



CD 2

Officer Reports
Annual Accounts 2020-2021

Name

MO

Officer Reports to Congress

USI Executive Team members present a 9-month report to USI Comhdháil each year. This is not an annual report; the officers report on work to date. Each officer will answer questions on their report at a session of the Comhdháil.

President Clare Austick



Comhdháil, it has been a remarkable year, one I would do all over again in a heartbeat. I would like to thank you all for believing in me and for electing me as your USI President at Comhdháil 2021 to lead and be at the helm of this incredible, transformational and powerful student movement. It is bitter-sweet for me knowing that this year has been the final chapter of my involvement in the student movement, after it being such a significant portion of my life for the last 7 years.

When I attended my first Comhdháil as a class rep in 2018 I never saw myself being elected into the position of USI President. I want to thank you for giving me this once in a lifetime opportunity, one which I will carry all the wonderful memories, positive learnings and experiences wherever I go next.

This year has exceeded my expectations in every way possible. Some of my personal highlights are outlined below:

Higher Education Funding

Protecting and furthering access to third level education has always been at the core of everything that we do. We ran our annual #Cost of College higher education funding campaign and delivered local campus roadshows and three regional protests in Cork, Dublin and Galway after having to protest online for 18 months. We also made a submission on the future funding of higher education which I spoke to at the Joint Committee for Education, Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science at Leinster House. We saw the Minister comment to the media that the reduction of the

Student Contribution Charge by €1000 is being looked at, which is great progress as this has not happened before.

Student Accommodation

One of my highlights this year was sleeping outside the Dáil in response to the student accommodation crisis. Thousands of students did not have accommodation when returning to college in September. We wanted to do something to highlight how bad it has gotten for students and developed our #NoKeysNoDegrees campaign. We were all over the news, radio stations, newspaper articles emphasising that urgent action was needed. We also submitted a spec on student accommodation to the Department on what students need.

Students' Union Autonomy

Students' Union autonomy has always been under attack by institutions. This year I made sure that SU autonomy was a key priority of our work by establishing the SU Autonomy taskforce and supporting Students' Unions whenever an issue arose. I organised our SU Autonomy Day where SU officers and staff came together to discuss the challenges Students' Unions face and agreed on an action plan going forward.

Return to Campus

I was delighted to see students return to campus this year and receive some kind of an in person student experience, compared to the previous academic year. I sat on the Tertiary Education Sector and POSITS steering group which met weekly to discuss the issues and challenges students faced when returning back to in person teaching and learning. I always raised the importance of student mental health and wellbeing and how colleges need to ensure the student experience does not just

“Protecting and furthering access to third level education has always been at the core of everything that we do.”

become the teaching & learning environment but the participation in clubs, societies, volunteering and all the learning that takes place outside the classroom. Student safety was also raised on multiple occasions which resulted in the Minister allocating funding to provide free antigen tests for students on campuses.

All Island Women's Forum

I was thrilled to have been a chosen member of the NWCi All Island Women's Forum which aims to bring women from across the country together and tackle the issues that impact women on this Island. It was an honour to address the forum with the President of Ireland present, speaking about the importance of education in peacebuilding from the student perspective. The forum is a pilot funded by the Shared Island Initiative which I hope will be continued for years to come.

Elevating the Student Voice

All my work this year was rooted in elevating and representing the student voice. All the panels, webinars, committees, discussions, radio interviews and media I participated in and spoke at, I ensured all students were well represented heard and listened to. We also wrote many submissions on key issues impacting students.

Expanding the Student Movement

Expanding the student movement is all about increasing student representation and elevating the student voice. We developed a terms of references with a newly established group with the ETBI to outline how USI will work with the FE sector to elevate their student voices and support the development of FE representative structures. We've also been in discussions with non-affiliates about the possibility of running affiliation referenda. I also worked closely with NUS-USI and NUS UK this year as part of our trilateral agreement to elevate the student voice and student issues across the nations. We had a very strong relationship this year and supported each other's work throughout the year.

Member Organisation Support & Engagement

One of my favourite aspects of being USI President has been getting to know all the sabbatical, part-time officers and students across the country. I

was delighted to coordinate trainings for officers at the start of the year, attend in person events on campuses and offer support and guidance whenever needed.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the Students' Union Presidents who made up the fantastic Presidents' Working Group. You all inspire me greatly. You should all be so proud of all your achievements this year. It has been a privilege getting to know you and work with you all this year.

Finally, I would like to wish every single one of you a wonderful Comhdháil experience. We all make up the building blocks that shape and drive the student movement forward. You too, could be the USI President one day. It has been an absolute honour being your USI President. Thank you.

In Unity,
Clare

Vice President for Academic Affairs Tanáiste, Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla



Megan O' Connor

Introduction

It's been a privilege to serve as your VP for Academic Affairs 21/22. It's had ups and downs with unexpected challenges arising due to restrictions, but it's been an incredible year and I am so proud of the work I have been able to do on behalf of the 374,000+ students USI represents. This report will give you a brief overview of the work that I have done this year.

Thank you so much to those who put your trust in me, to all of you I worked with this year, and the very best of luck to the incoming team.

MO Engagement

Officer Support and Training

During the summer, alongside the Coiste Gnó, I facilitated trainings on key aspects of the education role. Throughout the year I met with the AA Working group regularly, provided resources and requested feedback on officers needs and requirements. A key priority for me was to ensure adequate provisions for upskilling and networking opportunities for officers. I've planned events for students and officers to have opportunities to learn, share ideas and be empowered to enact change on their campuses. I hold a weekly Casework Officer Chats with the VP Welfare to provide space for officers to discuss any issues, pressures or worries they are encountering in their roles. I did my best to make AAWG a collaborative space to support local issues, share best practice and to support each other as much as possible.

Student Representation in the Sector

My position on steering committees, working groups and boards, informed by my work with officers, plays an important role in providing a student perspective on the work of sector agencies and organisations. It contributes to the development of new projects and initiatives,

particularly in this period where we emerge from COVID, hopefully stronger, more flexible and more impactful than before.

National Forum for Teaching and Learning

I have worked closely with the National Forum, with the first semester launching the report from our joint research project on Embedding Wellbeing In the Curriculum and working with the Student Success Advisory Group on the 7 C's Toolkit. As the National Forum moved into the HEA, I worked closely with the Student Intern and Student Associate Assembly to ensure their work continued without disruption. We were delighted to reach an agreement with the NF Board and HEA where the Student Intern is now working with NStEP. I provide a USI update to every Student Associate Assembly.

National Student Engagement Programme

As a NStEP Steering member, I co-chair the National Student Engagement Advisory Group which is currently largely focusing on the new NStEP strategy. I support NStEP in the implementation of the framework from May 2021 and promote their training programmes, including the Representing Diversity training which was rolled out in the first semester. Over 1,100 student reps were trained by the programme this year and the inclusion of NStEP in the HEA Reform Act is a valuable and welcomed recognition of NStEP's work.

