

## **Environmental Co-ordinator Council Report 2014/'15**

**Name of Officer:** Louise Flanagan  
**Position:** Environmental Co-ordinator  
**Email:** environment@ucdsu.ie  
**Twitter:** @EcoUCDSU  
**Date of Council:** 13<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### **Plans for the year:**

- Get bee garden up and running
- Run recycling campaign in the Agricultural Science Building
- Run more interactive events/campaigns (eg ideas-sharing event, 'Meatless Monday' poster campaign)
- Compile a careers leaflet highlighting the diverse range of jobs available with an environmental background
- Work with students on any environmentally related issues they bring to the table
- Run a debate with the L&H: "THW put environmentalism before profit"

### **What actually happened:**

#### **Semester 1:**

##### Events:

- Ran three Bee Breakfasts during Orientation Week, one during the Mind, Body and Soul festival, and numerous other times during the first semester. These were to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of declining bee populations by highlighting how many basic food products we will lose without their work as pollinators, and to gather signatures and support for an environmental society (Eco Soc), as well as to give out free food to students!
- Ran a 'can-n-ball' recycling games evening to raise awareness of, and encourage recycling among students
- Had a talk from FIBKA member Philip McCabe about 'the global picture affecting honeybees at present' on October 28<sup>th</sup>
- Ran an upcycling event for making Halloween Decorations in October
- Ran a general environmental workshop on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November to generate ideas about how to invoke sustainable ways of living on a local campus-wide scale and on a global scale
- Had a stand in An Cuas in Newman in November to raise awareness of the new recycling programme (and new recycling bins) in the Agriculture Building

### University Observer Column:

-An environmental column was set up in the Science section of the University Observer in conjunction with Eco Soc; articles on bee population decline and water shortage were published

### Bee Garden:

-Maintained contact with campus services about the set-up of a bee garden in UCD; met with Gary Smith and Ciaran Bennett on a number of occasions and kept in touch with Gary via email

-Drafted a safety report for the garden with Eco Soc

- A site for the garden was established: beside Belgrove Residences adjacent to the river

### Society:

-Continued to work with Eco Soc (environmental society) on the set up of the society and worked in conjunction with them on all environmental events

-Signatures for support for the society were gathered at most of the events in semester 1

-Documents were submitted for consideration for society recognition

### Green Campus:

-Became involved with the setup of the Green Campus programme in UCD, and facilitated and attended meetings with other students and staff who wanted to get involved

### General SU Stuff:

-Packed bags for orientation week

-Manned the stand in the orientation tent and in the freshers tent

-Attended all campaigns forum meetings

## **Semester 2:**

### Events:

-Ran a number of Green Campus workshops to try and come up with some ideas for tackling some of the environmental issues on campus, specifically related to the areas highlighted in the GC programme

-Held a lunchtime informal discussion session about fracking

### University Observer Column:

-Observer articles on wasteful packaging, noise pollution in the ocean, fracking, and vegetarianism were published

### Green Campus:

-A preliminary Green Campus committee was set up  
-Worked towards gaining support from President Deeks; an email and documents are currently being put together to send to him

### Bee Garden:

-Met with Gary and Ciaran on site to discuss logistics  
-Gained support from the School of Biology for the garden  
-Trying to collaborate with Hort Soc and the Ag department with their apiary over by Rosemount, since there's an overlapping bee theme  
-Arranged a meeting with Brian Tobin from Ag about apiary  
-Meeting arranged with Ciaran Beatty from UCD Building and Services to discuss lay out and set up of bee garden

### General SU Stuff:

-Canvassed and lecture addressed for the Marriage Equality and Constitution referenda  
-Attended all campaigns forum meetings  
-proposed motion for final council, (spearheaded by Richard Curtin), relating to climate change and supporting environmentally minded groups within UCD in their move towards a more sustainable campus

### **Conclusions**

This year has brought many opportunities my way. I think a lot has been achieved for the environment and awareness of its importance within UCD. Many foundations have been laid for university relations and future projects which can be built on by the following co-ordinators as well as environmentally-minded groups across UCD. A few of these new ventures included the environmental column in the University Observer, the Green Campus initiative, and the Bee Garden. The work on gaining society status for Eco Soc, which was begun and heavily supported by previous co-ordinators, was progressed and will hopefully be awarded at the next meeting of the Societies Council.

