Dublin City University
Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Zoom Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am on
Tuesday 20th October, 2020

Attendance:
Deiric Ó Broin, Ruth Lynam, Emer Ni Bhreadaigh, Carmel Andersen, Deirdre Corby, Joanna Ozarowska, Natalja Matease, Dean, Réaltán Ní Leannáin, Ronnie Munck Samantha Fahy, Úna Redmond.

Apologies:

1. Welcome
Deiric Ó Broin (Chairperson), welcomed members of the Civic Engagement Forum. It was noted that Pauline Willis (Business school) retired and a new academic practitioner to be invited. Anthony Burrowes has left DCU and his successor to be invited to join the Civic Engagement Forum.

2. Minutes
The previous minutes were proposed and seconded by Carmel Andersen and Joanna Ozarowska respectively. Minutes are available online at: https://www.dcu.ie/community/Civic-Engagement-Forum-Minutes.shtml.

3. Matters Arising
N/A

4. COVID challenges
The knock on for volunteering sphere in volunteering projects dealing or working with vulnerable people, children in afterschool programmes and immune compromised portion of population was highlighted.

Societies are doing extremely well and pivoted very well to the online platform. Virtual clubs & societies fair went well with the very good uptake with over 2000 first year students joined at least one club/society. Clubs are naturally not lending so well into online activities as most of their activities are based around matches and competing. The Students union has done a very good job in reaching out through the online platform, including online sales and it is planned to continue online virtual recruitment on weekly basis.
Despite challenges in terms to face to face interaction the orientation week activities were well adapted in the virtual environment and the Student Union saw a great engagement with the students during the orientation week with about 800 questions in an hour session.

Engagement with training sessions for Clubs and Societies Committees and information sessions has been significantly better (more questions and much greater attendance) that they would ever get in person.

DCU in the Community also highlighted the benefits of virtual activities during their successful online Summer School with 3 times the numbers of the students that would normally engage in class or in person.

5. Campus Engage Community Engaged Learning Module
Campus Engage working group on community engage teaching & learning has developed a 6 weeks online CPD course on community engage teaching and learning for staff across all higher education institutions in Ireland. Campus Engage is looking for staff from higher education institutions in Ireland who might be interested to do the first course (from the end of January until the beginning on March) and become the potential facilitators for this course after the course completion. The course will be launched in November.

6. Reports and updates

Joanna Ozarowska (DCU in the Community)
- DCU in the Community ran a very successful Summer School in July.
- Recruiting students for autumn courses was a challenge, due to the lack of face to face component which is necessary to some adult learners returning to education.
- The centre is running all its QQI programmes (Bridge to Education, Psychology and Community Organisation Management) online at the moment.

Carmel Andersen (DCU Ability)
- DCU Ability very successfully moved all its courses online in June. The uptake was amazing & enjoyable for all parties involved including families of the participants of the courses. The waiting list is full until the end of January.
- DCU Ability developed an eLearning module with some of the employers in partnership with the Irish Wheelchair Association. Applegreen is piloting this module with the staff to develop disability awareness training.
- The biggest issue & challenge for DCU Ability is funding which will run out in next year.

Samantha Fahy, Sustainability:
- DCU is about to launch its first Climate Action Plan
- DCU received 1 million euro under the Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation grant which will be used for the retrofit on the Marcony building
- The research grant came in for looking at the Heatpumps
- There are 57 teams across DCU participating in Walktober
- Ongoing work with the Rediscovery Centre on the bicycle clinics
- Work with the Crooke park on the green cups roll out to the communities
- Putting in place a pocket park in All Hallows Campus
Deiric O’Broin
A very strong engagement focus - ANAM award https://www.dcu.ie/president/ANAM-Artist-Commissions.shtml
Martin McEvoy Annual Conference 2020 will be held online on 4th December 2020

Ronnie Munc, Centre of Engaged Research
The Centre of Engaged Research website is live at: https://www.dcu.ie/engaged-research

Réaltán Ní Leannáin,
Coffee mornings for people in the community were moved from the Helix to Zoom.
Ongoing facilitation of community group meetings, AGMs, Irish writers’ meetings.
DCU is working with the Irish language radio station on 3-4 radio programs.

Emer Ni Bhradaigh
Entrepreneurship & Innovation HUB which is particularly open to commercial and social entrepreneurship. run a 6-week programme over summer for students who were developing an innovational or entrepreneurial idea. Terrence Bowden is a point of contact for students who have innovational or entrepreneurial ideas.

Christine O’Kelly
- AFU weekly bulletin still going out
- An International AFU global network website (membership only) due to launch in June deferred until mid-Autumn
- AFU continuing weekly presentations online and keeping quite engaged through the online sessions - we will be launching a book at the end of October "Stories from International Women's Day - Extraordinary lives of ordinary women” - this is a compilation of stories of ordinary women written by staff, students and AFU participants. We will be launching it on Oct 30.
- We are also having an online Art Exhibition from an AFU participant " Campus in Covid" which shows DCU campus during lockdown Phase 1.
- Reduced educational programme for this Semester but positive signups for audit/credit modules and love of lifelong learning programme. Much greater demand than capacity allowed
- We are offering free Zoom Training to all through to the end of the Semester with the assistance of the NGM students starting Nov
- We are offering free Smartphone training also to the end of the Semester with the assistance of the NGM students starting Nov
- We are facilitating AFU participants to contribute to the Covid 19 Oral History Project and have negotiated training for some AFU members to be researchers in partnership with Caitriona Ni Chassaidgh.
- 72 Universities in the AFUGN - new member for Queensland
- We are facilitating a virtual visit from Sharaja - United Arab Emirates on November 9th - 80 participants from government, civil society and academia - they are working towards becoming an age-friendly country. Keen to showcase DCU leading the AFUGN with participation from DCU colleagues.

7. Date of Next Meeting
TBC & schedule for the year to be circulated.