Student Survey

SS.ie is a truly brilliant project, but it can be complex for student representatives to engage with. I have worked with the project manager to address this and the outcomes and recommendations can be found in the motion I have submitted for approval to this Comhdháil.

Steering group member

Survey Review group - examined the non-indicator question set

Editorial group - contributed USI's reflection on results

Analysis and Impact group - examining how the project can support institutions analysis of the data

National Academic Integrity Network

I co-chair the National Academic Integrity Network's Communications Working Group and rolled out the second student-facing campaign on Academic Integrity, #MyOwnWork in October. We disseminated posters warning students of Essay mills which were provided to campuses in advance

of the examination period.

I presented at several international conferences, including the European Network for Academic Integrity. I'm currently writing a paper for submission to this year's conference with an executive member of the European Students Union.

Policy

A core element of the VPAA role is conducting policy analysis on different issues and this is a lot of my day-to-day work. Between now and the end of my term, I will be examining the role of the VPAA on bodies and projects to ensure that the work we are doing is as beneficial for MO's and the students we represent as possible. I have contributed to several consultations, departmental submissions and joint committee hearings.

Quality Assurance

I am a member of the QQI approvals and review committee with the responsibility of approving QQI Award applications, CINNTE Reports and the inaugural reviews of education and training boards for the FET Sector. I was delighted to participate in and chair the launch of QQI's Statement of Strategy 2022-2024.

I work in partnership with QQI's Assessment Focus groups, CORÚ's Standards of Proficiency Framework working group and I am continually working to improve engagement with professional regulatory bodies.

Partnership & Autonomy

USI received confirmation of the Departments intention to engage in a Strategic Dialogue with a view to develop a National Student Partnership Agreement as was negotiated and worked on by my predecessors. We are in ongoing discussions and hope to progress this by the end of our term.

I was delighted to coordinate the Student Union Autonomy taskforce and assist in organising SU Autonomy Day, inviting SU officers and General Managers to discuss current situations at local level. We noted the findings, submitted an amendment to the HEA Reform Act and continue to push for a national framework for SU Autonomy.

International Affairs

Alongside the VP South, I participated in ESU conferences and Board Meetings. I am a member of the ESU Academic Freedom Taskforce which should have outputs before the end of my term. We have been providing support to our colleagues in

the Ukrainian Association of Students whose work in recent weeks has been truly inspirational. Our thoughts are with everyone impacted by recent events and this once again reminds us of the importance of standing together in solidarity.

Deputy President

As Deputy President, I supported the work of the USI President and the Coiste Gnó throughout the year and deputised in the Presidents absence. I have coordinated the documentation for internal processes and Comhairle Náisiúnta. I also led on organising the SAAs. We have secured sponsorship for nearly all categories and are currently planning for an in-person ceremony!

Ni neart go cur le cheile.

Mise le meas,
Megan.

Vice President for Welfare

Somhairle Brennan



Due to illness at the time of writing, no report was submitted by the Vice President for Welfare. Upon their return to work, the officer will submit a report for the record.

Consequently, the officer will give a report to Comhairle Náisiúnta.

Vice President for Equality and Citizenship / Leas Uachtarán Um Chomhionannas agus Shaoránacht



Bukky Adebowale

Introduction

When I look back at this year and what it has been, I forget about how much we have done. While at times, I felt as though I moved through this year without being able to do more to make, I realise I have a lot to be proud of.

This was a year of growth but the greatest thing, I am proud of is every single MO, officer and student. You make the student movement and without you, it moves nowhere. Your perseverance inspires me and in every moment, you stood your ground, you changed the life of so many students across this island.

I am glad to have experienced this year because I truly can say, “I am my ancestors wildest dreams”. And upon reflection, I hope I can make more of those dreams happen in the future.

Much Grá,
Bukky

Black Futures Making History

The Black Futures Making History Mini Campaign was to commemorate Black History Month in Ireland. Black history is rich and usually, we see the struggles and pain of Black peoples highlighted as a moment to learn and reflect on. This campaign strived to highlight the success over struggle of Black people in Ireland.

We witnessed many Black changemakers doing magnificent work in the areas of policy, advocacy, culture and student life. I believe that all the moments will set a pace for our history to come.

Free The Flow

Alongside Suas’s Initiative, STAND, our 10,000Students Campaign kicked off with Free the Flow Campaign which I was able to do jointly with the VP Dublin Region. This Campaign highlighted the inequalities in our global systems when it comes

to period poverty and plastic free periods.

Imagine Equality

In semester 2, we kicked off the second campaign of the 10,000Students initiative with STAND. This campaign was an exploratory concept of allowing students to explore what an equality should be like in the world today. We focussed on gender equality, consent, and gender-based violence.

Green Week

Green week was spearheaded by our VP Dublin Region. It was in partnership with An Taisce and other organisations across the country. We highlighted the topics of Divestment from Fossil Fuels which sparked one of the motions you see here at Comhdháil today.

COP26

One of the most exciting things for us this year was COP, in which the VP Dublin Region attended on my behalf. Our presence at COP gave us deep insight into the climate work being done by our current world leaders. But it also highlighted the ignorance of gender equality, the value of women, disabled persons and BIPOC people's efforts in the climate crisis. This needs to change.

Mature Students Seminar

As one of the first events in the year, this event left a lasting impact on what it means to be a lifelong learner. Conversations around the future of what it means to have truly accessible and flexible accommodation was highlighted on this day.

Pink Training

I spent roughly seven months in planning for Pink Training from June, before my term began. Along the way, I partnered with the VP Southern Region who was an exceptional asset and partner. In this moment, I would like to commend their work and support over those months.

Pink Training showed itself as a monumental occasion to support an incredible community of students who always strive for equal rights. I will never forget every moment of organising, planning, laughing (and tearing my hair out) that this event gave me.

Women Lead

Women Lead was where my journey began and to see how it impacted people's lives this year was

incredible. I simply want to offer a moment to all the incredible people who helped pull it together. Anna, Sinéad, Emily, Asha, Lesley, Leah, Kate, Lauren, Grace, Caoimhe Cronin, Ellen, Caoimhe O'Carroll and Clare; thank you.

EMpower

I am the proudest of this. For the longest time, I didn't think my vision for EMpower could happen. But it was what it needed to be.

I spent two days in a room with Kenyan, Nigerian, Chinese, Indian, Angolan, Irish Traveller and Jamaican students. We organised, shared experiences, and finally had a space that could empower one another.

Special thanks to Lauren and Hamza who were my rocks throughout the whole journey.

Power of Disability

The Power of Disability was spearheaded by USI and AHEAD this year which focused on education and students. I am extremely proud of the contributions that students from the Students with Disability Advisory group made towards the event.

Student Grant Scheme

I represented USI in the SUSI Review/Student Grant Scheme committee. While we welcome the changes made to SUSI in Budget 2022, the results from the survey done last year show that there is a significant need for more student financial support.

The cost of living has increased, and students need a more reliable financial support system to allow them to access third level education. I was able to shape the official report on the matter and bring forwards various points including support for part-time and non-domestic students.

