

Comhdháil 
MMXXIII Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn
3-6 April | Sligo

CD2

Officer Reports | Annual Accounts



Officer Reports

Whilst officers have been in post for approximately nine months, they were elected a year ago. This summarises the work they have undertaken in that period.

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Beth O'Reilly

President



I have been describing this year as a bridging year between the USI “COVID years” and our full return to in person actions. For many of our officers, sabbats, and students, the pre-COVID USI is something that they have never experienced. As we returned to in person events at the beginning of the year, I found myself co-ordinating events that I myself had only experienced online. The position of President has always had a steep learning curve, but this year especially was challenging. Nevertheless, I am incredibly proud of the work that the Coiste Gnó achieved this year, and I look forward to cheering on the work of the Coiste Gnó team of next year.

Team Induction

As the only returning Coiste Gnó member this year, it was my responsibility to plan the officer induction for the incoming team. I prioritised a focus on the structures and policies of USI, as when I was a newly incoming officer these were the elements that I struggled with the most. However, the timeline between the Coiste Gnó taking office and SUT was incredibly short – so for the upcoming crossover I am hoping to have the vast majority of specialist sessions organised for SUT, as well as a full schedule of dedicated onboarding for the Coiste Gnó so that the incoming officers can prioritise being inducted into their new roles.

SUT/SUT+

SUT marked our return to fully in-person training sessions for sabbatical officers. Having never been to an in-person SUT before, this was a challenging event to co-ordinate. I made sure to schedule as many of the mandated training sessions from 2022 UO 2: USI Mandated Training as I could as specialist sessions for officers to attend. The feedback we received from this return to in-person trainings has been incredibly valuable, as we can see how officers needs for training have evolved over the years – and I am working with NUS UK and NUS-USI to develop a new core training programme for sabbatical officers and prioritising practical skills as the specialist sessions available at both SUT and SUT+.

Internal Elections

This year, elections had to take place for our Chair and Deputy Chair of Comhairle Náisiúnta, as well as the election of a new Steering Committee. Constitutionally, this is the role of the President to co-ordinate. These elections took place at Comhairle Náisiúnta, and were presided over by myself. I'm working on draft election regulations to be passed over to next years President so that internal elections take place in a structured manner, as running elections at my first Comhairle Náisiúnta as President wasn't something I had expected – so I want to make sure that those coming after me are appropriately briefed!

Constitutional Review

We have begun the process of the USI Constitutional Review, as mandated at Comhdháil last year. This started with the election of officers to a specific Constitutional Review Committee at Comhairle Náisiúnta, and we began the process of combing through the constitution to highlight areas where changes were needed. I also worked with the Regional VPs to begin co-ordinating regional focus groups – something that will be continued next year. While initially I aimed to have the entirety of the constitutional review completed by this Comhdháil, unfortunately due to illness this was not a possibility. However, I look forward to working with the committee until my term is completed to ensure that the incoming President is fully briefed on where the constitutional review process stands currently, and the feedback from students and officers that has been collated thus far.

Campaigns

Together with the policy officers and the VP for Campaigns, a wide number of campaigns were rolled out this year on a national level. These included:

HEA Bill

I ran a HEA Bill briefing session for all incoming officers at SUT to explain what the HEA Bill was and highlight the areas that were damaging to both students and students' unions. This included a wide scale email lobby of Senators to demand amendments to the HEA Bill to cement students' union autonomy. The pressure applied by students' unions and student activist groups successfully resulted in the passing of an amendment that secured the democratically elected students' union voice on the governing bodies of HEIs.

Cost of College Campaign

We combined the mandate 2022 UO 3 (USI Higher Education Funding Campaign) with the motion that passed at

Comhairle Náisiúnta to mandate a national student walkout to organise the Cost of College Student Walkout on the 13th of October. Our pre-budget lobby day and semester 2 lobby day were also themed around the main asks of the Cost of College campaign. Moving forward, to ensure that campaign strategy is actionable and democratically decided, I will be working with the VP for Campaigns and the Campaigns Strategy Committee to create Terms of Reference for the Campaigns Strategy Committee, as well as examining the structures of the Campaigns Strategy Committee elections through the work of the Constitutional Review Committee, as currently these elections are not enshrined in our constitution.

USI Coiste Gnó Elections

I acted as the lead on the USI Coiste Gnó elections campaign to create a guide to running in the USI elections, as well as informational graphics on the different roles available and a glossary of terms frequently used in USI elections. I also built the USI Elections Hub on the USI website, with the aim that this would be the central point for information on USI elections going forward so that this work does not need to be created from scratch again for the teams that follow.

Policy

I have implemented an internal tagging system for all of USI's political policies passed at Comhdháil and Comhairle Náisiúnta so that it is easier for the team to see at a glance where we have policies in a specific area. I aim for my work on this to culminate in a public page where students and sabbats can search for a key term (eg. International students, student accommodation, etc.) and see all of USI's policies and mandates in that area. I am also working with the Governance Committee and the General Manager to compile our organisational policies – HR, legal, financial, etc. in a more accessible and digestible format for officers.

Position Papers

One of my key areas of work was the Officer Pay and Working Conditions Position Paper which will be brought to this Comhdháil. Having surveyed sabbatical officers on their rates of pay, leave allowance, working hours, etc. I developed a report that outlines the inequity of officer pay across the board, and key actions that USI can take to assist officers in fighting for better working conditions. The research from this document can also be used by SU's to lobby their institutions for better rates of pay. I also worked with the Campaigns Strategy Committee to develop an updated USI Student Accommodation Position Paper and a new USI Political Engagement Strategy.

Affiliation Referenda

This year, thus far, we have had USI affiliation referenda in four campuses – SETU Waterford and Carlow SU, DCUSU and MSU. At the time of writing, we have won all affiliation referenda with at least a 90% YES vote in every poll.

Finally, I just want to say thank you to everyone who has engaged with us this year. It's been a tough haul, but I'm hopeful that by the end of the year I'll have helped to bring about some real changes to the union that make it easier for officers and students alike to engage in our work. Thank you to the USI Staff who have always helped me solve whatever problem I brought to them – no matter how big or small. My biggest thanks go to the Coiste Gnó. I wouldn't be here if not for their advice, kindness and support. They have been an amazing group of people to work with and they have helped to keep things trucking along when I couldn't.

Clodagh McGivern

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Leas-Uachtarán do Chúrsaí Acadúla



Introduction

I want to start off by saying that it has been an absolute privilege to serve you and students across Ireland as the Vice President for Academic Affairs 22/23. It has been an incredible year full of ups and downs but I am grateful of my time in the role, the people I met, the friends I've made, the experiences I've had and the work that I got to do. This report is a brief overview of the work that I have done this year. Thank you to everyone I've worked with this year and I wish the incoming team the very best of luck for the 23/23 term.

