Dublin City University
Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Zoom Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am on
Tuesday 1st December, 2020

Attendance:
Deiric Ó Broin, Ruth Lynam, Aisling McKenna, Christine O’Kelly, Úna Redmond, Padraig Murphy, Natalja Matease, Ronnie Munck.

Apologies:
Joanne Ozarowska, Samantha Fahy, Elizabeth Mathews, Siobhán Seoighe, Susan Hawkins, Trudy Corrigan, Carmel Andersen, Emer Ní Bhrádaigh.

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

2. Minutes
The previous minutes were proposed and seconded by Christine O’Kelly and Aisling McKenna respectively. Minutes are available online at: https://www.dcu.ie/community/Civic-Engagement-Forum-Minutes.shtml.

3. Matters Arising
N/A

4. President’s Awards for Engagement
Civic Engagement Forum members had a discussion about 2021 event. It was noted that a call for nominations for the President’s Awards for Engagement is sent to all staff and students in January each year and it was decided to contact the President’s office and clarify the structure and timelines for 2021 event.

5. Reports and updates

Christine O’Kelly (AFU)
- AFU offering free Zoom Training and free Smartphone training to all through the assistance of the NGM students
- AFU continuing weekly presentations online with great attendance
- 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
- Overview of recent and ongoing events, projects and December workshops
- There are 74 Universities now in the AFU Global Network
**Ruth Lynam (DCU Volunteer)**
- Very well attended online events with Studentvolunteer.ie & Campus Engage
- A little activity for institutions and organisations what deals with vulnerable people or minorities due to Covid regulations
- Good engagement in terms of fundraisers, virtual activities and online activism
- Overview of upcoming online events including Christmas campaign for Barretstown and Every Little Helps Week
- National Volunteering Strategy to be launched this Saturday for International Volunteer Day

**Úna Redmond (SU)**
- Societies are continuing to be extremely active and continue their activities virtually and online with huge attendance
- A very little activity for Clubs allowed. Exploring how to link Clubs and Societies together
- Front desk in U is open every day for students who may come in
- All activities are virtual at the moment, but hopeful to have some social activity on campus next semester

**Aisling McKenna**
Aisling thanked Civic Engagement Forum members for their contributions to the DCU impact ranking submission. The short presentation of the summary will be available soon.
Also it was highlighted that there is a lack of the dedicated space on the DCU website which describes, promotes & highlights the impact and building up a profile of how we are engaged.

**Padraig Murphy**
Padraig briefed the Civic Engagement Forum members on the Campus Engage engage research group activities focused around public administrators and funding structures around challenge based research.
It was noted that Professor Thilo Kroll (UCD) is now a Convenor of the Campus Engage engage research group.
Michael Foley (Trinity College Dublin) is in charge of the initiative which is looking at the online dimensions to the community based research initiatives.

**Carmel Andersen (Reminder):**
3rd of December it is the International Day for People with Disability and we are hosting a number of events with our students and one in the afternoon with employers - anyone is welcome and it starts at 1pm but they would have to register on the link below
https://dcu-ie.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_0uz0FOGURCWkRkDyb8r9fw

**Deiric O’Broin**
Martin McEvoy Annual Conference 2020 is this Friday 4th December and looking at the registration numbers this is expected to be the biggest event in the 18 years of the conference.

### 6. Date of Next Meeting

2021 meeting dates were proposed as follows:
- 2nd February
- 4th May
- 12th October
- 7th December