú |
| Cruinnithe Seachtainiúla an Chomhaltais | Ag plé na Gaeilge lastigh den Chomhaltas |



Report of the Clubs' Captain

Tuarascáil Chaptaein na gClubanna

Kirsty Moran

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

- Training in a COVID Environment - With the constant changing of levels, I've been closely working with the Sports Office under the guidance of Sport Ireland and the individual NGB's to provide the highest quality training environment for clubs dependent on the level.
- Club Committee Training - Working with Tanja to design a handbook for club committees to reference, working on sample documents for club guidance, updating of the club admin portals, in addition to designing the online training sessions run for club committees.
- Advisory Sub-Committee - Working with the Director of sport to implement an advisory committee consisting of a panel of students representing different sporting categories who will be involved in funding, decision making, and dispute management in addition to acting as an events committee for the clubs captain.
- Kingfisher Membership Issues - **TBC**

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Sports Awards Panel | Met with a panel of individuals to review the nominees and decide on award winners. |
| Sports Unit | Weekly meeting with the sports unit staff working on strategic planning the new operational for clubs in a COVID environment. |
| Participation Plan | Meetings with the Participation Officer and an external organiser to design a programme for student health and wellbeing participation across the academic year and incorporating the President's Cup. |
| Club Committee Member Training | <p>Training sessions for club committee members ran by the Sports Unit and myself.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Club Captains Brief 2. Finances 3. Health and Safety 4. Events, Bookings, Media 5. Club Governance |
| Clubs Forum | A forum run by the clubs captain with committee members of the clubs to discuss issues, decisions, and all other matters regarding clubs. |
| Socialising Safely | Meetings with a group staff and student members of the University to design a strategy of student involvement based on the allowances of the different government levels. Discussing creative ways for people to get involved in student life this year and get as much student engagement as possible. |
| SSI Student Commission | Monthly meeting. On the initial WG.A student lead board with a selection of Student Sports officers across the country to act as an advisory panel for SSI. Acting as a POC between students and SSI. |

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| Ecotherapy and Sustainability Action | TBC |
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Report of the Convenor of the College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies

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

Claire McHale

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- Individual work with students
- Analysed issues with conflicting tutorial times
- Liaised with first year class reps
- Held an essay planning mini workshop for first years requesting assistance

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|-------------------------|--|
| Student Union Exec | Weekly meetings gathering updates from the rest of the exec |
| Staff in Administration | BI-weekly in the cases of certain students with regards to fee queries |

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| One on One with Students themselves | I've had a total of seventeen meetings in total in this manner. Mainly with first years. Meetings held over Teams and Zoom |
| Library Administration | To discuss the possibility of securing more copies of certain books for students |
| Various Lecturers from different departments | To go through student concerns E.G longer breaks between heavy tutorials, demonstrations on how to use certain software before setting assignments and filing documents and powerpoints numerically on Blackboard to make them easier for students to access. |
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Report of the Convenor of the College of Science and Engineering

Tuarascáil an Tionólaí Choláiste na hEolaíochta agus na hInnealtóireachta

Aoife Buckley

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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.

- **Orientation:** Attended the college of science and engineering orientation day and gave talks along with Emma, Padraic and Róisín
- **Worked** with students who were having problems with lectures, timetables and other issues.
- **Worked** on the welfare crew to plan events for the year.
- **Individual Casework** with students
- **Replying** to lots of emails and making sure issues are dealt with and brought to the relevant lecturers.