Abortion Review

Alongside the National Womens' Council of Ireland, I had different opportunities to engage in the abortion review taking place this year.

Being part of the Abortion Working Group allowed me to contribute to the joint submission to the review. This has been a joint endeavour with the work of my predecessors whom I have also to thank. Furthermore, I worked with NWCI on a quick guide document which supported students both in second and third level education to submit to the consultation on abortion.

Students with Disabilities (SWD) Advisory Group

As one of the only fully established groups, the SWD

advisory group was important because they truly highlighted the importance of student voice. The students of this group came together and organised to shape the way both USI and AHEAD operates going forward for students with disabilities.

Vice President for Campaigns / Leas-Uachtarán um Feachtais



Beth O'Reilly

Introduction

I have been so lucky to serve as the Vice President for Campaigns this year alongside an amazing CG and some truly engaged and passionate SU Officers. Throughout the year I have tried my utmost to ensure that everyone's feedback and ideas are valued and considered and as a result we changed many things about the way campaigns have run within the USI and together we have worked to mobilise students during an incredibly turbulent and challenging year.

Campaigns

Give Us Our Grad

The most prominent issue for most SU officers beginning their roles was the looming problem of postponed or cancelled graduations. Together with the Campaigns Strategy Committee, we launched the Give Us Our Grad campaign which highlighted the need to commemorate students who worked for their degrees despite the pandemic. We created an open letter and template for all SU's to utilise and many SU teams secured on-campus graduations for their students!

No Keys, No Degrees

Accommodation issues dominated the work of Students' Unions across the island at the beginning of the first semester, but the government repeatedly brushed past the issue. To highlight the severity of the situation, the USI and several SU officers and students from across the country slept outside the Dáil to demand change from the government. This not only drew huge media attention to the issue of student accommodation, with the protest being covered across almost all national news outlets – but it also led to several government TDs and senators reaching out to us to listen to our demands. We used this opportunity to stress the need for cross-departmental communication and a new student accommodation strategy. We also secured a commitment that student accommodation would

not be able to be utilised for purposes other than student accommodation through a Dept. of Housing circular. I also travelled to Stormont for the NUS-USI No Keys, No Degrees protest which saw students from across the region come together to demand better for student accommodation.

Reboot Budget

The USI Pre-Budget Submission was quite a long document, so I worked to break this down for students and sabbatical officers across our Reboot Budget campaign. This included creating graphics outlining the USI's demands for Budget 2022, and following the release of the Budget I created a document breaking down what Budget 2022 meant for students.

Cost of College/F*ck The Fees

The national campaign against the cost of higher education. In November we held a roadshow where we travelled to campuses to distribute materials and promote the protests and at the request of the CSC, we held three regional protests rather than one centralised Dublin protest. To continue the campaign following the in-person actions, we have started work on a survey to compile data on hidden course costs to estimate the true cost of college, as well as informational posts to break down high level issues so that students can be educated and empowered.

Communications

USI Comms Survey

In an effort to improve communications between the USI CG and our MO's, I worked with the VP Dublin region and the USI President to develop the USI Comms Survey which aimed to get feedback on the current communication methods and social media and what we could do to improve. A clear theme was the need for more centralised communication and as a result, we worked to revamp the All-Sabbat to commit to one weekly email that is laid out in a more engaging way and makes it easier to access information sent by the USI to MO's. There also was a demand for more informational Insta posts breaking down issues that SU's could share on their own social media accounts, so I have prioritised creating infographics

that are broad enough to be utilised by SU's but still informative and engaging – eg. What is the Cassells Report, Repeal Review and Tax Back graphics.

Accommodation

NHHC

As VP for Campaigns, I have a seat on the NHHC committee. I also sit on the communications subgroup within the coalition. Through this I have helped to co-ordinate the NHHC Winter of Housing Discontent Protest, which I spoke at and was attended by hundreds, including multiple students' unions. I have also been involved in the planning of fundraisers for the coalition and have assisted with the promotion of all NHHC events.

Raise the Roof

The Raise the Roof campaign had been inactive during the pandemic and have started to slowly begin to work on a campaign for a referendum on the right to housing. I sit on the committee and have been pushing for action from the group. Together with the VP for the Dublin region, we pushed for the immediate creation of a social media subgroup to highlight the campaign and create a digital presence, as well as the need for actions to be prioritised. I will continue to push for the campaign to prioritise in person mobilisation.

Campaigns Strategy Committee

As chair of the CSC, I worked with the elected team to co-ordinate actions and develop a campaign strategy. This year we also decided to put together a CSC Crossover document for the incoming CSC and incoming VP Campaigns to pass on all the things we've learned from our actions this year and help next year's team to develop a cohesive and engaging long term strategy. We also decided as a committee that a long-term campaign strategy was more efficient than yearly rebrands and I have brought a motion to Congress to achieve this.

NYCI

This year I was a member of the Board of Directors of NYCI as well as a member of the Policy and Advocacy Subcommittee, which allowed me to take part in discussions surrounding NYCI's constitutional changes and policy work.

Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs

Jenna Barry



I want to thank Member Organisations (MO) that elected me as the VPPGA with the knowledge that I had the lived experience and passion to represent postgraduates. This year has been like no other, I joined the Student Movement with the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), and postgraduates have been at the heart of all my decisions. It has given me the appetite to pursue a career in the further and higher education research and innovation sector. The fact that I have been able to create some of the tangible change I spoke about in my manifesto makes me proud. The Coiste Gnó (CG) have been fantastic and have remarkable knowledge, drive, and passion for their work. I would like to conclude that I am grateful for the friends I have made, the work I have been involved in and the support I have received. Please see below some of the highlights this year!

Postgraduate Engagement

Boards, Committees and Working Groups

The VPPGA attended every meeting of the following boards, committees and working groups to share the postgraduate student voice to bring about tangible change.

- National Framework for Doctoral Education Advisory Forum (NFDE)
- Research Graduate Education Committee (RGE)
- Eurodoc
- PGR Student Survey
- Global Student Forum Postgraduate Steering Group
- PGR Student Survey
- PGR Student Survey Editorial
- Tracking our Researchers (subgroup of NFDE)
- Career Profiling (subgroup of NFDE)
- Postgraduate Student Engagement

(subgroup of NFDE)

Relationship Building and Online Communities

Relationship building is essential and the VPPGA made introductions to members of the various MOs, postgraduate representatives, decision-makers, boards, committees, WGs and postgraduate organisations within their network.

The VPPGA has supported MOs to build capacity in their institutions by offering training to set up online communities using Microsoft Communities. This is still available so if you are interested, get in touch!

Written Submissions

Next National Research Strategy

The development of a new national strategy for research and innovation (R&I) is a key commitment in the Government's Economic Recovery Plan 2021. A written submission was made the VPPGA.

Highlighting the following;

- Support PGR financially in their research
 - Increasing expenditure in education and research for the PGR cohort.
 - National Stipend to the living wage.
 - Support PGRs by introducing statutory family leave.
 - There should be transparency of PGR funding across the board.
 - Paid for work outside of their research.
 - Non-EU PhDs visas and childcare.

