

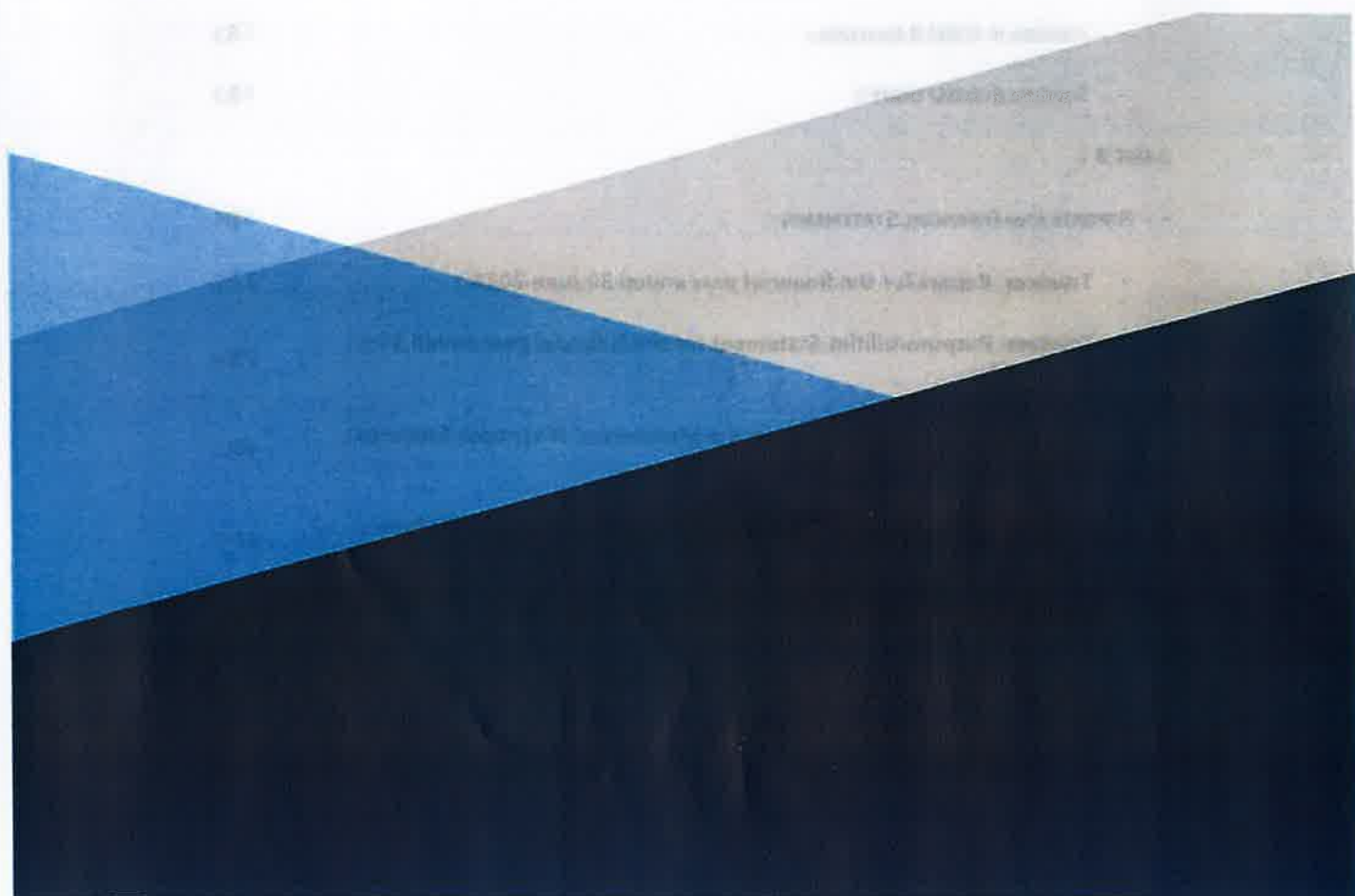


MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Annual Report & Financial Statements
For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2023

May 2024



CONTENTS

	PAGE
PART A	
▪ REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS	4
▪ DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE	5
▪ PRESIDENT'S REPORT	6
– Section 1: Summary of MSU's Purpose and Activities	7
– Section 2: Achievements & Performance	8
▪ Structure, Governance & Management	25
– Chairperson of the MSU Board of Trustees Statement	26
– Section 1: MSU Board of Trustees	27
– Section 2: MSU Audit & Risk Committee of the Board of Trustees	29
– Joint Statement from the Speaker and Deputy Chairperson of the MSU Student Senate	30
– Section 3: MSU Student Senate	31
– Section 4: MSU Executive	33
– Section 5: MSU Staff	33
PART B	
▪ REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	35
– Trustees' Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	37
– Trustees' Responsibilities Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	39
– Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union	40
– Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	43
– Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	44
– Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	45

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Profiles of Members of the MSU Board of Trustees	58
Appendix B – Profiles of Members of the MSU Audit & Risk Committee	60
Appendix C – Profiles of Members of the MSU Executive	61
Appendix D – Profiles of Members of the MSU Staff Complement	64

PART A:

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS,
DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE, &
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

REFERENCE & ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Name	Maynooth Students' Union
Structure	Unincorporated Association with operations overseen by the Union Executive, Audit & Risk Committee, and Board of Trustees
Trustees	Alexandra Balfe-Vic (appointed 1 June 2023) Molly Buckley Liam Cosgrove (resigned 17 December 2022) Niall Daly (appointed 1 July 2022, resigned 30 June 2023) Lorna Fitzpatrick Niamh Halpenny Richard Hammond S.C. Paddy Hennessy Dr. Rory McDaid Kelly Rennick (resigned 30 June 2023)
Executive	Niall Daly (MSU President) Alex Balfe (VP Education) Kealan Hilley (VP Welfare & Equality) Lucas Jeannot (VP Student Life) Kyla Henry (Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Faculty Convenor) Carrie O'Neill (Social Sciences Faculty Convenor) Gavin Fanning (Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor) Craig Mac Gabhann (Oifigeach na Gaeilge) Sneha Papayya Pala (Postgraduate Representative) Andrea Woodcock (Doctoral Postgraduate Representative)
Principal Office	Maynooth Students' Union North Campus, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 W6R7
Independent auditors	BDO (Statutory Audit Firm) Block 3, Miesian Plaza, 50-58 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 Y754
Bankers	Allied Irish Banks Leinster Street, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Solicitors	Hammond Good LLP HG Legal Chambers, Thomas Davis Street, Mallow Co. Cork, P51 PAF5 Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors LLP 31 Morehampton Road, Ranelagh, Dublin 4, D04 F7H7

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE



I am delighted to introduce the MSU Annual Report & Financial Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. This report showcases the remarkable accomplishments and performance of MSU in delivering on its priorities over the past year.

In 2022, MSU unexpectedly embarked on one of its largest-ever campaigns: #WheresMyLevy. This campaign grew out of the frustration, anger, and disappointment felt by the student body following Maynooth University's Governing Authority's decision to terminate the construction contract for the new Student Centre. From September to November, MSU dedicated extensive efforts to gather student opinions through surveys, attentively listened to their concerns, and rallied their support for the construction of the Student Centre. Thanks to this student-led campaign, MSU secured a commitment to the construction of a Student Centre, a freeze on the levy, and improved transparency and communication regarding the use of levy funds. On behalf of MSU, I extend my gratitude to all the students who actively participated in the #Where'sMyLevy campaign.

Another standout moment of the year was the MSU Executive and Student Senate Elections held in March. These elections play a pivotal role in shaping the future of MSU and advocating for the needs and rights of Maynooth's diverse student community. On election days, 30 iPads were strategically placed in 30 polling booths across five locations on campus (Arts Block, John Hume, Library, Student Centre, and TSI). By offering digital voting, students had the flexibility to cast their votes from anywhere in the world, including during placements, intervarsity events, or while commuting to campus. Additionally, on-campus polling centres allowed students in Maynooth to vote in person over the two-day election period.

The substantial effort and investment put into these elections paid off immensely, surpassing MSU's pre-COVID-19 turnout numbers. MSU saw over 2,400 individual voters ($\approx 18\%$ turnout – up from $\approx 6\%$ the previous year) casting over 14,200 ballots in the MSU Executive Elections and over 1,800 individual voters ($\approx 13\%$ turnout – up from $\approx 3\%$ the previous year) casting nearly 20,000 ballots in the MSU Student Senate Elections.

I would like to express my appreciation to the elected representatives of MSU for their invaluable contributions to shaping campus life during these exceptionally challenging times. The resilience, determination, and community spirit of our elected representatives continue to inspire us all.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to the members of the Board of Trustees and Audit & Risk Committee for their unwavering dedication and support.

Finally, I wish to thank the members of the MSU staff team for their steadfast assistance throughout the past year. Collectively, we take great pride in serving the student body through their elected representatives and together we look forward to supporting their vital work in the upcoming 2023-24 academic year.

Dillon Grace

Dillon Grace
Director General

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Haigh a chairde,

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer of your students' union throughout the academic year. When my team and I ran for election in March 2022, I don't believe any of us could have anticipated the rollercoaster of a year that awaited us.

In September 2022, Maynooth University announced that their Governing Authority had decided to terminate the contract for the construction of the new Student Centre, a building that students have been contributing towards since 2015. Understandably, students were furious, and as the students' union, we endeavoured to represent their views as genuinely as possible. What began as a simple statement against the contract termination transformed into MSU's largest collective action campaign in our history: #WheresMyLevy. Over 9 weeks, we engaged in lobbying, petitioning, surveys, demonstrations, marches, and relentless efforts to seek answers and clarity regarding the use of student levy funds. One of my most cherished memories from the year was leading a march of approximately 1,800 students from the John Hume Building to Riverstown Lodge in October.

