

TERMS OF REFERENCE

For Local Campaign Groups

Our Code

Education Futures is an aspirational campaign. Our aim is a third level education system that is open, high quality and something we can all be proud of. As such we ask that all events conducted under the Education Futures banner are positive, inclusive and respectful of all.

Introduction

Education Futures is a national coalition of Trade Unions, Students' Unions and others seeking public funding for a quality higher education system in the Republic of Ireland. The coalition has three aims:

- 1** End student fees & reform the grant system (Access)
- 2** Decent terms and conditions for those who work in the sector (Decent Work)
- 3** The necessary funding for a quality higher education system (Quality)

The national campaign steering group is made up of Student Unions and Trade Unions active on third level campuses across Ireland. They are:

- Fórsa trade union,
- TUI (Teacher's Union of Ireland),
- USI (Union of Students in Ireland),
- SIPTU (Services, Industrial, Professional and Technical Union),
- IFUT (Irish Federation of University Teachers),
- ISSU (Irish Second Level Students' Union)

Membership of the Group

Education Futures is an open and inclusive campaign. Participation in the campaign is open to all members and sectors of society.

However, the objectives of the group are not open for negotiation or interpretation. Members of the group will be expected, when acting on behalf of the group, to advocate for the objectives as outlined above.

Structure

We encourage local groups to adopt a basic structure to facilitate expedient running of meetings and to act as a liaison between the local and national groups. We suggest that each local group nominates a:

- 1** Chair
- 2** Secretary

The positions of Chair and Secretary should be held by someone who is a member of one of the groups represented on the national steering group. Other positions may be nominated and filled as the local group itself sees fit.

Engagement with national campaign

Communication between local and national groups is important. In addition to allowing the campaign to be more effective, it is important for local groups to keep the steering group informed of any actions it hopes to take in order to ensure our work is coordinated.

However, local groups will not be required to report back to any national group about meetings that take place.

Similarly the steering group will work with a nominated liaison on co-ordinated national actions or actions. This will include, but not be limited to, organising:

- 1** Public protests or actions
- 2** Public meetings
- 3** Lobbying public representatives

Conclusion

The terms of reference for the group are designed to act as a guide for local groups for campaigning for properly publicly funded education under the Education Futures banner.

It is important to acknowledge that there are a number of stakeholders involved in the campaign. While our collectivism is our greatest strength it requires that we be considerate of the concerns of individual groups.

As the campaign develops it may become necessary to update the terms of reference to better reflect its evolving nature. Such changes will be agreed with the steering group and conveyed to local groups.