Officer Support and Training

I assisted in facilitating trainings on crucial facets of the role of education such as Academic Integrity Training, Student Survey Data Analysis Training, N-StEP Class Representative Training and Training around facilitating Elections. I regularly met with the AAWG throughout the year, offering resources and asking for feedback on the needs and demands of the officers. I aimed to make sure that they had enough opportunities to upgrade their skills and network and intended for these to be chances for learning, idea sharing, and empowerment to bring about change on their campuses. I tried to make AAWG a safe and collaborative environment to support regional issues, share best practices that exist on each campus, and to help one another as much as possible.

Student Representation in the Sector

A key part of giving students a student perspective on the work of sector agencies and organisations is through my position on steering committees, working groups, and boards, which is informed by my work with officers.

The student voice was something that I wanted to be represented on National Committees, it wasn't just sabbatical officers I wanted included but students as well. I was able to have the student voice featured on Student Survey (SS), the National Academic Integrity Network, at the Academic Integrity and the Re-thinking Assessment Conference.

Student Survey

SS is a fantastic project as it provides all of the data that sabbatical officers can use for lobbying purposes, but it can be difficult for people to engage with. I worked with the project manager to have student representation on the Steering group, Survey Review group, Editorial group and the Analysis and Impact group. It is also a reason why training was provided to sabbatical officers in relation to SS.

This year we also made massive steps in researching what the future of SS is and what we want from it, these discussions and working groups continue as we look forward to next year.

National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP)

I serve as co-chair of the National Student Engagement Advisory Group for NStEP, which is primarily focused on the new NStEP strategy. I helped with the application of the NStEP strategy and supported their training initiatives, such as their introduction to class rep training, representing Diversity training, advanced class rep training, Training for Students Participating in Institutional Reviews / Quality Assurance Processes and their online training modules such as LAPS Strategy for Representation, Understanding the Student Learning Experience and StudentSurvey.ie and You. There are 25 participating institutions in NStEP and the programme has trained 5,300 students. This year, we also have the introduction of a new position to NStEP Healthy Campus Project Development Coordinator for the Student Engagement, Belonging and Wellbeing Project.

National Academic Integrity Network

I co-chair the National Academic Integrity Network's Communications Working Group and rolled an academic integrity campaign this year. The campaign consisted of posters, beer mats and business cards that mimicked an essay mill. When students examined the page further, it was a resource that led them to the resources they can avail of on their campus <https://essaymills.usi.ie>. We also gave out tote bags to students.

I've helped write a paper for submission to the executive committee of the European Students Union, provided academic integrity training to students across Ireland and represented the student voice and conferences nationally and internationally.

Placement Campaign

Launched the placement survey in 2023. This survey aims to understand what it is like to be a student in Ireland who is currently doing or has completed placement. It aims to research topics like the cost of placement, complaints around placement and students mental health while on placement. When the results are gathered, a report will be written on the findings.

Due to my work around placement this year, I have strengthened relationships with trade unions across Ireland and have put forward a motion hoping to cement a partnership between USI and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

International Affairs

This year, I wanted the sabbatical officers to have engagement with representatives from countries across Europe. In October, myself, other members of the Coiste Gnó (CG) and sabbatical officers packed out bags and jetted to Brussels to attend LevelUp! In the European Parliament. I also facilitated sabbatical officers being involved in the European Students Union as they had the chance to attend a Conference in Sweden and a Board Meeting (BM) in Georgia.

I participated in ESU conferences and Board Meetings. We engaged in conversations around academic freedom, academic integrity, equality, access and inclusion and facilitated support to the Ukrainian Students Union.

Media

I have done interviews representing students on a number of issues from accommodation, delayed leaving certificate results, academic integrity, equality in education and the JAM Card & artificial intelligence.

Further Education & Higher Education

Worked with different committees to secure funding and space for increased access into higher education. There will be a roll out of courses that will be co-delivered by further education and higher education institutions.

Lastly, a lot of work and funding has been put into recognition of prior learning in the hopes that it will be easier for people to return to education and up-skill with the introduction of micro-credential across the country.

Thank you so much again for allowing me to be your Vice President for Academic Affairs this year. The academic affairs working group was one of my favourite meetings to have every month, I'm going to miss ye all so much and I wish all the best to you in your future endeavours; you're all rock stars and will do amazing in whatever you get up to next! Xo

Ni neart go cur le cheile.

Mise le meas,

Clodagh

Hannah Brennan

Leas-Uachtarán don Iarthar, Lár-ture agur Teorain



Introduction

Firstly, I wish to commend each and every one of you reading this, whether you are a sabbatical officer or a student, this has been such an incredible year and it is because of you all.

The level of engagement and the hard work that has gone into all of the Students' Unions this year has been stellar. Students are making themselves heard again and it is incredible to see.

I want to specifically thank all the sabbatical officers in the Border Midlands and Western Region for being so amazing this year, and of course my fellow Coiste Gnó members for all of their hard work and support throughout the year.

Student Engagement

One of my main manifesto points last year was to improve student engagement and I have to say it has been incredible to see how much the level of student engagement has risen this year.

This is due to the fantastic work of MO Sabbats and their work on the ground, and I hope that AMLÉ supplied the support that they needed for this.

This year was the first year the pandemic and restrictions did not directly impact the general college experience and

it was clear to see when everything returned that the students appreciated it judging by how much engagement has risen this year.

Walkouts

A perfect example of the level of engagement this year was the walkouts.

Between the USI Walkouts where we saw thousands of students protest on their campuses to the #WheresMyLevy walkout protest where we saw MSU take on their University and get such fantastic results, it was genuinely an honour to be involved and to see the passion and hard work behind these events.

Digs

At the beginning of the year, we saw a huge increase in the uptake of digs and the introduction of the rent-a-room scheme by the government with tax breaks to incentivise homeowners to rent rooms out to students.

As fantastic as it is to have that boost in availability in accommodation, there were and still are no protections in place for students living in owner occupied homes.

I have been working on a survey for the past few months to try and put some pressure on to bring in some rental protections and have met with the Minister for Housing who agreed it was something that needed work on.

My goal is by the end of this year the survey will be completed, data collated, and we will have solid information that will allow for proper protections to be put in place.

Local Level Support

My favourite part of the job was definitely being on campus, talking to students, helping the MO officers in any way they needed me, whether it was to lend a hand, give advice or just to listen.

It was brilliant to be able to see all the different campuses, as well as the different dynamic every team has and their relationship with their students.

Its crazy how people can have the exact same jobs but the team dynamic is never the same, but I have to say it was lovely to get to experience the

In conclusion

I adore the BMW region.

- There are a lot of fantastic officers leaving the movement, a lot of fantastic officers staying and a lot of fantastic officers joining this year.
- To those leaving the student movement- Thank you. You have all put in incredible work over the past few years and I can't wait to see what you all get up to next!
- To those of you remaining, you have all done a stellar job which shows with your re-election, and I know that you will continue to be amazing next year.
- To the newcomers, congratulations on your election! You're about to experience a crazy year and I am sure it will be incredible. Best of luck!

