

SOCSEX NEWS

Committee Newsletter Vol: 8, April 16th 2021

Check out previous editions [at this link](#), (it's the purple box on the socs website) **View our promo video here**

In this week's edition

Societies & the Levy referendum	1	Email from the Dean of Students	8
Society Awards Time to Enter	3	Barry's News (SU Socs chair)	9
BICS Networking Games Night	7	Competition Time	10
Society gifts for final year students	7	SocsBox Social Media	12

Societies & the Levy Referendum

Students union request for the referendum on the Levy

* Request for Referendum | Foréileamh ar Reifreann

REQUEST FOR REFERENDUM

We the (500 or more) undersigned members of NUI Galway Students' Union request that a referendum be held to vote on the following question:

"That with effect from 1st July, 2021 the members of NUI Galway Students' Union approve the cancellation of the current Student Levy of €224 (adopted in 2006, updating a levy approved in 2003); and further approve its replacement with a new Student Levy of €140 (to be paid in that amount by full-time students and by part-time students on the Full-Time Equivalent basis) to create a Student Levy Fund with the total amount collected annually to be distributed on the basis of allocating 2.14% to Áras na Mac Léinn, 10% to CÉIM (to be paid to and administered by NUI Galway Students' Union), 4.29% to Flirt FM, 17.86% to NUI Galway Clubs, 17.86% to NUI Galway Societies, 3.57% to the Projects Fund, 15.71% to the Student Health Unit, and 28.57% to NUI Galway Students' Union; and also approve that the Student Levy of €140 adopted for the academic year 2021-2022 be increased thereafter in line with Consumer Price Index inflation."

USCG Response to the Levy

"The elected student representatives to the USCG welcome a reduced student levy. However, while the increase in society funding may seem like a positive, the proposed cut to the Áras na Mac Léinn fund is worrying. The building is the home of societies/students and this will force all student services that are located there to seek additional external funding to ensure the availability

and maintenance of key resources/spaces for societies & students. The alternative source for this funding is likely to be more corporate events held in Áras na Mac Léinn which actively takes power from the student's hands. This will move the financial burden back onto students, not remove it. The long term effect on sporting clubs should also be considered. We implore students to consider the impacts these proposed changes will have on all aspects of student life prior to voting."

The USCG has held a series of information sessions on the Levy referendum and how the changes may impact on societies. Check out the link below to be fully informed.

[See full info on the levy at this link](#)

USCG Levy Meeting

Thursday 15th 3pm, 6pm, Friday 16th 3pm.

[See the meeting presentation here](#)

If you would like to attend the meeting at 3pm [sign up here](#)

Student Levy Proposal April 2021

	<i>Existing Levy</i>	<i>Proposed Levy</i>	<i>Difference</i>
Societies	€19.28	€25.00	€5.72
Clubs	€19.28	€25.00	€5.72
Students' Union	€25.14	€40.00	€14.86
Student Health Unit	€18.46	€22.00	€3.54
Áras na Mac Léinn	€17.23	€3.00	-€14.23
Flirt FM	€4.92	€6.00	€1.08
Student Project Fund	€19.69	€5.00	-€14.69
Sports Centre	€100.00	€0.00	-€100.00
CÉIM	€0.00	€14.00	€14.00
Total	€224.00	€140.00	-€84.00

Proposed Levy based on potential student numbers

per capita		existing levy	Proposed	this year	proposed	difference
16300	Societies	19.28	25	314264	407500	93236
	Clubs	19.28	25	314264	407500	93236
	SU	25.14	40	409782	652000	242218
	Health unit	18.46	22	300898	358600	57702
	Aras na mac Leinn	17.23	3	280849	48900	-231949
	Flirt	4.95	6	80685	97800	17115
	Students projects	19.69	5	320947	81500	-239447
	Ceim	0	14	0	228200	228200
	Sports Centre	100	0			
		224.03	140			

Society Awards How to Enter

Our awards will take place Virtually on April 28th with applications due 19th & 20th April. They will take place via Zoom starting at 7pm on April 28th and tickets will be made available to any societies who enter for any awards.

Note April 16th is the deadline for Best Poster/Photo & Website to be uploaded to (add your website link to your profile on www.socs.nuigalway.ie). Photos & Posters are uploaded via your dashboard you can view the photo gallery [here](#) and posters [here](#) (shortlisted posters and photos will be e-mailed an application Monday 18th to submit by April 21st. Only fill in these forms if you have been shortlisted.