Develop educational support for PGR

- Development in the National framework across HEIs.
- Provide adequate workspaces within HEIs for PGR.
- Develop Communities of Practice (CoP) to support their learning and develop support amongst a wider PGR cohort.

Build, support and develop postgraduate career opportunities

- Awareness of career opportunities available, academic and non-academic.
- Career development for PGR to work in industry and society.
- Work Experience for PGR in their chosen

field of research.

- Online network to support communication amongst PGR and agencies nationally.
- PGR supports collaborating with other PGR and HEIs nationally and internationally to build on their research.
- Support to work on small projects within their research area with research teams.

Develop collaboration

- CoP or a virtual CoP for NFDE as recommended by EUA report.
- More PGR voices at the table.
- More collaboration between VP Postgraduate Affairs in USI and organisations making PGR decisions.
- VP Postgraduate in USI consulted on PGR issues going forward.
- Support to work on small projects within their research area with research teams.

Submission on the Future Funding of Higher Education

The VPPGA participated in a written submission by the CG on the Future Funding of Higher Education. Postgraduate Funding: A national stipend in line with the living wage for research postgraduates would enhance engagement in research and encourage the involvement of more postgraduate researchers of diverse backgrounds. The disparity in stipends across HEIs is essential to note, where some postgraduate students earn less than beneficiaries receiving social welfare. This extends completion rates and affects students' completion of the research. Ireland agreed to improve gender equality as one of its' priorities with the European Research Area (ERA) policy framework; statutory maternity cover available to postgraduate researchers would support this initiative.

Postgraduate Teaching: Postgraduates should be fairly paid for the working hours they do within their institution.

Postgraduate Education: Structured core modules developed into the research curriculum for fundamentals in research. Review of HEIs implementation of the NFDE Framework. Review supervisory roles and implement a formal escalation process for issues occurring in postgraduate research.

Postgraduate Innovation and Engagement: Connecting postgraduate communities for collaboration on research projects and developing networks nationally and internationally with various stakeholders to solve societal challenges. Virtual communities can be used to develop networks of researchers to connect on a European network. Greater postgraduate student engagement in decision-making at all levels to ensure the postgraduate voice is heard.

Postgraduate mental health and wellbeing: Many research studies highlight postgraduate intellectual and social isolation. Postgraduates' mental health issues are inevitable, and more specific mental health supports would benefit this cohort. PGR student survey results found;

- 36 % are aware of the various student supports available.
- 47% of students have frequent opportunities to discuss their research with other research students.
- 44% of students have opportunities to become involved in the research community beyond their department.
- 45% of students have someone they can talk to about their day-to-day problems in their institution.

Pre-Budget Submission

The VPPGA is currently participating in a written submission by the CG for the PBS.

THEA Recovery Plan

The VPPGA participated in a written submission by the CG, allocating €40 million focusing on digital enhancement to improve employability and student experience.

Improve Postgraduate Conditions

Postgraduate Student Working Conditions and Stipend Survey

The VPPGA learned through consultation with postgraduates that there is a notable disparity in postgraduate stipends. This led to the VPPGA compiling a survey. The results are being gathered and disseminated.

Develop Postgraduate Student Engagement (PGSE) WG and Chair

The VPPGA has worked alongside QQI and NStEP to propose, develop and chair the WG and focuses on PGSE in the following areas; Governance and Management, Student Representation and Organisation, Quality assurance and enhancement. The ambition of the WG is to grow a larger network of representatives interested in PGSE.

Responsibilities of the group are as follows;

- Explore actions aligned to recommendations relating to PGSE made in the EUA report on the NFDE.
- Develop plans to map current postgraduate student engagement practice in Ireland.
- Analyse and report on current PGSE practice.
- Advise on the establishment of a National Postgraduate Student Engagement Network (NPSEN).
- Provide updates on work to the National Framework for Doctoral Education Advisory Forum.

PhD Workers Rights

The VPPGA has consistently discussed improvements of postgraduate working conditions whilst in attendance at the RGE and the NFDE. The Minister sent a letter to HEIs regarding postgraduate working and requested that they undertake an exercise to agree on a high-level set of principles.

VPPGA consulted with various agencies to discuss workers' rights and how the USI Workers Charter can be improved inline with current postgraduate needs. A hybrid approach might secure both the benefits of students and workers. This is still under investigation.

Review of Postgraduate Affairs position

The role of the VPPGA is still in its' infancy and as the 4th VPPGA, the role has been equally challenging and rewarding. The VPPGA has documented the challenges which will be presented to the CG, and a motion to review the role has been put forward to Comháil with suggestions for improvement.

Vice President for the Dublin Region

Caoimhe O'Carroll



Introduction

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as Vice President for the Dublin Region on the USI Coiste Gnó 2021/22. What an unforgettable (and unpredictable!) year it has been! There's no doubt that I faced a steep learning curve coming in as a naïve undergraduate student in July. However, I am proud of how I have risen to the challenges and welcomed every opportunity presented to me during my term.

Personal development aside, I also like to think I have meaningfully contributed to union development across the Dublin region during in my time in USI. After all, the people united will never be defeated.

Protesting

A big fáilte ar ais to protesting in this post-COVID world! And, typically, the return to protesting coincided with my throat positively combusting. On the USI side of things, No Keys No Degrees and Fuck the Fees were both standout moments of my sabbatical year. It was brilliant to be part of, respectively, such reactive and nationwide campaigns.

But between CETA, closure of the Science Gallery, shameful deportations, not to mention gender-based violence and the outbreak of war in Europe – we've had a lot to shout about.

MO Engagement

Engagement: union buzzword and civil societies perennial problem.

While I can't claim to have solved the 'engagement piece', I have certainly tried to reimagine what engagement within USI means. This began with my USI updates at MO councils - cue the QR codes! I constantly strived to make my presentations interactive and worthwhile (and aesthetically pleasing, of course). Thanks to all for inviting me to your councils! They've been so insightful. If COVID has thought me anything, it is that it's nigh on impossible to genuinely connect and engage with people in a virtual world. Therefore, much of my time as regional officer has been spent "campus-visiting" at every given opportunity in a bid to close the gaping hole left behind by the pandemic.

It's has also been fantastic to engage more meaningfully with part-time officers. My fellow regionals and I held a training day for them in mid-September and then resolved to host PTO working group meetings sporadically throughout the year. As a former PTO, I know how much enthusiasm and energy ye have and I hope we continue to tap into it within the USI!

Staying on engagement, significant time and effort was spent on engaging newcomers and expanding the Dublin Region family. I'm excited to see what's on the horizon in this respect.

Communications

A particular point of pride of mine has been improving and streamlining communications within USI's network. In September I created both a "Dublin Class Reps" and "Dublin PTO's" WhatsApp group. Membership currently stands at 135 and 28 respectively. I hope these channels of communication continue to function beyond my term as they have been invaluable from an information sharing and engagement point of view. I was also delighted to rollout a social media and communications survey in September which I reported on at Comhairle Náisiunta. The USI Weekly Update email stemmed from this survey and has been a real passion project of mine. I hope the regular emails continue past my tenure and the mailing list expands beyond sabbatical officers.

