

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission

Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2025

10:00 a.m. in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday October 14th, by Loretto Leary.

The following committee members were present: Moriah Moriarity, Colin O'Neill, Alex Peterson, Loretto Leary, Tom O'Dea, Sen. Hartley, Rep. Meskers, Rep. Aniskovich, Chris Dodd, Kevin Ryan, Marty Dunleavy, Christine Kinealy, Thomas Sheridan

The following committee members were absent: Emmett Riley, Alex Dahlem, Edmond Cullinan, John Frey, Sen. Kelly, Sen. Martin, Paddi LeShane, Gregory Butler

- I. CONVENE MEETING**
- II. REMARKS BY CHAIRS**

There were no remarks made.

- III. PRESENTATION: PROFESSOR CHRISTINE KINEALY – DIRECTOR OF IRELAND'S GREAT HUNGER INSTITUTE; PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, QUINNAPIAC UNIVERSITY**

Loretto Leary presents committee member Dr. Kinealy as a speaker to the committee on Third Level Educational Links.

There are only eight universities in Ireland, and five Technological universities. Which is why the educational link between the two countries is crucial.

No community colleges in Connecticut offer no Irish Studies programs.

CIE & CIEE have been the biggest non-profits abroad to send students from both respective countries abroad.

Vetting criteria for Irish students coming to the United States, which has been a deterrent in students coming.

Senator Hartley has a question about the H1B visa situation and how that has affected education.

- Dr. Kenealy statements have been anecdotal. The visa has been a deterrent for people coming to the United States for education.
- Representative Meskers ask to send information about Yale over to the administrator, so that the lobbyist can determine whether we can support the academic side.
- Representative Meskers asks the administrator to make a note about Irish-America 250 for the commission and both the commerce committee.
- Loretto Leary requests that the administrator let Representative Meskers know about a business who is looking to build its headquarters, and its environmental controls in Stamford.
- Senator Hartley notes that there will be a pitch for Advance CT, specifically the economic development arm.

- Loretto Leary asks to plan an event in May for the Irish Famine Commemoration Day in Fairfield Connecticut. Also, it looks to find businesses who will sponsor the event along with the help of the commission.
- Representative Meskers asks the administrator to send the receipt from Senator Daly.

IV. DISCUSSION OF SUBCOMITTEE DESIGNATIONS, PURPOSE, AND MEMBERSHIP

Loretto Leary asks for subcommittees to announce any updates about their committee.

Collin O’Neill asks for other members to join the trade committee.

- Tom O’Dea joins the trade committee.

Loretto Leary makes the arts, culture, and tourism to be one committee.

- There are 3 subcommittees and 1 task force. The task force consists of Loretto Leary, Emmett Riley, Marty Dunleavy, Mariah Moiraty, and Paddi Leshane to enter items into the database. The three subcommittees are tourism, education, and trade.
- Loretto Leary asks to add arts and culture to the database, and tourism will be a part of that task force as well.

The Trade subcommittee will be Representative Meskers, Greg Butler, Moriah Moriarity, Senator Hartley, and Sheridan

The education subcommittee will be Dr. Kinealy, Ed Cullinan, Marty Dunleavy

V. OPEN DISCUSSION.

Marty Dunleavy asks to set up an event for the Irish American Fund, Marid McNamera who is the new chair. The date is expected to be in May or April of 2026.

Loretto Leary states that Dr. Kinealy will be setting up a workshop in New York City in November.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

- Loretto Leary sets the next meeting to be on November 18th, 2025.
- Marty Dunleavy and Loretto Leary ask to send out a poll about changing the meeting time from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

VII. ADJOURN MEETING.

Loretto Leary adjourned the meeting.

Ava Del Vescovo

Connecticut-Ireland Trade Commission Intern