If you need help call to the SocsBox Help desk Mon - Thur 2pm - 8pm <https://bit.ly/3cCWc2B>

Please upload your application to this google form <https://forms.gle/vHepyLexgHXXKn5x9>

About our Awards

In addition to the BICS Awards categories we have NUIG specific awards and we are bringing back our Special Awards this year. In addition to getting an Awards Certificate emailed to the winners after the awards there are also prizes for entering and attending the awards this year. Link with all the Info and instructional videos.

Prizes:

- €20 per award application submitted to a maximum of €50 (Best Poster, Video, Photo, Small Publication €10 each) This fund is for people who work on the applications.
- €10 per person who attends the awards
- €20 for winners of the Special Awards
- €50 for the winners for the other awards
- Spot Prizes 10 x €15 vouchers

It is the responsibility of each treasurer to distribute the funds and enter the details in the finance system and for the committee to ensure the right people get the funds. Each society will be contacted after the awards to confirm how much they are due from the awards, this amount will be put against your grant, so you can distribute the funds to the attendees prior to the awards ceremony so they have access to funds to purchase a

takeaway for example on the evening. You will not need to upload receipts for this funding as it

at the discretion of each committee/ individual how you spend this money, The details of the transfer will need to be entered into your finance website as expenditure. Any questions call to the SocsBox Help Desk.

You will be able to book a space at the Awards if your society has entered for an award the registration form will be shared with you early next week.

This info is available on the homepage and in your dashboard.

Info Videos

[Video with additional information on how to enter the NUIG Society Awards](#)

[NUI Galway Society Awards Applications](#)

Best Society cultural / Academic/ Social category

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

If your society's main aim is charity, civic engagement or advocacy please fill in the Best Charity/Civic Society. If not this is the application for all other societies. Your society must be in existence for more than 2 years.

Best Society Civic/Charity

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Your Society must engage your members with an off campus entity.

The benefit or benefits must include at least two of the following elements: financial, volunteering, education and/or awareness raising for your target entity or entities.

It can benefit one or more entities and must be an integral part of your society's aims and objectives.

There is no distinction or value judgement made on the thematic area or perceived value of the target entity or whether the target entity is local, national or international.

Your society must be in existence for more than 2 years.

Best Departmental

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Must be linked to an academic department/college.

Best New Society

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Must be in existence for no more than 2 years.

Most Improved Society

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Must compare with last year and show significant improvement. Must be in existence for more than 2 years.

Best Event

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Events that have taken place after than March 13th 2020 are eligible.

Best Intervarsity

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Intervarsities that have taken place after than March 13th 2020 are eligible.

Best Individual

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Best Fresher

BICS (NUIG deadline April 20th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

A Fresher is deemed to be a society member who is in their first year in a third level institution.

Best Mental health Promoting Award

BICS (NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Best Green Initiative

BICS (NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Best Publicity Campaign

BICS (NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Best Promo Video

BICS (NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

Best Poster Only use this form if you receive an email that your photo has been shortlisted.

BICS (NUIG deadline April 16th 12pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

This is chosen from the posters on the Societies Website uploaded by April 16th at 12pm (if your poster is shortlisted will be sent a short application form on Monday 18th to return by Thursday, April 21st. at 12pm)

Best Photo Only use this form if you receive an email that your photo has been shortlisted.

BICS (NUIG deadline April 16th 12pm, BICS deadline June 21st)

This is chosen from the photos on the society Gallery up loaded by April 16th at 12pm (there will be a shortlist, and societies shortlisted will be sent a short application form on Monday 18th to return by Thursday, April 21st. at 12pm) Note it cannot be taken by a professional photographer.

Best Cultural Contribution

(NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm)

Non BICS

Best Small Publication

(NUIG deadline April 19th 2pm)

Non BICS

This can be a printed booklet no more than 60 pages, a brochure, programme or online publication. A pdf version is now required, not a hard copy.

No Applications required for the following:

Best Website

Non BICS (deadline April 16th 12pm)

This is chosen from all the websites linked on your profile, there is no application form.

Phoenix Award

Non BICS

NO Application this is for a society resurrected from almost completely inactive, does not require an application and will be chosen from the societies who enter for any award.

Most Successful

Non BICS

No Application This is chosen from all the societies who apply for awards and is deemed to contribute the most to campus life and collegiality. This does not require an application.