Climate Action and Sustainable Development

It's no secret that environmentalism and climate action became my baby for the year (you all had to sit through that presentation!). I am so grateful to have been afforded so many opportunities in this realm during my time in USI.

COP26 was a baptism of fire for me and it came about in such a synchronistic way. Stop Climate Chaos, a brilliant network of climate centred organisations, encouraged us to apply for a badge through the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. And, thanks to Bukky, we got one! I cannot overemphasise the impact that this trip had on my development as an activist. I also returned from Glasgow motivated and inspired to spread my learnings far and wide.

It didn't stop there! Throughout the year I have been engaging with An Taisce's Climate Ambassador programme – attending meetups, speaking on panels. I have also worked very closely with Suas' STAND programme – developing our partnership and influencing the vision for the mission of the organisation going forward.

I was delighted to roll out a USI Green Week online in March. The vision for the themed week was to step away from pointing to individual responsibility as the solution and move towards higher level concepts such as corporate responsibility and divestment.

Finally, it was an honour to have been invited to the first National Climate Stakeholder Forum. It's great to see the student voice being included in these conversations because climate change is a student problem.

Dublin Region Working Group

And last but not least, stars of the show – the Dublin Region officers! It has been a pure joy to work with you this year. SU sabbatical officers are constantly being pulled in a thousand different directions and my philosophy has been to make your lives easier, not harder. Between calender invites, Tuesday Check-In's, and gentle reminders, I hope I've made engagement with USI relatively painless.

Honestly, considering I started my term with very few connections in other unions, I feel extremely fortunate to be finishing the year feeling at-home and welcome in six of them. <3

Vice President for the Southern Region

John Fortune



First, I would like to say thank you to everyone who elected me as Vice President for the Southern Region, it has truly been an unforgettable year! The member organisations in the southern region have kept me sane (while sometimes driving me crazy) this year and it has been so nice getting to know them. We have worked together to strengthen the region and bring back the Saucy South! This report will outline my work for the year, and I hope it gives you an insight into what it is like to be a regional officer.

Crossover

I began my crossover in June, along with the other Regionals and the Coiste Gnó. The regional officers, incoming and outgoing, met virtually for our first crossover. This was a run through of USI as an organisation, an introduction to the regional role and troubleshooting issues for the year. The outgoing VP South and I had a follow up crossover virtually where I received guidance on each of the member organisations in the South, tips on avoiding burnout and advice on dealing with the regional role (travel, isolation from the team, adapting to each SU team etc).

SUT & SUT+

I helped organise sessions with the Coiste Gnó for SUT and SUT+. The main sessions that I was passionate about having were sessions in relation to LGBT+ representation, governance training and a session in relation to TU Mergers. These trainings were online, but hopefully next year they will be back in person.

Pink Training

I had the absolute pleasure of co-organising and hosting Pink Training 2022 with the VP E&C. We began planning the event in July and had great plans for a return to in-person Pink Training. Due to the pandemic, we had to take the decision to move the event online. This was such a hard decision, given how much work we had put into the event. I hope everyone enjoyed the online training as much as I did, while it was different from being in person, there was a huge sense of community and love that I felt, and I hope each attendee felt also. Pink Training

was an awakening for me when I first attended, and it was amazing getting to be the person that helped organise the event that hopefully had the same impact on so many people.

European Students' Union (ESU)

I was delighted to be the ESU support, along with the VP AA. I have attended five ESU events so far and each time I come back with so much to implement and so many ideas for USI. Being members of ESU allows us to see what other National Unions of Students do and see how we can adapt and represent students internationally. I would encourage all officers to apply to be a USI delegate for any ESU event, this year we saw a slight drop in engagement, but with the return to in-person events, I hope that officers will try to attend. Thank you to every officer who has helped this year. My interests and participation in ESU so far have been in relation to the Equality and Mental Health aspects.

Part Time Officers (PTO's)

One of my main goals was to break down the barriers between USI and PTO's. I have loved getting to know the PTO's in the south and seeing them grow into their roles and fulfil their manifesto promises. It is great to see so many return also or run for election this year. To break down the barriers we introduced our first PTO Working Group. This is trial and error and I hope that it continues next year to ensure strong communication with PTO's.

Apprentices

I have had the pleasure to work on USI's participation and engagement with Apprentices. I became a member of the European Apprentices Network, along with the VP Dublin. Through this, I was invited to speak and welcome participants to the Voice of Apprentices in the European Year of Youth conference in Barcelona. This event was so beneficial and has helped set goals for Apprentice engagement for USI moving forward. I hope to create a working relationship with ISSU in relation to apprentices and ensure affective representation for apprentices.

Engagement

For this point, I would like to give a shoutout to each of the Member Organisations in my region.

- CCSU, you may be the smallest MO in the South, but you do not let that hold you back. It has been a pleasure working with you and seeing you grow and develop your SU.

- ITCSU, you may have drove me insane, but I got my own back when you asked me to be the chair of your Council. You have shown what a team can accomplish when they work together and have genuine care for students.
- WITSU, my alma matter, you gorgeous gorgeous girls have done amazing this year. You have been fighting against the tide all year, but you have maintained the representation and leadership to push through it and make the students proud.
- TUSSU, thank God you came home to USI, my life would've been lost without you thanking other regionals at Comhairle Náisiúnta. Seriously, you have done an amazing job amplifying the voice of Limerick students in the TU process.
- MTUCSU, I will never be able to get Up the Students out of my head when I think of you. Your students would follow you into war, and so would I. You are such an amazing team and have outdone yourselves this year!
- UCCSU, my liver is not a fan, but I am a super fan! Each officer is so unique, but you gel so well. I have loved raising my fist with you this year, thank you for constantly keeping me laughing.
- MTUKSU, the furthest away MO, but rumour has it the best craic. You have increased engagement with your students and should be so proud of yourselves! I have loved the trips to the shticks and thanks for showing me the toon.

Comhdháil, thank you for an amazing year!
Tá a lán grá agaibh,
John x

VP BMW Region

Victor Fleming-O'Loughlin



Introduction

I think we can all agree that this year was just as unpredictable as the years gone previous. Between covid and non-covid, going for pints and then feeling guilty or maybe that was the hangover. This year has brought highs and lows too. Like every other job you only begin to get a feel for it right before leaving. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the students and their elected officers of the border, midlands and western region for their support over the last few months. I'd also like to thank the USI Coiste gnó for their support over the last few months as part of our team.

Officer Trainings

As part of our annual student's union training, I acted as a support to Group facilitators. This meant checking in with officers in the group to see how they found the training and checking in with the facilitators to ensure they required no further admin support before starting the session. Later on in the year I worked with the VP for the Dublin region and VP for the south to put together a training session for part time elected officers around the country to prepare them for the year ahead.

