

AHEAD & USI: Students with Disabilities Advisory Group 2024/25



Caoimhe Cronin
Student Engagement Officer, AHEAD
Cal, Joseph, Luna and Tammy
Members of the Advisory Group 2025



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What we will cover

- Intro to the Students with Disabilities Advisory Group
- The importance of engaging students as co-creators and decision-makers
- Student Voices: Joseph, Luna and Tammy
- Conclusion
- Q&A

What is the SwDAG?

The students with disabilities advisory group is a diverse group of students from around the country that works to advocate for and promote accessible and inclusive learning environments.



Want to help make education more inclusive for students with disabilities?

Have your voice heard!

Apply to join:

Student Advisory Group

USI
Union of Students in Ireland
Aontas na Mac Léinn in Éirinn

ahead
creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities

What does the SwDAG do?

The members of the group work to:

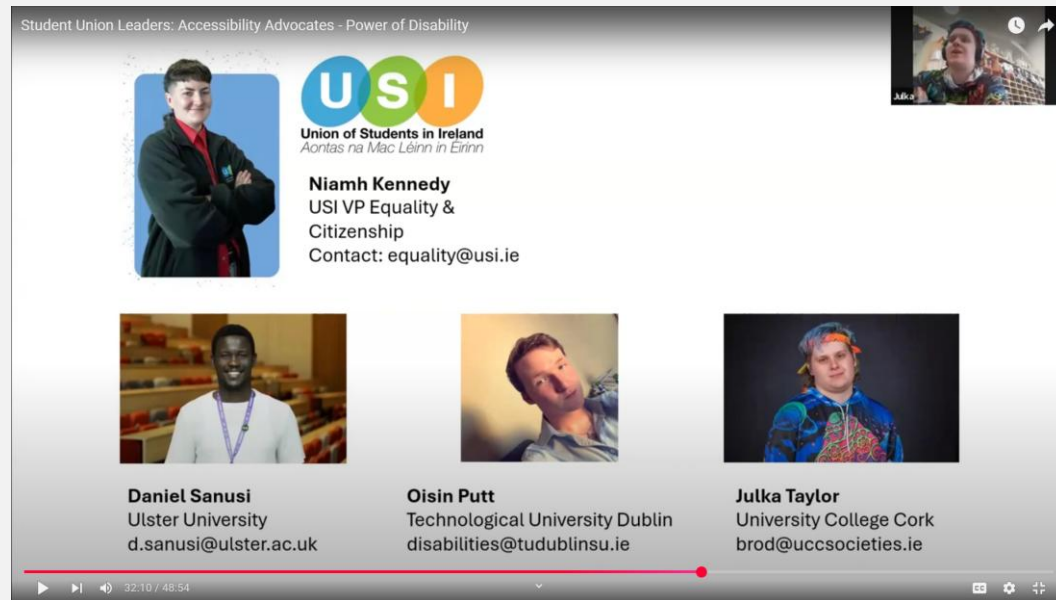
- Help to organise the annual Power of Disability event in collaboration with USI
- Inform the strategy and policy of both AHEAD and USI concerning the inclusion of students with disabilities in Higher and Further Education in Ireland
- Ensures that the disabled student voice is being heard and reflected in wider policy work

The importance of engaging students as co-creators and decision-makers

- Students are experts in their own experience
 - Their input leads to more relevant, inclusive systems.
- Co-creation goes beyond consultation
 - It's about shared responsibility and working with students from the start.



The importance of engaging students as co-creators and decision-makers (2)



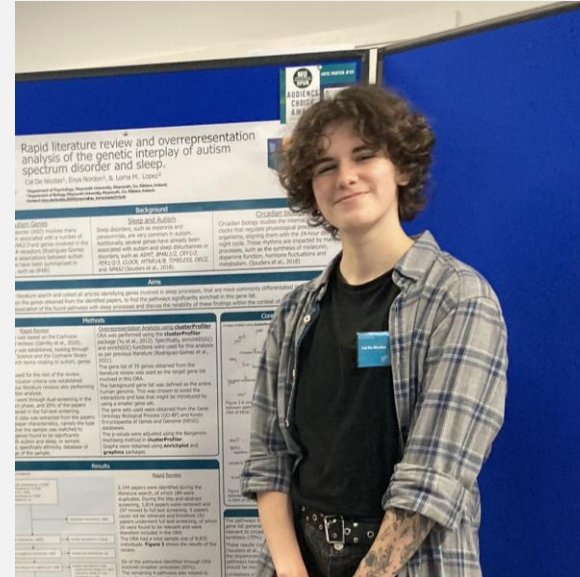
- Lived experience matters
 - Especially for students with disabilities, whose insights help remove barriers.
- It drives real change
 - Student involvement leads to sustainable improvements in policy, practice, and culture.
- It empowers students
 - Building confidence, leadership, and skills they'll carry beyond college.



Student Voice



Joseph McLoughlin
(he/him)
Co-Chair 2025



Cal De Nicolas Audoin
(he/they)
Member 2025



Thank You!

Any questions?

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