

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



Niall Daly

President | Uachtarán

PERIOD OF WORK: WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022 – TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2022

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CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.6 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU President. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

List of Constitutional Responsibilities:

- 1. The President shall be the CEO, First Officer & Chief Spokesperson of the Union and shall be ultimately responsible for the administration of the Union. All staff of the Union shall ultimately be responsible to the President.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

- 2. They shall exercise and perform the powers and functions conferred on the President by this Constitution and any additional functions, duties or responsibilities conferred by the Student Senate.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

- 3. In conjunction with the finance function of the Union they shall be responsible for preparing a master budget for the Union for approval by the Board of Trustees and ensuring strict adherence to that budget.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains largely unchanged since my last Officer Report.
 - At the Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, 6 December 2022, there was a discussion surrounding the finance function of the Union.

- 4. They shall be responsible for the strategic development and overall direction of the Union.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

- 5. They shall be ultimately responsible for the financial affairs of the Union and establish regulations for the financial administration of the Union.**
 - Refer to Constitutional Responsibility 3.

- 6. They shall be ultimately responsible for the provision of entertainments for members of their Union.**

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
7. They shall be ex-officio chair of all meetings of the Union, except where otherwise explicitly stated in the Constitution but may delegate any of these positions to another officer.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
8. They shall have plenary powers between meetings of the Executive to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Union, but shall be responsible to the Executive and the Student Senate for these actions.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
9. They shall have the right of attendance and address at all meetings established within the terms of this Constitution.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
10. They shall be, ex-officio, a member of the University's Governing Authority and Academic Council.
- (a) They shall endeavour to sit on all relevant committees and sub-committees of the University.
- There is a meeting of Maynooth University's Governing Authority scheduled for Wednesday, 14 December 2022.
 - There is a meeting of Maynooth University's Academic Council scheduled for Monday, 12 December 2022.
11. The President shall maintain a record of all boards, committees and other bodies within the University, and the Union representation at each.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
12. They shall be responsible for leading all national campaigns on behalf of the Union.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

13. They shall be ultimately responsible for all Union publications.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

14. They shall nominate one of the sabbatical officers to deputise and specify the order of succession amongst the Vice Presidents.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

15. They shall maintain a record of all boards, committees and other bodies within the University, and the Union representation at each. They shall ensure that this record is included in any crossover document compiled for the training and reference of their successor.

- Refer to Constitutional Responsibility 11.

16. They shall ensure that full crossover training is provided for all incoming officers of the Union and shall be ultimately responsible for ensuring that each sabbatical officer provides a cross-over manual and abides by HR policies implemented by the Union.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

17. They shall ensure that all Executive members produce and publish officer reports six times per year and at least three times per semester.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

18. They shall liaise between the Executive and the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board of Trustees.

- There was a meeting of the Executive held on Monday, 5 December 2022.
- At the meeting, the Executive considered and approved the Protected Disclosures Policy to be sent to the Board of Trustees.

- There was a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Tuesday, 6 December 2022.

19. For the time that the Union is a member organisation of the Union of Students in Ireland, the President shall be the principal delegate and spokesperson to the National Council and Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.

- There is a Comhairle Náisiúnta scheduled for Friday, 9 December 2022 in TUS Midlands Midwest.
- The Vice President Welfare & Equality, Vice President Student Life, and I will be attending.
- The Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland will not take place until April 2023.

PLAN OF WORK

At the beginning of this Executives term of office, we created a plan of work. The Plan of Work is the guiding document for the executive. Below is how I have contributed to the completion of the Plan of Work.

- 1. Develop a new Maynooth Students' Union Constitution and propose it to an all-student body referendum in March 2023.**
 - Refer to Equality Manifesto Initiative.

- 2. Work with St. Patrick's Pontifical University to get a new campus gate on the South Campus connecting to Parson Street.**
 - I have spoken with the President of St. Patrick's Pontifical University regarding a new campus gate on the South Campus.
 - They indicated that they would be in favour of a new campus gate and welcomed a joint planning submission to Kildare County Council from both Maynooth Students' Union and St. Patrick's Pontifical University for the same.
 - I will be discuss the matter with them again at our next meeting scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 14 December 2022.

- 3. Establish and develop Maynooth Students' Union's relationship with Community and National stakeholders including, but not limited to, Maynooth Community Council, Kildare County Council, Kildare-North area representatives, and Members of the European Parliament.**
 - This is an initiative which has been ongoing since the new Executive took office in July 2022.
 - We have had regular communication with the Maynooth Community Council. This has included regular attendance at their meetings, liaising with their Executive at community events, and phone calls with the Chairperson on a range of matters.
 - We met with members of Kildare County Council towards the start of this year, and remain in communication with them as and when required. I would like for us to have another meeting with our area representatives in Semester 2.
 - We have had communication with all of the Kildare-North TDs since taking office. We have met Catherine Murphy, James Lawless, and Réada Cronin, and have spoke with Bernard Durkan over email on many occasions.
 - I sent emails to all of our area MEPs in July. The only one who replied was Maria Walsh, but we have been in consistent contact with them since.
 - I reached out to SIPTU and IFUT, two trade unions which represent staff members on campus, and communication and solidarity has been consistent since. I have met with representatives from both.