In March 2023, we embarked on the process of electing our new Executive and Student Senate, along with conducting not one, but two referendums (one for a new Constitution and another for affiliation with the Union of Students in Ireland). This was a significant undertaking for us, considering the impact of COVID-19 on our level of engagement. However, through substantial work and investment, we executed a plan that witnessed a remarkable increase in engagement, with approximately 2,500 individuals casting their votes. We successfully passed the new Constitution, and students voted in favour of maintaining our affiliation with the Union of Students in Ireland. This was yet another highlight of the year for me.

At the 2023 Student Achievement Awards Ireland, Maynooth Students' Union received 13 nominations that made it to the shortlist for these awards. During the ceremony, we were honoured with the Union of Students in Ireland President's Award for the #WheresMyLevy campaign. This award, which is bestowed at the discretion of the Union of Students in Ireland President, is typically granted to an external individual or group that has made a significant impact on the student experience in Ireland. Hence, breaking from its long-standing tradition, it was an exceptional way to culminate our year and become the first students' union to receive this accolade.

Once again, serving as your President has been an absolute pleasure. Being actively involved with you, representing your perspectives, and getting to know many of you has been a true privilege. I would love to continue this role indefinitely, but a new team will be taking over, and I am confident they will dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to serving you. I will be returning to Maynooth for my studies next year, so perhaps we may cross paths!

Now, for the last time: Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Niall Daly

Niall Daly

MSU President 2022-23

1. SUMMARY OF MSU'S PURPOSE AND ACTIVITIES

Maynooth Students Union (MSU) is an unincorporated association formed to represent the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick's Pontifical University.

VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

The vision of the Union is to create an environment in which every member is provided with a world-class academic and student life experience.

The mission of the Union is to provide for, promote, and defend the interests of its members.

The values of the Union are democracy, transparency, accountability, integrity, sustainability, and respect.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

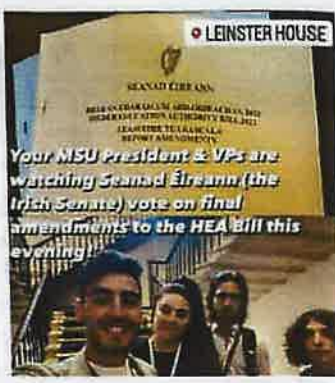
The primary objective of the Union shall be to provide for and promote and defend the interests of its members. It shall endeavour to:

- Act as a representative body for its members and other students of the University.
- Act as the recognised means of communication between the members of the Union and the authorities of the University.
- Endeavour to work in partnership at all levels with the University in the best interests of the members.
- Promote the practice of democratisation at all levels of higher education through collective and individual participation of the members of the Union.
- Actively promote the engagement of the student body in the activities of the Union and student affairs in general.
- Provide and manage MSU social, recreational, and commercial services for the benefit of its members.
- Promote the expansion and development of student services as provided by the University for the benefit of students.
- Provide the structures and means whereby students can partake in an ongoing re-evaluation of the educational process and become more positively involved in their education.
- Promote the unity of the organisation and contact between members through assisting clubs, societies, and other organisations of students within the University.

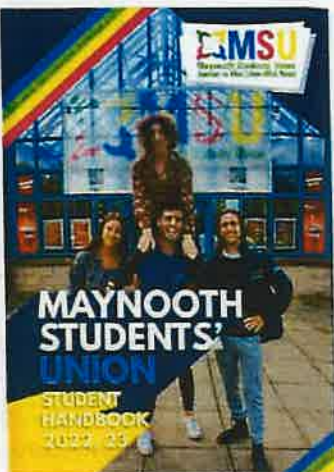
- Ensure that no member is discriminated against on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, nationality, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, age, disability, race, or membership of the Traveller community.
- Actively pursue good relations within and with the local community and to promote the message of respecting one's university town amongst the student body.
- Improve its environmental sustainability performance and to actively encourage the University and wider community to follow suit for the benefit of its the student body and community now and in the future.
- Promote and develop the Irish language among its members, and throughout the University.

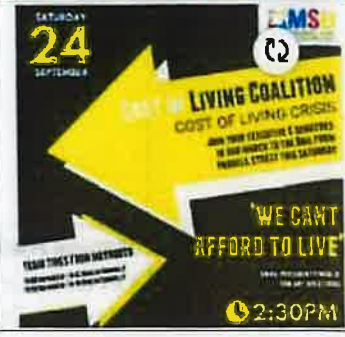
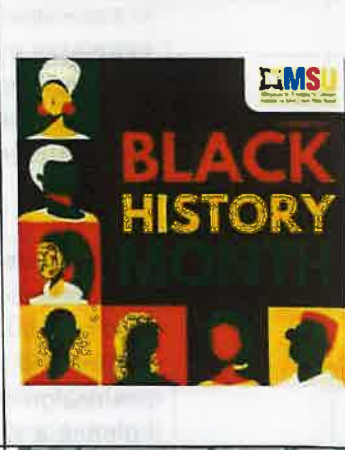
2. ACHIEVEMENTS & PERFORMANCE

Period (2022/23)	Activities	
July / August	Disability Pride Month In honour of Disability Pride Month, our VP Welfare & Equality curated a LinkTree showcasing art and poetry by notable activists. They teamed up with a Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor and activist Leesa Flynn to address combatting ableism. Additionally, they spotlighted campus supports for incoming disabled students. We flew the Disability Pride flag at the Student Centre and featured artists like Yinka Shonibare, Tony Heaton, and Frida Kahlo on our Instagram stories throughout the month	
	National & Local Traveller Pride Week The MSU President, VP Welfare & Equality, and MU Traveller Outreach Officer, Megan Berry, endorsed the Traveller Pride Awards on Instagram, spotlighting the vibrant contributions of the Travelling Community to Irish culture. They also provided a timeline of legislation affecting Travellers, from the 1963 Commission on Itinerary to their ethnic recognition on March 1, 2017. This initiative celebrates Traveller heritage while highlighting the ongoing struggle for recognition and equality.	

	International Non-Binary People's Day On July 14th, we shared four pieces celebrating non-binary identity and pronouns, including the harms of deadnaming and an Irish language guide titled "Talking Gender." Collaborating with MU's EDI Office, we produced a video tutorial on changing gender on MU Student Web. Post-Raphaelite paintings served as the backdrop, symbolizing Generation Z's ethos of love and solidarity.	
	HEA Bill The Full-Time Officers, along with national and regional student unions, lobbied for amendments to the HEA Bill. They conducted an email picket of Seanad Éireann members, advocating for changes to ensure fair representation and autonomy for students' unions. Officers also attended the Oireachtas debate with Senators to push for these amendments. Although not all changes were included in the enacted HEA Act, some victories were achieved, benefitting the student union sector	
	Postgraduate Coffee Mornings During the summer, we initiated a Postgraduate Student Coffee Morning. The inaugural event, in collaboration with Maynooth University Student Services, drew over 60 attendees, a remarkable turnout. Postgraduate students gathered for coffee, tea, and snacks, providing an excellent opportunity for us to connect with them, especially as they were the only students on campus at the time.	

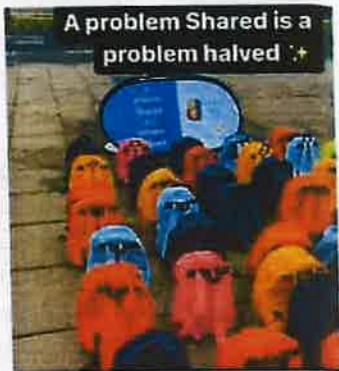
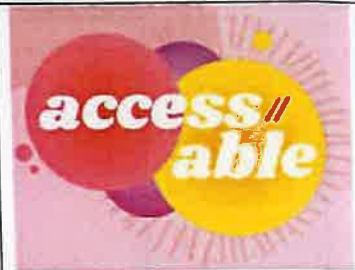
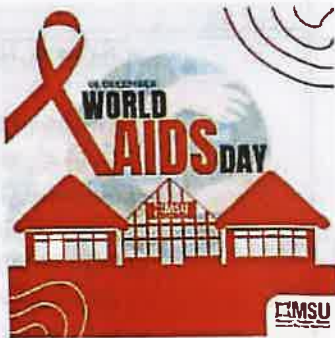
	South Asian Heritage Month We acknowledged South Asian Heritage Month (SAHM), celebrating unionists, artists, and activists with roots in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives. The 2022 theme, "Journeys of Empires," centered on migration, anti-colonialism, and creativity, reflecting the diverse narratives within the South Asian diaspora.	
	Accommodation, Digs, and Commuting Survey On July 22nd, the VP Welfare & Equality conducted a student survey on accommodation and commuting challenges, disseminating results to national platforms like the Labour Party. The data guided our submission to the Housing in Ireland Public Consultation, addressing student precarity and experiences.	Press release Housing Commission launches Public Consultation on a Referendum on Housing in Ireland
	Charity Partner of the Year Process This year, we chose Threshold as our Charity Partner of the Year. Despite a brief delay, our collaboration thrived. We hosted successful fundraising events, created volunteer opportunities, and raised awareness for their cause. This partnership deepened our understanding of Threshold's impactful work	
	Ukrainian Independence Day On August 24th, Ukrainian Independence Day, we shared infographics on Instagram discussing the national flag's colors, the tryzub symbol, and sunflower symbolism. Collaborating with our Ethnic Diversity Senator, we curated a Spotify playlist featuring Ukrainian artists. These posts celebrated Ukrainian culture and heritage, fostering awareness and appreciation.	