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|---|--|
| College of science and engineering internationalisation committee meeting | Brought up the idea of doing online exchanges were students would take one module with university through online learning, this is being looked into for semester 2. |

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| Meeting with previous Science convener | Given advice on the position and briefed on issues worked on throughout the last year. |
| Meeting with previous Engineering convener | Given advice on the position and briefed on issues worked on throughout the last year. Previously the roles of Science and Engineering Convener were separate, this is the first year they are combined. |
| College of science and engineering EDI meeting | Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee - consent and unconscious bias training were discussed |
| SU Exec Meetings | Weekly |
| Class Rep Training | Co Hosted Science and Engineering class rep training with Emma |
| Welfare Crew | Planned events for the year and brainstormed ideas for different events |
| Convener Meetings | Weekly meetings with college conveners, pg reps and Emma |



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

Tuarascáil an Tionálaí Choláiste an Leighis, an Altranais & na nEolaíochtaí Sláinte

Evan O'Flaherty

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

Please put your meeting details in the table provided and everything else here in bullet points.

- Liaising with nursing students regarding concerns over unpaid placement and the recommendation that they shouldn't be working part time jobs outside of college
- Gave 8 talks at orientation day to 450+ first year students from College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences on behalf of the SU
- Advised College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences marketing manager on communication policy between lecturers and students. Involved with promotional material for College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences
- Helped in electing class reps and set up dates for council's. Spoke at class rep training
- Spoke at virtual open day to 3000+ prospective students on behalf of SU
- NUIG captain for Vampire Cup - a project hoping to increase awareness about blood donation among students
- Case work with numerous students across the three schools
- Researching into vaccination costs at the Student Health Unit compared to other colleges around Ireland
- Weekly meeting with MedSoc committee members to hear any concerns of medical students
- Attended ALIVE/Your Space training

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|---------------------------|---|
| Weekly executive meetings | Weekly meeting discussing the issues students of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences are facing. |

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| Convenor meetings | Meetings with other College Convenors and Education Officer. |
| MedSoc Meetings | Discuss any issues medical students are facing. |
| Meeting with MedSoc Education Officer | Discussed class rep elections and the upcoming society education events. |
| College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences orientation day meeting | Meeting with College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences staff and lecturers - discussed what I was hoping to speak to students about: SU services, tips for first year of college and moving away from home for the first time, role of class reps and other SU officers. |
| Meetings with Vampire Cup | Attended the Vampire Cup pre-launch with other University captains. Met with Vampire Cup west coordinator regarding what support they need from the SU. |
| Individual student meetings | Meeting with students relating to specific issues. |
| Virtual open day panel meeting with Student Recruitment Officer | Meeting with the college regarding virtual open day - discussed what my talk was going to be about. |
| Meeting with Education Officer | Discussed class rep issues and dates for College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences academic councils. |
| Meeting with Previous Medicine, Nursing and Health Science Convenor | Given advice on the position. |
| Class rep training meeting | Helped Education Officer with training of class reps from the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences. |

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| Meeting with Sunday Business Post | Interviewed regarding issues students of the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences will face for the academic year. |
| Meeting with Home Instead Senior Care | Discussing sponsorship of societies from the College of Medicine, Nursing & Health Sciences. |
| ALIVE training | Given training on ALIVE/Your Space platform with the rest of the Executive. |



Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer

Tuarascáil an Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Teagasctha

Martin Smyth

Details of Work Undertaken from the 10th of February to the 2nd of March:

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.

- Academic Council
- Library Strategy Meeting
- Postgraduate Working Group
- Weekly Executive Meeting
- Meeting with key Heads throughout the University

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|---|--|
| Meeting with Postgrad CoOrdinators / Year Heads | Numerous meetings with Co Ordinators and Heads of year to discuss issues that Postgraduate Taught Students are facing e.g deadlines etc |
| Weekly Executive Meetings | Issues facing students with the Library and Study space situation. Lack of facilities to have open conversation on campus via zoom call for students working remotely. |
| Class Representative Training 20/21 | Class Rep Training Hosted by Emma (Education Officer). Assisted in this training. |
| Individual Student Meetings | Meeting with Postgraduate Taught students who are facing issues in relation to working remotely and Covid 19. Issues with lecturers and the lack of Communication. |
| Meeting with Library | Meeting to Discuss the booking system with the library and the need for a more student friendly system. |
| Welfare Crew | Working with the Welfare crew to bring events to students throughout the year, and ensuring it is inclusive to everyone. |
| Postgraduate Working Group | Postgraduate working group hosted by Adam Clarke (USI). Brought up issues that students are facing, and Work that USI is doing. |
| Academic Council | Issues relating to students and the the key role of the University throughout the Covid 19 Pandemic. |
| Library Strategy Meeting | Meeting with John Cox and other key persons to discuss the Library and the goals for the year. |

