Dublin City University

Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am on Tuesday 24th September 2019 in the G401 St Patrick’s Campus, Dublin City University.

Attendance:

Deric Ó Broin, Elizabeth Matthews, Emer Ni Bhradaigh, Samantha Fahy, Aisling McKenna, Ruth Lynam, Jordana Corrigan, John Kelly, Deirdre Corby, Christine O’Kelly, Carol Pinkava, Katie Fa and Anthony Burrowes.

Apologies:

Úna Redmond, Ronaldo Munck, Laura Grehan, Mary Rose Sweeney, Susan Hawkins, Eleanor Healion, Padraig Murphy, Trudy Corrigan, Katie Fay, Carmel Anderson, Christine Farrell, Briege Casey, Natalja Matease, Danielle Montgomery.

1. Welcome & Introductions

Following introductions, Deiric Ó Broin (Chairperson & Acting Head of Civic Engagement), welcomed members of the Civic Engagement Forum.

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

The minutes were agreed. The Chairperson noted that henceforth the draft minutes would be available online, prior to the meeting of the Civic Engagement Forum. https://www.dcu.ie/community/Civic-Engagement-Forum-Minutes.shtml

3.

(a) DCU Volunteer

Ruth Lynam briefed the meeting on the ongoing activities of DCU Volunteer, including:

- 'Shine A Light' national sleep-out and fundraiser in aid of Focus Ireland on Thursday the 17th of October being co-hosted on campus. All staff, students and those in our community are welcome to take part in any way they can. The event page can be

• Volunteer Working Group expanded now to include members of SLC and further Student's Union representation.

• Information Sessions regarding fundraisers, volunteer opportunities protocol, volunteer induction and international volunteering all taking place on campus at different times throughout the year as resources for students plus staff.

• The development of a University Wide Volunteering Strategy by the Office of Civic Engagement. The working document was distributed and Ruth welcomed all contributions from members of the Civic Engagement Forum.

(b) Sustainable Energy Community

Sam Fahy informed Forum on the recent launch of DCU’s Sustainable Energy Community. She noted that DCU have been working on this project for 18 months and received a grant from SEAI to deliver the initiative.

(c) Recovery College

John Kelly reported on the recent activities of the Recovery College.

(d) DCUSU Engagement

Katie Fa, was unavailable, and sent her apologies.

(e) Campus Engage

Deiric Ó Broin reported that, Campus Engage is organising a seminar to be addressed by Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Founding Director of the Barbara and Edward Netter Centre for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania. The talk is to be held at the Royal Irish Academy on the 15th October.

The Local Mission of Higher Education: Principles and Practice edited by Sjur Bergan, Ira Harkavy and Ronaldo Munck will be launched by DCU President Prof MacCraith and Minister Mary Michell O’Connor TD after the seminar.

(f) Centre for Engaged Research

Deiric Ó Broin outlined the background to the initiative and briefed members of the Forum on the its current status. It was agreed that a more detailed update would be provided at the next meeting.
4. AOB

(I)
Christine O’Kelly, informed the forum that the 1st October was National Day of Older Persons.

DCU were holding an Intergenerational walk and talk in Albert College Park.

The 2019 theme is aligned with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 10 and will focus on pathways of coping with existing and preventing future old age inequality.

SDG 10 aims to “ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome,” including through measures to eliminate discrimination, and to “empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.”

The event attended by: The Minister of State, Mr. Jim Daly, TD, Christine Farrell, DCU SU President and broadcasting legend Dr. Micheál O Muircheartaigh.

(II)
Elizabeth Matthews reported on UN National Day of Sign Languages, 23/09/2019.

DCU had circulated a playlist of signs, via Twitter and Email signs that would be useful for Lectures.

Elizabeth is happy to provide information on:

- How much interpreters cost and where to book them.
- Live Captioning.

(III)
Deirdre Corby updated the forum on the DCU Ability Project.

That’s is for people with disability and supporting them into employment.

It is a ESF bubble funded project, running until July 2021.

Meant to have 50 people attend the project over the life time, by Christmas it will have had that many. DCU have been supported over the various campuses.

Please contact Deirdre for more details or visit the DCU web site.
Anthony Burrowes reported on College Connect, which is a collaboration between DCU, AIT, MU and DKIT. Working around widening participation, not just with the HEA scheme, but working the Access Officers from 17 to whatever age someone wants to enter higher education. Engaging with communities rather than going into schools, to empower people to consider higher education as an option.

Emer Ni Bhradaigh briefed the forum on:

- EU funded project, starting November, to do with Social Innovation (HEA innovate tool).
- A brief to develop with students in the EU, through SU clubs and societies and also the curriculum.

Next Meeting:

3rd December 2019 @ 10.00am, DCU In the Community, Ballymun.