

CUA NEWSLETTER

**WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

CONNACHT-ULSTER
ALLIANCE 

ISSUE 2



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Martin Cronin, CUA Chair



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Project Manager, IT Sligo**



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Teaching & Learning in the TU

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In preparation for designation as a TU, a CUA Learning and Teaching subgroup was established in 2019 to inform the approaches to Teaching, Learning and Assessment (LTA) to be adopted in the new TU, *writes Dr Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin.*

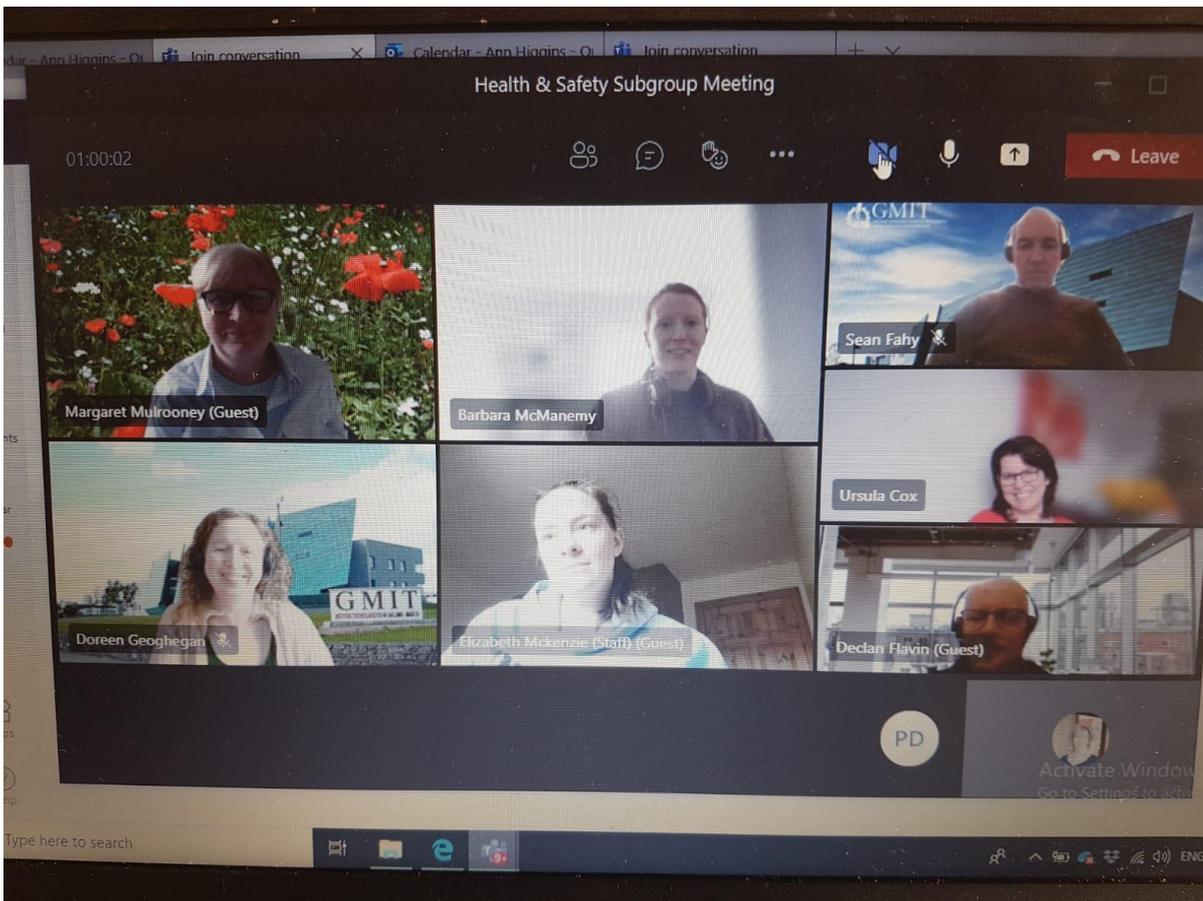
The CUA Learning and Teaching group team includes: Dr Carina Ginty and Dr Mark Kelly (GMIT), Dr Niamh Plunkett and Gavin Clinch (IT Sligo) and Dr Deirdre McClay and Dr Joe English (LYIT) and the Student Union Education Officers across the CUA.

