

# CUA NEWSLETTER

**WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A  
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY**

CONNACHT-ULSTER  
ALLIANCE 

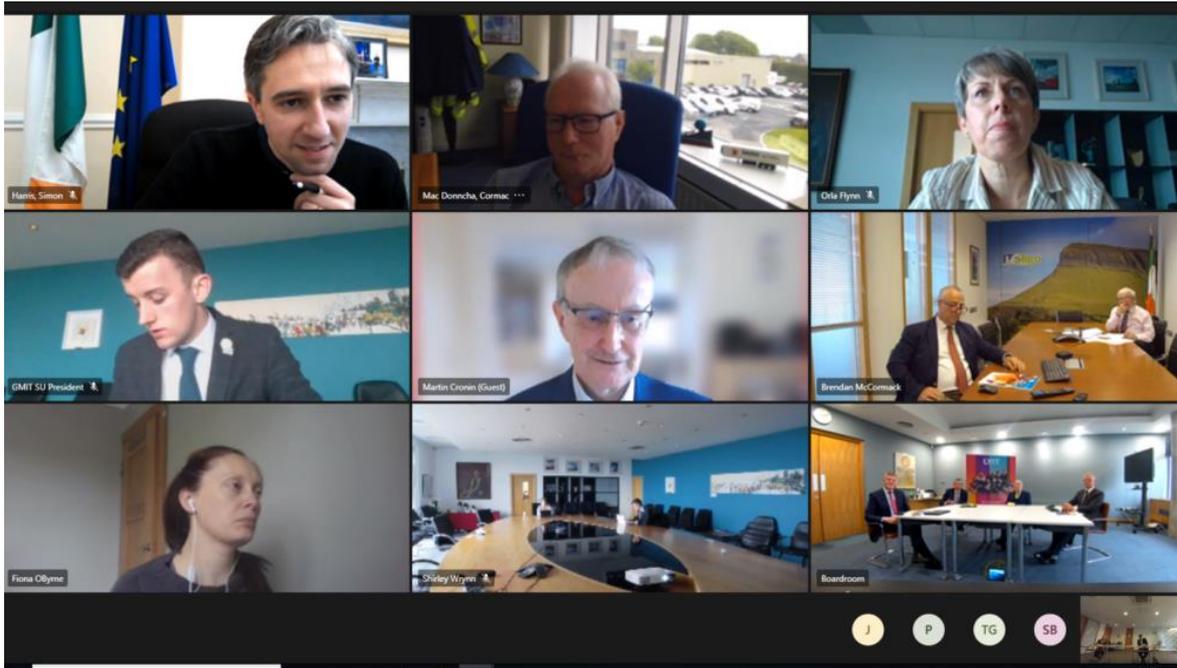
ISSUE 4



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**TU international panel to visit in  
July**



The three institutes are entering the final stages of the TU submission process. The document has been distributed to all Governing Bodies, Executive Boards and TU Project Working Groups and Sub-groups who will be directly involved with the international panel.

A mock panel will be carried out over today and tomorrow, Monday 28 and Tuesday 29 June, in preparation for the international panel visit. The international panel visit will take place virtually from 16 to 23 July. The draft detailed schedule is currently being reviewed by the HEA and the panel. The final schedule will be available as soon as it has been agreed. With regards to direct contact with the international panel, the HEA will be setting up a direct email address which will be an open line of communication to the panel for those who wish to contribute to the process.

**Over 500 attend UDL conference**



The inaugural CUA Universal Design for Learning (UDL) conference took place online on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 with over 500 attendees across all higher education institutions in Ireland.

Partners from IT Sligo, LYIT and GMIT participated in investigating a myriad of approaches to UDL through an exploration of shared best inclusive practices and highlighting the need for conversations on allowing students to take ownership of their learning process.

Keynote speakers tackled the shift needed in the teaching dynamic, digital enhancements using UDL, alternative assessment practices and removing further potential barriers to enable every student to participate fully and succeed within higher education.

Dr Niamh Plunkett, Head of Teaching and Learning at IT Sligo and coordinator of the event said:

“Many HEIs are now looking towards UDL as a framework, and we believe this will be a significant inclusion in the forthcoming National Access Plan. Our curriculum management software Module Manager has been adapted so that

the principles of UDL are automatically embedded during programme construction in the following three areas:

- (i) Learning Outcomes, (ii) Teaching & Learning Approaches, and (iii) Assessment Strategies.