	Student Handbook Planning At the academic year's outset, we produced the first Student Handbook for incoming 1st Years since 2019-20. Nearly every copy was distributed successfully. To alleviate costs, we secured sponsorships from local businesses, almost fully funding the project. The local community's enthusiastic support and generous contributions were vital. This handbook is a crucial resource, offering valuable information about MSU, university services, and pertinent organizations. Our team meticulously gathered and designed the content to be informative, engaging, and user-friendly.	
	Orientation Week During Orientation Week, we welcomed new 1st Year students, introducing them to their students' union and ensuring they felt supported throughout their university journey. Full-Time Officers delivered a comprehensive talk to 3,500 students, highlighting MSU's role and services. We shared information about resources such as the Info Centre, Londis, academic support, advocacy, and social events. "Freshers Packs" containing essential items and a Student Handbook were distributed, offering a warm welcome to incoming students. This marked the first compilation of a Student Handbook since 2019-20, including treats, vouchers, and branded items to enhance the students' experience.	 
September / October	Giant Ribbon for Suicide Prevention During Green Ribbon Month, initiated by See Change, we promote mental health awareness, resources, and stigma reduction. On September 9th, we created a giant green ribbon on the meadow between the Arts and John Hume Buildings using eco-friendly materials. We encourage people to seek help when needed.	

	MSU Freshers Fest	
	Cost of Living Coalition The Cost of Living Coalition led a march on September 24th in Dublin City Centre, Parnell Square. Members of the Executive, Student Senate, and students united with the coalition to protest the prevailing high cost of living.	
	EU Black History Month In honor of Black History Month, we circulated graphics highlighting black-led film movements, pioneering LGBT+ artists of color, and historical civil rights unions. Emphasizing the firebrands of Black History and creators shaping Black Futures, the pieces pay homage to figures like Gladys Bentley and Mabel Hampton, connecting Afro-Futurism to Afro-Surrealism. These graphics commemorate torchbearers of civil rights and artistic expansion.	
	Academic Rep Recruitment The Academic Representative general elections took place online on October 18th, allowing students to vote for their peers' representation. These elections coincided with the broader campaign. Positions unfilled had a rolling by-election. We participated in Clubs & Societies Fairs Day, presenting students with opportunities to engage with the union.	 

	Shagnanigans	
	Intersex Awareness Day On October 26th, we celebrated Intersex Awareness Day, shedding light on the lack of anti-discrimination laws for intersex individuals, perpetuating stigma and misinformation. Our post, featuring Pre-Raphaelite backdrops, aimed to deconstruct while fostering joy in raising awareness.	
	Generation Z Generation Z, a year-long queer initiative led by our LGBT+ Senator, launched in October with a gender awareness campaign tackling pronoun disclosure, biphobia, and deadnaming. The campaign expanded to include the Equality Book Club, focusing on queer intersectional fiction monthly, and the Let's be Perfectly Queer podcast, set to launch next semester. Events like the Drag Show and Open Closet amplified queer pride as both protest and celebration, demonstrating the senator's commitment to advancing LGBTQ+ rights and visibility.	
	#WheresMyLevy	

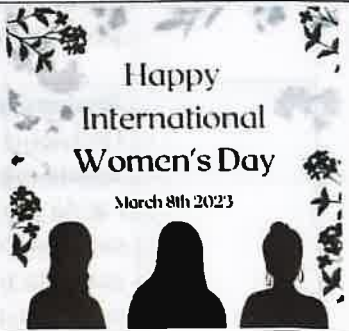
November / December	Ethnic Diversity Panel This academic year, our Ethnic Diversity Panel, initiated by the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor and LGBT+ Senator, offered a platform for students from diverse ethnic backgrounds to discuss representation, visibility, equality, equity, and welfare on campus.	
	Trans Awareness Week In a burst of trans joy, we collaborated with MU Pride Society to chalk a giant Trans Flag outside the Info Centre for Trans Awareness. This act aimed solely for joyful expression, fostering a collective and ongoing celebration.	
	Headspace	
	Annual Turning on the Christmas Lights On November 28th, festive spirit filled MSU Club as we lit the Christmas tree. We led a caroling choir in collaboration with MU Music Society and MU MadSoc, entertaining with beloved Christmas tunes. Students enjoyed complimentary mulled wine, mince pies, and beverages, enhancing the joyful atmosphere.	
	Ask for Angela Through the codeword "Angela," patrons can discreetly seek help from staff and secure a safe ride home. The campaign is integrated into the students' union, with bar staff trained to recognize signs of distress. Ongoing efforts include staff	

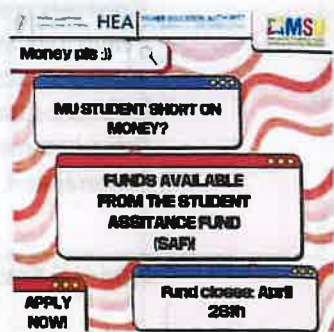
	training for annual turnover and securing commitments from more nightlife venues.	
	3Ts' Share the Load On November 30th, we partnered with 3Ts, a suicide prevention organization, to host Share the Load on campus. This visually impactful campaign featured backpacks representing the annual loss to suicide among college-aged individuals. The slogan "a problem shared is a problem halved" underscores the importance of reaching out for support. The campaign urges both reaching out to others and seeking help when needed, emphasizing the significance of community and mental health awareness.	 A photograph of a campaign featuring several backpacks of various colors (red, blue, orange, black) arranged on a paved surface. Above them is a sign that reads "A problem Shared is a problem halved" with a small graphic of two people.
	Access//Able	 A logo for "access//able" featuring the word "access" in white on a red circle and "able" in white on a yellow circle, with a double slash between them. The background is pink with radiating lines.
	World AIDS Day On December 1st, for World AIDS Day, we shared a post explaining AIDS, addressing stigma, and promoting available support. MU's Health Centre nears becoming a PrEP provider, offering free HIV testing kits and access to PrEP and PEP prescriptions for students in need. It's crucial to raise awareness about these resources to ensure student well-being.	 A poster for World AIDS Day featuring a red ribbon, the text "WORLD AIDS DAY", and an illustration of a building with a red roof. The LMSU logo is in the bottom right corner.
	Trans Working Forum On December 12th, we partnered with our EDI Office to host the Trans Working Forum, focusing on trans-affirmation, inclusion, resources, and recognition. The forum fostered collective solidarity and discussion about societal and campus-wide changes to support the transgender community.	 A poster for the Trans Working Forum featuring a colorful, abstract background with the text "TRANS WORKING FORUM" and "DECEMBER 12 12-14PM". Logos for Maynooth University EDI Office and LMSU are visible.

	12 Days of Christmas Annual Free Student Prize Draw	
	Christmas Quiz To celebrate Christmas, the Full-Time Officers organized a festive quiz at the MSU Club, testing students' knowledge of Christmas music, movies, TV shows, and reindeer. The event drew a large crowd, with festive prizes awarded to the winners.	
	Merry Swiftmas To close the first semester, we held a commuter-friendly Christmas gig at The Venue, featuring a Taylor Swift tribute act. Students danced and sang along to Taylor's top hits. The day continued with DJs playing Christmas tunes in the Bar and live acts in The Venue.	
January / February	Accommodation Tax Credits At the start of the academic year, the Irish Government introduced new renter tax credits. The process, handled through Revenue, might have seemed daunting for some. To simplify it, the Vice President Student Life designed and shared informational graphics on social media, guiding users through the steps.	

	Re-Use Pop-Up Centre In collaboration with MU Green Campus and the MU International Office, we welcomed new international students for the second semester. An area of the Info Centre hosted a Re-Use Pop-Up Centre, offering pre-loved resources like pots, pans, clothes, and academic books left by previous students. The students happily browsed through the items, finding what they needed for their time at the university.	
	Leinster House Tour with Senate On January 27th, members of the Executive and Student Senate toured Leinster House, with a group of 17 comprising 6 Executive members, 1 staff member, and 10 Student Senate members. The tour offered insights into Leinster House's history and the operations of the Dáil and Seanad Chambers.	
	Sexual Health Poster Campaign The VP Welfare & Equality launched graphics promoting free sexual health resources. One features an Art Nouveau figure endorsing the HSE's free contraception scheme. Another depicts Alexander the Great holding a PrEP pill, with a QR code for access. A broken bust symbolizes HIV Ireland's free testing kits, while another promotes sh:24's STI testing kits. Posters were displayed university-wide for students and staff awareness.	
	StudentSurvey.ie Maynooth University's student survey this year surpassed last year's participation, reflecting outstanding engagement. The survey's outcomes offer diverse benefits, including supporting learning, enhancing retention, managing resources effectively, ensuring quality assurance, identifying best practices, guiding staff development, improving internal communication, and aiding marketing efforts for prospective students.	

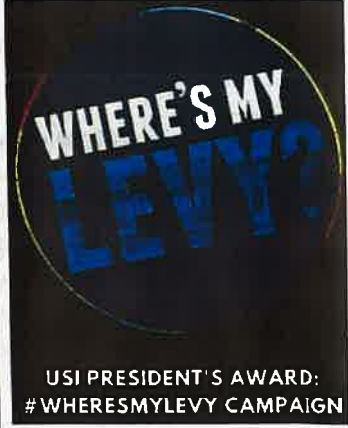
	Destress	
	Period Poverty Campaign We proudly backed MU Law Society's anti-period poverty campaign, replenishing pad and tampon boxes across campus and key Maynooth locations. The ongoing effort, led by MU Law Society's Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Ebere, began in December and requires regular box refills.	
	Relay for Life On February 7th and 8th, Executive members joined MU Cancer Society for Relay for Life, raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society. We admired the Cancer Society Committee's dedication in bringing the event to Maynooth University Campus. We're immensely proud of all Relay for Life participants.	
	#IrelandForAll Solidarity March On February 18th, Executive and Student Senate members participated in an Ireland For All protest in Dublin, countering rising nationalism. The protest, joined by students' unions and the Union of Students in Ireland, marched to the Customs House, showing solidarity against anti-immigration sentiments.	

