



USI VP Welfare Role Description

This document provides a brief overview of the key aspects of the Vice President for Welfare role. The day-to-day functions of any elected role will change in line with the key priorities at the time, and the policies which the role is mandated to carry out which change from year to year in line with the Annual Congress.

The role

The USI VP Welfare role can be broken up into 4 main sections; raising awareness through campaigns & themed weeks, representation, lobbying & advocacy and supporting local member organisations.

1. Raising Awareness - around all elements of student wellbeing (through campaigns, roadshows and themed weeks, panel discussions). Often other organisation will partner with us to role out a national campaign.

Areas of focus include:

- Mental Health [20 WEL 9, WEL 19 – 3, WEL 19 – 13, 2018 WEL 5, 15 WE 13, 12 WEL 14]
- Sexual Health [20 WEL 2, 20 WEL 5, WEL 19 – 4, WEL 19 – 5, 10 WEL 2]
- Physical Health [20 WEL 6, 20 WEL 12, 20 WEL 17, 20 WEL 18, WEL 19 – 9, 2018 WEL 11]
- Accommodation [EM 20 (WEL) 1]
- Financial Hardship [20 WEL 1, 20 WEL 11, 20 WEL 13, WEL 19 – 16, 18 EM 2]
- Consent [WEL 19 – 14, 18 EM 3, 2018 WEL 12, 2018 WEL 16]
- Drugs & Alcohol [20 WEL 3, 20 WEL 7, WEL 19 – 2]
- Other addictive behaviours such as gambling, social media, smoking [20 WEL 6, WEL 19 – 9, 2018 WEL 11, 15 WE 25]
- Body positivity & eating disorders [20 WEL 14]
- Bullying & cyber-bullying [2018 WEL 15]

2. Representation on Boards & Committees

- **Student Affairs Ireland (SAI)** – aims to benchmark what other institutions are doing around the Student Assistance Fund, scholarships, bursaries, accommodation etc. This group is made up of different sub-groups around financial hardship and accommodation. [each sub-group meets every 6 weeks]
- **National Advisory Committee (NAC)** – aims to end sexual violence and harassment on campuses and is responsible for the oversight and implementation of the Consent Framework. [each sub-group meets 3-4 times a semester]
- **THEA Promoting Consent and Preventing Sexual Violence (PROPEL)** – similar to the work of NAC, it is the oversight body for ending sexual violence and harassment in technological higher education sector. [once a month]
- **3SetProject** – The following work packages are as follows:
 - **Work Package 1** - Collecting and analyzing data on a national level in relation to student counselling services (best practice).
 - **Work Package 2** - Sharing useful information among student counselling services in addition to the writing of the National Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Framework which was launched on World Mental Health Day 2020 this year.
 - **Work Package 3**- Piloting a model for peer led learning that incorporated social, emotional and academic supports. [every week for 6 weeks]
- **SUSI Advisory Committee**- communication around updates and information around the application process. [once a year]
- **National Implementation and Monitoring Committee (NIMC)** – recently established and appointed to oversee the national mental health policy ‘Sharing the Vision – A Mental Health Policy for Everyone.’

3. Lobbying & Advocacy

The USI VP Welfare participates in lobbying and advocacy targeted towards Ministers, the Government, TD’s and any key stakeholders of influence pushing for policy change, development and implementation. This is a long-term, structural change piece which has long-lasting impact.

Organisations the VP Welfare works closely with:

- National Office for Suicide Prevention
- Psychological Counsellors in Higher Education Ireland (PCHEI)
- BodyWhys
- HSE Sexual Health
- HSE Social Inclusion
- Threshold
- Residential Tenancy Board (RTB)
- Healthy Campus Ireland
- Mental Health Reform
- Women’s Aid

- National Women's Council
- Active* Consent
- Dublin Rape Crisis Centre
- SUSI

4. Supporting local MO's

- Offering support and guidance as local and national issues emerge.
- Provide advice on local welfare campaigns or any policy development.
- Have regular check-ins.
- Send out resources for officers to use.
- Chairs the Welfare Working Group at National Council to address local and national issues. alongside planning the content and messaging for national welfare campaigns.
- Provides training (SUT/SUT+ and as any other needs arise). [20 WEL 8]

If you have any questions about this role, contact Clare on welfare@usi.ie