- I also reached out to the Maynooth branch of CATU in July but received no response. My understanding is that this branch was not active until quite recently, so I will be seeking to make contact with them this side of Christmas.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for Maynooth Students' Union President, 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:

Events | *Secure funding from Maynooth University to hire a full-time Events Co-ordinator for Maynooth Students' Union for 2022-23.*

- Preparations are underway to launch a next round of hiring for much-needed staff positions which remain unfilled.
- It is our intention to launch this round in the new year.

Equality | *Support the Maynooth Students' Union Vice President Welfare & Equality with their events, campaigns, and initiatives.*

- Over this period of work, I have continued to support the Vice President Welfare & Equality with their events, campaigns, and initiatives.
- Examples include logistical planning for their Access/Able campaign which is taking place on the week starting Monday, 5 December 2022.

Equality | *Implement a Part-time Equality Officer position in the new Maynooth Students' Union Constitution.*

- Work on this Manifesto Initiative remains largely unchanged since my last Officer Report.
- The New Constitution Steering Group met for the first time on Friday, 2 December 2022.
- I have asked the Vice President Education, Vice President Welfare & Equality, Vice President Student Life, Postgraduate Representative, and Oifigeach na Gaeilge to sit on it.
- The Constitutional and Representative Review Committee will begin meeting regularly in the New Year.

Student Partnership | *Progress the ongoing Partnership Agreement discussions between Maynooth Students' Union and Maynooth University with a view to achieving the best possible Partnership Agreement in the shortest amount of time.*

- Work on this Manifesto Initiative remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

Student Engagement / Democratic Affairs | *Secure funding from Maynooth University to hire a full-time Democracy Co-ordinator for Maynooth Students' Union for 2022-23.*

- Refer to Events Manifesto Initiative.

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

Committee that the Maynooth Students' Union President is a member of:

1. Maynooth University Quality Committee
2. Maynooth University Student Facilities Project Action Group
3. Maynooth Students' Union Executive
4. Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate
5. Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees

Maynooth University 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.

- The Maynooth University Quality Committee met on Monday, 28 November 2022.
- Broadening student engagement with quality assurance and quality enhancement at Maynooth University was among the items discussed.

Maynooth University Student Facilities Project Action Group

The SFPAG is focused on the following areas in order to propose recommendations on:

1. *The range of student facilities for informal learning and social requirements in the immediate term (academic year 2022-2023 & 2023-2024)*
2. *The range of student facilities, including a student building, in the longer-term*

- The Maynooth University Student Facilities Project Action Group met on Tuesday, 6 December 2022.
- The Maynooth Students' Union Levy Projects Committee met prior to this to discuss Maynooth Students' Union's approach to it.
- At the meeting, we discussed the Terms of Reference, varied experiences of members, short, medium, and long-term priorities for the Group, and communication of the Group's work to stakeholders.
- We suggested that the Terms of Reference be amended to include an Access representative. It was also noted there were no Undergraduate representatives on the Group. Members recommended combining the suggestions, seeking

two Undergraduate representatives, and combining the experiences of the outstanding members to include Access representation.

- Priorities ranged from immediate things that could be done now such as furniture, multi-faith space, and lighting, to more medium-term suggestions such as new common spaces, games rooms, and informal spaces, to long-term discussions which, of course, included a new Student Centre and increased Accommodation for students to address the housing crisis.

Maynooth Students' Union Executive

The Union Executive shall meet and act as a collective authority, and shall be collectively responsible for the day to day operation of the Union, in addition to each officer's own portfolio, and shall have powers to take necessary decisions in between meetings of the Student Senate.

- The Maynooth Students' Union Executive met on Monday, 21 November 2022 and Monday, 5 December 2022.
- Maynooth Students' Union's Protected Disclosures Policy was approved for referral to the Board of Trustees.

Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate

The Student Senate is the Governing Body of the Union. The functions of the Student Senate include inter alia; 1. The formulation of Union policy; 2. The right to mandate the members of the Union Executive individually or as a body to undertake certain tasks in addition to any adopted policy; 3. Ensuring that the members of the Union Executive are held accountable in the conduct of their respective roles.

- The Second Sitting of the Seventh Session of the Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate was held on Wednesday, 23 November 2022.
- The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, 13 December 2022.

Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees defend the long-term interests of the Union and has oversight and responsibility in relation to the Union's financial, commercial, budgetary and corporate governance matters and shall oversee the following aspects of the Union's: 1. Finances, financial management and financial planning; 2. Commercial activities and commercial development; 3. Expenditure and financial controls; 4. Corporate governance; 5. Implementing a conflict of interest policy which shall be binding on all officers of the Union; 6. Policies, procedures and costs in relation to expense payments to Union officers and staff and all comparable expenditure; and 7. Employment and management of staff.

- The Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees met on Monday, 5 December 2022.
- Maynooth Students' Union's Protected Disclosures Policy was discussed and it was decided that it would be voted on in our first meeting of the New Year.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of Maynooth Students' Union President is not just confined to constitutional roles and manifesto initiatives. There is a wide variety of activities undertaken by me in the execution of my role. I have given a comprehensive list of these activities below.

List of some of the main other general activities undertaken:

1. Kildare Joint Policing Committee

- On Monday, 5 December 2022, I attended the Kildare Joint Policing Committee's Annual Public Meeting.
- I participated in the Community Council's relaunch of Ask For Angela in Maynooth.
- We were also able to hear from An Garda Síochána about policing issues facing communities in Kildare.
- "Christmas Day" was also discussed.

EXPENSES CLAIMED

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

List expenses claimed:

- None