Something that maybe didn't go as well as hoped this year was the introduction of recycling bins into UCD. Many previous co-ordinators had pushed for this so I was delighted to hear it was going ahead. A set of trial recycling bins were put in Ag as part

of the new recycling programme. This pilot programme for introducing recycling bins into UCD was supposed to be spread to other buildings before the end of this semester, but this has yet to happen. This was one of my main concerns this year because recycling is nearly always the first thing people mention to me when they find out my role. Communications with campus services could be slow at times but whenever we were in contact it was always amiable and informative. It became very clear very quickly that the people working in UCD Buildings and Services are very hard-working and open, so hopefully more can be done soon to progress the recycling programme further.

In terms of student engagement, it varied throughout the year. There was an incredible turnout for the bee breakfasts, particularly during Orientation Week and the Mind, Body and Soul festival, but for smaller workshop events the turnout wasn't as impressive. This may have been down to poorly structured advertising and lack of event organisation coming from my side.

The people who did turn up were very enthusiastic and genuinely interested in the subjects being discussed though. It would be great to build on, and add to this group of interested students as I feel it is very important to gather like-minded individuals together to push forward with the movement for greater campus sustainability. Hopefully this can be achieved through advertising of all the different environmental groups within UCD. I would see a possible role for future co-ordinators as, well, *co-ordinators* for all of these different groups so that the university can have one central platform to join all of these environmental forces together.

The highlights of this year were numerous. One part I really enjoyed was getting out and meeting other students and finding people who were just as enthusiastic about the environment and its protection as me. Another was being afforded the opportunity to inform the students of UCD about some of the most pressing environmental issues of our time, whether that be through the environmental columns in the paper, the talks, workshops, online articles on social media, or the bee breakfasts. It all made a difference I feel, and hopefully some of the work I was involved with, along with many, many other fantastic and hard-working people, will set UCD and its students on a path towards greener pastures.

Name of Officer-Matthew Carroll  
Position- International Students Coordinator  
Email- [international@ucdsu.ie](mailto:international@ucdsu.ie)  
Date of Council- 13/4/2015

Since Last Council:

**Meetings Attended:**

-Campaigns Forum 1/4/2015.

**Correspondence**

-UCDSU Secretary concerning my contribution to Final Report.  
-Irish Vegan Council.

Final Year Report-

**Work Undertaken by Month.**

In all months listed apart from those in the summer and outside of term Clinic Hours were held almost on a weekly basis. Apart from 1 that took place in March I also attended every Campaigns Forum Meeting. I also helped out in some way at the majority of SU Second Hand Book Sales throughout the year.

**June- September**

Following my election in April of 2014 I had to return to Brussels to complete my Erasmus year however following my return I met with several of the Sabbatical Officers to discuss my plans for the year ahead in particular with regard to International Week.

**September**

-Helped out at Orientation Events- in Particular the SU Tent.  
-Was present in the Smurfit Graduate Business School with the Graduate Education Officer and the Business and Law Convenor.  
-Attended the International Fair to welcome incoming International Students.  
-Planning for International Week.  
-Helped with 2<sup>nd</sup> Hand Book Sale.  
Attended several meetings with representatives from the International Office, the International Students Society Auditor, several other Language Society Representatives and several Members of the Su Executive, along with several Campaigns Forum Meetings.  
-Submitted a motion to Council concerning the labelling of Food in SU shops.  
-Meeting with Head of School of Languages and Literatures –(soon to be renamed apparently)

**October**

-Motion submitted to council in September debated and passed during the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Union Council.  
-Continued correspondence with the relevant bodies concerning said motion.  
-Finalised plans for International Week.

-Attended several Meetings with the Campaigns Forum, the Communications Officer (Brian) and Ger to finalise the poster details.

-Arranged events for International Week with the majority of the International Societies and several other Society Auditors- the main product of these meetings was the International Dinner and the Charity Event which saw the JazzSoc auditor get his nipple waxed.

-A meeting with Sabbatical Officers, in particular the Graduate Education Officer concerning other events- the product of these meetings was the International Dance Showcase.

### **November**

-The completed organisation, postering and running of International Week.

-Meeting with the Heads of Individual schools of Languages to discuss a pilot programme for the year concerning Languages.

### **December**

**-No Work as exams were in Session.**

### **January**

-Met with the Campaigns Forum, the Welfare and Equality Officer and the Human Sciences Convenor to plan Diversity Week- from my part the organisation of two events- A Language Diversity Workshop and An International Story Night.

