

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: 2 NOVEMBER – 15 NOVEMBER 2022
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A Chairde,

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

I've had a busy period of work translating a number of phrases into Gaeilge as well as your official titles which you can use during sittings of the Senate. I highly recommend you work these phrases into your speeches and you use them as much as possible. As I always say, a little bit of Irish always adds richness into your speech!

November is an extremely big month for the Irish language community. Normally, Oireachtas na Samhna, a large festival consisting of Irish speakers, Sean-nós singing, dancing and literature takes place. This year, it took place in Killarney, Co. Kerry and I used the opportunity to discuss plans for the year briefly with other Oifigh na Gaeilge and colleagues in the Irish-language community.

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 will be brought to the Senate soon.

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.

No meetings of Coiste na Gaeilge (MU) have taken place since my election. One meeting of the executive has taken place where I actively engaged to represent the interests of relevant Irish linguistic and cultural groups.

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 aim to organise monthly Irish language events within 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 look at bi-lingual signage which is displayed across the campus. I have already identified signage within the Scéim Chónaithe which should be provided either in Irish only or bi-lingually in accordance with the Official Languages Act 2003.

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 am hoping to meet with the LU don Ghaeilge in Galway and the 3rd Level Co-ordinator who both had a role to play in the development of a strategy in NUIGSU to discuss their experience of creating a strategy and the process they undertook.

Monthly Irish-language events

It is my intention to organise the first of these events in the near future.

Tandem Language Learning Scheme

It is my aim to launch this scheme for Semester 2. It is my intention to meet with senators to discuss this scheme too.

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. Once I have a definite answer, I shall endeavour to organise a first meeting.

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 conduct a visual audit of the campus to ensure that the University is compliant with the Official Languages Act 2003 (in particular regarding Signage). One of the areas which has been identified has been the Scéim apartments 'Gaoth Dobhair' where signage has been provided only in English. In addition to this, I have noticed such signage in car parks too.

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 latest meeting of 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

It is my intention to start a 'Focal an Lae' campaign on the @msugaeilge account once I have access to this account. In the meantime, I am providing help to the Cullacht with their Focal an Lae 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 shall be tabled as an item for note during the second sitting of the Senate.

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

I have spoken with the VP Education regarding this list, reviewed it and it will be placed on the Agenda for the second sitting of the Student Senate.

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 investigated the eTranslation tool provided by the European Union and I have proofread the translation provided. The translated Constitution has been placed on the Agenda for this sitting as an item for note. This shall be reviewed once a review has taken place of our current constitution and if/when changes are made to the current constitution, further translation will take place.

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

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.

I have attended one meeting of the MSU Executive Committee. During this meeting, I voted and expressed my opinion on a number of items of business. In addition to this, I have reminded the Executive that I am available for translations and have asked that 3 days notice be given to me for them.

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.

No meetings of Coiste na Gaeilge (MU) have taken place since my election.

Coiste na Gaeilge (MSU)

A committee to discuss the Irish language within the university and students' union. This is a committee I chair. As the committee has not been fully formed, no meetings have taken place as of yet.

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 have attended two meetings of this committee and I have aided with their planning of the '#Gaeilge24' event.

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. University Coiste na Gaeilge nomination
2. #Gaeilge24
3. Gníomhaí Gaeilge

University Coiste na Gaeilge nomination

The Student Assembly has the right to nominate one student to the University's Coiste na Gaeilge. I have been giving advice to the President regarding this nomination.

#Gaeilge24

#Gaeilge24 is a challenge to speak only Irish for 24 hours and will take place on the 15th November 2022. I have given some help to the Cuallacht with their planning of this event and I will organise one of the events, a showing of the acclaimed Irish film, 'An Cailín Ciúin' in Seomra na Gaeilge on the day.

Gníomhaí Gaeilge

MSU has enrolled in the Gníomhaí Gaeilge programme run by Conradh na Gaeilge. This is a scheme where students/groups are encouraged to regularly speak Irish while also being active within the Irish language movement. It is my intention to meet with our mentor in the coming weeks.

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 45

MSU Executive – 7 November- 16:00
Cuallacht Cholmcille – 7 November – 18:00
MSU Executive – 8 November – 17:00
Student Senate – 9 November – 18:00 (online)

Week 46

Cuallacht Cholmcille – 14 November – 18:00

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.