	ShagNanigans	
March / April	Seachtain na Gaeilge During Seachtain na Gaeilge this year, we hosted several events to celebrate Irish language and culture. Firstly, a Gaeilge Fair in the Student Centre foyer brought together Irish language organizations at both local and national levels. Guests included Conradh na Gaeilge, Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga, Cill Dara le Gaeilge, MU's Oifig na Gaeilge, and Cuallacht Cholmcille. An evening bilingual quiz at The Venue drew a 96% attendance, offering prizes such as Gaeilge prints. Additional events included a screening of "An Cailín Ciúin" and a Creative Writing Workshop in collaboration with Cuallacht Cholmcille and the Creative Writing Society.	
	International Women's Day During one of the election days, we marked International Women's Day with a graphic. Female staff received bouquets, honouring their exceptional contributions inside and outside the students' union.	

	LGBTQ+ Advisory Panel The LGBTQ+ Advisory Panel emerged as a discussion forum to devise action plans for us and MU, enabling direct university lobbying and change implementation. It acts as an advisory board for student concerns, empowering members to shape both MU and our LGBTQ+ initiatives.	
	USI Comhdháil MSU attended Comhdháil AMLÉ at the Clayton Hotel in Sligo from April 3rd to 6th, sending a delegation of 15 voting members and 1 observer. Throughout the week, we actively engaged in Comhdháil's proceedings, including the election of the new USI Coiste Gnó. We were honored to receive the Best Medium Delegation award on the final evening. Additionally, our Oifigeach na Gaeilge was recognized as An Gaeilgoir is Fearr, and the LGBT+ Senator won Most Steps at the Steering Committee Awards.	
	Student Assistance Fund Campaign We launched a promotional campaign for the Student Assistance Fund, reminding potential applicants of its availability and closing date. The campaign, featuring a website-interface design, was displayed across campus sites and on social media. The Vice President Welfare & Equality also created a video promoting the resource. This initiative significantly boosted fund applications, ensuring students were aware of available support and how to access it.	
	MSU Elections This year, alongside digital elections, we ensured significant on-campus presence. 30 iPads were stationed in 30 booths across 5 locations. Digital voting enabled students worldwide to participate, while on-campus voting centers in Maynooth catered to those physically present. Polling staff facilitated seamless voting on iPads.	

	We're proud of our efforts to enhance election sustainability and remain committed to furthering eco-friendly operations.	
	Diversity Fortnight: A Culture & Arts Festival	
	Domestic Abuse Awareness Day We promoted domestic abuse awareness by encouraging students to "Go Purple" on campus, symbolizing solidarity with the national symbol, the purple ribbon. We directed students to safeireland.ie for resources and refuge information for victims of domestic abuse.	
	Mellow Yellow Welfare Boxes Named the "Mellow Yellow" Welfare Box, discreetly placed around campus, it offers health-related products like pads, tampons, condoms, lube, pamphlets, and lollipops. Students can conveniently access these items and dash away without staff interaction if they feel nervous.	
May / June	Spraoi Sessions	

	Gníomhaí Gaeilge In the Gníomhaí Gaeilge scheme for 2022-23, we set specific aims and worked with mentor Aedraen Ó Dubhghaill to achieve them. Successfully, we attained a Gradam Óir (Gold Award), with our Vice President Education and Oifigeach na Gaeilge also receiving individual awards.	
	NStEP's National Student Engagement Network On May 9th, we participated in the National Student Engagement Programme (NStEP) National Student Engagement Network Event. It centered on upcoming projects regarding 'Student Engagement, Belonging and Wellbeing' and 'Governance and Student Representation'. The event also included updates on submissions in the Case Study Hub and honored recipients of the Student Engagement Recognition Awards.	
	Pride For Pride, we highlighted nationwide support initiatives by province and shared multi-colored Instagram posts featuring artists and revolutionary quotes, from Bruce LaBruce to Barbara Kruger. It was a playful celebration affirming that the revolution is our partner.	
	World Refugee Day To mark World Refugee Day on June 20th, we posted graphics detailing ways to support migrants, refugees, and combat racism in Ireland. Methods included report systems, email templates, counter-protests, and art production, emphasizing the importance of solidarity and active opposition against discrimination.	

	USI Student Achievement Awards Ireland 2023 Shortlist: Academic Representative of the Year: ▪ Abby Beale ▪ Emma Appleby ▪ Maeve Farrell Charity Champion of the year: ▪ Charlotte Twaddle Education Campaign of the year: ▪ DeStress Equality Campaign of the Year: ▪ Genderation Z Full-Time officer of the year: ▪ Niall Daly International student of the year: ▪ Giovanni Parente Mature Student of the Year ▪ Keelan Brereton Outstanding Mental health Activism: ▪ Kirsten Baltazar Student Activist of the Year: ▪ Ebere Edeh Students' Union Team of the Year: ▪ Maynooth Students' Union Welfare Campaign of the Year: ▪ Shagnanigans Winners: ▪ Keelan Brereton Mature Student of the Year ▪ #Wheresmylevy Campaign USI President's Award	  MATURE STUDENT OF THE YEAR: KEELIN BRERETON  USI PRESIDENT'S AWARD: #WHERE'SMYLEVY CAMPAIGN
--	---	--

	DeStress	
--	-----------------	--

Table 1: Summary of activities for 2022/23.

PART A:

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE,
& MANAGEMENT**

MSU Board of Trustees

MSU Audit & Risk Committee

MSU Student Senate

MSU Executive

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES STATEMENT



Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union,

In the pursuit of our mission to enrich the student experience and advocate for the welfare of our members, this year's annual report details several noteworthy achievements that underscore our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Our commitment to responsible stewardship is demonstrated through rigorous financial auditing and active engagement with our governing structures. Throughout the reporting period, the Board of Trustees, convening on nine occasions, has steadfastly protected the Union's long-term interests by overseeing financial, commercial, budgetary, and governance matters. Assisting in these functions, the Audit & Risk Committee has convened seven times, focusing on key issues such as the 2021-22 audit, financial statements, Union policies, risk management, the #WheresMyLevy campaign, and overall MSU funding. This section of the report provides detailed membership information and attendance records for both the Board of Trustees and the Audit & Risk Committee.

Looking forward, we approach the coming year with optimism, recognising the opportunities and challenges it presents. Our primary focus is on delivering a dedicated Student Centre and increasing engagement levels through events, campaigns, and democratic processes. These initiatives are pivotal in adapting to the evolving needs of our dynamic student community.

I express heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been crucial in furthering the mission of MSU. The combined contributions of our members, volunteers, officers, staff, and the wider community have played a vital role in our achievements. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to my fellow colleagues on the Board of Trustees and Audit & Risk Committee for their steadfast dedication and support to MSU.

As we persist in championing the interests of our members, our unwavering commitment to transparency, accountability, and inclusivity remains steadfast. MSU transcends being merely an organisation; it is a vibrant community collaborating to foster a positive and enriching student experience.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hennessy

Paddy Hennessy

Chairperson, MSU Board of Trustees

1. MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Union is an autonomous unincorporated association whose aims and objectives are defined by its Constitution.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees defends 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 oversees the following aspects of the Union:

- finances, financial management, and financial planning
- commercial activities and commercial development
- expenditure and financial controls
- corporate governance
- policies, procedures, and costs in relation to expense payments to Union officers and staff and all comparable expenditures
- employment and management of staff.

Members, appointments, and terms of office of trustees who served during the reporting period are set out in Table 2 below:

Member	Appointment	Term
Molly Buckley	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Niall Daly (President)	1 July 2022	One year (term of office as president)
Lorna Fitzpatrick	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Niamh Halpenny	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Richard Hammond S.C.	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment
Paddy Hennessy (Chair)	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment
Dr. Rory McDaid	14 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Liam Cosgrove*	1 July 2022	One year (term as immediate past president)
Kelly Rennick	1 March 2023	Five months from the date of appointment

Table 2: Members, date of appointment, and term of office (Board of Trustees) for 2022/23.

Liam Cosgrove resigned their seat on the Board on 17 December 2022. Kelly Rennick was appointed to the Board on 1 March 2023 until 30 June 2023.

The MSU Director General, MSU Director of Finance and MSU Director of Facilities & Services attend meetings of the Board of Trustees but are not members of the Board of Trustees.

The MSU Director General acts as Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The Board met on nine occasions during the reporting period. Membership and attendance at Board of Trustees meetings for the reporting period are set out in Table 3 and Table 4 below:

Member	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
Molly Buckley	9	9	100%
Liam Cosgrove*	4	4	100%
Lorna Fitzpatrick	9	8	89%
Niamh Halpenny	9	7	78%
Richard Hammond S.C.	9	9	100%
Paddy Hennessy (Chair)	9	7	78%
Dr. Rory McDaid	9	8	89%
Kelly Rennick*	3	2	67%

Table 3: Membership and attendance at Board of Trustee meetings for 2022/23.

*Liam Cosgrove resigned their seat on the Board on 17 December 2022.

*Kelly Rennick was appointed to the Board on 1 March 2023 until 30 June 2023.

Date	Attendance	% Attendance	Quorate
28 July 2022	8 of 8	100%	Yes
4 October 2022	8 of 8	100%	Yes
7 November 2022	6 of 8	75%	Yes
6 December 2022	8 of 8	100%	Yes
31 January 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes
28 February 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes
4 April 2023	7 of 8	87.5%	Yes
8 May 2023	6 of 8	75%	Yes
12 June 2023	5 of 8	62.5%	Yes

Table 4: Schedule of meetings and attendance at Board of Trustee meetings for 2022/23.

2. MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Audit & Risk Committee assists the Board of Trustees in the fulfilment of its functions with respect to the Union's financial statements, financial condition, and risk management.

Members, appointments, and terms of office of members of the Audit & Risk Committee who served during the reporting period are set out in Table 5 below:

Member	Appointment	Term
Molly Buckley	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Shane McCarthy (Chair)	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment
Hugh McGeown	28 June 2021	Three years from the date of appointment

Table 5: Members, date of appointment, and term of office (Audit & Risk Committee) for 2021/22.

The MSU Director of Finance is not a member of the Audit & Risk Committee but acts as Secretary to the Committee. Whilst other members of the MSU Executive or Senior Management Team may attend meetings of the Committee from time to time, by invitation, they are not members of the Committee.

The Audit & Risk Committee met on seven occasions during the reporting period. Membership and attendance at Audit & Risk Committee meetings for the reporting period are set out in Table 6 and Table 7 below:

Member	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
Molly Buckley	7	7	100%
Shane McCarthy (Chair)	7	7	100%
Hugh McGeown	7	7	100%

Table 6: Membership and attendance at Audit & Risk Committee meetings for 2021/22.

Date	Attendance	% Attendance	Quorate
29 September 2022	7 of 7	100%	Yes
10 October 2022	7 of 7	100%	Yes
23 November 2022	7 of 7	100%	Yes
5 April 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes
26 April 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes
8 June 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes
22 June 2023	7 of 7	100%	Yes

Table 7: Schedule of meetings and attendance at Audit & Risk Committee meetings for 2022/23.

**JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE SPEAKER OF THE MSU STUDENT SENATE AND
DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON OF THE MSU STUDENT SENATE**



Marie Lyons
Speaker of Student
Senate
Maynooth Students'
Union



Ben Holmes
Deputy Speaker of
Student Senate
Maynooth Students'
Union

As the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the Seventh Session of the Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate we would like to extend our thanks to each Senate representative and member of the MSU Executive team for giving a considerable amount of their time to representing the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University at this year's seven sitting's of Senate.

The members of the MSU Student Senate are elected by the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University and each of the 45 representatives ensure that current student issues and concerns remain at the forefront of all Maynooth Students' Union's work and ensure students have their voice heard within the University committees and boards alongside locally and nationally.

During the seventh sitting of Maynooth Students' Union Senate several policies and mandates were debated and passed which ensure Maynooth Students' Union have robust policy in which to lobby and speak on behalf of the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University.

We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Senators and MSU Executive for their hard work and dedication to representation and debate of student issues during this sitting of Senate. The work undertaken by both Senators and Executive members will remain a lasting legacy and shape the future of all work undertaken by Maynooth Students' Union and the national union, the Union of Students in Ireland.

We would like to thank the Secretary of Senate and the staff of Maynooth Students' Union for their support in the organisation and running of the seventh session of Student Senate for without them the work of Senate could not be achieved.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marie Lyons".

Marie Lyons
Speaker of Student Senate
Seventh Session

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben Holmes".

Ben Holmes
Deputy Speaker of Student Senate
Seventh Session

3. MSU STUDENT SENATE

STUDENT SENATE

The MSU Student Senate is the governing body of the Union. Subject to the provisions of the law, the MSU Constitution, and to policies set by Policy Referendum, Union policy on matters shall be determined by the Student Senate at a validly called and quorate Student Senate meeting. Union policy shall include mandates for Union Officers and Union delegations.

The MSU Student Senate is comprised of the following panels:

- Executive Panel
- Faculty Assemblies Panel
- Postgraduate Panel
- Clubs Council & Societies Council Panel
- Interest Group Panel
- Independent Panel

The MSU Student Senate met on six occasions during the year. The membership of the MSU Seventh Session of the MSU Student Senate and the date of their election is set out in Table 8 below.

Position	Member	Date Elected
Speaker of Senate	Marie Lyons	9 November 2022
President	Niall Daly	9 March 2022
VP Education	Alex Balfe	9 March 2022
VP Student Life	Lucas Jeanniot	9 March 2022
VP Welfare & Equality	Kealan Hilley	9 March 2022
Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Convenor	Kyla Henry	9 March 2022
Social Sciences Faculty Convenor	Carrie O'Neill	9 March 2022
Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor	Gavin Fanning	9 March 2022
Oifigeach na Gaeilge	Craig Mac Gabhann	18 October 2022
Postgraduate Representative	Sneha Papayya Pala	18 October 2022
Doctoral Postgraduate Representative	Andrea Woodcock	10 March 2021
Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Assembly Member	Abby Sheridan	21 October 2022
Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Assembly Member	Dillon Byrne	21 October 2022
Arts, Celtic Studies, & Philosophy Faculty Assembly Member	Keelin Brereton	21 October 2022
Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member	Aoife Hynes	21 October 2022
Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member	Elizabeth McColgan	21 October 2022

Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member	Michelle Gorman	21 October 2022
Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member	Hannah Bagtasos	21 October 2022
Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member	Fionn Roche	21 October 2022
Science & Engineering Faculty Assembly Member	Eva Hearne	21 October 2022
Taught Postgraduate Senator	Niamh Áine O'Neill	9 March 2022
Taught Postgraduate Senator	David Corish	18 October 2022
Research Postgraduate Senator	Saoirse Ward	9 March 2022
Research Postgraduate Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Clubs Council Member	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Clubs Council Member	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Societies Council Member	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Societies Council Member	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Accommodation Senator	Luka Prancilianuskas	9 March 2022
Active Citizenship Senator	Jessica Lennon	9 March 2022
Campus Life Senator	Alexander Traem	18 October 2022
Charity Senator	Vivek Allampally	18 October 2022
Community Senator	Michael Comer	9 March 2022
Commuter Senator	Aaliyah Mooney	18 October 2022
DARE Senator	Abby Beale	9 March 2022
Ethnic Diversity Senator	Caitlin Hickey	9 March 2022
First Year Senator	Seán Kerrigan	18 October 2022
Froebel Senator	Baisat Alawiye	18 October 2022
Gender Equality Senator	Aoife Mullaly	9 March 2022
Green Campus Senator	Daniel O'Brien	9 March 2022
HEAR Senator	Tiarnán Lee-Flynn	18 October 2022
International Student Senator	Laura Flood	18 October 2022
LGBT+ Senator	Ben Holmes	9 March 2022
Mature Student Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Mental Health Senator	Shauna Whelan Buckley	9 March 2022
Mincéir Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Parents & Carers Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Part-Time Course Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
St. Patricks College Senator	Aoife Ryan	9 March 2022
Study Abroad & Erasmus+ Senator	<i>Vacant</i>	-
Independent Senator	Steph Collins	18 October 2022
Independent Senator	Conor Cronin	18 October 2022
Independent Senator	Ryan Young	18 October 2022
Independent Senator	Alex Yearsley	18 October 2022

Table 8. Membership of the Seventh Session of the MSU Student Senate for 2022/23.

Meeting	Date	Type
First Sitting of the Sixth Session	9 November 2022	Ordinary
Second Sitting of the Sixth Session	23 November 2022	Ordinary
Third Sitting of the Sixth Session	13 December 2022	Ordinary
Fourth Sitting of the Seventh Session	22 February 2023	Ordinary
Fifth Sitting of the Seventh Session	29 March 2023	Ordinary
Sixth Sitting of the Seventh Session	26 April 2023	Ordinary

Table 9: Schedule of meetings of the Seventh Session of the MSU Student Senate for 2022/23.

4. MSU EXECUTIVE

MSU EXECUTIVE

Subject to the MSU Constitution and the Student Senate, the Union Executive meets and acts as a collective authority and is 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 Executives who served during the reporting period are set out in Table 10 below:

Name	Position
Niall Daly	MSU President
Alex Balfe	VP Education
Lucas Jeannot	VP Welfare & Equality
Kealan Hilley	VP Student Life
Kyla Henry	Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Faculty Convenor
Carrie O'Neill	Social Sciences Faculty Convenor
Gavin Fanning	Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor
Craig Mac Gabhann	Oifigeach na Gaeilge
Sneha Papayya Pala	Postgraduate Representative
Andrea Woodcock	Doctoral Postgraduate Representative

Table 10: Members of the MSU Executive for 2022/23.

5. MSU STAFF

MSU STAFF SUPPORT (MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION) TO THE MSU EXECUTIVE

The Executive team receives crucial support from the Director General, who plays a central role in supporting and coordinating various aspects of MSU's operations. In addition to the Director General, the Executive benefits from the contributions of a dedicated staff team that collectively ensures the seamless operation of MSU and actively contributes to accomplishing its organisational aims and objectives

Name	Position
Ann Marie Cudden	Front Office Manager

Dillon Grace	Director General
Jana Simunekova	Retail Supervisor
Fiona Tierney	Retail Supervisor
Brian Torley	Shop Manager

Table 11: Members of the MSU staff complement for 2022/23.

PART B:

Reports and Financial Statements
for financial year ended 30 June 2022

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PART B	
REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	
- Trustees' Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	37
- Trustees' Responsibilities Statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	39
- Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union	40
- Income & Expenditure Account for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	43
- Balance Sheet for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	44
- Notes to the Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023	45

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Maynooth Students Union (MSU) is an unincorporated association with operations overseen by the Union Executive, Audit & Risk Committee, and Board of Trustees.

MSU represents the students of Maynooth University (MU) and seeks to serve their social, cultural, welfare, educational, political and developmental needs, to further their interests both inside and outside MU, and generally to enhance their well-being.