-Met with other Academics to discuss the possibility and Feasibility of the pilot Language programme.

### **February**

-Diversity Week and two events in particular.

-Correspondence with the relevant bodies with regard to the Food Labelling motion.

-Met with the UCD ESN Chair and had correspondence with her on Facebook with regard to the possibility of a second International Dinner

-Posterred for an SU Week –Possibly Sex out Loud.

-Helped Pack Sex Out Loud Pranks.

### **March**

- Began to work on Kosher Labelling in SU Shops- this work is still to be completed
- Correspondence with the Islamic Cultural Centre concerning Halal food.
- Submitted Item for discussion to Council concerning Derogatory Language on Council- this shall be discussed during Final Council.

### **April**

-Continued Work in fulfilling October Motion.

- Continued Work on Combatting Derogatory Language on Council.

## **Thank Yous.**

As this is my last council report, I would like to use it to thank certain people who were a great help to me during my term.

First to the Campaigns Forum and Maeve - It was an honour to serve alongside such a great bunch of people, all so passionate about the issues relating to their portfolio, you have all worked so hard and we've had some laughs along the way too.

Maeve- you were a great source of support to the projects run throughout and a Fantastic Welfare Officer.

To Feargal, Anabel and Amy- You were all also great sources of support and ideas (especially Anabel!)

Thanks to Devin for being an Amazing Secretary to Council and to Stephen as Chair, while we have not always agreed you did a great job.

To Ger, thanks so much for the fantastic posters made for both Diversity Week and International Week and to Brian for communicating International Week (and swiping several cigarettes off me!)

Thanks to Vivienne Phelan- Auditor of the International Students Society who has always been on hand to discuss the current issues facing International Students, Aoife Sands- Chair of UCD ESN for the work she and her fantastic committee did in ensuring the International Dinner was a success, to the ISS Committee, the Auditors of the other International and Linguistic Societies and Jess from the International Office

Special thanks to certain members of Council for always having ideas on how to approach and run campaigns in particular Bill Thompson, Cian Aherne, Mary Cain, Michael Goldsworthy, Melanie o'Donovan, Conor Rock, Cian Byrne, Maeve Kelly, Roseanna Shanahan, Tom Williams, Conor Viscardi, Lexi Kilmartin, Clare O'Connor and of course once again to the Campaigns Forum (if I have left anyone out Sorry and that thanks is extended to you too!!).

Thanks to all of council for their help and to anyone and everyone who has helped out in any way! It's been an awesome year and I've enjoyed every minute of it since 2011.

To the Incoming Team Best of Luck with the Year ahead!!!

## LGBTQ+ Coordinator - Sam Blanckensee

### End of Year Report 2014/2015

I'm very happy with what I have achieved in the past year. This year has been the year of Marriage Equality and of Gender Recognition. I am glad to have been given the opportunity to work on these amazing issues. I also worked on Intersectionality and starting the conversation about the common ground between different marginalized communities on campus.

In Semester 1, I was on work placement so was unable to be very active. However I was as involved with the Marriage Equality campaign as was possible. I also passed a motion on Marriage Equality through council. I would like to commend the UCD LGBTQ+ Society on their very successful registration drive in Semester 1.

In Semester 2 I helped to organise a Public Meeting for Marriage Equality which was extremely successful. We outlined for the campus referendum. After achieving a strong yes mandate at 97% we have introduced our #VoteforME campaign. I am so happy to see around 70 reasons to vote yes on campus. I also am ecstatic to have seen our launch lounge where we managed to get #VoteforME to go viral. I am excited to see UCD's part in the last few weeks of the national campaign. I have loved being involved in the #VoteforME campaign and a huge amount of gratitude has to go to Feargal, Maeve, Grace, Louise, the LGBTQ+ society and anyone else who got involved with the Marriage Equality campaign from the SU or from UCD as a whole.

I have also been highly involved with the National Gender Recognition campaign. I have done radio, tv and newspaper interviews many of which raised the SU profile. We have seen the lobbying that Transgender Equality Network Ireland, the Irish Trans Student Alliance and LGBT Noise have done has paid off and we have seen major improvements to the bill. I am proud to have represented UCD in these issues and I thank all of you who came to the Rally of Recognition on Valentine's Day to show solidarity and fulfil our mandate.