The next stage is to implement Universal Design Learning across programmes within a full Teaching and Learning Framework. CUA partners will start planning for the embedding of the principles of UDL in the upcoming TU.”, she concludes.

## CUA conference explores business in the hybrid working world



As businesses prepare for an evolving hybrid working world the GMIT Innovation Hubs, Sligo Innovation Centre and the LYIT CoLab held a webinar with MC Susan HayesCulleton and special guests.

To help businesses on this evolutionary path of the hybrid working world, the four CUA campus Innovation Centres across the three Connacht-Ulster Alliance (CUA) institutes of GMIT, LYIT and IT Sligo recently (15 June) hosted a webinar titled, *“Scaling Your Business in a Hybrid Working World – Working Locally, Trading Globally.”*

Dr Seán Duffy, CUA Executive Project Lead, says: “As the CUA Institutes continue their work to become a Technological University, this webinar is another excellent example of working together as one for the benefit of the wider region. Developing knowledge and skills which will enable a locally employed work force with a global focus is a welcome challenge which the CUA is keen to support”.

The webinar was addressed by Caroline Reidy, founder of The HR Suite, Mayo-based Paul McBride, Peroptyx, and Galway-based Louise Foody from Kingspan. Other panelists were David Gildea, Druva, from Donegal and Elaine Murphy, Livetiles, from Sligo. The Master of Ceremonies is Susan HayesCulleton, author of the “The Positive Economist”

Maria Staunton, Manager of the GMIT Mayo iHub, says: “We wanted to focus on a topic of importance for start ups, SMEs and MNCs. We also wanted to highlight how you can work in the West and North-West of Ireland, build a global team and compete globally. There are so many new challenges around the areas of hybrid working that companies need to be aware of and so many good tips and ideas on how to manage teams globally.”

## New CUA Choir release “Rise Up”



Watch the CUA Virtual Choir sing “Rise Up” by Andra Day ..... with glimpses of our favourite places in Donegal, Galway, Mayo, and Sligo ♡

Staff and students in GMIT, IT Sligo and LYIT recently joined forces to form a new virtual choir under the direction of choir master Sean Rowland. CUA Virtual Choir released “*Rise Up*”, written by Jennifer Decilveo & Cassandra Batie (aka Andra Day) – arrangement by Mac Huff with added vocal parts and musical score from Sean Rowland who says:

“We wanted to end the academic year with something special for the GMIT Virtual choir and we couldn’t think of a better way than inviting our colleagues from LYIT and IT Sligo. Given we are all soon to be part of a new TU we felt it was a perfect opportunity to enhance our journey and begin to form friendships between our staff and students. A choir is a perfect way to unite people, in this instance eight college campuses and for the first time the participants got to

choose the song. I was able to offer three song choices, but all had a common thread of unity, togetherness, and support for one another. “Rise Up” was the perfect choice to support this theme and indeed an even better choice to celebrate some kind of an end to the last 15 months. This is a simple song but with a strong message (they’re usually the best!) We also asked the participants to submit videos of them and their families etc at their favourite hotspots which beautifully capture all four counties representing the Connacht-Ulster Alliance”

If you are interested in joining the CUA choir please [email here](#).

**Podcast: Dr Ciarán ó hAnnracháin  
highlights the importance of the TU to  
the West and North-West**



Dr Ciarán Ó hAnnracháin, CUA Project Manager at LYIT, took time out recently to chat to Raidió na Gaeltachta about the significance of the Technological University Submission made by LYIT, It Sligo and GMIT. He discussed the benefits to the west and north-west region through increased diversity in university education provision as well as the investment and industry engagement in research activity across the region. He outlined the potential the TU designation has for our smaller campuses, with particular reference to Killybegs, where seafood, marine engineering and renewable energy research and innovation is being fostered in conjunction with local industry.

Ciarán is also conscious of the large Gaeltachtaí in the region, and the need for the new TU to embrace this and other unique features of our region. Listen to the interview through the [link here](#).

[Listen to the Podcast here](#)



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

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