Dublin City University  
Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Zoom Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am on  
Tuesday 7th April, 2020

Attendance:
Deiric Ó Broin, Susan Hawkins, Ruth Lynam, Katie Fay, Jordana Corrigan, Realtan Ni Leannain, Mary Rose Sweeney, Natalja Matease, Carmel Andersen, Ronnie Munck, Christine O’Kelly, Una Redmond, Aisling McKenna, Deirdre Corby, Joanna Ozarowska, Samantha Fahy, Caitriona Mordan, Trudy Corrigan

Apologies:
Anne O'Connor, Anthony Burrowes, Eleanor Healion, Elizabeth Mathews, Emer Ni Bhradaigh, John Kelly, Padraig Murphy, Veronica Crosbie

1. Welcome  
Deiric Ó Broin (Chairperson), welcomed members of the Civic Engagement Forum.

2. Matters Arising  
The minutes were proposed and agreed and are available online at:  

3. DCU in the Community  
Joanna Ozarowska informed the forum that even though the centre in Ballymun due to COVID-19 pandemic is closed, the centre have managed to maintain the majority of services and delivering its QQI programs online through Zoom. Few students don’t have facilities or the skills & technology to follow the course online, but more than half still attend. Education guidance services are provided over Zoom or WhatsApp calls and delivered online as well. The closure has impacted the centre in the way a few students cannot complete the courses online and partner courses have no venue, apart from that the centre is maintaining majority of its services.

4. Presidents Awards for Engagement  
Deiric O’Broin informed the forum that the President’s Awards for Engagement ceremony was cancelled due to COVID 19 pandemic and is going virtual/digital now (via Zoom) which is very exciting and will be partly based on the Club & Socs awards video model which was live steamed on YouTube recently. Una Redmond kindly offered her expertise gained from the Club & Socs awards video event and a lot of very helpful support was received from Mark Glyn in relation to the Zoom aspect of the event. It was noted that the Club & Socs awards video event demonstrated greater engagement with the participants & audience which is not possible to achieve during the physical event.
There is a project team from the President’s office and Office of Civic Engagement working on the virtual model of event and made a very good progress to date with the expected event date in end of April 2020.

5. Centre for Community Based Research  
Ronnie Munck and Mary Rose Sweeney reported the meeting on the development of the initiative with ongoing meetings around campus and governance around it is been sorted out. The proposed launch date of the centre is in the autumn.
It was highlighted that researchers around DCU are interested in this initiative and both DCU President Professor Brian MacCraith and Professor Dáire Dublin City University President-designate are in favour of the Community Based Research Centre which is very opportune now in particular in conjunction with the university’s social responsibility role which needs to come to the fore more, as resilience of communities response to corona virus is critical and it is not just technical, medical or entrepreneurial response. A very basic website was put together a couple of weeks ago which hasn’t been published yet and will be sharpened up and shared with all participants after Easter to see if any profile amendments are required. Also heads and deans will be contacted after Easter and will be asked to invite more people who might wish to join, so it is truly inclusive.

Updates from the Centre for Community Based Research:

- Trudy Corrigan highlighted the issue of the technology and older (65+) people particularly at this time when it is important to stay connected. Trudy is currently working on three Erasmus + proposals and all of these would fit with the Centre for Community Based Research. It was suggested to explore available initiatives to put together to see the possibilities in terms of the Community Based Research.
- Caitriona Mordan flagged that Adapt had an open writing Sprint last week to engage interest around participation around SSI causes COVID 19 and there is a follow up in terms of the networking and Adapt has capacity to support researchers if they want to enter in anything around engaged research, technical and medical as well. (networking event will be held this Thursday, 2-4pm, more details to follow).

6. Reports and Updates

- Mary Rose reported that they are putting in a bid to the HRB today on the COVID 19, as they are building a big network of 80 nurses.
- Katie Fay informed the Students Union along with the Studentvolunteer ran the Game Night which was mainly organised by Ruth Lynam and raised over €600 for Barrettstown.
- Deiric O’Broin briefed on ECIU- an initiative of the European Consortium of Innovative Universities which aims to establish a European University with challenge based learning approach. More details at the next meeting and all input from those who worked through ECIU is welcome.
- Mary Rose informed the forum that Autism and homelessness population initiative is conducting online interviews, due to impact of the COVID19 outbreak. Another initiative together with the UCD group is analysing the impact on people who received contact tracing phone calls, on those who received positive result and those who received contact tracing phone calls saying they have been in contact who have got a positive response.
- Anthony Burrowes could not attend, but wanted make the Forum to know that the programme College Connect is still running and they are adapting to the times that we are living in. The website collegeconnect.ie is up and running. They are on twitter, facebook and instagram. Workshops and supporting communities are held through online engagement with available video conferencing facilitating.

7. Date of Next Meeting
The next (additional) meeting is scheduled for 10.00 am on 2nd June (the suggested venue is DCU garden, tbc).

8. AOB
The Qualitative Research Summer School which usually takes place in June is cancelled.