Most ALIVE

Deadline April 25th

There is no application, The award will go to the society with the most complete applications by the deadline, this means your volunteers need to have applied for their ALIVE cert, completed all the questions and added in their hours and submitted their application and the Society needs to have added in their short paragraph.

BICS Applications will be expected to be in a position to enter for the BICS Awards the deadline for application is June 21st, but we will contact you after the awards and start the application process asap as there is only a short time after the NUIG exams. The BICS Awards require an application, portfolio and video for most awards. (no video interview for best promotional campaign, best green or best mental health event, not interview video or portfolio for best video, poster or photo)



BICS Societies Networking Games Night



The next BICS Networking event is on Wednesday 21st of April at 8pm. It is a BICS Networking Games Night. You will have the opportunity to work in teams in breakout rooms with society people from around the country. There will be lots of games and challenges including the all new Big BICS Escape Room. With lots of prizes to be won.

If you would like to attend, fill in the form and they will send you the link 30 minutes before the event starts.

Registration Form

[Form Link](#)

Lots of prizes to be won!

Society Gifts for Final Year Students

Monday 19th April is the deadline to sign up for your gift. Be sure to let your members know.

[This is the form](#) to fill in so we have addresses to post to.

It is for your members who are final year undergrad or postgrad society members and one year masters so anyone leaving NUI Galway at the end of this academic



year. We are also including any committee member who graduated last year and missed out on the final year experience. If you have any committee members who are still around and graduated in the Autumn 2020 we are happy to include them in the gifts as COVID - 19 had a negative impact on their last year as well.

We hope to get the posting done now sooner than we had anticipated and the gifts are awesome.

It is our way to say thanks for their contribution to Societies and to wish them well.

Letter from the Dean of Students regarding Social Media

Dear Society Members,

In light of recent postings on social media which have been brought to my attention, I wish to make you aware of the supports available to you and inform you of some of the processes and procedures which relate to Societies and Students and Staff more generally at NUI Galway. Please note that any such issues should be dealt with in line with the principles of fair procedures and due process.

If you are any members of your society have been affected by anything posted on social media these supports are available. If you or someone you know needs support at this time, please reach out

- NUI Galway Student Counselling- counselling@nuigalway.ie or Text NUIG to 50808
- NUI Galway Student Health Unit- 091 492 604 healthunit@nuigalway.ie
- NUI Galway Chaplaincy - 087 203 7538
- Galway Rape Crisis Centre- Free Confidential Helpline 1800 355 355
- Women's Aid 1800 341 900
- Men's Aid 01 554 3811
- Samaritans 116 123
- Pieta House 1800 247 247

There is also a module on Active Consent in yourspace.nuigalway.ie

If you believe that committee members behaviour has brought your societies name and the name of the university into disrepute there are a number of channels open to you.

Society Constitutions

<https://socs.nuigalway.ie/page.php?id=Ng==>

You can view the full **Societies Complaints Process** at this link

<https://socs.nuigalway.ie/admin/uploads/fileVault/?f=Mjc=>

Please note that according to your constitution the issue should be raised with the USCG and you can do this by emailing the Societies Officer at socsofficer@socs.nuigalway.ie

Please be aware that there is a University Social Media Policy that Societies are subject to (2.1)

<https://www.nuigalway.ie/media/student-services/files/Social-Media-Policy-v4.0-Staff-and-Students-2020.pdf>

Please note that any such issues should be dealt with in line with the principles of fair procedures and due process.

Once again if you or someone you know needs support at this time please reach out to the supports above.

UPDATE from the Societies Office: We are working on a document to clarify exactly which avenues are open to societies and how to use your constitution and complaints process to deal with difficulties in your committee.

.....

Barry's News

Barry's Section



Hey everyone!

I hope everyone has had good week! It's most definitely been chaotic. I just wanna remind ye as usual that my email is su.socs@nuigalway.ie if ye need a source ANYTHING!!

One piece of news that's so important!

Part Time Officer Elections:

Nominations are now open for the 14 Part Time Voluntary Officer positions on the SU for 2021/22. Nominations close at 5pm on Weds 21st of April. The Election will take place 9am-9pm Thurs 29th of April. You can nominate yourself here - <https://www.nuigsuelections.com>

That means that my position is going up for election! If you have any questions about it please get in contact with me!