It has been an honour to work with all of you this year, and I am so proud of all you have achieved.

Sending big love to all my MOs.

ATUSUD – Edward, Éanna & Barry

ATUSUGM – Colin, Sarah, Jamie & Caoimhe

ATUSSU – Dáire, Keelan & Faye

MSU – Niall, Alex, Kealan & Lucas

TUSSU – Niall, Kevin, Saoirse & Darcy

DKITSU – Niamh, Eddie & Mark

CMLOG – Sai, Joe, Imogen & Barry

STACSSU – Kim

Thanks for everything x

Ross Boyd

Leas-Uachtarán um Feachtais Vice President for Campaigns



Some words
Campaigns
Student Walkout
Supporting Policy Officers
Supporting Local MOs
Future of Campaigns
Building back momentum
A living crisis, a student crisis
Cost of College Campaign
Working with other groups
Workshops and events
Some words x

Especially as a team pulling through together at difficult times, including the President being on medical leave for a month, the departure of the Vice President for Equality & Citizenship and other scares we've had throughout that time, I have been incredibly proud to work with a great Coiste Gnó, or whoever is left at this stage. While our effort can sometimes be not fully recognised, I've seen how much we have pushed against walls at times and yet continue to persist, and hope we can finally get that rest and probably therapy we all desperately need.

While I am leaving the student movement with more of a sense of relief than a sense of sadness, I will certainly miss the office chats, long trains to campuses and all the fun chaos that being a USI officer brings.

I wish my incoming officer and incoming team the very best of luck, in the hope that your rhetoric in speeches can be achieved in practice.

Ní neart go cur le chéile. There's no strength without unity, and I hope that unity and accountability can unite us, rather than those who actually divide us.

Le grá gach lá,

Ross

Campaigns

Student Walkout

The Student Walkout was without question a highlight of the year. From speaking to the media, collectively developing the demands of the walkout and designing the posters from a simple Canva to being distributed across the country. Having the opportunity to also talk to students and MO officers before the walkout was a highlight and want to thank every single officer, as well as part time officers and ordinary students, who helped realise the power in numbers of the student movement and the largest cost of living demonstration since 2019.

Supporting Policy Officers

An often left out but equally enjoyable part of my work has been seeing other Coiste Gnó officers run some great campaigns. From Ride Safe, Stalking Awareness, Placement and Disability Pride Month, I wish to give thanks to the policy officers who I get the pleasure of working with to highlight some incredibly relevant issues for students.

Supporting Local MOs

As we saw throughout this year, many MOs have had issues with higher management. This was seen in the #WheresMyLevy having a successful resolution, standing in solidarity with students against racism in Grangegorman and calling out the loudness of the far-right as we have seen in recent months. Joining sleepouts in Galway and Waterford also highlighted the Student Accommodation Crisis not just being a Dublin problem. Getting to help in referendums in Carlow, Waterford, Dublin and Maynooth was also great fun, and improving USI awareness and voter engagement in those places too.

Future of campaigns

As has been noted in the past few months, there have been issues with running campaigns that both students and MO officers deserve to see successful. I was happy to have constructive campaigns with both Campaigns Strategy Committee and Campaigns Working Group on how this can be rectified for future VP Campaigns officers, including working on a dedicated Terms of Reference for CSC, already working on a handover bible and ensuring the issues I have do not affect another officer. While I do not think it'll be fixed overnight, I will ensure that my work until I finish in the role will be providing the best starting base for all officers and improve engagement with students, and I'd be delighted especially to talk to students about USI visibility and engagement, while recognizing the work the Coiste Gnó do already.

Building back momentum

A living crisis, a student crisis

Working on the pre-budget submission was one of the highlights of the start of the year, and I'd like to give thanks to the previous VP Equality & Citizenship for the joint effort in getting this done. It took a great deal of time and stress to get it done, but especially shaping it to what it became and how it became still relevant in our work throughout the year, including the first USI lobby days since 2019 which saw students and officers talk to politicians about the issues students were facing.

Cost of College Campaign

The Cost of College campaign was the main campaign on higher education. Apart from the student walkout, two lobby days were organised to communicate with TDs and Senators on the issues of Higher Education, as well as working with Campaigns Strategy Committee on issues affecting students, as well as how the structure of developing campaigns can improve combined with increased student participation in the actions of USI.

Working with other groups

Loads of other protests have happened of course – Through protests on housing, gender based violence, diversity, the cost of living and the wide range of issues that affect people on this island. My work was also with engaging with the Cost of Living Coalition, Raise the Roof, Irish Coalition to Ending Youth Homelessness and especially engaging with other unions, including SIPTU, Mandate and CATU. Re-building communications with SIPTU, building new relationships to last and even starting on new partnerships with like-minded organisations is something I hope can continue.

Workshops and Events

A part I really enjoyed doing was doing workshops to students. This included how to campaign for SETUSU and University of Galway SU, asexuality workshops at Pink Training and IADTSU, and talks on Accessibility Awareness in DCUSU. With Pink Training in particular, getting to lead a safe space with other asexual folk was an incredible honour, for someone who didn't believe I would have much of a community, in seeing other people who I could relate to was amazing.

Orlagh Ní Choistealbha Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge



Réamhrá

Back in September I was extremely lucky to be by-elected to the Coiste Gnó as Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge. I have been working alongside the most driven, compassionate and motivated team who have supported me with everything in addition to adjusting into the role from the beginning having not started the role at the same time as the rest of the Coiste. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as LU don Ghaeilge while engaging with many other SU officers and students. Within my short term I took the opportunity to inspire students to advocate all things Gaeilge.

I mí Mheán Fómhair bhí an t-ádh dearg orm bheith tofa ar an gCoiste Gnó mar Leas Uachtarán don Ghaeilge. Bhí mé ag obair in éineacht leis an bhfoireann is díograisí, a thug tacaíocht dom le gach rud chomh maith le dul i dtairní le aon rud a bhainneann leis an ról ón tús mar bhíos buartha nach raibh mé tosaithe ag an am céanna leis an gcuid eile den Choiste. Bhain mé an-taitneamh as mo thréimhse mar LU don Ghaeilge agus mé i dteagmháil le go leor oifigeach agus mic léinn eile. Laistigh de mo thréimhse ghearr ghlac mé leis an deis chun mic léinn a spreagadh agus tacú le gach rud Gaeilge.

Treanáil Cumann Gaelach

This was my first event/training to attend since being elected. An extremely well-run organised training weekend by Conradh na Gaeilge for every Cumann Gaelach all over the country. I got the opportunity to speak and introduce myself in my role to all students and other oifigí Gaeilge. It was a privilege for me to work alongside and assist in anyway possible with the Cumann Gaeligh.