Transport

This year for the first time, USI has engaged with a transport group which I am honoured to have been our representative to. With this group we held discussions around the potential for improving public transport in rural areas. I also had the opportunity to put forward a submission, regarding transport and the effect it has on student life, on behalf of USI to the group which became part of a larger submission to the department of transport.

Sport

Towards the end of this year, I began engaging with our partners in Sport Ireland, and Student sport Ireland. Through this engagement we have agreed to meet again to come up with a partnership agreement between the two organisations which will allow us to work together to help improve the life of students in sport across the island.

Class Rep Engagement

Over the last few months, I was allowed to attend several different class rep councils in different unions across the BMW region. Through this I was able to make presentation on behalf on USI to students on the ground. I also had the honour of chairing IT Sligo's class rep council and stepping in to chair DKITSUs class rep council. I'm very grateful to have had the opportunity to do so.

At the beginning of the academic year, I also had the pleasure to attend class rep training for several different Unions and get to meet class reps for the first time at those trainings. It was a change from doing everything online.

Trade union engagement

In the second semester The One Galway movement which consists of representatives of trade unions. I was able to use my seat to engage with unions local to Galway and propose a campaign which will give students the option from learning from home.

Through this forum we also discussed how to expand union membership to those not already a member of a trade union. This would allow students to gain advice from student's unions in college and trade unions for part time jobs.

TU Mergers

As a former president who had engaged in a TU merger, I was able to bring a lot of insight to the roll. As a supporting officer I used my experience to offer support and advice to the unions undergoing mergers in the region. Sometimes it meant answering questions and offering opinions and other times it was simply being a person there to listen.

Local level support

The main work carried out by my role was to check in with different officers across the region. With covid causing this year to be both in person and virtual at times this meant my job must also be so. At the beginning of the year a majority of my contact with Member organisations was done through phone calls, messages and voice notes. As covid began to ease I was able to be present on campuses and visit colleges in person once again. Over the past year id offer advice to officers in different situations or again just be there to listen.

Media coverage

During the year, it was my responsibility to speak with media in my region on behalf of USI. Generally,

this involved radio interviews on statements USI would have released earlier in the week.

NUS-USI President

Ellen Fearon



It's been an absolute privilege being NUS-USI President for the past two years. I am so proud and honoured to get to work with such phenomenal Unions and Officers across the north, as well as an extraordinary USI Exec team. Thank you for everything! Together, we make up a very powerful movement.

Key points from 2021/22:

Students Deserve Better – Assembly Election campaign

- Created a Students Deserve Better manifesto for the upcoming Assembly Election with six key asks for students.
- We hosted a Students Deserve Better town hall meeting on International Day of the Student where students spoke about why each of the asks matter to them. All parties attending expressed support for our manifesto.

We launched a pledge for politicians to demonstrate their support for the campaign which has already been signed by four political parties.

- Met with Sinn Féin, SDLP, UUP, DUP and Alliance key manifesto writers to ensure our core student demands are given space within their own party manifestos ahead of the Assembly Election.
- Completed a communications and delivery plan for the run up to the Assembly Election in May. We have ran actions on votes at 16, student finance, student mental health, student finance and the green curriculum.

'Stop the cuts' campaign

The Department of Economy in face of budget reductions have proposed massive cuts to student support, apprentices and higher education places. We responded with a reactive "Stop the Cuts" campaign. This included an open letter to DfE Minister Gordon Lyons, that over 150 supporters sent as well as a lot of press coverage to raise awareness of the issue and the damage it would bring to education in NI, securing front page of the

Belfast Telegraph.

We met with Economy Minister Gordon Lyons to express our dismay at the proposed cuts modelled by officials.

We celebrated #InternationalDayofEducation by calling on all publicly elected representatives in Northern Ireland to commit to #StopTheCuts via their social media platforms.

Belfast City Council passed Stop the Cuts motion. Spoke at a People Before Profit Stop the Cuts rally online.

No Keys No Degrees

- Worked with USI to deliver No Keys No Degrees protest outside Stormont with supporters from human rights organisations, tenants unions and students. Worked with political parties to address the student housing crisis within the Assembly.
- Following a successful No Keys No Degrees protest in Stormont, we launched a 'Student House of Horrors' social media campaign in which we received hundreds of student stories on substandard student accommodation. This received extensive media coverage and piked the interest of a range of politicians
- Met with both Sinn Féin and SDLP on the possibility of bringing forward a Student Renters Bill in the next Assembly mandate

Support Student Health Heroes

- Assisted in co-ordinating a Support Student Health Heroes protest at Stormont, Parliament Buildings led by Vice President Magee Campus at Ulster University Students' Union.
- This included hosting the protest, engaging with politicians, and promoting via media coverage.
- This campaign has included media coverage, a politicians pledge, social media plan, public petition and other aspects. Massive well done to the Officers involved.

Votes at 16

- Thousands of our further education students and apprentices in the north are under the age of 18 and therefore can't vote in the upcoming Assembly Election.
- I have written an opinion piece for Belfast Live calling on the government to introduce votes at 16.

- We have launched a petition calling for votes at 16 which has been co-badged by Northern Ireland Youth Forum, Childrens Law Centre, Secondary Schools Students' Union NI, Voices of Young People in Care and Include Youth. To have built a coalition of such powerful youth organisations on this is very exciting!

UCU Strikes

- Released public statement in support of University and College Union industrial action in the form of strikes
- Addressed picket lines and liaised with the current UCU NI rep on how picket lines will be carried out across the north and how students can support those on strike

SOS UK and SOS International

- Attended quarterly meetings of board of directors for both SOS-UK and SOS International and dealt with arising governance issues that will involved recruitment of new trustees

Private Tenancies Bill – NI Assembly Communities Committee

- Prepared a briefing and consultation response to NI Communities Committee on the new Private Tenancies Bill introduced by the Minister for Communities
- Collected evidence and statements from Students' Unions across the north as part of written briefing
- Presented evidence to the committee in Stormont outlining key issues that needed improvement to the bill to ensure student renters were not adversely affected. Provided follow up with a list of recommended amendments needed to the bill in order for it to effectively work for students.
- Feedback from committee Chair that the committee have agreed changes to the bill are necessary as it does not currently do enough for students, which is incredibly positive.

on 17th November, open to students, politicians, and supporters.

- We had a range of MLAs and Assembly election candidates attend, endorse the campaign, and asks questions to our students on their experiences.
- Launched a Students Deserve Better politicians pledge during the event which many MLAs in attendance signed and sent to their party colleagues.
- 6 different political parties pledged their support to the campaign following the town hall meeting which is hugely positive.