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| | Student issues were brought up and that there is a need for more study space on campus. |
| Meeting with Education Officer | Weekly Catch up with Emma to discuss the progress of student issues and problems that we can tackle as a team. |
| Convenor Meeting | Meeting with Education Officer, POstgraduate Research Officer, Convenor of ASSCS, Convenor of Medicine and Convenor of E/S. |
| Emails | Ensuring all emails are replied to and ensuring issues are brought to the relevant authorities within and timely manner. |



Report of the Postgraduate Research Officer

Tuarascáil an Oifigeach na nIarchéimithe i mbun Taighde

Sebastian Bierema

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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.

- Working with the Postgrad Workers Alliance on the campaign to make sure postgrads are paid for any teaching they're expected to do (petition, letter to the

president signed by more than 300 postgrads, FOI requests) - no success on this yet. The Dean of Graduate Studies has set up a working group to make a recommendation on this to UMT, but they don't seem overly excited to get rid of unpaid teaching.

- Tried to change the fact that international postgrads often need to pay to obtain a police certificate for the privilege of teaching without pay - no success on this
- Set up FB group for postgrads to be able to communicate with each other
- Tried to get clarity from the Dean of Graduate Studies on extensions for postgrads delayed in their research by covid, increasing training and support for teaching work, postgrads returning to campus for their research, and about whether teaching would be online or in person. Got no clarity on any of it until the very last minute.
- Worked with individual students who aren't getting paid for their teaching to try to improve their situation - mostly unsuccessful (the outlier being that postgrads in the chemistry department managed to negotiate the 120 hours of unpaid teaching down to 60, and that was entirely due to the amazing work they did to organise among themselves and put pressure on the department)

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|--|---|
| Grad studies board meetings | Presented PGWA list of demands. Pushed back on the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Dean of Arts' plans to standardise 120 hours of unpaid teaching across all schools and departments. |
| Meetings with the Dean of Graduate Studies | Brought up postgrad concerns (mostly about pay for teaching, extensions for postgrads delayed by covid, police certs for international students, stipends not rising along with cost of living, training and support for teaching work, clarity over online teaching, and clarity about returning to campus). |
| SU exec meetings | Exec-related activities |
| Meetings with SIPTU and SU | Discussed cooperation between staff and student unions |

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| USI postgrad working group | Working with USI and postgrads from other universities to develop an island-wide approach for improving postgrad workers rights |
| Meetings with postgrad rep on Udaras | Coordinating approach to addressing postgrad concerns through different institutional routes in the university |
| Meeting with Paul Murphy's office | Discussed about extending campaign for postgrad workers rights into the Dail |
| Academic council | Sat there in silence listening to people speak |



Report of the Mature Students' Officer

Tuarascáil an Oifigeach na Mac Léinn Lánfhásta

Michelle Mitchell

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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.

- Covid-19 support with mature students (telephonic) from April 2020 (before I started my role) on issues such as exams, tech support and isolation. Since September 2020 mature students meet me online (zoom) with challenges such as counselling, modules, course changes and fees.
- ATS Mentoring program - mentors/mentor leaders to do walk-about with first years on Saturdays
- Attended ALIVE/Your Space training
- Postgraduate Working Group
- Weekly Executive Meeting
- Presented 9 resilience and wellbeing training over 3 days of orientation for Arts, Science, Law and Business students on behalf of School of Psychology
- Spoke at Mature Student Society open day online (over 2 days) what they can expect from me as their SU Mature Student Officer.
- Attended ALIVE/Your Space training
- Met with International Students at DunAras to discuss their challenges, issues and questions. As we do not have an International Officer in the Exec at this stage, I have taken on this role as well. I continue to be available for these students. I have arranged zoom meetings for them to drop-in and chat. They have also been given my mobile number and email.