Ba é seo mo chéad imeacht/oiliúint le freastal air ó toghadh mé. Deireadh seachtaine traenála thar a bheith eagraithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge do gach Cumann Gaelach ar fud na tíre a bhí i gceist. Fuair mé an deis labhairt le gach éinne agus mé féin a chur in aithne do gach mac léinn agus oifigí Gaeilge eile ina ról. Ba phribhléid domsa a bheith ag obair leis an gcomhlúadar seo agus ag cabhrú leis na Cumann Gaeligh in aon bhealach gur féidir liom.

An Foclóir Aiteach

Throughout my term the 2nd addition of An Foclóir Aiteach was released by Tadhg Mac Eoghain. I was proud to have many meetings with Tadhg about this and the progress he was making on the Foclóir, we were very pleased to accommodate the printing and some distribution of this throughout the official launch of An Foclóir Aiteach additionally at more events that took place since.

I rith mo théarma scríobh Tadhg Mac Eoghain an dara eagrán don bhFoclóir Aiteach. Bhí fíor bród orm obair in éineacht le Tadhg, bhí roinnt cruinnithe againn mar gheall ar an dul chun cinn a bhí déanta aige, bhí AMLÉ lán sásta tacú le seo a chlío agus a chuir amach. Bhí seoladh Oifigiúil ag An Fhoclóir Aiteach, agus bhí sé le fáil ag aon imeacht eile a bhí ar siúl againn as sin amach.

Gaeilge24

Gaeilge24 is a 24 hour challenge to speak Gaeilge, anyone can take part. I was delighted to support the packing and distribution of the Gaeilge24 packs that were then sent out to schools, colleges, workplaces and any individual who signed up. I inspired the Coiste Gnó to also partake in this challenge.

Is dúshlán 24 uair an chloig é Gaeilge24 chun Gaeilge a labhairt agus cúpla cluichí a imirt as Gaeilge, is féidir le héinne páirt a ghlacadh. Bhí sonas orm tacú le pacáil agus eagrúcháin na bpacáistí Gaeilge24 a seoladh amach chuig scoileanna, coláistí, ionaid oibre agus aon duine a chláraigh. Spreag mé an Coiste Gnó chun páirt a ghlacadh sa dúshlán seo freisin. Tá an dúshlán seo eagraithe ag Conradh na Gaeilge.

Ard-Fheis Conradh na Gaeilge

I was honoured to attend and work at this years Conradh na Gaeilge Ard-Fheis. It was extremely inspiring for me to work alongside many like-minded individuals and immensely proud spirited students who aspire to drive on the Irish language in all aspects of their lives. I had the opportunity to give a presentation on Elections in your student's union and the importance of running for any role, emphasising the importance of an Irish language officer that if you think a person is suited to a role let them know. Throughout this weekend it made a totally positive impact on me seeing all the positivity, the striving of the Irish language and mostly the valuable motions that were passed in order to make more progress and positive changes in the future.

Ba mhór an onóir dom a bheith i láthair agus ag obair ag Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge i mbliana. Thug sé níos mó inspioráid dom a bheith ag obair in éineacht le go leor daoine le smaointí agus an aisling céanna. Chomh maith le mic léinn thar a bheith bródúil a bhfuil fonn orthu obair ar son an Ghaeilge i ngach gné dá saol. Bhí deis agam cur i láthair a dhéanamh ar Thoghcháin i d'Aontas agus an tábhacht a bhaineann le rith do ról ar bith, ag cur béime ar an tábhacht a bhaineann le hoifigeach Gaeilge agus má cheapann tú go bhfuil duine oiriúnach do ról cuir in iúl dóibh, tabhair an spreagadh sin dóibh. I rith na deireadh seachtaine seo chuaigh sé i bhfeidhm go hiomlán dearfach orm, an obair ar fad, an iarracht agus an láidreacht sa Ghaeilge agus go háirithe na rúin luachmhara a d'éirigh leo chun cabhrú le dul chun chinn an Ghaeilge faoi láthair agus sa todhcháil.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain na Gaeilge is the biggest Irish language festival in the world. It runs from 1-17 of March every year. This year I was thrilled to visit campuses prior and during SnaG to assist in any ideas or planning events throughout the week. I worked on social media graphics displaying old Irish proverbs showing the English translation and how to phonetically pronounce the proverbs. These were available for anyone to save and share on Instagram.

Is í Seachtain na Gaeilge an fhéile Ghaeilge is mó ar domhan. Bíonn sé ar siúl ó 1-17 de Mhárta gach bliain. I mbliana bhí an-áthas orm cuairt a thabhairt ar champais roimh agus le linn SnaG chun cabhrú le smaointe nó imeachtaí pleanála ar bith i rith na seachtaine. D'oibrigh mé ar ghrafaicí le haghaidh na meán sóisialta ag taispeáint seanfhocail Ghaeilge leis an t-aistriúchán Béarla agus conas na seanfhocail a fhuaimniú amach mar shampla conas iad a rá. Bhí siad seo ar fáil d'aon duine le sábháil agus le roinnt ar Instagram.

#Gaeilge4All

Gaeilge4All is an Irish language campaign demanding on Norma Foley, TD, to continue her support for Irish as a core leaving certificate subject and to develop a comprehensive Policy for Irish in the Education System from Pre-School to Third Level, I have been working on this campaign with many others this included part-taking in many working group meetings where we shared ideas and discussions. This led us to organise a demonstration outside Leinster House on March 29. Before this I was included in an awareness video for this campaign and advocated for this campaign on all social media channels.

Is feachtas Gaeilge é Gaeilge4All ag iarraidh éileamh ar Norma Foley, TD, leanúint lena tacaíocht don Ghaeilge mar chroí-ábhar ardeistiméireachta agus Beartas cuimsitheach a fhorbairt don Ghaeilge sa Chóras Oideachais ón Réamhscoil go dtí an Tríú Leibhéal. Táim ag obair ar son an bhfeachtas seo in éineacht le go leor daoine eile, bhí go leor cruinnithe againn mar grúpa oibre ag roinnt smaointí agus ag plé. Shocraíomar le cúpla fíis a chruthú le roinnt i measc na meáin shóisialta, ghlac mé páirt i cheann amháin. Taispeánaím mo thacaíocht don bhfeachtas seo ar na meáin shóisialta agus mar thoradh air seo d'eagraíomar léirsíú lasmuigh de Theach Laighean ar an 29 Márta.

Sierra Müller-Owens

Vice President for the Dublin Region



Class Rep Councils and SU Trainings

It was my absolute pleasure to participate in SU training and councils this term. My favourite part of the job is seeing the passion of student activists and seeing their ideas come to life at councils and SU events. Seeing part time officers and class representatives develop their confidence and skills throughout the year has been such a wonderful thing to witness. Thank you to all the students' unions who invited me to give presentations and be involved on the ground with class representatives.