COP26 Activities

- Assisted in organising Belfast COP26 march as part of Climate Coalition NI. Attended weekly organising meetings with other rights based organisations in the run up to the global march.
- Gathered student bloc at Belfast COP26 march Saturday 6th November
- Met with Lord Mayor of Belfast as part of protest delegation on morning of global rally and raised the importance of effective climate education across third level education.
- Joined a range of COP26 panels speaking on students demands at COP26, including panels by UN Global Impact and Green Party NI

International Day of the Student – Public Town Hall

- Ran a Public Town Hall meeting to mark International Day of the Student



Accounts '20-21

Union of Students in Ireland

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2021**

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

CONTENTS

	Page
Contents	2
Executive Team	3
Other Union Information	4
Governance Committee Report; Statement of Responsibilities and Declaration on Unaudited Financial Statements	5 – 8
Accountants' Report	9
Statement of Income & Expenditure for the Year Ended 30 th June 2021	10 – 11
Balance Sheet as at 30 th June 2021	12 – 14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 – 18

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

COISTE GNÓ 2020 / 2021

President

Lorna Fitzpatrick

**Deputy President /
Vice President for Academic Affairs**
Kevin McStravock

Vice President for Welfare
Clare Austick

Vice President for Equality & Citizenship
Marie Lyons

Vice President for Campaigns
Craig McHugh

Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge
Clíodhna Ní Dhufaigh

Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs
Adam Clarke

**Vice President for the
Southern Region**
Ciara Kealy

**Vice President for the
Border, Midlands, Western Region**
Gary Tobin

Vice President for the Dublin Region
Megan O'Neill

NUS-USI President *
Ellen Fearon

EXECUTIVE TEAM 2019 / 2020

President

Lorna Fitzpatrick

**Deputy President /
Vice President for Campaigns**
Michelle Byrne

Vice President for Academic Affairs
Kevin McStravock

Vice President for Welfare
Róisín O'Donovan

Vice President Equality & Citizenship
Megan Reilly

Leas Uachtarán don Gaeilge
Clíodhna Ní Dhufaigh

Vice President Postgraduate Affairs
Sara Dowling

**Vice President for the
Southern Region**
Darren Malone

**Vice President for the
Border, Midlands, Western Region**
Marie Lyons

Vice President for the Dublin Region
Craig McHugh

NUS-USI President *
Robert Murtagh

** The NUS-USI President sits on USI Officer Board in an ex-officio capacity.*

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

OTHER UNION INFORMATION

Accountants

Williams & Co.

Pembroke Hall
38 / 39, Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2
D02 NX53

Solicitors

Hammond Good

HG Legal Chambers
Thomas Davis Street
Mallow
County Cork
P51 PAF5

Bankers

Bank of Ireland

2, College Green
Dublin 2
D02 VR66

Ceann Áras

Ceann Áras na Mac Léinn

12, Shamrock Villas
Dublin 6W
D6W XH75.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT; STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES AND DECLARATION ON UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

General responsibilities

The President and Governance Committee are responsible for preparing the Annual Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, including the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

The President and Governance Committee are required to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Union and of the excess income or expenditure of the Union for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the President and Governance Committee are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Union will continue in operation.

The President and Governance Committee are responsible for keeping proper books of account that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Union. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Union and hence for taking reasonable steps to ensure the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The President and Governance Committee are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the operating and financial information included on the Union's website. Legislation in Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Declaration of the President and Governance Committee on unaudited financial statements

In relation to the financial statements as set out on pages 9 to 18:

- (a) the President and Governance Committee approve these financial statements and confirm that they are responsible for them, including selecting the appropriate accounting policies, applying them consistently and making, on a reasonable and prudent basis, the judgements underlying them. They have been prepared on the going concern basis on the assumption that the Union will continue in operation.
- (b) the President and Governance Committee confirm that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, the accounting records reflect all the transactions of the Union for the year end 30th June 2021.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Chairperson's Report

Governance Committee was established with a mandate beginning in the 2020 / 2021 Academic year to meet the needs of governance oversight for USI. Amongst the roles delegated to the Committee is oversight of the finances, assuming the dual responsibilities of the former Trustees and Finance Committee. To ensure continuity, the Committee kept one member from each of those bodies.

The role of Governance Committee is to inspect the accounts, consider the profile of incomes and expenditures and to give advice and support to the executive bodies of the organisation. The Committee is not 'executive' in the sense that it does not instruct the Executive Team and / or staff of the organisation what to do with the members' finances, but it considers whether the correct processes and procedures are being followed to ensure those bodies consider best practice, reasonable risk control and value for money in their management of the finances.

The Committee has carried out these functions within the terms of reference given to it by the Congress, receiving and scrutinising regular reports on incomes and expenditures throughout the period being accounted for in this report.

The Committee is satisfied that the fundamentals of the organisation are firm and after consideration of the figures and discussion at the committee, believes that the organisation has taken a reasoned and a reasonable approach to expenditure over the accounted period. Primarily because of COVID-19, which affected the whole of the accounting period under review, expenditures were down from what might be expected in a normal year; we were particularly pleased that, despite the disruption to the activities of Member Organisations and USI itself, incomes remained reasonably steady.

Notwithstanding this, it is now necessary to write-off from the balance sheet some historically projected incomes. We are satisfied that objective and reasonable criteria have been applied to decisions regarding doubtful debts, and further satisfied that these provisions are a simple reflection of reality and do not represent a significant risk to the organisation.

The organisation continues to set aside a reserve each year, and the Committee is satisfied that this continues to develop some security for the organisation in the future.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

As Chairperson, I would like to thank the members of the Committee, both external and from the Comhairle Náisiúnta for their ongoing oversight and support during the period being accounted for in this report.

On behalf of Governance Committee;

SHANE MCCARTHY
CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

Date: 31st March 2022.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Accountants' Report to the Union of Students' in Ireland on the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2020

In accordance with your instructions we have prepared, without audit, the financial statements, and notes to same for the year ended 30th June 2021 set out on pages 10 to 18. These financial statements are prepared from your books and records and from the information and explanations supplied to us.

This report is made to you, in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken so that we might compile the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, report to you that we have done so, state those matters that we have agreed to state to you in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Executive of the Union and Governance Committee for our work or for this report.

We have carried out this engagement in accordance with current accounting best practice and have complied with the relevant rules of professional conduct governing the work of accountants.

As described in the Governance Committee Report; Statement of Responsibilities and Declaration on Unaudited Financial Statements, you have approved the financial statements and notes for the year ended 30th June 2021 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their timely and accurate compilation.

We have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or the information and explanations you have given us, and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements contained herewith.

Williams & Co.

Date: 1st April 2022.

