Dublin City University
Civic Engagement Forum

Minutes

Meeting of the DCU Civic Engagement Forum at 10.00 am, Tuesday 7th December 2021, Zoom.

Attendance:
Deiric Ó Broin, Ronaldo Munck, Ross - DCUSU VP C&C, Natalja Matease, Padraig Murphy, Aisling McKenna, Deirdre Corby, Emer Ní Bhrádaigh, Mariana Colman, Veronica Crosbie, Samantha Fahy, Una Redmond, Joanna Ozarowska.

Apologies:
Mary Rose Sweeney, Elizabeth Mathews.

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

2. Minutes
The previous minutes were signed off by Civic Engagement Forum members. Minutes are available online at: https://www.dcu.ie/engagement/civic-engagement-forum-minutes

3. Matters Arising
N/A

4. Briefing on Campus Engage
Professor Munck outlined the background to Campus Engage which was set up more than 5 years ago between the 7 universities and the Technological University of Dublin and has 3 main strands as follows:
- Community-based Teaching and Learning which is mirrored by DCU in Community initiative
- Engaged Research and Innovation for Societal Impact which is mirrored by a Centre for Engaged Research (a new DCU initiative)
- Student Volunteering which is mirrored by DCU Volunteer

DCU participates in the Steering Committee & working groups of Campus Engage and there are different opinions that value it brings to DCU.

5. SMART-ER
Padraig Murphy reported on a new initiative called SMART-ER. The SMART-ER project is a part of the ECIU (the European Consortium of Innovative Universities) and it is a new model of research and innovation, based on a virtual collaborative environment / virtual research institute which will help to share research and teaching programmes. There is a lot of involvement across DCU (Centre for Engaged Research, Communications and Marketing team and other members across different faculties in DCU).
6. Reports and updates

Samantha Fahy, Sustainability:
- A new strategic initiative - Carbon neutral campus
- DCU Climate Action Plan 2021-2026 was launched
- 2030 target: reduction of DCU energy emissions by 51%
- Business travel: carbon emissions from all business travel including flights needs to be reported to the SEAI
- Sustainability is working with Climate and Society on a new RA on sustainable kitchens with INTEL
- All Ireland approach to green labs: 6 universities have submitted a proposal under the North-South programme

Deirdre Corby, DCU Ability
- DCU Ability projects are running away fine and the next group will stay online in the new year / until March
- Disability awareness: ongoing work with Comms and Applegreen on new stories
- Ger Scanlon may represent DCU Ability at the Civic Engagement Forum meetings while Deirdre is on sabbatical for the whole 2022

Mariana Colman, Centre for Engaged Research
- The DCU President will officially launch the Centre for Engaged Research on Monday 13th December @ 2pm & the invitation was circulated to all staff last week
- Preparation for 2022 activities: New Lecture Series, PPN summer School, Training session for DCU Staff
- Everyone is welcome to participate

Veronica Crosbie, University of Sanctuary
- Reported on DCU’s engagement with people seeking sanctuary in Ireland and elsewhere
- MELLIE story telling project just secured funding from the Arts and Culture fund
- A lot of University of Sanctuary activities emanate from SALIS, there needs to be engagement across university
- Refugee week: date to be confirmed for the semester 2
- Masters in Refugee Integration is in its 4th year
- Introduction of the new model where students are expected to engage in the community with NGO’s in particular

Emer Ní Bhrádaigh, Fiontar & Scoil na Gaeilge
- A new research project with the Wheel is starting in February. This project will be looking at the revitalisation of the well-established NGO’s. More details to be provided soon.

Úna Redmond, SU
- Society memberships held up very well this year and numbers of the first year students involved in clubs & societies are very encouraging.

7. AOB

2022 meeting dates were proposed as follows: Tuesday 8th February, Tuesday 10th May, Tuesday 4th October, Tuesday 6th December