Local Campaigns and Engagement

Throughout the year, I took USI campaigns on to local campuses. The biggest USI campaign that I worked on was the mental health Open Up campaign. I traveled to campuses and shared information about mental health resources with students. We also collected email addresses for a mental health newsletter. Speaking to students about their own experiences and difficulties with their mental health in college was powerful to hear during the cost-of-living crisis. Another exciting part of the job was engaging in local engagement campaigns with students' unions in my region. Helping out with elections, welfare campaigns, freshers' weeks, student survey and other local campaigns were another way I enjoyed engaging with student communities.

Demonstrations and Lobbying

Being a regional VP in the Dublin region means attending a lot of demonstrations, marches and protests. Whether it is a national demonstration like the cost-of-living march or a student specific protest like the Postgraduate Workers' Organisation protest organised in tandem with member organisations, it is important for USI to have a presence. I made it my business to be a representative of the national students' union at nontraditional demonstrations like the Aontaithe exhibition that was organised by many of the member organisations who represent creative students (shout out to IADTSU and NCADSU who were the participants in the Dublin region). It's important that student voices be uplifted, and demonstrations are a very big part of that, so I attempted to be a strong and quiet presence at as many demonstrations as possible.

If you know me, you're probably aware of the fact that I don't like speaking to politicians; I often feel more frustrated than anything else after spending time with them, trying to convince them that students deserve the same level of respect and dignity as the rest of society. However, I learned during my time in USI that I really enjoy the preparation involved in lobbying. Especially in the second term lobby day, I was heavily involved in the preparation for the day. I helped the VP for campaigns and the president prepare documents for the event. I really enjoyed the research and organisation that led up to the day and I am very thankful that the VP Campaigns let me bother him with my ideas.

Affiliation Referenda

I am writing this on the 24th of March 2023, and I am hoping that my positive thinking skills have paid off and UCDSU is about to vote to join USI! I was very active in first term with UCDSU and I had communication with their executive team, specifically with the president. I made sure that their executive team were aware of our interest in their membership and spoke with them about how joining USI would impact their students' union. I also attended a UCDSU council meeting with the USI president where we gave a similar presentation to the introductory presentations that I gave to the council meetings in the Dublin region.

Additionally, I'm very proud to have helped out with the affiliation referendums run by our current members. A big shout out to the referendum in my own region (yup DCUSU) that passed with over 90% of voters choosing to remain in USI. I also lent a helping hand to my other regionals and helped with the SETUSU and MSU referendums. It is nice to see students deciding that being a member of USI is a worthwhile cost.

NAO Apprenticeship Representation

The VP for the Southern Region and I were the apprenticeship representatives on the Coiste Gnó this year. We sit on the NAO board that usually has two representatives from USI. A little spoken about but important fact is that USI represents apprentices who attend higher education institutions as part of their education. The VP for the Southern Region and I have a lot of knowledge and ideas we want to pass down to our replacements that will increase the institutional knowledge to better represent apprentices.

European Students' Union (ESU)

I was very proud to represent USI at the Board Meeting in Prague. It was a wonderful experience learning about the student movement in other countries and while ESU has its problems, I believe that it's a worthwhile endeavour for USI to engage in if the Coiste Gnó puts the time, effort and money into engaging. I also participated in a few other

ESU events throughout the year, specifically a webinar on the InclusiPHE project which examines access to higher education institutions in different regions around Europe, including Ireland.

This is Goodbye

I will always be grateful for my year in USI for teaching me who I want to be. Thank you to everyone who supported me in my USI pursuits – my election team who formed in early 2022 to help me get elected and the sideline supporters who listened to my rants and offered a shoulder to cry on. However, the coiste gnó are the most important people to thank. Beth, Clodagh, Caoimhe, Hannah, Sarah, Ross, Waqar, Orlagh and Chloe (I promise I remembered everyone this time), thank you for being patient and supportive colleagues. I couldn't have done this without your support.

Another big thank you must go to my region, the sabbats in the Dublin region and the students I've worked with this year. A special shout out HAS to go to the full-time students who engaged with me. I would specifically like to thank László, Bev, and Magdalena (among lots of other class reps and PTOs) who kept me on my toes with their enthusiasm, ideas and reminders about why this work is so important when I most needed to hear it.

I wish nothing but the best for the 2023/24 coiste gnó; it's your opportunity to leave your mark on the national students' union. It's an honour, a privilege and a great responsibility.

Ni neart go cur le cheile.

Le bród,

Sierra Müller-Owens

Sarah Behan

Vice President for Welfare

Leas-Uachtarán do Leas



Introduction

It has been an absolute honour to have been the Vice President for Welfare in USI 2022/2023! I came into this role with a lot to prove. I had no sabbatical knowledge, just passion for student welfare and issues that are facing young people in Ireland. While it hasn't been an easy ride, I can reflect on the year with the utmost pride in myself and the coiste gnó.

As many of you may know, my mental health and confidence has struggled this year. I can only thank SU officers and my Coiste Gnó for their support during this time: your kind words and check in will mean more to me than imaginable. I want to take this time to remind you all that if you are struggling, please reach out for help. The world is better with you in it.

Thank you all for believing in me and electing me to this position, it is an honour that I will always hold close to me. I hope I have made all of you proud.

Peace and love,
Sarah xx

Sexual Violence Poster

In semester 1, I created a sexual violence poster alongside the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. This was to inform students on the supports available to them if they experience any form of sexual violence, and the supports available to anybody who knows somebody that has been affected. These have been sent to all of our member organisations in the South.

Lobby for the Expansion of Free Contraception

Since the announcement of free contraception for those aged 17-24, I have been advocating for this age bracket to be expanded. This has been done through media requests and the USI Pre-Budget Submission.

As a result of the pressure from USI and other organisations, the government have announced that, from January 1st, 2023, the scheme will open to 26-year-olds. This will further be expanded to include those aged 27-30 from September 1st, 2023.

HIV Testing Drive

Alongside HIV Ireland, I encouraged all of our MOs to take part in a HIV Testing Drive for European Testing Week. This was done through a poster drive and social media posts.

The initiative was a huge success, with over 500 testing kits being ordered through HIV Ireland, and a number of SH24 kits being ordered too.

Drug and Alcohol Education Campaign Funding

Following a letter to Minister Harris detailing substance abuse among college students, I was encouraged to apply for funding to support a national drug and alcohol education campaign for €100,000.

This application is currently being reviewed, and USI are awaiting the result. If successful, this campaign will provide information on drug harm reduction, current and up to date drug trends, information on alcohol consumption and raise awareness on spiking.

Stalking Awareness Campaign

This year, I ran the first USI Stalking Awareness Campaign. This detailed what stalking is, the types of stalking, how to recognise stalking behaviours, and the current stalking laws in Ireland.

This campaign was very successful and was shared by SUs and students across the country. It also gained attraction from Stalking In Ireland, FM104 and Too into You.

