

Officer Report
of the Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish
Language Officer)
of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU)
to Student Senate



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Oifigeach na Gaeilge

PERIOD OF WORK: 15 NOVEMBER 2022- 5 DECEMBER 2022
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Chairde,

I am delighted to present my third officer report to you for your approval. It is hard to believe the semester is going by so quickly!

During this period of work, I have been very active, meeting different people getting advice on the main aims for this year.

I'm really excited to meet you all in real-life at the next sitting of the Senate! In addition to this, I want to take this opportunity to wish you the very best of luck in the upcoming January exams! I'm sure you will all fly them!

As always, I'm available on social media, MS Teams or my email and so, if you've any questions or if you've an interest in Irish or anything I've mentioned in this report, please don't hesitate to contact me there.

Best Wishes,

Craig.



Alt Text: A man standing with his arms crossed and smiling. He is wearing a shirt and jumper. He is also wearing a Fáinne Óir, a symbol to suggest he is fluent in Irish.

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.13 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Oifigeach na Gaeilge. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

List of Constitutional Responsibilities:

The Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) shall promote the use of the Irish language within the Union and to foster the development of a bi-lingual culture within the University.

I have translated a number of resources which were brought to Senate during its second sitting. It is my intention to bring these resources to Senate once again during the fourth sitting as mandated.

Represent the interests of relevant Irish linguistic and cultural groups to the Executive and in the University at various University committees as appropriate, including Coiste na Gaeilge.

One meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge has taken place since my election. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend this meeting due to school placement. Despite this, apologies were given and a substantial written update was provided to Committee in my absence.

In conjunction with the Vice President Student Life and relevant student groups organise and co-ordinate cultural activities including, but not limited to, Seachtain na Gaeilge.

A minor amount of planning has taken place on this, however, further planning will take place for Seachtain na Gaeilge later in the year.

Be responsible for the promotion of the Irish language in the Union, through social and other activities, including but not limited to Seachtain na Gaeilge.

It is my intention to put on regular events in the Union.

Be responsible for maintaining good relations with societies promoting the Irish language within the University.

I regularly attend meetings of the committee of the Irish language society, Cuallacht Cholmcille.

Liaise with the University and residents of campus accommodation in Irish language schemes

As a resident of the Scéim Chónaithe, I liaise with both residents of the Scéim Chónaithe and the University's Oifig na Gaeilge on a regular basis.

Strive to have bi-lingual signage displayed across the campus.

It is my intention to speak with the Oifigeach Ghaeilge na hOllscoile about bilingual signage on the Scéim Chónaithe. In addition to this, I will be helping with Irish on signage in the Union.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for Oifigeach na Gaeilge, 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. Establishment of an Irish-Language Strategy for the Union
2. Monthly Irish Language Events
3. Tandem Language-Learning Scheme
4. Irish Language Forum
5. Irish Language Awards for the Use of Irish
6. Visibility of Irish

Establishment of an Irish-Language Strategy for the Union

This is a major piece of work which I aim to complete over the coming year. I met with the 3rd Level Co-ordinator in Conradh na Gaeilge (and former Oifigeach na Gaeilge in NUIGSU) to discuss the plans for the strategy and she shared her experience of drafting a strategy with me.

Monthly Irish-language events

Unfortunately, I have been unable to organise events in the Union due to timing. I will endeavour to put on regular events after the exams. In the meantime, I encourage everyone to attend events held by Cuallacht Cholmcille.

Tandem Language Learning Scheme

I have spoken with the President of Cuallacht Cholmcille to investigate whether they might be interested in collaborating on this project. The item will be discussed at the meeting of Cuallacht Cholmcille on the 5th December.

Irish Language Forum

The aim of this is to improve communication between the Students Union, MU Oifig na Gaeilge and Cuallacht Cholmcille. I am still waiting to see if certain bodies will be established/waiting for their establishment.

Irish Language Awards for the Use of Irish

It is my aim that this will be an awards scheme similar to that of Gaisce (i.e. a Personal Challenge award). I shall aim to design this during the first semester for launch in the second semester.

Visibility of Irish

It is my intention to speak with the Irish language officer of the University regarding signage on the Scéim Chónaithe and car parks at the earliest opportunity.

