

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



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Vice President Student Life

PERIOD OF WORK: 1ST JULY 2022 – 30TH JULY 2023
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FOREWARD:

GOOOOOOOD MORNING MAYNOOTH.

Hey Fellas and Fellows it's time for the December Lucas Officer Report Extravaganza. I'll be honest with you all, I was super worried about the content of this report due to the fact that I had *a week* worth of work to put into it (I.E Nothing Done), but after my decision to delay the submission by an additional week (Sorry, hope you guys are fast readers/kind to me) I have managed to squeeze in a fiercely prideful amount of work that I hope you folks find satisfactory. If you don't well, I hope you're distracted by my anime photos and jokes nonetheless.



CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.10 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Vice President Student Life. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

I have removed the constitutional responsibilities I outlined in my previous report as having been completed, they are listed below:

10.10.1

10.10.5

List of Constitutional Responsibility:

1. Communicate all relevant matters from the Union to the Clubs and Societies and from Clubs and Societies to the Union.

There has been no major communication between MSU and Clubs and Socs since the last report. Senators have been elected and my door is always open.

3. Aid and advise Clubs and Societies on the organisation of events and other activities.

We engaged with a number of C&S for the Christmas Events in the last couple of weeks, namely Gamesoc & Music. The Sabbatical Team also attended the mini-plays in the Venue last week which was apparently a rip-roaring success.

4. Promote Clubs and Societies participation and activities throughout the University

The University has its own communication channels for promoting C&S events to students at the moment, we advertise all collabs on our channels though!

5. Sit on all committees relevant to Student Life and Engagement at both Union and University level.

I listed all previous committees and their breakdowns in the previous report, so to save time and (virtual) paper, I will not list them here again.

6. Liaise with the Executive on matters relating to the advertisement and promotion of Union activities and entertainments.

The socials have been bopping recently with all the fun stuff going on, hope it's been sufficient and I am open to feedback.

7. They shall assist the Faculty Convenors and Student Academic Representatives in the organisation of the entertainments for their constituencies.

If any Faculty Conveners want to plan an event and do something fun, let me know, otherwise I'll be at my desk drinking red bull.

8. Find suitable charitable candidates and through a vote of MSU Student Senate determine the Annual MSU Charity.

Threshold collab has been announced and we are working towards a little micro-charity event this side of the semester.

9. Act as a spokesperson for the Union on matters regarding the development of student entrepreneurship and volunteering.

Right now I'm working alongside a number of students who are launching podcasts using the Mars FM studios and will be helping them with their content as well as featuring, more to come on this.

10. Be responsible for all Union fundraising towards charitable purposes and goals, and shall arrange one major event for this purpose in each semester.

12 Days of Christmas (on Anne-Maries side) is going super well, I managed to acquire some giveaway material for her which was really nice. On my side, due to my holiday I fell behind on organisation and had to restructure it for my return.

The return of Canta, Christmas Movies, and more was a great success though and will continue into Monday the 12th.

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.

List of Plan of Work Tasks I Have Worked on:

1. Maynooth Games
2. Orientation Week **(Completed)**
3. Good Morning Maynooth (Podcast)
4. SHAG Week (Support) **(Completed)**
5. Drug Safety and Awareness (Support)
6. Light Up Our Campus **(Completed)**
7. 12 Days of Christmas **(Completed)**
8. Jobs/Internship Fair

Maynooth Games

It's in February baybeeeeeee.

Good Morning Maynooth (Podcast)

Lol.



Drug Safety and Awareness (Support)

Please refer to the Presidents Report for updates on this as I am doing this on a support capacity.

Light Up Our Campus

GODDAMN I'm happy about this one. I attended the first Student Facilities & Projects Action Group on Tuesday 5th and met with the director for Facilities Michael Rafter to discuss this initiative. I am very happy to say that the lights around campus are being upgraded with more viable lighting to make the campus safer at night, on top of this, we will be doing consultation to add more lights to certain problem areas, specifically the pathway opposite Dunnes into the campus.

12 Days of Christmas

Due to my time away and the timeline for this event, I had to rejig the event to better suit the timeframe, a number of events were moved around and incorporated together for ease of achievement. The events run were successful in my opinion:

Canta: Absolute banger, they let me buy a santa suit, and I gave out 200 cans of red bull in like 15 minutes, I simply did not anticipate the level of uptake, I will be doing this again on Monday the 12th with hopefully more cans and fanfare.

Video Games/Board Games: in conjunction with Gamesoc, we brought a number of board games to the Info Centre for students to use, from what I see it was a fun little event.

Christmas Movies: A number of Christmas movies were played in the Venue during the afternoon while we were at National Council, thank you to Tyran for facilitating this while I was away.

Jobs/Internship Fair

Still looking into the viable-ness of this for second semester, I will update when appropriate.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for the Vice President Student Life, I outlined several manifesto pledges. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these promises to the best of my ability.

