**Congress Clár Annual Report**

Megan O’Neill

# Vice President for the Dublin region| Leas-Uachtarán don Bhaile Átha Cliath

Below are the key areas of work I have completed this year as Vice president of the Dublin region. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for all of your hard work and dedication to the student movement during what can only be described as a year like no other. Thank you to each and every Sabbatical officer in the Dublin region, it has been wonderful to work with you all this year. Thank you to my team and the staff within USI for your continuous support throughout the year

### Regional support and MO engagement.

This year I have done my utmost to support officers and students within the Dublin region. Unfortunately, due to Covid19 and the restrictions that have come along with it I have had to do this virtually. I hope that I have encouraged and supported each team within the Dublin region and been a friendly face throughout the year. In terms of communication, this year I chaired the Dublin region working group and met individually with teams at the start of each semester. I provided weekly USI updates to keep officers up to date with the work of USI. I also had the opportunity to attend councils throughout the year to provide a USI update and answer questions from your students, a huge thank you to each SU for inviting me, it has been a pleasure.

### Climate responsibility and Sustainability action

This year I was part of the sustainability team within USI alongside the Vice president for Equality and Citizenship and the Vice President of the Border, Midlands and Western region. This was an area of work that I was heavily involved in which gave me the opportunity to lead on the first USI fast fashion campaign. As part of the sustainability remit, we engaged and worked with a number of external organisations. Three organisations we work closely with are, STAND, Stop Climate Chaos and SOS. This year I sat on the SCC action group and was involved in the Stop Climate Chaos Mass lobby of TD’s as well as feeding into the National climate plan 2021 consultation process. I am excited to see this area of work continue to progress within USI.

### Campaign involvement

This year I have been involved in the rollout of a number of USI national campaigns. One of my main responsibilities during campaigns was to update my region with information regarding upcoming campaigns and ensuring officers within my region were well informed and had the relevant resources to engage in the campaign and share on a local level with students.

This year it has been a pleasure to contribute in different ways to national campaigns such as:

* Education For all
* World Mental health day/Le Cheile togetherness
* Fast fashion campaign
* The USI accommodation bill
* Migrant minds matter
* The ABCs of SDGS

I would like to commend the work of my fellow officers for their hard work on each of the campaigns rolled out this year.

### Events and Conferences

This year I was involved in a number of USI Conferences which I thoroughly enjoyed being able to work alongside members of the exec team to bring to students and SU officers. Accessible events is something I feel passionately about and being able to provide these online gave us a unique opportunity to increase the capacity and assess the accessibility of events and incorporate Close captioning, ISL interpretation and were delighted to see an increase in participation across the conferences.

Events I had the privilege to be involved in co ordinating:

* Lead and co organised Power of Disability conference 2021.
* Supported and Co organised Mature students’ seminar 2021.
* Supported during Women Lead 21
* Supported at Pink Training 2020 and acted as Support officer to delegates.
* Supported during REFLECT.
* Support at Seiminear Na Gaeilge 2021

### Supporting Equal Rights for Minority Groups

This year I was extremely lucky to work on an area of passion which is equal rights for minority groups. I had the opportunity to support the VP Equality and Citizenship and take minutes and learn from the amazing Students with disabilities advisory group which supporting and shaped the Power of disability conference.

### Technological University mergers

This year I attended the TU Mergers working group to hear from those who have gone through the TU process and those who were preparing for designation and others in the application process. My role in this working group was to hear from officers on the ground and offer advice and support where necessary. It was important in my role as a regional officer to be aware of updates in relation to Tus.

### Trainings

This year I have been a part of a number of trainings for SU officers and students which have taken place throughout the year. During the summer months alongside the team, I was involved in both SUT and SUT+ to ensure officers were confident and comfortable in their new roles ahead of the return of students in September.

Myself alongside my fellow regionals had the opportunity this year to provide Part time officer training on a national level for the first time virtually. It was a fantastic event that focused on providing practical tips for officers as well as ensuring an opportunity for networking within the regions. Part time officers are an integral part of students’ unions and it was fantastic to get to hear from so many over the course of the training event.

I would again just like to express my thanks to you all, it has been an incredible honor and privilege to represent the Dublin region this year and I look forward to our remaining weeks together and wish you all the very best in the future. I would also like to wish the very best of luck to my successor and the full USI 2021/22 team. I hope you all have a fantastic year as I am sure you will.

Sending you virtual hugs,

Megan

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