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. Irish Language Campaign Visibility
2. Promotion of Cúpla Focal
3. Circulation of a List of the Official Irish Language Titles of Members of the MSU Student Senate
4. Creation and Circulation of a list of Irish Language Phrases to the MSU Student Senate
5. Motion to Lobby Relevant Parties AGAINST the Proposed Leaving Certificate Irish Curriculum
6. Motion to Establish a Version of the MSU Constitution as Gaeilge

Irish Language Campaign Visibility

I have raised this issue at the Executive where I have made it clear that I am available for translations and have asked for 3 days notice in order to provide them.

Promotion of Cúpla Focal

I am providing regular support to the Cuallacht with their 'Focal an Lae' campaign in Seomra na Gaeilge.

Circulation of a List of the Official Irish Language Titles of Members of the MSU Student Senate

I have drafted this list and it has been circulated at the second sitting of the MSU Student Senate. It will be circulated at the fourth sitting of the Senate in accordance with the mandate.

Creation and Circulation of a list of Irish Language Phrases to the MSU Student Senate

I have circulated this list at the second sitting of the MSU Student Senate. It will be circulated at the fourth sitting of the Senate in accordance with the mandate.

Motion to Lobby Relevant Parties AGAINST the Proposed Leaving Certificate Irish Curriculum

The Department of Education is currently reviewing the suggestions made by organisations regarding the proposed Leaving Certificate Irish Curriculum. Once this review is complete, if further action can be taken, it will be taken to fulfil this mandate.

Motion to Establish a Version of the MSU Constitution as Gaeilge

I have circulated the Irish language version of the MSU Constitution at the second sitting of the Senate. I have since sent this to the Academic Representation Administrator for formatting before it is made available on the website.

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 Oifigeach na Gaeilge is a member of:

1. MSU Executive Committee
2. MSU Student Senate
3. Coiste na Gaeilge (MU)
4. Coiste na Gaeilge (MSU)
5. Cuallacht Cholmcille
6. Constitution Steering Group

MSU Executive Committee

The Executive is elected annually and act as a collective authority with collective responsible for the day to day operation of the Union, in addition to each officer's own portfolio.

During this period of work, I have attend two meetings of the MSU Executive Committee. In these meetings, I played an active role and I spoke on a wide range of issues. In addition to this, I casted my vote where necessary.

MSU Student Senate

The Student Senate is a body of elected students that represent different faculties and interest groups around campus.

One sitting of MSU Student Senate has taken place since my last report. During this meeting, I actively took part and cast my vote where applicable.

Coiste na Gaeilge (MU)

The Student Senate is a body of elected students that represent different faculties and interest groups around campus.

One meeting of Coiste na Gaeilge has taken place during this period of work. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend due to school placement. Despite this, I extended my apologies and provided the committee with a written update on the activities of the Union regarding Irish.

Coiste na Gaeilge (MSU)

A committee to discuss the Irish language within the university and students' union.

This is a committee I chair. I am hoping to hold the first meeting of this committee before the end of the Semester. I have created a teams group and I have circulated a Doodle poll to decide the most suitable time and date for the meeting.

Cuallacht Cholmcille

Governing Committee of the Student Irish Language Society

I sit on this committee to strengthen the relationship between MSU and the society, to give and receive updates and to offer support to the committee. I attended 2 meetings of this committee during this period of work. I have also supported the

Cuallacht with the running of their 'Tae agus Plé' event and helped with the planning of their Christmas Day event.

Constitution Steering Group

This is a new group formed with members of the executive in order to draft sections of the Constitution under the guidance of the CRRC. We met for the first time on the 2nd December and discussed the constitution which was brought to referendum in 2021.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of Oifigeach na Gaeilge 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. Gníomhaí Gaeilge

Gníomhaí Gaeilge

I met with the Union's mentor, Aedraen Ó Dubhghaill on the 2nd December 2022. We discussed the aims for the year for this programme. It is our intention to meet again before Christmas.

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:

Week 46

Cuallacht Cholmcille – 14 November – 18:00

Third Level Co-ordinator – 18 November- 14:00

Week 47

MSU Executive Committee – 21 November – 17:00

Student Senate – 23 November – 18:00

Coiste na Gaeilge (MU) [Apologies given]- 24 November- 10:00

Week 48

Cuallacht Cholmcille – 28 November – 18:00

Mentor for Gníomhaí Gaeilge – 2 December – 14:00

Constitution Steering Group – 2 December – 17:30

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:

1. No expenses claimed.