

# Student Union

## Annual Report 22/23

### 1. July

- SUT
  - The new team began their term at the start of July, with only a week to adjust to our new positions. It was definitely a great start. We jumped straight into Student Union Training provided for by USI, which was held in Dundalk. The week was filled with different training sessions both for returning officers and new officers, such as Teamwork, Introduction to USI, SUSI 101 etc.
  - The remainder of the month was spent doing introductory meetings with staff as well as setting up the office space for the rest of the term.

### 2. August

- SUT+
  - SUT+ is an additional three days of training held in the middle of August. This allows officers a few weeks to figure out their positions and exactly what plans they have for their year.
  - SUT+ includes two days of simulations, which walk you through the idea of a day as an officer. While the simulations can be very intense, they are a good training device as they give you experience to ready you for potential issues in the future.
  - The rest of the month was used to confirm our plans for events such as Fresher's Week, Inductions and FYF.

### 3. September

- The first half of September was full of multiple protests and lobby days that were organised by USI, such as the Pre-Budget Lobby Day and the Cost of Living Protest.
- Refreshers
  - The Union decided to hold a Refreshers week, which was to welcome back the second to fourth year students. We held some smaller talks to encourage students coming back to college to avail of the supports we have.
- Inductions
  - The first week for First Year Students is Inductions, where different members of staff will come and chat to the new students in regards to resources, assistance with college work etc. The Union provide our own segment, where we explain what a Union is and how we operate.

### 4. October

- Freshers
  - Freshers Week is filled with events that are meant to facilitate making friends but also to give new students a chance to understand how the

institute works. We held events like Meet the SU, Clubs and Socs Day and Open Mic.

- Welfare Week
  - Welfare Week contains a multitude of events that are tailored towards mental health and wellness. The Union hosted talks such as Building Better Boundaries, Pumpkin Carving and movie nights. The Union participated in the National Walk-Out Demonstration against the rising cost of living.
- Education
  - Education Week is the last of our Freshers events, which means it ends with a bang. The week was filled with informational sessions such as Time Management, Understanding your Assignment and of course, Class Rep Training.
- Freshers Ball
  - The Freshers Ball/Halloween Ball was held with collaboration from TUDSU. The Union worked with their Ents officer to create a fun and spooky atmosphere for everyone to welcome in the new term.

## 5. November

- Trans Awareness Week
  - Trans Awareness Week lands in the middle of November, leading into USI Pink Training. The Union held a collection of different events such as hosting a talk from TENI ( Trans Equality Network Ireland ), pop up shops and movie nights. This week ended with the team travelling to Galway for Pink Training and returning to honour Trans Day of Remembrance.
- Mental Health Week
  - This campaign week was spearheaded by the VP for Welfare and Equality. Promoting positive mental health was incredibly important for the team this year as we were coming off of the unfortunate circumstances of Covid-19.

## 6. December

- By-Elections
  - Almost every year, the Union holds bi-elections to have students fill the empty positions in the Union. This year it was held for the positions of Disability Officer and Mature Officer. The Union did elect a Disability Officer, however they stepped down before the end of the year.

## 7. January

- Mental Health Week 2
  - This Mental Health Week, the Union wanted to supply supports for students to combat the January blues, as Christmas can be a hard time for some of the student population. Irish Guide Dogs were on campus, along with Niteline. We also hosted movie nights, drink and draw events and many more talks for the week.

## 8. February

- Rainbow Week
  - Rainbow Week this year was full of amazing talks this year, such as Queer Sex Ed, Aro Ace 101, Gender Diversity, Inclusivity & Allyship. We also held multiple lunches/movie nights and finished off with our Talent Show and Open Mic.
- Shag Week
  - Shag Week is one of the most anticipated weeks in the Union calendar. We held STI Testing Kit Demos, Menstrual Health Workshops, S.H.A.G Ball, and of course Sex Toy Bingo. We also held small contests throughout the week to promote Sexual Health and Wellbeing.

## 9. March

- Election/Referendum
  - The Elections this year were full of great candidates for multiple different positions. While the position of President was filled in the first round of the elections, an emergency bi-election was held at the end of the term for a new officer. The position was thankfully filled.
  - The Union also held a Referendum for our place in USI in accordance with our constitution. This referendum was met with a 100% vote to stay, which IADTSU was awarded for by USI.
- RAG Week
  - Raising and Giving Week is usually the biggest week in the year for most Unions, and the same goes for IADTSU. We held events such as our Mario Kart Tournaments, Drag Race in the Lighthouse, Clubs and Socs Charity Day and our RAG Ball in the Grand Social.

## 10. April

- Congress
  - Comghail is the main decision making body of USI, where hundreds of delegates come together from across the country to discuss policies. This year, IADT presented a motion on Supporting Trans Students as well as Support for Small Unions in conjunction with NCAD.

## 11. May

- Crossover Council
  - USI Comhairle Naisiunta is a meeting of all the Unions under USI. The final Comhairle of the year was held in Cork, and was attended by the new sabbatical team as well as the current team. It was great to introduce our new officers into USI.

## 12. June

- Crossover
  - Our last week of the year is used to give the new team a week of training. Our Vp for Welfare along with our VP for Education/Acting

President provided the incoming sabbaticals with as much information as possible before the new term began.