Healthy Weight Campaign Complaint

Following discussions at the Welfare Working Group, I wrote a letter of complaint to Minister Harris and Minister Donnelly in relation to Healthy Ireland's Healthy Weight campaign.

This campaign focuses on how to prevent weight gain in your early 20s yet has no mental health supports. It also does not consider the fact that bodies naturally change in your 20s, and the difficulties that are facing young people, such as long commutes and the cost of living, can impact people's lifestyles. This letter was co-signed by an array of SU officers. As I did not hear back from Minister Harris and Minister Donnelly, I plan to discuss this campaign and call for it to be scrapped at the next meeting with Minister Harris.

SHAG Campaign

I launched the USI SHAG campaign 'Ride Safe'. I worked on this in January and February to collate all relevant information on how to have a healthy sex life. This was done through the launch of www.shag.usi.ie and social media posts.

Waqar Ahmed

Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs



Introduction

I am deeply honoured and grateful to serve as the Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs at the USI. Our PG community is facing numerous challenges, ranging from funding issues, accessibility issues, working conditions, mental health concerns, international postgraduates' rights, to the lack of recognition for our work. Over the past nine months, I have been involved in postgraduate lobbying, and our strategy has not only focused on highlighting the problems faced by postgraduates but also on devising alternative policy proposals and forging partnerships with PG rights groups and non-MOs. By working together and leveraging our collective expertise, we can make a real difference in the lives of postgraduates.

As I write this report, I cannot help but reflect on the incredible support and kindness shown to me by the former and current Coiste Gnó, member organisations, postgraduate officers, researchers, students, and USI office staff. I sincerely hope that my successor will continue to receive your support to achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

Le dea-mhéin,

Waqar

Key Areas

Here are some key areas of work this year:

Postgraduate Researchers' Rights Charter

I was mandated to further develop the Postgraduate Workers' Rights Charter. I consulted with postgraduate groups, researchers, representatives, and MOs to draft the new charter. We developed the Postgraduate Researchers' Rights Charter with the aim of safeguarding and emphasizing the working rights of postgraduate researchers in Ireland. The 16 points Charter has been approved by the USI National Council in December 2022. The primary aim of the Postgraduate Researchers' Rights Charter is to aid in the establishment of an appealing, inclusive, supportive, and sustainable environment for all postgraduate researchers in Ireland. USI's Charter is aligned with the Salzburg Principles and the European Commission's Charter for Researchers and a Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. So far, we have received endorsement and support of the charter from EuroDoc, ESU, GSF, ICOS, PWO, ULPSU, UCDSU,

RCSI PGSU, Non-EEA PhD Society, Fórsa, SIPTU, and S4C. Keeping these principles in mind, we need to be proactive in running dedicated campaigns for PGRs.

National Review of State Supports for PhD Researchers

I submitted the proposal for the state supports and reforms for PGRs including but not limited to Employment status, at least a living wage of €28,808 per annum to all postgraduate researchers, additional research resources, payment of work, reforms for non-EEA postgraduate researchers, appropriate supervision, affordable accommodation, equality of opportunities, career development, union representation & open access etc. I also had consultation meetings with the chairs of the National PhD Review to highlight the insufficient funding, lack of support, poor working conditions, and the consequences of the lack of support for PhD researchers, institutions, and R&D. We put forward policy proposals to tackle these issues. For the review's outcomes to be budgeted and effective, our next step is to lobby and campaign on our proposals.

Postgraduate Student Engagement

I chair the Postgraduate Student Engagement (PGSE) Working Group to map current PGR student engagement practice in Irish HEIs (Higher Education Institutions) in (i) Governance and management; (ii) Student representation; (iii) Quality assurance and enhancement. Over the last 9 months, we have designed and rolled out the survey which will help improve student involvement in internal quality assurance mechanisms and get a broader picture of student representation in governance structures across HEIs. These results will inform the work of the PGSE WG in the development of the National Postgraduate Student Engagement Network (NPSEN).

Postgraduate Stipend Survey

To highlight the disparities in stipends and working conditions across HEIs, we have made some changes to the USI Postgraduate Stipend Survey. The survey will be rolled out in the summer and the results will be reported to all the stakeholders.

Career Tracking of Researchers

Knowledge and data about the career development of postgraduate researchers' post-qualification is lacking at the system level. I have been working with the stakeholders to develop a proposal for a national researcher career-tracking project. Quantifying and elucidating this value-added dimension are important in attracting talent into research and collectively making the case for investment in research and innovation.

Career Profiling of Postgraduate Researchers

There is a need for greater clarity across a wide range of stakeholders on the research student experience and career outcomes and pathways. I am working with the NFDE Career profiling group to inform PhD students and prospective PhD students on what to expect when carrying out a research degree and what the career options for research degree graduates are.

Research Matter Video Competition and PGR support session

In August 2022, I ran the Why Research Matters video competition in cooperation with the IRC to showcase the varied and high-quality work being undertaken by postgraduate researchers across the island. The winners were announced and invited to an in-person event. I also delivered an informational and support session for postgraduate researchers during the IRC Early Career Researchers Award event.

Submissions

Pre-Budget Submission

I submitted the Pre-Budget Submission relevant to postgrad funding and rights. I proposed a national minimum research stipend of €28,000 for all PGRs, which is adjusted annually in line with inflation and reviewed systematically. Unified tertiary education system

I worked with members of PGWG to provide consultation on a policy vision to progress toward a more unified tertiary education system. We highlighted issues related to funding (low stipends, stipend gaps, stipend inequality, fair contracts); Adequate Supervision; Need for grievances and appeal producers; Career development and training of PGRs; Research resources and infrastructures; and Engagement and representation of PGs in HEIs, and policy forums.

PGR StudentSurvey.ie

I held meetings with PGR StudentSurvey to look at the future of PGR StudentSurvey.ie. Funding pressures are an issue that I focused on and requested more questions to be included in survey. In addition to communicating back to PGR students and utilizing results by HEA and DFHERIS, I suggested more emphasis should be placed on results dissemination.

NFDE Principals refresh

In relation to the NFDE Principals refresh, we held a meeting with the review chair to identify the gaps, particularly in terms of the rights and status of doctoral researchers, mental health, career mobility, and funding.

Rights of non-EEA Postgraduate Researchers

I had meetings with NFDE Advisory Forum, DFHERIS, funding agencies, and other stakeholders to lobby for non-EEA postgraduate researchers' reforms in IRP, Hosting Agreement, naturalization, working rights to the spouses, access to healthcare, health insurance, disability benefits, and an end to the unregulated Postgraduate fees, etc. The issue requires more work, and I will continue to engage with non-EEA PhD society and other groups on the issue.

VPPGA Role Review

The postgraduate working group has decided to submit a recommendation document to the president, constitution review committee and governance committee to highlight the best practices of the postgraduate role in future.

National review of Postgraduate by taught masters

The challenges faced by taught master's students are not acknowledged and addressed on the national or institutional level. We will lobby the DFHERIS for a national review of the support available to postgraduate taught students.

