

MINUTES

NSE MEETING // 7/7/2020 // 11:00-16:00

Present:

- Reuban Murray - President
- Yvonne Farrell - International Officer
- Tara Toye - Student Council Support Officer
- Emer Neville - Communications Officer
- Matthew Colgan - Secretary
- Alicia O'Sullivan - Education Officer
- Saoirse Exton - Equality Officer
- Luke Casserly - Deputy President
- Matthew Ryan - Welfare Officer
- Ciara Fanning - Honorary President
- Katie Halpin-Hill - Oifigeach na Gaeilge
- Beth Doherty - Sustainability Officer

1.1 - Arrival & Welcome

- The President welcomed everyone and hoped they were all well

1.2 - Minutes from Last Meeting

- Minutes Proposed by President and Seconded by Secretary

1.3 - Matter Arising from Minutes

- N/A

2 - Officer Updates

- The President updated on a meeting with Minister for Education and gave very positive and hopeful feedback
- The President also mentioned the meetings with Senator Malcolm Byrne (Fianna Fáil), Mary-Lou McDonald and Donnchadh Ó Laoghaire (Sinn Féin) - referencing the building of a positive relationship with members of the Oireachtas.

- The Welfare Officer updated the NSE on the projects that they have started - Drug education and Sanitary Products. They attended some talks around student welfare and found them to be very informative.
- The Sustainability Officer updated that they have been working on their work plan and communications from OBESSU about an international Sustainability event.
- The International Officer updated about the ISSU's support for the 100million campaign and the start of her campaign on sensory rooms, they will also be attending a call with a UN Representative around sustainability.
- The Education Officer Updated that they have been working on the Leaving Cert reform and RSE reform. They have been collaborating with many different officers on different aspects of the Leaving Cert from LGBT Issues to Curriculum reform
- The Irish Language Officer updated that they have been working hard on their work plan, they have been communicating with Conradh na Gaeilge to update our partnership, they also mentioned future plans to discuss Irish policy writing but also including Gaeilge into our internal and external emails.
- Comms Officer - Social Media strategy, they are hoping to create a brand for ISSU and plan on setting up a work group around redesigning our website and use more irish in social media posts. They have also worked on the anti-racism book which has been published online.
- The SCSO has been working with regional officers to determine what needs to be done in terms of regional councils and they have been working on the new ISSU Student Council Handbook. They

have also provided training to the newly co-opted Regional Officers.

- The Equality Officer attended an inclusion workgroup held by OBESSU, they also hope to further the work done by the previous Equality Officer and have been communicating with other Officers in the hopes of doing more projects in the future.
- The Hon.President has been communicating with the Northern Irish Student Union helping them to set up and get up and running, they also have been communicating with the MC.
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3 - RSE Reform

- Work has begun by the Welfare and Education Officer.
- It was decided that student input is essential, working groups and consultations are a must
- Possible report to be made around what is there and what is needed in RSE
- At the moment there are loads of reviews of RSE, the idea is to create a student action plan and to lobby to NCCA
- Formation of a approx. 6 week Working Group to create an Action Plan
- Review that plan at the end.

4 - Trees of Memories

- A committee of 13 second level students
- A project that is aimed at secondary schools to plant a tree in remembrance of those who lost their lives to Covid-19 and to have a moment of silence during the tree planting.
- ISSU's support would allow the project to gain credibility and the Trees group would ask that the ISSU spread the word of the initiative.
- Unanimous decision made to support the Initiative.

5 - Joining INAR

- Irish Network Against Racism
- Many of the organisations that we are involved with are also members of this organisation
- To join the ISSU has to sign a pact to work in solidarity with the organisation to combat racism in Ireland
- Unanimous decision to join INAR.

6 - Drug Education

- Resource Book around Drug Education and Awareness
- Meeting has been held with Roscommon CNN as their topic is Drug Awareness
- Alex's Adventure - Alternative teaching method around drug abuse.
- Work Group proposed.
- Proposed to link in with NCS as they are very enthusiastic about this issue.

8 - Skills Academy

- Networking event
- Most Popular event
- Usually in September/August but due to current circumstances it cannot happen as it has done previously
- 3 different alternative options:
 - 1) Online Webinar
 - 2) Postpone to October
 - 3) Upload Videos to the website of workshop/advice
- It was noted that the postponement of the Skills Academy would be the best option, due to current public health advice and the agreement from the majority of the NSE that an in person Skills Academy is more beneficial than an online webinar.
- It has also been noted that public health advice could drastically change in the next few months, and many parents and students would feel anxious and/or nervous travelling to the location.

- Most important point is that it has to be 100% safe and not put anybody at risk of infection.

9 - Call to action Video

- Create a brief 30 second video of the NSE daring students to get motivated to get involved with ISSU.
- IDEAS:
 - Have it clear that we are an organisation representing young people but also human and relatable.
 - Majority Voted Yes

15 - Teacher Conference

- Meet with teachers/teachers union to help plant seeds for student voice and increased student involvement
- It was proposed that the whole NSE get together to create this event and to show off the work that we have done around the student voice to stakeholders who don't particularly know what we do and show how that student councils should be run and give the student perspective on it.
- It's noted that this could be a great way for students and teachers to reach a mutual understanding of each other.
- It was proposed that we create a strategy to get as many teachers and schools involved as possible, utilizing regional officers.
- Student Voice Conference
- Proposed to include the parents association, teachers union, Principal and Deputy Principals Union.
- Majority Voted for this to happen.

17 - AOB

- The President proposed having at least half of the ISSU events outside of Dublin.
 - The majority of Officers agreed that having regional events is something that needs to happen and would grow the outreach of the Union and possibly increase the membership.
 - Possibly easier to secure funding for local events from youth groups and Local Authorities.
 - Great way to utilise Regional Officers
 - Majority Voted for this proposition.
- The International Officer raised a motion to vote for different proposals at the OBESSU General Assembly.
 - Proposals to be emailed to Officers for Educated Vote
- The Welfare Officer brought up the idea of having an introductory call with the Regional Officers to introduce the new NSE to them and have it recognised that the ROB are a valued and Vital part of ISSU's Structure
 - Proposed to break it up into provinces and talk to them at separate times.

18 - Action Points

Topic:	Officer:	Description:
Drug Ed.	Welfare	Set up Working Group
Drug Ed.	Welfare	Create Resource Book
Skills Academy	President/NSE	Create online Skills
Call to Action Video	President	Set up Working Group

**THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THE MEETING AT 2:22PM ON THE
7/7/2020**