An overview of MSU's main activities undertaken in relation to its purpose and key objectives are contained within section 2 of the MSU Presidents Report.

RESULTS & DIVIDENDS

The deficit for the financial year, after taxation, amounted to €29,874 (2022 – surplus €162,745).

TRUSTEES

The Trustees who served during the financial year were:

- Niall Daly (appointed 1 July 2022, resigned 30 June 2023)
- Alexandra Balfe-Vicic (appointed 1 June 2023)
- Kelly Rennick (resigned 30 June 2023)
- Niamh Halpenny
- Liam Cosgrove (resigned 17 December 2022)
- Lorna Fitzpatrick
- Paddy Hennessy
- Molly Buckley
- Richard Hammond S.C.
- Dr. Rory McDaid

Biographies of the Trustees who served during the financial year are available in Appendix A.

POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There have been no significant events affecting the Union since the financial year end.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANT AUDIT INFORMATION

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' Report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as the Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Union's auditors are unaware, and
- the Trustees has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustees in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Union's auditors are aware of that information.

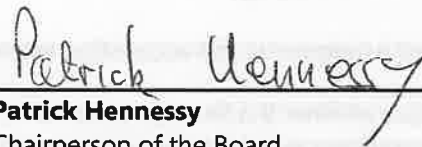
AUDITORS

The auditors, BDO, continue in office.

This report was approved by the board on and signed on its behalf.



Alexandra Balfe-Vicic
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/06/2024




TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

The Trustees are required to prepare financial statements for each financial year.

The Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

The Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Union as at the financial year end date, of the deficit for that financial year.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the Union's financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Union will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Union keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Union, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and deficit of the Union to be determined with reasonable accuracy, and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Union and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the Union's website. Legislation in Republic of Ireland governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

On behalf of the board


Alexandra Balfe-Vicic
President


Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/06/2024

**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MAYNOOTH
STUDENTS' UNION**



Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Maynooth Students' Union (the 'Union') for the financial year ended 30 June 2023, which comprise the Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in the United Kingdom by the Financial Reporting Council.

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Union as at 30 June 2023 and of its deficit for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the Union in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority (IAASA), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the Union's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.



**Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union
(continued)**

Other information

The trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report, other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information obtained at the date of this Auditor's report as well as the remaining other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained at the date of this Auditor's report, or based on the work we will perform on the remaining other information included in the annual report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

Based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained at the date of this Auditors' Report, we have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the Union and its environment obtained in the course of this audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of trustees for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Trustees' Responsibilities Statement set on page 39, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the Union's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.



Independent Auditors' Report to the Members of Maynooth Students' Union (continued)

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the IAASA's website at: http://www.iaasa.ie/getmedia/b2389013-1cf6-458b-9b8f-a98202dc9c3a/Description_of_auditors_responsibilities_for_audit.pdf. This description forms part of our Auditors' Report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the Union's members, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Union's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Union and the Union's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Simon Carbery
for and on behalf of BDO
Statutory Audit Firm

Block 3, Miesian Plaza,
50-58 Baggot Street Lower,
Dublin 2, D02 Y754

Date:

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Income	4	3,007,222	2,368,127
Cost of sales		(1,073,245)	(778,538)
Gross surplus		1,933,977	1,589,589
Administrative expenses		(1,963,851)	(1,514,150)
Other Income	5	-	87,306
(Deficit)/Surplus for the financial year		(29,874)	162,745
Reserves at the beginning of the financial year		897,971	735,226
(Deficit)/surplus for the financial year		(29,874)	162,745
Reserves at the end of the financial year		868,097	897,971

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2023 or 2022 other than those included in the income and expenditure account.

Signed on behalf of the board:

Alexandra Balfe Vicić

Alexandra Balfe-Vicić
President

Patrick Hennessy

Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

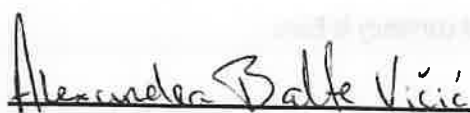
Date: 18/06/2024

BALANCE SHEET **AS AT 30 JUNE 2023**

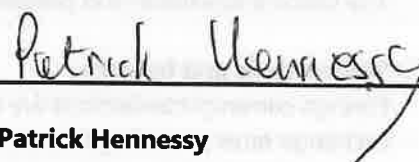
	Note	2023 €	2022 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	10	<u>63,803</u>	<u>68,017</u>
		63,803	68,017
Current assets			
Stocks	11	83,533	74,089
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	12	43,801	139,573
Cash at bank and in hand	13	<u>1,169,712</u>	<u>878,840</u>
		1,297,046	1,092,502
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	<u>(492,752)</u>	<u>(262,548)</u>
Net current assets		804,294	829,954
Net assets		<u>868,097</u>	<u>897,971</u>
Financed by:			
Reserves	16	<u>868,097</u>	<u>897,971</u>
Closing reserves		<u>868,097</u>	<u>897,971</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board:



Alexandra Balfe-Vicic
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 18/06/2024

The notes on pages 45 to 55 form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

These financial statements comprising the Income and Expenditure, the Balance Sheet and the related notes constitute the individual financial statements of Maynooth Students' Union for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Maynooth Students' Union is an unincorporated entity formed by the students of Maynooth University and Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, along with all their associated campuses across Ireland in 2023, to represent the Union's members to the said institutions and associated campuses.

The Union's primary objective is promoting and defending the interests of its members. The Union's principal office is located at Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare, the Republic of Ireland.

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1. Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis and under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with Section 1A of Financial Reporting Standard 102, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2. Foreign currency transactions

Functional and presentation currency

The Union's functional and presentational currency is Euro.

Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions.

Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

Foreign exchange gains and losses are presented in the Income and Expenditure Account within 'administrative expenses'.

2.3. Income

Income is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Union and the income can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates, value added tax and other sales taxes. The following criteria must also be met before income is recognised:

Sale of goods

Income from the sale of goods is recognised when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- the Union has transferred the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the buyer;
- the Union retains neither continuing managerial involvement to the degree usually associated with ownership nor effective control over the goods sold;
- the amount of income can be measured reliably;
- it is probable that the Union will receive the consideration due under the transaction; and
- the costs incurred or to be incurred in respect of the transaction can be measured reliably.

Capitation Income

Capitation income is income received by MSU, through Maynooth University, from the Student Contribution. The Student Contribution was introduced by Government on the abolition of tuition fees in 1995 and is the charge payable by students who are deemed eligible for free tuition fees under the Free Fees Schemes.

The Working Group that drew up the HEA's 1998 Framework of Good Practice, relating to the Student Contribution, recommended that the student services' allocation from the Student Contribution should include funding for: Students' Union, Clubs, and Societies. The funding for MSU therefore is drawn from the Student Contribution and it was specifically intended for that purpose.

Capitation Income is the primary source of income to Maynooth Students' Union funding the delivery of our core representative supports, services, events and activities to members annually. Growth in this funding source is wholly dependent on annual representations made by MSU through engagements with Maynooth University.

Other Income

Other sources of Income to Maynooth Students' Union arise on an adhoc basis, and are derived from identifying opportunities to promote and support initiatives, product and projects where collaboration with providers in linking them to our members directly results in additional beneficial services and offerings to the student body.

2.4. Grants

Grants are accounted under the accruals model as permitted by FRS 102. Grants relating to expenditure on tangible fixed assets are credited to Income and Expenditure Account at the same rate as the depreciation on the assets to which the grant relates. The deferred element of grants is included in creditors as deferred income.

Grants of a income nature are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account in the same period as the related expenditure.

2.5. Defined contribution pension plan

The Union operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the Union pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the Union has no further payment obligations.

The contributions are recognised as an expense in the Income and Expenditure Account when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals as a liability in the Balance Sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the Union in independently administered funds.

2.6. Taxation

The Union as a member's organisation and unincorporated entity operates the delivery of its representation supports and services, other services, events, and activities on the principle of not-for-profit, re-investing available surpluses in these supports, activities, facilities, and operations provided directly to and for members, therefore no liability to corporate taxation arises.

2.7. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets under the cost model are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives, using the straight-line method.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Fixtures and fittings	- 20.00%
Bar fixtures and fittings	- 12.50%

The assets' residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted prospectively if appropriate, or if there is an indication of a significant change since the last reporting date.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

2.8. Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value, being the estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost is based on the cost of purchase on a first in, first out basis.

At each balance sheet date, stocks are assessed for impairment. If stock is impaired, the carrying amount is reduced to its selling price less costs to complete and sell. The impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Income and Expenditure Account.

2.9. Debtors

Short-term debtors are measured at transaction price, less any impairment. Loans receivable are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment.

2.10. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

2.11. Creditors

Short-term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other financial liabilities, including bank loans, are measured initially at fair value, net of transaction costs, and are measured subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

2.12. Holiday pay accrual

A liability is recognised to the extent of any unused holiday pay entitlement which is accrued at the balance sheet date and carried forward to future periods. This is measured at the undiscounted salary cost of the future holiday entitlement so accrued at the balance sheet date.

2.13. Financial instruments

The Union only enters into basic financial instrument transactions that result in the recognition of financial assets and liabilities like trade and other debtors and creditors, loans from banks and other third parties, loans to related parties and investments in ordinary shares.

Debt instruments (other than those wholly repayable or receivable within one year), including loans and other accounts receivable and payable, are initially measured at present value of the future cash flows and subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Debt instruments that are payable or receivable within one year, typically trade debtors and creditors, are measured, initially and subsequently, at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received. However, if the arrangements of a short-term instrument constitute a financing transaction, like the payment of a trade debt deferred beyond normal business terms or in case of an out-right short-term loan that is not at market rate, the financial asset or liability is measured, initially at the present value of future cash flows discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument and subsequently at amortised cost, unless it qualifies as a loan from a trustee in the case of a union, or a public benefit entity concessionary loan.

