

Officer Report
of the Postgraduate Representative
of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU)
to Student Senate



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Postgraduate Representative

PERIOD OF WORK: 2ND NOVEMBER 2022 – 14TH NOVEMBER 2022
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As you all know, I was only elected at the end of October so a lot of the past weeks has been catch-up, setting foundations for my duties and introducing myself into relevant projects and committees however I am extremely pleased with the progress I have made so far and I hope you all will be too! This year I really hope to take progressive steps within postgraduate engagement.

I look forward to working with all members of the Council & wider student body and to ensure open communication, transparency and accountability. I am more than happy to work collaboratively with any senator or caucus, just get in touch with me and I am also so open to any advice anyone may have throughout the year! I promise to deliver on my words and ensure that I uphold the sanctity of the title that you have bestowed upon me. I promise that your vote has been worth it. Thank you again for all the love and support you have bestowed upon me.

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.11 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Postgraduate Representative. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

List of Constitutional Responsibility:

Dealing with issues relating to the education, welfare and student experience of postgraduate members of the Union.

Through my ongoing work, planning and various meetings I work towards increasing communication opportunities between myself and the postgraduate students so that I can achieve this more thoroughly, however, any issue highlighted to me thus far has been dealt with appropriately.

Attend all meetings of committees of which they are a member, and to coordinate and maximise student representation on other appropriate academic structures.

Attended first USI meeting 3rd November'22. Attended Maynooth Student Unions Executive meeting on 7th November'22. I look forward to make it to more of the committee meetings and take an active part in it to maximise the postgraduate student representation. I am working towards getting more student representation in a few places and I am aiming to have a more comprehensive update in my next report on this.

Assist the Vice President Welfare & Equality and Vice President Education with such duties of those officers as relate to postgraduate students.

The VP Welfare & Equality and I have not yet discussed this but I am sure we will soon. I'm confident that I would be able to assist the student body with their duties pertaining to postgraduate students.

Responsible for informing and encouraging the career development of all members of the Union

As the time period since I have been elected hasn't been long, I do not have anything to share at this point. I am aiming to have a more comprehensive update in my next report on this.

Responsible for ensuring effective communication between the Union and postgraduate members of the Union.

I will be very soon arranging a meeting with the Graduate Studies Office in hope of coming to an agreement on communication between MSU and postgraduate students.

Aim to ensure that postgraduate members of the Union are aware of their responsibilities in relation to University procedures.

I am going to seek an interpretation of this point to ensure I fulfil this responsibility

Run at least two events for postgraduate students each semester

I'm actively brainstorming in-person events for the upcoming year for the postgraduate students, while ensuring student safety. I look forward to executing those in the upcoming year and sharing reports around that in the future meetings.

Take a leading role in all national campaigns with a particular relevance to postgraduate members of the Union

I have communicated with Waqar Ahmed, the USI Vice President for Postgraduate Affairs to ensure I can stay prominent within this role – I will be having a meeting with him soon to discuss and touchbase on details on existing postgraduate issues or any outstanding postgraduate-specific campaigns.

Postgraduate Representative shall be ex officio members of the Governing Authority, Academic Council, and Postgraduate Feedback Council.

As the time period since I have been elected hasn't been long, I do not have anything to share at this point. I have received training for Governing Authority and read all relevant documentation and will be attending the session in December. I will be attending my first sitting with the Postgraduate Feedback Council in December.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for the [insert position], I outlined several manifesto pledges. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these promises to the best of my ability.

List of Manifesto Initiatives:

1. Increasing the Postgraduate Engagement & Visibility
2. Support postgraduate students in their academic development.
3. Improving Networking Prospects
4. More Orientation for International Postgraduate Students

Since, It hasn't been long since I have been elected, I don't have specifics to share at the moment on any of the manifesto points I mentioned above. I am currently engaging with as many postgraduate students as possible by communicating well with any who reach out to me, working towards better communication all over. I'm excited for the upcoming months and the academic year. I want to ensure that postgraduate students are excited about their academic as well as their extracurricular life.

MOTION & MANDATES

There are many motion & mandates that require participation from my role. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these motion & mandates to the best of my ability. Below is a list of all active motion & mandates that require my participation, with updates on my progress with each one.

List of Motion & Mandate:

1. [insert Motion & Mandate]
2. [insert Motion & Mandate]
3. [insert Motion & Mandate]
4. [insert Motion & Mandate]
5. [insert Motion & Mandate]

I'm will be meeting with the Director General, MSU soon to review the policy manual and to determine a plan of action for mandates that relate to my role.

COMMITTEES

I have listed the committees that I am a member of and have tried to give a description of their remit and some of the activities they undertake. I have also listed my contribution to these committees below.

Committee that the Postgraduate Representative is a member of:

- 1. MU Academic Council**
- 2. MSU Executive**
- 3. MSU Student Senate**
- 4. MU Governing Authority**
- 5. MU Postgraduate Feedback Council**
- 6. MU Quality Committee**
- 7. USI Postgraduate Working Group**

MU Academic Council

Academic Council controls the academic affairs of the University including the curriculum of, and instruction and education provided by, the University.

This committee has not sat since I was elected. I intend on attending their next meeting in December.

MSU Executive

This committee meets bi-weekly, acts as a collective authority and is collectively responsible for the day-to-day operations of MSU. The Executive has the power to take necessary decisions in between meetings of the Student Senate. I attended the executive meeting on the 7th of November.

MSU Student Senate

The governing body of the Union is the Student Senate. The three core functions of the Senate are to formulate Union policy, mandate members of the Executive, and hold the Executive accountable.

I attended the first sitting of the Student Senate. I intend to attend the next one on November 23rd.

MU Governing Authority

Governing authority is the main decision-making and governance body of the university. The matters of this committee are legally confidential, I will be attending my first induction of this committee in December.

MU Postgraduate Feedback Council

The Postgraduate Feedback Council is composed of postgraduate representatives in both taught and research degrees from all departments within the University, as well as the members of the Graduate Studies Office, and Faculty Deans. When an issue has been raised at the Feedback Council the Dean can take this item forward into the Graduate Sub-Committee of Academic Council on behalf of the students.

I will be attending the meeting of this committee in December

MU Quality Committee

The Quality Committee is established as a joint standing committee of the Governing Authority and Academic Council by the two statutory bodies. The Quality Committee shall have an oversight role in relation to the discharge of the University's obligations for internal and external quality assurance and quality enhancement. This committee is due to sit for the first time, since my election. I will be attending the first Quality Committee meeting on 28th November.

USI Postgraduate Working Group

This committee is a meeting of postgraduate representatives around the country along with the USI VP for Postgraduate Affairs where current postgraduate issues are discussed. This committee sat on 3rd November, at this meeting inadequate stipend issue and the draft charter for USI Postgraduate Workers Right was discussed.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is an indicative schedule of meetings that I have attended. This is shown to portray how often I have meetings and the level of consistency with which these committees meet at. There are also many meetings needed outside of those committees.

Meeting Schedule:

3rd November – 3pm – USI

7th November – 4pm - MSU Executive

9th November – 6pm - MSU Student Senate

EXPENSES CLAIMED

To ensure that I am transparent and accountable for my expenditure below is a list of all expenses that I have claimed.

No expenses claimed.