Some other bits of news:

The NUIG Chase Fri 23rd April

We have teamed up with NUIG Law Society, FLAC Society and ELSA Society to put on an NUIG version of The Chase in aid of the SU Charities 6pm-8pm on Fri 23rd April. Our Quizmaster will be Paula Healy from Flirt FM and we have some great chasers lined up, some of whom you will be eager to battle against, but now we need players! Interested team players please complete [this form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkiML38zS0l5S1jM8LFU7vpPwYeJ6KZVfOq9-_EnuYP7Kx9w/vlewform) (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfkiML38zS0l5S1jM8LFU7vpPwYeJ6KZVfOq9-_EnuYP7Kx9w/vlewform) there are some exciting prizes up for grabs!

Our Chasers (so far) are:

- Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh (NUI Galway President)
- Larry Donnelly (NUI Galway Law Lecturer and Director of Clinical Legal Education and political columnist)
- Michael Coyne (NUI Galway Law IT Administrator)
- Dr Brian Tobin (NUI Galway Law Lecturer)

Get tickets [HERE](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-nuig-chase-tickets-150763107513) - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-nuig-chase-tickets-150763107513>

Galway Community Café

Galway Community Café is a newly established out of hours adult mental health service. Whether struggling with stress and pressures of college, or needing a social outlet, we wanted to let the students of Galway know that the Galway Community Café is available for them. In line with current Covid-19 restrictions the

café is open on a virtual basis. Anyone wishing to have a chat or learn more about the café is welcome to make an appointment through the website for a phone call or video chat with a peer connector. For more information check out the [website](https://www.galwaycommunitycafe.ie) (<https://www.galwaycommunitycafe.ie>) and social media [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

That's it from me a chairde, please take care of yourselves. The next week is gonna be BUSY but please email me if you need help with anything - su.socs@nuigalway.ie.

Grá mór,

Barry x.

COMPETITION TIME

Congratulations to Hannah Flaherty & Charlene Rodriguez who get a €10 voucher



Answers.

1) The Shawshank Redemption
2) Pulp Fiction
3) Silence of the Lambs
4) Wall-E
5) To Kill a Mockingbird
6) Once
7) My Neighbour Totoro
8) Amélie
9) Die Hard
10) The Road to El Dorado

Easter Egg Hunt



Answer: There were 59 Eggs

Congratulations to Ellen O'Connor & Saoirse Glynn who win a €10 voucher.

Brian Teasers

1-Someone pushes their car to the hotel and he tells the owner of the hotel "I am bankrupt". Why? **A: he is playing Monopoly**

2-What is special about the number 8,549,176,320?: **A: The numbers are arranged alphabetically**

3-What five letter words become "shorter" when you add two letters to it? **A; Short**

4-What has cities, but no houses; water, but no fish; and forests, but no trees: A; **A map**

5-What word can be read forwards, backwards AND upside-down? **A Noon**

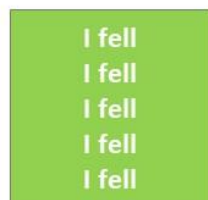
Congratulations to Victoria van der Spek who wins a €25 voucher and to Oisin Feeley who wins a €10 voucher.

Try out this weeks competition

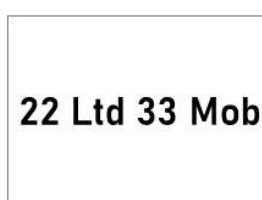
COMPLETE THESE DINGBATS AND EMAIL TO SOCSBOX@SOCS.NUIGALWAY.IE AND BE IN WITH A CHANCE TO WIN A €15 ALL4ONE VOUCHER



1



2



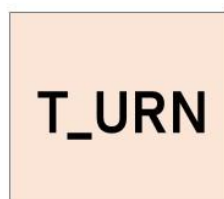
3



4



5



6



7



8

SocsBox on Social Media

[TikTok](#) [Snapchat](#) [Discord](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [Facebook](#)

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Helpdesk Link on
www.socs.nuigalway.ie
Open Monday - Thursday 2pm -
8pm



This newsletter will be sent to you every Friday to your society email and NUIG email.

If you have an article you would like to include, send it to socsbox@socs.nuigalway.ie with 'Socsbox News' in the title by Thursday at 1pm. It will also be archived in Socs information link on www.socs.nuigalway.ie in the purple box at the top of the home page.