Challenges in Future

Some key challenges that require more work from VPPGA include stipend disparities, policy and procedural disparities, communication, visibility and engagement with postgraduate students and researchers, conditions of PGs in Northern Ireland, taught masters and research masters supports, postgraduates' participation in elections, councils and relevant forums, relationship with external groups, and rights of international PGRs etc.

Caoimhe Walsh

Vice President for Southern Region



First of all I want to start by saying a massive thank you to everyone who voted for me last year and gave me the chance to be your VP for the Southern Region this year. This year, though very stressful had been amazing, not only did I get to work with some amazing people, I made lifelong friends! In this report I will give a quick outline of the work I have done this year as you VP Southern Region.

Crossover

I began my Crossover in June with the lovely John Fortune, along with the other Regionals and the rest of the Coiste. During my crossover with the outgoing VP Southern Region, I got guidance on how to avoid burnout (it almost worked), how to deal with all the travel involved in the regional role and of course some guidance on each of the fabulous MO's in the South.

Apprentices:

I have had the pleasure to sit alongside the VP for Dublin and represent Apprentices on behalf of USI. This was a very enjoyable part of the year; I loved interacting with apprentices on different campuses as well as apprentices who were not on their placements in colleges and getting to know what they want from us and what representation they need. I have more meetings upcoming about this and will have more reports on this in my next officer report as CN.

TU Mergers and Affiliation Referenda:

During the year SETUSU finally merged, though not an easy process the SETUCSU and SETUWSU should be so proud of all the work they put in to get their merger across the line as well as the affiliation referendum to remain a member of USI. I really enjoyed the days campaigning for the Yes vote on campus and engaging with your students.

I am not forgetting all the work MTU Cork and MTU Kerry put in this year to also ensure the smooth running of their merger, we will forgive and forget the hacker, but I am sure next year you lot will be back bigger and stronger and we will finally see MTUSU merged!

Media Coverage:

During the year I had the responsibility of speaking to the media on behalf in the Southern Region on behalf of USI. This was mostly radio interviews or news articles that would be in relation to statements that USI would have released or general student issues.

Colleges of Further Education:

I have been linked in and working locally with some colleges of further education in the South who are looking at setting up Students' Unions and potentially joining USI. I am hoping to have most of the groundwork done so that the next VP South can keep up relations with these colleges.

PTO Training:

This year myself and the other regional officers held and organised PTO training. The training was facilitated online as PTOs are still students and for accessibility purposes it was the best option at the time.

Constitutional Review Focus Group:

Myself and the other Regional Officers held an online constitutional review focus group. This focus group though small was very engaging and we got a good view of students input on the constitution and where they feel changes should be made.

My wonderful MOs:

- CCSU – you might be the smallest MO in the South, but you are a powerhouse of an SU. The engagement you have with your students always blew me away! It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you all!
- MTUCSU – A bunch of SMASHES!! Ye are an asset to the student movement and the things you have done for MTU Cork this year have been unreal, the boost in engagement just shows how well you all worked together!
- MTUKSU – For a bunch of lads ye are actually sound lol, thanks for always being so accommodating and putting up with me! The students of MTU Kerry are so lucky to have such an approachable SU. Up the Kingdom!!
- TUSSU – What a bunch of dotes the lot of ye!! You have all done unreal work this year and should be so proud of yourselves! You have done an amazing job representing all campuses across the Mid West.
- SETUCSU – Each officer in Carlow is so unique and I think that is why you all worked so well together! The whole lot of you should be proud of how well you represented Carlow and Wexford during the TU merger, through all the ‘twists, turns and bumps in the road’ (Is that right?) I can’t wait to see how the rest of the year goes for you!
- SETUWSU – You lot have done nothing but fight for the rights of Waterford students since ye started! Ye hit the ground running and that was so obvious from the beginning and the work you put in for the TU merger was fantastic! The boost in student engagement you had this year says it all!
- UCCSU – My home slices <3 The things you all accomplished this year were unreal!! I am still trying to recover from Taylor Swift night!! As a team you work amazing together and the social media is as always, popping oaffff. Super excited to see what the last CN brings!! ‘Stand up take my people with me’, keep rising them fists!!!

Southern Region Working Group:

This is also my outro <3 Every time I left SRWG I was blown away with the engagement from you all. I honestly can’t thank you enough for your participation and putting up with me all year. You are all a credit to yourselves and your SU’s. You have no idea how lucky all the students in the south are to have such driven, amazing and passionate SU Officers. I also want to say thank you for always being so accommodating when I have been on your campuses. Lots of love to you all, SMASHH!!

Grá Mór,

Caoimhe <3

Annual Accounts

USI's accounting year runs from July to June each year.

USI provides full records of all incomes and expenditures to the organisation's Chartered Accountant for preparation and presentation to USI Governance Committee. The committee then scrutinises the accounts and approves them for presentation to USI Comhdháil.

The accounts are then published in full on the USI website. Between meetings of Comhdháil, financial updates are presented each six weeks to Comhairle Náisiúnta, and full financial reports are presented to the Governance Committee.

Union of Students in Ireland

**Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 30th June 2022**

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

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UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

COISTE GNÓ 2021 / 2022

President

Clare Austick

**Deputy President /
Vice President for Academic Affairs**
Megan O'Connor

Vice President for Welfare
Somhairle Brennan

Vice President for Equality & Citizenship
Bukky Adebawale

Vice President for Campaigns
Beth O'Reilly

Leas-Uachtarán don Ghaeilge
Grian Ní Dhaimhín

Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs
Jenna Barry

**Vice President for the
Southern Region**
John Fortune

**Vice President for the
Border, Midlands, Western Region**
Victor O'Loughlin

Vice President for the Dublin Region
Caoimhe O'Carroll

NUS-USI President *
Ellen Fearon

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 Gaeilge
Clíodhna Ní Dhufaigh

Vice President 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

** The NUS-USI President sits on AMLÉ / USI's Coiste Gnó in an ex-officio capacity.*

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

USI STAFF 2021 / 22

General Manager
Ben Archibald

Administrator
Denise Glover

PR & Communications Manager
Martina Genocky

PROJECT STAFF 2021 / 22

**National Student Engagement Programme
Manager**
Oisín Hassan

**National Student Engagement Programme
Training Co-ordinator**
Dr. Jeffrey Cox

**Student Mental Health Project
Manager**
Sarah Hughes

USI STAFF 2020 / 21

General Manager
Ben Archibald

Administrator
Denise Glover

PR & Communications Manager
Martina Genocky

PROJECT STAFF 2020 / 21

**National Student Engagement Programme
Manager**
Oisín Hassan

**National Student Engagement Programme
Training Co-ordinator**
Dr. Jeffrey Cox

**Student Mental Health Project
Manager**
Sarah Hughes

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

OTHER UNION INFORMATION

Accountants

Williams & Co.
Pembroke Hall
38 / 39, Fitzwilliam Square
Dublin 2
D02 NX53

Solicitors

Hammond Good LLP
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 2022

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 2022

Declaration of the President and Governance Committee on unaudited financial statements

In relation to the financial statements as set out on pages 11 to 20:

- (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 2022.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

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 and continued this work through the 2021 – 2022 year.