In 2020, the CUA T&L leads co-created outputs and consulted widely on an LTA strategy and student success framework (available as supplementary documents to the TU submission), and this will inform the future development of Learning, Teaching and Assessment within the emerging TU. The co-created outputs are outlined below and can be explored through the links provided:

- **CUA Learning, Teaching and Assessment [LTA] Principles and Strategic Initiatives**
- **CUA Student Success Framework**
- **Campus-specific and CUA learning and teaching projects**
- **INDEX 2019 (Digital Engagement Survey) findings for the CUA**
- **Learning, Teaching and Assessment Reflections on the impact of Covid-19 across the CUA and national studies**

The Learning and Teaching (T&L) Offices at GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo all support the academic community to build greater capacity to design their curriculum and teaching practices to ensure a positive student learning experience and robust academic standards, all of which are key in achieving retention. This is achieved by a commitment to Continuing Professional Development (CPD) through delivery of workshops; seminars; digital badges; postgraduate teaching development courses; and a range of online courses and toolkits to enhance teaching and the student learning experience. All of this helps produce skilled graduates, who not only have the theoretical knowledge and understanding for their chosen career but will also be critical graduates – students who will question what they have been taught and have the ability to use those critical thinking skills in the workplace and beyond.

New Health & Safety subgroup



Meeting of Health and Safety subgroup held on 12 March 2021

In order to provide a deeper insight into the work underway across the various CUA subgroups, we have decided to feature one group in every edition of our CUA newsletter. As Covid-19 has impacted all of us in so many ways, we felt it was appropriate to commence our 'spotlight' piece on the Health and Safety Group who have done such trojan work in ensuring our campuses remain a safe place to work and study, *writes Ann Higgins*.

Current group members are Doreen Geoghan (Chair, GMIT), Sean Fahy (GMIT), Elizabeth McKenzie (LYIT) , Barbara McManemy (ITS) Declan Flavin (ITS), Ursula Cox (PMSS IR

Facilitator), Margaret Mulrooney (PMSS IR Facilitator), Ann Higgins (ITS CUA PM), Patrice Dolan (CUA Administrator).

Established in June 2020, the group is the 'baby' of the eight subgroups aligned to Working Group 4 (WG4). However, members quickly set about developing a comprehensive work plan in the face of the unprecedented Covid-19 emergency. The level of cohesion among the group members is evidenced by their weekly off-line meetings to share learnings and develop , where appropriate, common approaches to responding to the significant H&S challenges posed by Covid-19. Return to work polices and protocols are informed by best practices and the breath of expertise available within the group.

The main focus of the group is to identify opportunities for collaboration pre-merger, develop co-ordinated legislative compliance, complete Business Process Alignment including a 'Day One' checklist and provide advice to WG4 on standardised policies and procedures for approval within the multi-campus operation.

As well as contributing to the TU submission document, members of the H&S subgroup have recently produced a comprehensive draft TU Safety Statement which is currently under review by other relevant subgroups.

As exemplar of how collaborative working benefits all of us, we sincerely thank members for their professionalism, diligence and willingness to go above and beyond to assist in our common objective of achieving TU designation.

International Women's Day celebrated across the CUA



GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo were delighted to host programmes of events for students and staff celebrating International Women's Day on the theme 'Choose to Challenge' (#ChooseToChallenge).

Highlights include public talks, seminars and an art exhibition and online interactive events.

Female staff and students from across the CUA were recognised in a national digital campaign promoted by THEA through social media and [this website](#) on Monday, 8 March.

[THEA International Women's Day](#)

CUA goes green for St Patrick's Day



Campuses of the CUA were turned green for St Patrick's Day

The campuses of the CUA - GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo were lit up in our national colour green to celebrate St Patrick's Day and promote positivity and hope to our students, staff, alumni and communities during the pandemic.

Podcast: Dr Kenneth Monaghan

IT Sligo



In this issue, Dr Kenneth Monaghan from IT Sligo discusses his research titled; "*The Science of Motivation: Stroke Rehabilitation at Home*" and asks can we “trick” the billions of cells that carry all important information around the brain into doing what we want them to do? And if so, can we use that discovery for post stroke rehabilitation?

Dr Kenneth Monaghan is the director of an established Stroke Research Group within the Clinical Health and Nutrition Centre (CHANCE) at Institute of Technology, Sligo. He is also a lecturer in Health Science, and the head of Neuroplasticity Research Groups at IT Sligo. He has dedicated his career helping to transform lives of people who have survived a stroke and are left with long-term problems caused by an injury to the brain. [See Dr Monaghan's Bio here.](#)

[Podcast](#)



Edited & produced by: Aidan Haughey (IT Sligo), Regina Daly (GMIT), Samantha Lynch (LYIT) - CUA Communications.

If you want to know more about the CUA please contact the [project team here](#) or email: info@cualliance.ie

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