Investments in non-derivative instruments that are equity to the issuer are measured:

- at fair value with changes recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account if the shares are publicly traded or their fair value can otherwise be measured reliably.
- at cost less impairment for all other investments.

Financial assets that are measured at cost and amortised cost are assessed at the end of each reporting period for objective evidence of impairment. If objective evidence of impairment is found, an impairment loss is recognised in the Income and Expenditure Account.

For financial assets measured at amortised cost, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. If a financial asset has a variable interest rate, the discount rate for measuring any impairment loss is the current effective interest rate determined under the contract.

For financial assets measured at cost less impairment, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between an asset's carrying amount and best estimate of the recoverable amount, which is an approximation of the amount that the Union would receive for the asset if it were to be sold at the balance sheet date.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the Balance Sheet when there is an enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

3. JUDGMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES AND KEY SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The trustees do not consider any accounting estimates or judgments to be critical to the financial statements.

4. INCOME

	2023	2022
	€	€
Capitation Income	810,500	741,990
Sales shop	1,221,479	817,875
Sales bar	914,595	733,807
Other services	60,648	74,455
	3,007,222	2,368,127

All income was generated in Ireland.

5. OTHER OPERATING INCOME

	2023	2022
	€	€
Covid 19 subsidies - EWSS	-	87,306
	-	87,306

6. (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS ON OPERATING ACTIVITIES

The operating (deficit)/surplus is stated after charging:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	24,369	30,406
Defined contribution pension cost	27,926	13,873

7. EMPLOYEES

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages & salaries	731,912	688,961
Employers PRSI	77,452	72,296
Pension costs	27,926	13,873
	837,290	775,130

Included within wages and salaries is administration payroll costs of €599,950 (2022 - €510,858), of which €34,800 (2022 - €30,450) is allocated to the shop, €8,500 (2022 - €8,500) is allocated to the club and €32,815 (2022 - €32,800) is allocated to Governing Committees.

The average monthly number of employees, including trustees, during the financial year was 33 (2022 - 32).

The number of employees whose salaries include staff benefits, but excluding employer pension contributions and employer social insurance contributions, amounted to €20,000 or more in the financial year was as follows:

Bands	2023 Numbers	2022 Numbers
€20,000 - €40,000	10	9
€40,001 - €60,000	4	4
€60,001 - €70,000	1	1
€70,001 - €80,000	-	-
€80,001 - €90,000	-	-

Capitalised employee costs during the financial year amounts to €NIL (2022 - €NIL).

8. KEY MANAGEMENT REMUNERATION

	2023	2022
	€	€
Wages & salaries	280,657	274,481
Employers PRSI	30,988	30,318
Pension costs	19,017	9,552
	330,662	314,351

Included in the above is the stipend paid to the President of the Union for the year of €28,000 (2022 - €25,000), and employers PRSI for the year of €3,094 (2022 - €2,763).

9. TRUSTEE REMUNERATION

Trustees are not remunerated for their role on the board. During the year, honorariums paid to the chair and members of the board and board subcommittees amounted to €23,450 (2022 - €25,800).

During the year trustees and board subcommittee members were reimbursed for travel expenses of €4,990 (2022 - €2,506).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Admin Assets €	Shop Assets €	Club / Ents Assets €	Bar Assets €	Total €
Cost or valuation					
At 1 July 2022	58,278	247,465	687,661	177,988	1,171,383
Additions	3,190	-	2,146	17,462	22,798
Disposals	-	(2,643)	-	-	(2,643)
At 30 June 2023	61,468	244,813	689,807	195,450	1,191,538
Depreciation					
At 1 July 2022	48,751	236,283	671,324	147,008	1,103,366
Charge for year	3,498	151	11,060	9,660	24,369
At 30 June 2023	52,249	236,434	682,384	156,668	1,127,735
Net book value					
At 30 June 2023	9,219	8,379	7,423	38,782	63,803
At 30 June 2022	9,527	11,173	16,337	30,980	68,017

11. STOCKS

	2023 €	2022 €
Closing Stock	83,533	74,089
	83,533	74,089

There is no material difference between the replacement cost of stock and the Balance Sheet amounts.

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

		2023	2022
		€	€
Trade debtors		377	10,949
Amounts owed by Maynooth University	20	29,643	99,898
Prepayments & other debtors		13,781	28,726
		43,801	139,573

Amounts owed by related parties are unsecured, interest free and repayable on demand.

13. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023	2022
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	1,169,712	878,840
	1,169,712	878,840

14. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	€	€
Trade creditors	323,149	91,676
Amounts owed to group undertakings	-	1,352
VAT payable	41,119	45,510
PAYE/Ni control	23,040	22,340
Accruals and other creditors	105,444	101,670
	492,752	262,548

The repayment of trade creditors varies between on demand and ninety days. No interest is payable on trade creditors.

Included in other creditors is an amount €2,768 (2022 - €12,320) charity funds raised by the Union, and which is payable to the nominated annual charity. These funds are held in a designated bank account.

15. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

	2023 €	2022 €
Financial assets		
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	1,199,732	989,687
Financial liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	428,593	194,698

Financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise of cash at bank and in hand, trade debtors repayable within one year and amounts due from related parties.

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost comprise of trade creditors, other payables and amounts owed to group undertakings.

16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Union had no contingent liabilities at the end of the financial year (2022 - €NIL).

17. RESERVES

Reserves of the Union can be categorised as:

1. Unrestricted Funds of which there are General Funds, funds available to the Union for general purposes use. These funds will be spent in whichever way that the Board of Trustees recommends in accordance with the reserves policy and in support of the Unions stated objectives; and
2. Restricted Funds, funds that can only be used for the specific purpose they were given. Use of the funds may necessitate expenditure approvals by related parties..

Reserves Analysis	2022/2023 €	2021/2022 €	Movement €
General Funds	743,991	773,865	-29,874
Restricted Funds	124,106	124,106	+0
Total	868,097	897,971	-29,874

18. RETIREMENT BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The union operates a defined contribution scheme for employees. The pension entitlements of employees are administered separately by a pension fund. The defined contribution pension charge for the financial year was €27,926 (2022 - €13,873). The amount outstanding at the financial year end was €6,436 (2022 - €NIL).

19. COMMITMENTS UNDER OPERATING LEASE

At 30 June 2023 the Union had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2023	2022
	€	€
Not later than 1 year	28,890	28,890
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	74,956	103,846
	103,846	132,736

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Relationship with the Maynooth University

National University of Ireland, Maynooth (commonly known as Maynooth University) is a higher education institution established under the Universities Acts 1997, as amended from time to time, and is an autonomous body and a registered charity. Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) is an autonomous unincorporated association, whose aims and objectives are defined by its Constitution, formed to represent the students of Maynooth University (MU) (and St Patrick's Pontifical University).

Transactions

During the year MSU received total grants of €810,500 (2022 - €741,990) from MU. There were €73,963 (2022 - €59,471) of purchase recharges and €39,433 (2022 - €21,575) of rent expenses charged from MU. The amount due from MU at the year end was €29,643 (2022 - €99,898).

21. APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The board of Trustees approved these financial statements for issue on 18/06/2024

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

APPENDICES

Appendix A – Profiles of Members of the MSU Board of Trustees	58
Appendix B – Profiles of Members of the MSU Audit & Risk Committee	60
Appendix C – Profiles of Members of the MSU Executive	61
Appendix D – Profiles of Members of the MSU Staff Complement	64

APPENDIX A – PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES



MOLLY BUCKLEY

Molly is a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. A Public Health Nurse by profession, she is best described as an Equality & Disability Rights Activist. Molly has worked tirelessly within the community and voluntary sector for many years to improve the quality of people's lives. She chairs the Boards of several local and national organisations, and manages various community projects, including, Domestic Violence, Voluntary Housing, Disability, Homelessness and Older people. Molly's skills and strengths include Advocacy, Lobbying, Facilitation and group work, Strong interpersonal and communication skills, Ability to develop partnership, networks, and relationships.



LIAM COSGROVE (MSU PRESIDENT 2021-22)

Liam is a Graduate of Politics and Sociology from Maynooth University

Liam is an experienced Youth and Student representative passionate about politics and social issues with a keen interest and experience in Arts, Culture, LGBT+, Volunteering, Marketing and Social Media.



LORNA FITZPATRICK

Lorna currently works in public affairs and previously worked with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland as the Advocacy and Engagement Manager. Prior to joining NCBI, Lorna was the President of the Union of Students in Ireland for two years. She has a degree in Human Resource Management and can often be heard on Sunday Radio stations speaking passionately about the issues affecting young people in Ireland. She is a Trustee of Maynooth Students' Union, a member of the Student Grants Appeals Board and a member of the Labour Party Executive Board.



NIAMH HALPENNY

As a graduate of Maynooth University, Niamh brings a diverse range of experiences to her professional profile. With a strong background in higher education policy, student representation, advocacy, and campaigns, she has honed her skills in various leadership roles. Niamh has served as a member of Maynooth University's Governing Authority and has been an active participant in numerous academic and student life committees.

Currently, as the Head of Student Services at Independent College, Niamh continues to make a difference in the lives of international students studying third-level degrees in Ireland. She is passionate about supporting their personal welfare, academics, and career aspirations, utilising her diverse range of skills and expertise.