Page 9 of 18

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Income & Expenditure Account	30-Jun-21 EUR	30-Jun-20 EUR
 <u>OPERATING INCOME</u>		
Affiliation Fees Receivable	769,768	801,178
Campaign Income	-	-
Training & Conference Income	560	65,343
Congress Income	-	-
Grants, Sponsorship & Other Funding	66,743	40,055
European Students' Convention	-	4,899
Project Income: Homes Project Funding	-	39,590
Project Income: Mental Health Project Funding	65,745	80,421
Project Income: NStEP Project Funding	133,950	109,041
Project Income: SAVES2 Project Funding	-	70,194
	1,036,766	1,210,720
 Total Income	1,036,766	1,210,720
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Head Office Expenses	110,013	85,696
Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	433,634	421,295
Officer, Staff and Committee Expenses	8,481	39,741
Campaigns Expenses	9,765	48,704
Congress Costs	4,835	2,803
National Council	2,588	11,213
Training & Conference Expenses	26,369	92,659
Project Expenditure: Homes	-	1,788
Project Expenditure: Mental Health	47,527	65,854
Project Expenditure: NStEP	134,897	92,453
Project Expenditure: SAVES2	25,642	82,311
Sponsorship Expenditure	62,805	-
Professional Fees	9,175	17,460
European Students' Union Fees & Costs	11,625	24,691
NUS-USI Trilateral Costs	9,361	11,645
Memberships & Subscriptions	1,447	1,977
Increased Provision for Doubtful Debts	(63,785)	66,949
Bad Debt Write-off	73,349	9,970
	909,727	1,077,708

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Excess Income over Expenditure	127,039	133,012
Income Tax	-	-
Strategic Cash Flow Provision	70,000	48,000
Excess Income at Year End	57,039	85,012

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

LORNA FITZPATRICK
PRESIDENT, 2020 / 21

Date: 31st March 2022.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Balance Sheet

	As On 30-Jun-21 EUR	As On 30-Jun-20 EUR
<u>FIXED ASSETS</u>		
Computer Equipment @ Cost	76,383	76,383
Depreciation on Computer Equipment	(76,383)	(76,383)
Fixtures & Fittings @ Cost	5,556	5,556
Depreciation on Fixtures & Fittings	(5,556)	(5,556)
	-	-
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Accounts Receivable: Affiliation Fees	61,173	54,863
Accounts Receivable: Congress Income	235	35
Accounts Receivable: SUT & SUT+	1,230	3,040
Accounts Receivable: Pink Training	2,240	6,030
Accounts Receivable: European Students' Convention	-	790
Accounts Receivable: Student Summit	7,189	-
Accounts Receivable: Training	527	323
Accounts Receivable: Other Debtors	-	4,874
Accounts Receivable: Sponsorship	19,645	-
Project Funding: Mental Health Project	(10,511)	(9,337)
Project Funding: NStEP Project	20,850	4,050
Provision for Doubtful Debts	(6,169)	(69,954)
USIMS Limited	2,813	2,362
BOI Current Account	61,173	274,818
BOI Strategic Account	117,910	47,970
SAAI	3,939	-
	294,098	319,863

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

LIABILITIES DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Accounts Payable	(3,703)	3,299
Accruals	-	-
Credit Card Account	839	-
PAYE / PRSI Control Account	18,226	18,343
Wages & Salaries Control Account	17,626	18,769
Expenses Control Account	584	226
	33,573	40,637

NET CURRENT ASSETS

	260,525	279,226
--	----------------	----------------

LIABILITIES DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Term Loan Account	-	-
	-	-

NET ASSETS

	260,525	279,226
--	----------------	----------------

FINANCED BY:

Income & Expenditure Account b/fwd.	133,486	146,213
Current Year Excess Expenditure over Income	57,039	85,012
Transferred to Strategic Reserve Provision	70,000	48,000
	260,525	279,226

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Continued...

In accordance with the terms of the engagement, we approve the financial statements set out on pages 10 to 14 and the notes to those financial statements set out on pages 15 to 18.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the financial statements and for providing Williams & Co., with all explanations and information necessary for their completion.

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

LORNA FITZPATRICK
PRESIDENT, 2020 / 21

Date: 31st March 2022.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting Policies

The results for the year have been determined and the Balance Sheet has been compiled in accordance with the following significant accounting policies:

- (i). The accounts are prepared on the going concern basis and using the historical cost convention.
- (ii). Fixed assets are shown at cost less depreciation.
- (iii). Depreciation is charged on the straight-line basis at the following rates:

Computer Equipment	33.33%
Fixtures & Fittings	15%
Office Equipment	15%
Leased Office Equipment	15%

- (iv). Currency: the financial statements are stated in Euro.
- (v). Under the Accruals Concept method of preparation, Member Organisations' affiliation fees are recognised as income in the Statement of Income & Expenditure in the year to which they relate and are due.
- (vi). Member Organisations' affiliation fees are charged at the following rates in respect of students for which that member is funded:

Full-time students:	€5 per student
Part-time students:	€2.50 per student

Member Organisations are invoiced for their affiliation fees near the beginning of each academic year and are constitutionally required to pay those fees by particular deadlines in the accounting year. The Union's accounting year is concurrent with the academic year and the Executive Team's term of office.

- (vii). Where fixed assets have been financed by lease agreements which do not give rights approximate to ownership ('operating leases'), they are treated as if they are an Income & Expenditure item and are, therefore, debited to the Statement of Income & Expenditure in the year in which they are paid.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

2. Fixed Asset Schedule

	Fixtures & Fittings	Office Equipment	Leased Office Equipment	Computer Equipment	Total
Cost of Assets					
At 1 July	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 30 June	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 July	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
Current year	-	-	-	-	-
On Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
At 30 June	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Net Book Values					
30 June 2020	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
30 June 2021	-	-	-	-	-
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

3. Sponsorship & Project Income

	2020	2019
Total Project Income	266,438	324,301
Total Project Expenditures	270,872	242,405
	_____	_____
Surplus / (Deficit) on Project Income	(4,433)	81,895
	_____	_____
Excess Income Over Expenditure Net of Project Incomes	61,472	3,117
	_____	_____
Total Excess Income over Expenditure per Income & Expenditure Accounts	57,039	85,012
	_____	_____

4. Employees & Related Costs

The employees of USI comprise the elected national officers and permanent staff of the Union. The national officers are the members of USI's Executive Team. The Executive Team is the executive body responsible for the running of the business of the Union on a day-to-day basis. Those elected national officers serve a one-year term of office from 1st July, in the year of election, to the following 30th June. This term of office is concurrent with the Union's accounting year.

Numbers of Employees

The number of employees at Year End is as follows:

	2021	2020
National Officers	11	11
Full-time Support Staff	3	2
Part-time Support Staff	0	0
Full-time Project Staff	3	0
	_____	_____
	16	13
	_____	_____

Page 17 of 18

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2021

Payroll Related Costs	2020	2019
Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	433,634	421,295
Officer, Staff and Committee Expenses	8,481	39,741
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	442,115	461,036
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Project Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	184,570	180,650
Other Sponsorship & Project Expenses	86,301	61,755
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	270,871	242,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>

5. Review of Surpluses or Deficits

Governance Committee has reviewed the surplus for the 2020 / 2021 financial year and satisfied itself that the organisation is in reasonable financial order going into the subsequent financial year.

Furthermore, Governance Committee continues to work with Member Organisations to recoup outstanding affiliation fees and other balances.

We approve these financial statements and confirm that we are responsible for them, including the selection of accounting policies and making the judgements underlying them. We confirm also that we have made available all relevant records and information necessary for their compilation.

6. Approval of Financial Statements

Date of approval by Governance Committee: 31st March 2022.