Amongst the roles delegated to the Committee is oversight of the finances, assuming the dual responsibilities of the former Trustees and Finance Committee. In this role, the Committee received detailed financial reports from the Executive and was presented with the finalised accounts in March 2023.

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 first half of the accounting period under review, expenditures were down from what might be expected in a normal year.

Expenditures returned to something close to a normal profile in the second half of the period under review, and the committee noted an uptick in activity to re-address the membership in this period.

We were particularly pleased that, despite the disruption to the activities of Member Organisations and USI itself, incomes remained reasonably steady.

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 2022

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

On behalf of Governance Committee;

DR. SHANE MCCARTHY
CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

Date: 22nd March 2023.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT

Accountants' Report to the Union of Students in Ireland on the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 30th June 2022

In accordance with your instructions we have prepared, without audit, the financial statements, and notes to same for the year ended 30th June 2022 set out on pages 11 to 20. 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 2022 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: 23rd March 2023.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

Income & Expenditure Account	30-Jun-22 EUR	30-Jun-21 EUR
<u>OPERATING INCOME</u>		
Affiliation Fees Receivable	823,805	769,768
Campaign Income	-	-
Rental Income	6,000	-
Training & Conference Income	510	560
Congress Income	69,360	-
Grants, Sponsorship & Other Funding	27,965	66,743
European Students' Convention	-	-
Project Income: Mental Health Project	68,250	65,745
Project Income: NStEP Project Funding	138,712	133,950
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Income	1,134,603	1,036,766
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Head Office Expenses	108,476	110,013
Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	430,820	433,634
Officer, Staff and Committee Expenses	36,791	8,481
Campaigns Expenses	19,208	9,765
Congress Costs	92,997	4,835
National Council	15,977	2,588
Training & Conference Expenses	59,679	26,369
Project Expenditure: Mental Health	65,605	47,527
Project Expenditure: NStEP	145,232	134,897
Project Expenditure: SAVES2	-	25,642
Sponsorship Expenditure	23,530	62,805
Professional Fees	10,504	9,175
European Students' Union Fees & Costs	18,815	11,625
NUS-USI Trilateral Costs	13,176	9,361
Memberships & Subscriptions	1,352	1,447
Increased Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	(63,785)
Bad Debt Write-off	3,270	75,349
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,045,430	909,727
	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

Excess Income over Expenditure	89,173	127,039
Income Tax	-	-
Strategic Cash Flow Provision	49,428	70,000
Excess Income at Year End	39,745	57,039

BETH O'REILLY
PRESIDENT, 2022 / 23

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

Date: 22nd March 2023.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

Balance Sheet

	As On 30-Jun-22 EUR	As On 30-Jun-21 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)

	-	-
	-	-

CURRENT ASSETS

Accounts Receivable: Affiliation Fees	88,319	61,173
Accounts Receivable: Rental Income	6,000	-
Accounts Receivable: Congress Income	-	235
Accounts Receivable: SUT & SUT+	-	1,230
Accounts Receivable: Pink Training	-	2,240
Accounts Receivable: European Students' Convention	-	-
Accounts Receivable: Student Summit	-	7,189
Accounts Receivable: Training	-	527
Accounts Receivable: Other Debtors	-	-
Accounts Receivable: Sponsorship	-	19,645
Project Funding: Mental Health Project	-	(10,511)
Project Funding: NStEP Project	35,787	20,850
Project Funding: SAVES2 Project	-	22,930
Grants Receivable: Received in Advance	-	(11,074)
Provision for Doubtful Debts	-	(6,169)
USIMS Limited	-	2,813
BOI Current Account	404,490	61,173
BOI Strategic Reserve Account	156,334	117,910
SAAI	-	3,939

	694,931	294,097
	694,931	294,097

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

LIABILITIES DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

Strategic Reserve Provision Liability	10,928	-
Accounts Payable	782	(3,703)
Credit Card Account	3,000	839
PAYE / PRSI Control Account	17,236	18,226
Wages & Salaries Control Account	-	17,626
Expenses Control Account	-	584

31,946

33,573

NET CURRENT ASSETS

662,984

237,595

LIABILITIES DUE AFTER ONE YEAR

Term Loan Account	-	-
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-

-

NET ASSETS

662,984

237,595

FINANCED BY:

Income & Expenditure Account b/fwd.	623,240	180,556
Current Year Excess Expenditure over Income	39,745	57,039

662,984

237,595

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

Continued...

In accordance with the terms of the engagement, we approve the financial statements set out on pages 11 to 15 and the notes to those financial statements set out on pages 16 to 20.

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

BETH O'REILLY
PRESIDENT, 2022 / 23

CLARE AUSTICK
PRESIDENT, 2021 / 22

Date: 22nd March 2023.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

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 2022

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	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30 June	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
Accumulated Depreciation					
At 1 July	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
Current year	-	-	-	-	-
On Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 30 June	5,556	-	-	76,383	81,939
Net Book Values					
30 June 2021	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
30 June 2022	-	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

3. Sponsorship & Project Income	2022	2021
Total Project Income	234,928	266,438
Total Project Expenditures	234,367	270,872
	_____	_____
Surplus / (Deficit) on Project Income	561	(4,433)
	_____	_____
Excess Income Over Expenditure Net of Project Incomes	39,184	61,472
	_____	_____
Total Excess Income over Expenditure per Income & Expenditure Accounts	39,745	57,039
	_____	_____

4. Employees & Related Costs

The employees of USI comprise the elected national officers and permanent staff of the Union. Project Staff are included in USI's payroll and are employed on contract which are co-terminus with the expected duration of the project in question.

The national officers are the members of USI's Executive Team, An Coiste Gnó. Coiste Gnó 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 30th June, in the following year. This term of office is concurrent with the Union's financial year.

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

Numbers of Employees

The number of employees at Year End is as follows:

	2022	2021
National Officers	11	11
Full-time Support Staff	3	3
Part-time Support Staff	0	0
Full-time Project Staff	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	17
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Payroll Related Costs

	2022	2021
Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	430,820	433,634
Officer, Staff and Committee Expenses	36,791	8,481
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	467,610	442,115
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Project Wages, Salaries & Employment Costs	175,237	184,570
Other Sponsorship & Project Expenses	59,130	86,301
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	234,367	270,872
	<hr/>	<hr/>

UNION OF STUDENTS IN IRELAND

Year Ended 30th June 2022

5. Review of Surpluses or Deficits

Governance Committee has reviewed the surplus for the 2021 / 2022 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: 22nd March 2023.