RICHARD HAMMOND S.C. (DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON)

Richard is a Senior Counsel (being in the first coterie of solicitors ever to be elevated to that status by the Government of Ireland on 1st September 2020) who practises as a solicitor with his spouse Joyce A. Good Hammond at Hammond Good, Solicitors & Notaries Public, Mallow, County Cork where he is a partner. He is a self-described "succession law enthusiast" who also specialises in professional regulation. Much of his practise involves succession law consultancy for other law firms. He is a former President of the Southern Law Association and is a member of the Council of the Law Society of Ireland. Richard teaches extensively at the Law School of the Law Society of Ireland on the Professional Practice Courses. He is widely published and contributes regularly to CPD Conferences for Law Society Professional Training and for local Bar Associations.



PATRICK HENNESSY (CHAIRPERSON)

Fr Patrick Hennessy SDB is Provincial Bursar/Economer of the Salesian order in Ireland. He is a qualified teacher and has worked in second and third level education institutions. He has been involved in setting up and funding of community-based projects including the ACRE. He acts as coordinator of the Provincial Development Office.



DR RORY McDAID

Director of Research, Marino Institute of Education.
Senior Lecturer in Sociology of Education
Course Leader, MES intercultural Learning and Leadership
Coordinator, Migrant Teacher Project
Visiting Research Fellow, CAVE, School of Education, Trinity College, Dublin



KELLY RENNICK

Kelly served as the immediate past MSU president, having held the position from 2020 - 2021. Kelly has continued her work in higher education as the Learner Support Officer at Independent College. She is passionate about enhancing the student experience, promoting inclusion, and advancing institutional goals through collaboration, communication, and innovation.

APPENDIX B – PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE



MOLLY BUCKLEY

Molly is a native of Tullamore, Co. Offaly. A Public Health Nurse by profession, she is best described as an Equality & Disability Rights Activist. Molly has worked tirelessly within the community and voluntary sector for many years to improve the quality of people's lives. She chairs the Boards of several local and national organisations, and manages various community projects, including, Domestic Violence, Voluntary Housing, Disability, Homelessness and Older people. Molly's skills and strengths include Advocacy, Lobbying, Facilitation and group work, Strong interpersonal and communication skills, Ability to develop partnership, networks, and relationships.



DR SHANE MCCARTHY (CHAIRPERSON)

An accomplished Solicitor, Chairman and Board member who has led complex, high-profile organisations with significant experience in consumer protection, regulation, governance, change management and audit and risk management in various sectors.

Since merging his practice in 2016 with Fitzgerald Legal & Advisory LLP, Shane has practiced as a consultant solicitor continuing to provide strategic advice on complex, niche areas of law.

Shane has an MA in Criminology and been awarded a PhD in Law, for his research on the manner in which the Irish Parole Board balances the issues of Justice and Risk in their decision-making processes. Shane is a published co-author of "*Probation and Parole in Ireland: Law and Practice*" winner of the Law book of the Year at the Irish Law Awards 2022.



HUGH MCGEOWN FCA

Hugh is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, having qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 2004, following completion of an accounting degree at the University of Ulster. He became a Partner in 2008. Hugh has developed considerable experience in advising a broad range of clients including both indigenous and multi-national business, across many industries. He has significant experience in advising clients in the Investment Management industry with regards to their compliance needs as well as acting for fast paced start-ups throughout their growth journey. He has a particular interest in advising clients that are establishing a presence in Ireland, from their initial setup to dealing with all aspects of corporate compliance and on-going reporting requirements to include payroll and other outsourced services.

APPENDIX C – PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU EXECUTIVE



NIALL DALY | MSU PRESIDENT

Niall studies BBS International Business.

As MSU President, Niall is the CEO and Chief Spokesperson/Representative of the Union and represents the interests of Maynooth students when the University makes decisions.



ALEX BALFE | VP EDUCATION AND DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Alex studied BATH Theology & Nua-Ghaeilge.

Alex is here to represent you on all matters related to your education/academics in Maynooth so you get the most out of your degree. The Academic Rep system is also a major part of her brief.



KEALAN HILLEY | VP WELFARE & EQUALITY

Kealan studied BA Politics & Anthropology and completed a Master of Anthropology.

Kealan can offer students support and advice on well-being matters and direct people to the appropriate support across the University. They will also be running many campaigns across the year.



LUCAS JEANNIOT | VP STUDENT LIFE

Lucas studied BA Media Studies.

Lucas wants to ensure that students are getting involved with extra-curricular activities outside of their degree such as; charity, clubs and societies, events, representation, and campus life



**KYLA HENRY | ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY
FACULTY CONVENOR**

Kyla studied BA Media and Sociology.

In her role as the Arts, Celtic Studies & Philosophy Faculty Convenor, Kyla is a primary means of communication between the students and the Academic Representatives in the faculty, and the MSU Executive. Always here to help!



CARRIE O'NEILL | SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY CONVENOR

Carrie studied BA International Business and Chinese.

In her role as the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor, Carrie is a primary means of communication between the students and the Academic Representatives in the faculty, and the MSU Executive. Always here to help!



**GAVIN FANNING | SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FACULTY
CONVENOR**

Gavin studied BSc Science.

In his role as the Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor, Gavin is a primary means of communication between the students and the Academic Representatives in the faculty, and the MSU Executive. Always here to help!



CRAIG MAC GABHANN | OIFIGEACH NA GAELIGE

Craig studied BA International Nua Ghaeilge and History and is completing a Professional Master of Education

In his role as Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Craig will ensure we are heading towards a bilingual Union, University, and society. Always here to help!



SNEHA PAPAYYA PALA | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Sneha studied BSc Information Technology and is completing a Masters in Data Science & Analytics.

As the Postgraduate Representative, Sneha is responsible for dealing with issues relating to the education, welfare and student experience of postgraduate members of the Union. Always here to help!



GIOVANNI PARENTE | DOCTORAL POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Giovanni is currently pursuing his PhD.

As the Doctoral Postgraduate Representative, Giovanni is responsible for dealing with issues relating to the education, welfare and student experience of doctoral postgraduate members of the Union. Always here to help!

APPENDIX D – PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU STAFF COMPLEMENT

ANN MARIE CUDDEN | FRONT OFFICE MANAGER



In 2007, Ann Marie, now a valuable member of MSU, returned to education as a mature student, earning her teaching qualifications at Maynooth University. Her love for Maynooth led her to join MSU in 2017, where she serves as the Front Office Manager, a pivotal role in providing student support. Affectionately known as the "5th officer," Ann Marie passionately advocates for student-centric services and sustainability. With a wealth of knowledge about Maynooth, she is an invaluable resource for students navigating their educational journey. As the face of MSU, Ann Marie can be found at the SU Info Centre, offering a range of student services with a welcoming smile, always ready to assist with Student Leap-Cards, meeting MSU officers, and various other needs.

DILLON GRACE | DIRECTOR GENERAL



Dillon's dedicated journey at MSU reflects a steadfast commitment to its growth. Having held diverse roles within the organization, he was elected Vice President Education/Deputy President in 2015 and later assumed the position of President and CEO in 2016. During his tenure, Dillon managed budgets, annual workstream planning, and served as the primary student representative to the Governing Authority & Academic Council. Post-presidency, he joined MSU's full-time staff as a Union Development Administrator, focusing on policy enhancement. Currently serving as the Director General, Dillon prioritizes strengthening student representation, transparency, and engagement in decision-making. His emphasis lies in advancing student democracy, accountability, and constitutional compliance across MSU.

BRIAN TORLEY | MSU RETAIL MANAGER

	Since taking on the role of Manager at MSU Londis in 2015, Brian has brought over 20 years of successful retail management experience to the position. In line with MSU's vision, he redirected the focus from profit margins to prioritizing customer service, particularly tailored to the needs of students. Over the past 7 years, Brian has curated both a team and product range that reflects the union's member-centric ethos, evident in the advocated deals and pricing. Annually welcoming a new student support team, predominantly composed of MU students, Brian, along with Fiona and Jana, ensures their training and guidance align with academic schedules for optimal on-campus service. With 80% of his staff being MU students, Brian not only demonstrates leadership by facilitating the turnover of the student team but also supports their acquisition of valuable experience and employment while pursuing academic goals. Always attentive to student needs, Brian maintains close collaboration with the MSU team, ensuring a responsive approach to service delivery.
--	--

FIONA TIERNEY | MSU RETAIL SUPERVISOR

	Since joining MSU Londis in 2017, Fiona has proven to be a valuable team member, dedicating herself to delivering a student-friendly service. As an integral part of the Londis team, Fiona, alongside Brian, takes a lead role in the annual recruitment of student operations teams. This collaborative effort not only fosters lasting friendships but also cultivates a team culture centered on customer focus and student-centric service delivery. With a rich background in customer experience within hospitality and retail, Fiona is a friendly and familiar face at MSU Londis, encouraging customers to say hello during their visits. Her commitment contributes significantly to the establishment of a welcoming and student-oriented atmosphere at MSU Londis
--	---

JANA SIMUNEKOVA | MSU RETAIL SUPERVISOR

Jana became a part of the MSU Londis Team in April 2022, seamlessly integrating into the fast-paced environment. Despite being a newcomer to MSU, Jana quickly became a familiar and friendly face, actively supporting the Shop Manager in all aspects of shop operations. Her adaptability is evident in her involvement in early morning deliveries, late-night closings, and university open days, showcasing her commitment and positive contribution to the overall efficiency of the Londis Team. Jana's swift acclimatization and dedication make her a valuable asset to MSU Londis.

Maynooth Students' Union
(Unincorporated Association)

Annual Report & Financial Statements
For the financial year ended 30 June 2023



Maynooth Students' Union, North Campus, Maynooth University, Maynooth,
Co. Kildare, W23 W6R7.

T: +353 (0)1 474 7253

E: students.union@msu.ie

W: www.msu.ie