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|--|--|
| Mature Student Drop-In Clinic online Tuesdays 10-12 Thursdays 2-4 | Clinic arranged for mature students to drop in and discuss any issues they might have. Since start of October held 6 clinics Met with 11 students |
| Meeting with Disability Support Service Catherine Dufficy | Identification of those who cannot wear masks (whether medical/physical/emotional reasons) to be created by uni so that students who are not wearing masks can give proof of this although not the reason why. |
| Information Solutions and Systems | Mature students issues with login challenges, support of laptop updates. |

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| Mature Students/ International Students Visit to DunAras | Met with several students in DunAras where they were able to discuss issues they have dealt with, isolation, technology challenges, heating, welfare. |
| Week Exec Meetings | Updating Exec on what is happening in my role |
| Individual Meetings | Students zoom meetings personally with me to discuss issues (modules, accommodation, counselling) |



Report of the Gender and LGBT+ Rights Officer

Tuarascáil an Oifigeach um Chearta Inscne agus LADT+

Maeve Arnup

Details of Work Undertaken from the 10th of February to the 2nd of March:

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.

- Online promotion of LGBTI+ Youth Consultation run by researchers from the Health Promotion Research Centre in NUIG.

- Assisted 3 students with the change of name process in the university.
- Filmed for resilience video for the NUI Galway Student Resilience Programme.
- Attended Part time Officer Training.
- Emailed Buildings & Estates to get a list of gender neutral bathrooms on campus and uploaded it to the SU website.
- Organised LGBT+ Awareness Training from LGBT Ireland for the Health Unit and Counselling Service.
- Updated LGBT+ section on SU website to include more information and resources.

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Awareness Training - LGBT Ireland | Organising awareness training for health unit and counselling service |
| Meeting with BródSoc | Joining BródSoc's committee meeting to make further plans for the first semester. |
| T Fund Meeting | Meeting with BródSoc Auditor, Liam McBrearty, Marie Lyons, and Megan O'Neills. |
| SU Exec Meeting | Weekly meetings |



Report of the Disability Rights Officer

Tuarascáil an Oifigeach um Chearta Michumais

Patricia O'Mahony

NUI Galway Meetings

| Meeting Title | Details |
|---|--|
| Bernie McGee Disability Support Service | To discuss how the Disability Support Service, Student Union Disability Rights Officer and IMPACTE Society could work together this year. Also discussed issues relating to the needs to students with disabilities. |
| Meeting with John Cox and Anne Kelly - Library | Regarding the library extension and location of money to provide sensory space in the library. Money has been located and sensory space due to be created. Will have a follow up meeting in a couple weeks. |
| Ane Kelly - College Covid 19 Guidelines | Issues with Personal assistant accompanying students into library and medical mask exceptions - issue resolved at meeting. |
| Sandra Brennan and Catherine McCurry - issues with lectures | Students overworked and issues with participation in online lectures due to technical issues. Lectures running over time. Issue to be resolved. |
| Week Exec Meetings | Check in with the other members of the exec. |
| Many individual meetings with students | Personal Issues. |

Details of Work Undertaken from the 1st of July to the 9th of November:

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.

- Set up a Facebook page for Student Union Disability.
- In the process of organising the online Disability Clinic.
- In the process of planning a themed week around disability for semester two.
- Working to ensure disability is accounted for in the universities Covid 19 guidelines.
- Working with IMPACTE Society to plan an event for the International Day of People with Disabilities.
- I was invited to be part of the USI/AHEAD Disability Advisory Group - I have accepted my place on the committee and will be helping shape disability policy for students nationally.
- Noticing a crisis among students with disabilities experiencing mental health difficulties. Hoping to get a meeting with Disability Support Service about this.
- Formed a small Disability Crew to help with any events.