- Engagement
 - **Work with the entertainments committee and executive to organize and promote events.**
A number of events have run in the weeks since the last report, including an MSU Christmas Quiz, Music Performances and other little fun things.
 - **Clubs and Societies engagement**
Societies Senators have been elected, welcome to the team folks!
 - **Elections promotion**
No updates on this until the March elections I suppose.
- Community
 - **Volunteer Initiatives**
No updates on this yet, I haven't run into any situations where it has been necessary to amass a volunteer group for support, but I suspect this will be necessary in the second semester.
 - **Accommodation revamps (Short term)**
Very Tricky initiative given the countrywide (worldwide) accommodation crisis, I will continue to chase leads on presenting solutions to short term problems in the community. Possible avenues of communication with the Maynooth Community Council and CATU.
 - **Maynooth Town/University Relations**
Niall attended a meeting with the community council recently, major takeaways was the distaste of certain establishments publicly advertising "Maynooth Christmas Day" events, can't wait for the chaos on Monday.
- Accessibility
 - **Blended Learning (Education Remit, Support role)**
Following the trend from around the country in other Universities, it's looking unlikely that blended learning will not be returning. Sorry folks.
 - **Commuter Events**
We will be hosting a commuter concert on Monday the 12th for Swiftmas Day (patent pending)
 - **Daytime events, non-drinking.**

Please refer to the “Additional Non-Alcoholic Options” section of the General Activities portion of this report.

- Activism

- **Protest organization + information**

- There will be a number of USI Protests and Gathering in the coming months I am keeping an eye on and will work with the President to bring this to the Student Body in an approachable and engaging way.

- **Election information/turnout/boosting**

- Just wait till March!

- **Political education and engagement**

- I would like to dedicate this portion of the report to my favourite reformed Orthodox Rabbi Bill Clinton



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. 4.003 [1-19]: Active Engagement with 'Fridays For Future' Protests
2. 4.019 [3-19]: Climate Emergency Motion
3. 5.012 [4-21]: 'How to Use Your Union' Infographics
4. 5.014 [4-21]: **Student Virtual Safe Space**
5. 5.019 [5-21]: Promotion of Supports or Students with Disabilities
6. 5.020 [5-21]: Creation & Promotion of Graphics detailing what Halal food is in an effort to combat Islamophobia and promote
7. 5.022 [5-21]: MU & MSU Sexual Harassment Policy Review
8. 5.036 [6-21]: Bullying & Anti-Harassment Policy
9. 5.037 [6-21] Prayer Room on Campus

4.003 [1-19]: Active Engagement with 'Fridays For Future' Protests

No update on the return of this initiative in Maynooth for the time being.

4.019 [3-19]: Climate Emergency Motion

I am currently investigating a number of reusable/clean energy schemes for phone charging and scooter transport in Maynooth at the moment, more info in the General Activities section.

5.012 [4-21]: 'How to Use Your Union' Infographics

This motion will be incorporated into the MSU Presidents' "Know your Union" campaign in the second Semester

5.019 [5-21]: Promotion of Supports or Students with Disabilities

An incredibly important motion, but sadly one on which no progress of note has been made on my side, (perhaps other Officers could update on this). I hope to reach out to interest groups such as Access and MAP to learn how to implement this properly.

5.020 [5-21]: Creation & Promotion of Graphics detailing what Halal food is in an effort to combat Islamophobia and promote

The VP Welfare is currently working on a number of graphics for this mandate and will hopefully be able to update appropriately.

5.022 [5-21]: MU & MSU Sexual Harassment Policy Review

I was unable to raise this at the EDI meeting due to running out of time on the agenda, I believe there is talks of an overall policy review in the upcoming months so this could be an important time to look over this.

5.036 [6-21]: Bullying & Anti-Harassment Policy

Same as the previous motion, this will be contained in the upcoming overall policy review (hopefully)

5.037 [6-21] Prayer Room on Campus

The SFPAG is making this a top priority for implementation and has been made top of the list for our planned short-term interventions list.

**HADES 2 HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AT THE GAME AWARDS LETS
GOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO**



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 Vice President Student Life is a member of:

1. Governing Authority
2. Societies Management Committee
3. Clubs Management Committee
4. Executive Committee
5. MU Clubs & Societies Committee
6. MU Campus Life Committee
7. MU EDI Committee
8. USI National Council
9. Student Facilities & Projects Action Group **[NEW]**

Governing Authority

Maynooth Universities Highest Governing Committee

Governing Authority is set to next convene the day after our December Senate, I'm not really expecting too much spice out of it, but who knows!

Societies Management Committee

Committee to manage and discuss affairs surrounding Societies in Maynooth.

I was unable to attend the last meeting of this committee as I was on leave, sadge.

Clubs Management Committee

Committee to manage and discuss affairs surrounding Clubs in Maynooth.

I attended this meeting online, we discussed a number of funding proposals for GAA and Golf for transport to IV's, apart from that, nothing of note.

Executive Committee

Committee consisting of the Full Time Officers and Part Time Officers to discuss campaigns and Union matters.