Diversity week was a fantastic success in UCD. We harnessed a feeling of solidarity and raised the profile of marginalised communities in UCD. I was so happy to see the success of the Overcoming Barriers Panel Discussion and the Poetry slam! Thanks to the rest of Campaigns' Forum and all those involved for all your hard work.

The only aspect of my manifesto that I didn't achieve was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Camp Pride. I wish my successor all the best and I hope that they will work on building a training programme for LGBTQ+ people on campus to build self-confidence. This year is a big year for LGBTQ+ rights and together we have made it a big year for our union.

I am proud to have worked with amazing teams over the past two years, I wish next year's team as much success as we achieved.



Mental Health Co-Ordinator

Final Council Report

Monday, 13 April 2015

I have compiled a short report which I will pass on to the next Mental Health Coordinator as advice on the role- which will hopefully allow them to work from the basis of my learning curve. I had hoped to run a Mental Health/ Wellbeing week, but it was quite late in the semester, and there were already bookings in some of the facilities, and several societies stated that they were too busy with end-of-semester events. I gained permission for the UCDSU website to use information from Bodywhys and several other organisations, so that our information will be accurate, safe and useful for students in need. This will be sent to the Communications officer when I have compiled all the information.

## **End of Year Report - Gender Equality Coordinator**

Grace Williams: [gender.equality@ucdsu.ie](mailto:gender.equality@ucdsu.ie)

The first events I helped with for UCDSU was with Orientation Week for freshers. I was helping on the Welfare and Equality stand, talking to first years about joining the welfare crew and getting involved with the students' union. This was also the case with Freshers' Week, where I helped at the SU stand in the Freshers' Tent, talking to people about running for class rep and getting involved with the Welfare/Ents Crew.

I helped out with Mind, Body and Soul Festival, setting up the event areas and looking after the tea stands. During this time, I also met with Hollaback to talk about cat-calling and street harassment and possible campaigns for the SU to run on this issue.

During this time, myself and Sam Blanckensee successfully proposed and passed a motion to SU Council on abortion rights and our stance on them in UCD, changing our position from just having a fully pro-choice stance, to obtaining a mandate to actively campaign on the issue. From here, I attended the March for Choice. I also invited to speak on a panel by the Abortion Rights Campaign, Socialist Workers Student Society and UCD Amnesty International. Other speakers included Clare Daly TD, Sinead Redmond of Aims Ireland and Peadar O'Grady of Doctors for Choice. In this time, I also spoke to The University Observer about our successes in UCDSU with the abortion rights campaign.

As part of International Week, and in conjunction with Matthew Carroll, I was asked to host and facilitate discussion for a round table event on international gender roles and the context of gender roles across borders.

A new Facebook group for gender equality was established to allow for discussion on gender and equality issues in an environment with only UCD students and with strict terms of use, in order for students to have a safe space.

After the Christmas break, the campaign for marriage equality began. We called the referendum for Week 4. I, along with Melanie O'Donovan and Louise Keogh, managed the referendum campaign. We built up a campaign team for postering and canvassing, and set up a Facebook campaign page, "Vote For ME UCD". We also organised a Town Hall Public Meeting on marriage equality to talk to students about canvassing, how to talk to their families and the best way to win the national referendum. In the build up to the UCD referendum, we organised a canvassing workshop to teach students how to canvass other students on the day of the referendum and poster the campus with "Vote Yes" posters for the referendum, successfully seeing the referendum pass with a 97% yes vote and the highest voter turnout for a number of years. During this time, the photo and video campaign was also launched, encouraging people to tell their stories of being LGBTQ+ in Ireland and why we should vote yes in the national referendum.

After the marriage equality campaign, the Campaigns' Forum began work on planning for Diversity Week, with different events being organised celebrating equality despite

differences in the student body. This week ended with a panel discussion on Overcoming Barriers, with speakers from different backgrounds speaking on their experiences.

The biggest event of year was the Vote For ME Social Media Launch. Our posters with each individual caption and face were around campus from the week before. I helped with social media and encouraged others to use our hashtags and share our posts to increase our online audience. Not only were we trending on Twitter with #VoteForME, but we also received media coverage from other organisations and groups such as TDs and Amnesty International Youth. It was also the launch of our Vote For ME videos which were made in the build up to UCD's referendum.