Dublin City University
Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Zoom Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am on
Tuesday 2nd June, 2020

Attendance:
Deiric Ó Broin, Christine O'Kelly, Mary Rose Sweeney, Natalja Matease, Briege Casey, Emer Ni Bhredaigh, Fearghal Lynch, Ronnie Munck, Aisling McKenna, Katie Fay, Anthony Burrowes, Carmel Andersen, Deirdre Corby, Dylan Mangan, Eilish King, Joanne, Ozarowska, John Kelly, Jordana Corrigan, Laurence van der Haegen, Ruth Lynam, Una Redmond, Samantha Fahy, Christine Farell.

Apologies:
Eleanor Healion, Elizabeth Mathews, Caitriona Mordan, Laura Grehan.

1. Welcome
Deiric Ó Broin (Chairperson), welcomed members of the Civic Engagement Forum and was pleased to see great attendance.

2. Minutes
The previous minutes were proposed and seconded by Ronnie Munck and Aisling McKenna respectively. Minutes are available online at:

3. Matters Arising
N/A

4. Presidents Awards for Engagement
Deiric O’Broin, Natalja Matease and Joanna Ozarowska reported to the forum on the virtual President’s Awards for Engagement ceremony which was held last week on Zoom. The following was noted:
- Despite some minor technical difficulties, it was a successful virtual event with great attendance in the Zoom room and lots of positive feedback
- 2020 Winners details and project posters are available at: https://www.dcu.ie/community/DCU-Presidents-Awards-for-Engagement-2020.shtml
- Virtual Event Video available at: https://www.dcu.ie/president/presidents-annual-awards.shtml
- Our thanks to the judging panel, Claire Connell, Mark Glyn and Daire Hall
- Far more applications in the Engagement category rather than in the Innovation category this year
• Congratulations to the winners! Winners were invited to join the Engagement Forum and attending the Zoom meeting today.

5. Volunteering Strategy
Ruth Lynam updated the Forum on the launch of the first Volunteering Strategy for the higher level institute in Ireland (and also one of the few in Europe). This is a really considerable achievement and the minister Michael Ring will be helping to launch the strategy. The launch is scheduled for next week and more details will be circulated soon. The event will be mainly promoted on the social media and sharing/retweeting on the day of the launch would be very much appreciated.

6. Community Based Research Centre
Ronnie Munck and Mary Rose Sweeney briefed the Forum on the ongoing development of the initiative which is mainstreamed by DCU President Professor Brian MacCraith and DCU President-designate Professor Dáire Keogh. Community Based Research covers a multitude of different approaches in DCU and getting support nationally. Heads and deans were contacted and asked to invite more people who might wish to join. The project is on course for the launch of the centre is in the autumn. At the moment the new website is updated on the regular basis with new showcases. Also it is planned to have own strand for Qualitative Methods Research workshop scheduled in June by the school of Nursing in order to look for Community Based Research projects across university.

7. Reports and Updates

Samantha Fahy, Sustainability:
• DCU have just become the first university globally to have achieved the virtual Green Flag (All Hallows campus)
• Sustainable energy community had two sessions on campus and another online session is scheduled for 11th June for DCU staff with the view to move it to communities, residential associations around our universities to help them to make their homes more energy efficient.

Christine O’Kelly, AFU:
• AFU created a weekly bulletin for the global network to share best practices across different universities about what they are doing in relation to Covid
• An International AFU global network website (membership only) launching at the end of June
• AFU continuing weekly presentations online and keeping quite engaged through the online sessions.
• A concern was flagged on how older people are portrayed in the media, lack of talk by the people themselves on what they want to say.

Deirdre Corby and Toff (Carmel) Andersen, DCU Ability
• Support needed for the older people voices to be heard.
• DCU Ability are very pleased to win the much needed President’s Award for Engagement and developing a new online module launching 22nd June with the view to develop more online modules in future.
• DCU Ability is working with the vulnerably group from the health and mental health perspective and there is a need to develop an online course with them as
families were concerned about having students on campus. As a result, a new completely different online module being developed and will be launched soon.

*Updates from the Students’ Union:*
Barretstown weekly online live activities, the Barretstown Climb Every Mountain challenge and preparation for launching of the Student Partnership agreement with the universities.
Christine Farrel and Katie Fay are finishing up in 2 weeks and introduced their successors, Fearghal Lynch and Dylan Mangan and wished the team the very best wishes for the year ahead.

*John Kelly, Dublin North East Recovery College:*
This initiative has been running for 4 years now and will be fully operational until the end of July. With securing a grant from Healthy Ireland to provide a community education between September and June 2021 the team of 4 will be scaling down to 1 staff member from the end of July due to inability to secure funding from other initiatives. Dublin North East Recovery College experienced a lot of challenges in the last couple of months due to inability to provide community based courses in physical spaces, but trial of the online courses turned out to be a success. An online summer wellbeing festival is scheduled for Wednesday 24th of June.

*Joanna Ozarowska* briefed the forum that *DCU in the Community* providing courses and education guidelines online. The July Summer School workshops will be delivered online on Zoom next month and contributions from the forum members are welcome.

*Emer Ni Bhraidaigh* welcomed the forum members to be involved in the OECD HEInnovate project and collaborate on developing online tools to teach creativity, social innovation and social entrepreneurship.
Also Emer informed members of the forum that Enactus DCU Social Entrepreneurship team won the national competition this year. It is the sixth time in nine years that Enactus DCU have represented Ireland in the Enactus World Cup. The team brought projects, including Dyslex.ie, a software that helps the dyslexic community to increase their online reading speed (more details on DCU News).

*Mary Rose Sweeney and Briege Casey* updated the Civic Engagement Forum on the Autism and Homelessness project development. This project has been funded by National Disability Authority and the expected completion within next couple of months.

*Laurence van der Haegen Access Outreach Officer* briefed on implementation of the online programs and highlighted that consultations and evaluations show that not been able to meet people, has made more people to come forward from the community and within the university to work together.

8. **Date of Next Meeting**
TBC

9. **AOB**
Ronnie Munck emphasized the importance of the engagement with the Students’ Union and expressed gratefulness to the dedicated personnel in Students’ Union who are looking at civic engagement element and thanked Students’ Union for the proper partnership.
Deiric O’Broin flagged the Bright Club Ireland (http://brightclub.ie/) initiative where academics from science, humanities, and social science talking about their work alongside professional comedians and musicians.

Anthony Burrowes notified that College Connect has completed a piece of research with prisoners and former prisoners (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTAH2uycmyE).