Executive have met once since the last update, we discussed timelines for releasing minutes, and Giovanni (Research Rep) and Myself tabled a motion to support a Postgraduate Support mandate for fair wages and rights, this will hopefully be discussed at the next senate.

MU Clubs & Societies Committee

This committee is the overarching structure above the SMC and the CMC, it holds all executive members of both committees as well as Michael Rafter, the director for Facilities at MU.

I was unable to attend the last meeting as I was on leave, the next meeting will be in either a couple of weeks, or next month.

MU Campus Life Committee

The campus life committee is to make recommendations to Academic Council on matters of strategy and policy in relation to all aspects of life on the university campus, for staff, students, and the community.

I was unable to attend due to my wonderful holiday in da big apple.

MU EDI Committee

The Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Interculturalism (EDI) committee is established as a joint standing committee of the GA and Academic Council.

No updates of note from this committee, I believe the VP Welfare is working on a number of campaigns with them, surrounding consent banners/posters.

USI National Council

The Union of Students Ireland is the overall body of SU's around the country that pass down national mandates to FTO's.

I attended my first National Council on Thursday/Friday!! (Hence why this report was a little later than anticipated.) and it was a surprisingly enriching experience. I met with a number of other representatives who attended the campaigns/events working groups and we discussed matters of the levy campaign and on-goings in their SU's. Excited to attend the next one.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of Vice President Student Life 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. Governing Authority Training
2. PhD/Research Masters Coffee Mornings
3. Vape Bins
4. Bus Shelter/Bins opposite Library
5. Sensory Room in Library Revamp
6. Brick Charging Stations
7. Electric Bike Scheme
8. Café in TSI
9. Non-Alcoholic Drinks in the SU

1. Governing Authority Training

Myself and the VP Education attended the GA Training with Tony Gaynor, it was very informative and went over the standing orders and the regulations that the GA Adhere to. Overall it took about an hour and I got a nice tour of the TSI Building (I.E I got lost upstairs)

2. PhD/Research Masters Coffee Mornings

Myself and the Postgrad Rep Giovanni met to begin planning monthly coffee mornings for PhD/Research Masters students to try build a sense of community for these often overlooked students, we are hoping to start launching these in the second semester.

3. Vape Bins

This idea was brought to me by the VP Education, who felt there was a need for proper disposal facilities for single use vapes on campus as they are becoming a bit of a scourge. I brought this up during the first SFPAG Meeting and it was very well received.

The director for Facilities committed to supplying a number of “experimental” disposal facilities (i.e e-waste bins) around campus in order to help combat the littering issue involved with these products.

4. Bus Shelter/Bins opposite Library

During the SFPAG Meeting, I brought up the need for bins at the bus stop opposite the library, I was informed that as apart of the ongoing path construction in that area that bins and a bus shelter would be implemented, the timeline for this installation is early next year.

5. Sensory Rooms in the Library Revamp

Myself and the VP Welfare attended a consultation meeting with the Library staff to discuss the revamp of the library (Construction due to commence in May 2023), amongst a number of additions, I was informed that plans for a sensory room were to be implemented in the new plans. I know this has been a common requests for students so I hope it is done properly.

6. Brick Powerbank Charging Stations

I have been in consultation with a third party company based out of Sweden to bring a pilot program to the MSU which involves low-cost portable powerbanks for students to charge their phones. This scheme is incredibly interesting and I urge you to ask any questions you may have on this. I am also working with the wider community (bars, restaurants) to implement the scheme there also to build a network of charging stations in Maynooth.

The University is also in talks with this company to add charging stations to the wider campus.

7. Electric Bike Scheme

I have been in consultation with a third party Electric Bike Rental company based out of Iceland (the scands love their startups huh?) to bring E-bikes to Maynooth for cheap and easy transportation. This scheme is currently on hold as the University is currently in talks with the County Council to tender a company for this measure.

Lots of work to be done on this but I'm excited to see where it goes.

8. Café in TSI

The University are currently in talks to tender a café downstairs in the new TSI building, there has been no official date on this so take it with a grain of salt, the good news is though that it will open up 80 student social seating spaces whether or not the café is operational.

9. Non-Alcoholic Drinks in the SU

I had a meeting with the MSU Bar manager Mark in regards to additional non-alcoholic options in the bar. I was brought into the office and shot in the knees.

No seriously though. The outcome was essentially that the demand is not there with students. There were a number of attempts to bring in stock which was wasted and cost a lot to the company. I urged him to try adding maybe one new option and between Heineken 0 (which had been tried a failed) and Guinness 0, we settled on potentially bringing Guinness in for a trial. The uptake on non-alcoholic products in the bar is very low (between 3-10 products sold per week) and as a result the company is unwilling to budge further for the time being.

The implementation of Guinness 0 and it's success in the bar may pave the way for additional products though.

**THAT'S ALL FOLKS,
LUCAS**

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 have been claimed as of 09/12/2022.