

MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

20²⁴₂₅

1 JULY 2024 - 30 JUNE 2025



Maynooth Students' Union
Aontas na Mac Léinn Mhá Nuad



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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:	Alex Balfe (<i>appointed 1 July 2024</i>) (<i>resigned 30 June 2025</i>) Molly Buckley Gavin Fanning (<i>appointed 1 July 2024</i>) (<i>resigned 3 October 2025</i>) Maeve Farrell (<i>appointed 1 July 2025</i>) (<i>resigned 12 September 2025</i>) Lorna Fitzpatrick Richard Hammond S.C. Patrick Hennessy Kyla Henry (<i>appointed 18 October 2024</i>) (<i>resigned 14 September 2025</i>) Dr. Rory McDaid Charli Middleton (<i>appointed 15 October 2025</i>) Cathy Pembroke (<i>appointed 1 July 2024</i>)
Executive:	Gavin Fanning, MSU President (<i>1 July 2024 – 3 October 2024</i>) [*] Kyla Henry, MSU President (<i>18 October 2024 – 30 June 2025</i>) Roddie Mac Aonghusa, VP Academic Affairs (<i>1 July 2024 – 30 May 2025</i>) [†] Baisat Alawiye, VP Welfare & Equality Kyla Henry, VP Student Life (<i>1 July 2024 – 17 October 2024</i>) [‡] Keelin Brereton, Arts & Humanities Faculty Convenor Charli Middleton, Social Sciences Faculty Convenor Hannah Bagtasos, Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor (<i>1 July 2024 – 20 November 2024</i>) [§] Naoise McManus, Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor (<i>26 February 2025 – 30 June 2025</i>) Sophie Fitzpatrick, Oifigeach na Gaeilge Amina Traboue, Postgraduate Representative Eamonn Sullivan, Doctoral Postgraduate Representative Janela Trexy Aquino, Equality Officer Jade Orr, Environmental Officer (<i>1 July 2024 – 26 November 2024</i>) Lily Kilmartin-Gath, Environmental Officer (<i>26 February 2025 – 30 June 2025</i>) [*] Gavin Fanning resigned from their role as MSU President on 3 October 2024 [†] Roddie Mac Aonghusa resigned from their role as VP Academic Affairs on 30 May 2025 [‡] Kyla Henry resigned from their role as VP Student Life on 17 October 2024 [§] Hannah Bagtasos resigned from their role as Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor on 20 November 2024 Jade Orr resigned from their role as Environmental Officer on 26 November 2024
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 Main Street, Maynooth, Kildare, W23 F5N2
Solicitors:	Hammond Good LLP HG Legal Chambers, Thomas Davis Street, Mallow, Cork, P51 PAF5 Mangan O'Beirne Solicitors LLP 31 Morehampton Road, Dublin 4, D04 F7H7 FitzGerald Legal & Advisory LLP 6 Lapps Quay, Cork City, Cork, T12 XHE6

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

The 2024-25 academic year was one of continued development, organisational resilience, and meaningful progress for MSU. As an independent, student-led unincorporated association representing the students of Maynooth University (MU) and St. Patrick's Pontifical University (SPPU), MSU continued to deliver on its representative, developmental, commercial, and support functions in an increasingly complex operating environment.

This year saw MSU strengthen both its operational performance and financial position. Following the challenges experienced during the previous financial year, MSU concluded 2024-25 with a surplus of €81,933 (2024 - deficit €72,041). This represents an important improvement in MSU's financial sustainability and reflects the continued work undertaken across governance, budgeting, operational controls, and commercial performance. The Union's overall income increased to €2.93 million, supported by growth in capitation funding, retail operations, and bar trading activity.

While financial sustainability remains essential, the true measure of MSU's work continues to be the impact delivered for students. Throughout the year, the Executive Officers, Student Senate, student representatives, and staff team worked to strengthen student engagement, representation, welfare supports, and student life on campus.

Among the many achievements during the year was the significant progress made on the proposed MU & MSU Partnership Principles document, a long-term strategic initiative aimed at strengthening authentic student engagement and clarifying the relationship framework between MU and MSU.

Progress also continued in relation to the future Student Building project, including the appointment of the design team, representing another important milestone in a project of major significance for future generations of students.



DILLON GRACE
DIRECTOR GENERAL

DIRECTOR GENERAL'S MESSAGE

MSU also continued to deliver a broad range of student-focused initiatives and campaigns throughout the year. These included the return of the MSU Student Handbook, the preparation and distribution of over 3,000 Freshers' Packs, DeStress supports during examination periods, engagement with national student movement initiatives through USI, work on equality and inclusion initiatives such as the Ethnic Minority Support Group pilot, and continued solidarity and advocacy campaigns led by students and officers.

MSU's commercial and service operations remained central to supporting the wider mission of the organisation. Our retail, bar, events, and social operations exist to support student life and to generate resources that are reinvested directly into supports, activities, facilities, and representation for members. The staff team continued to deliver these services with professionalism, adaptability, and a strong commitment to students throughout the year.

I would like to sincerely thank MSU's elected officers, student representatives, trustees, staff, and volunteers for their work, commitment, and resilience over the course of the year. I also wish to acknowledge the ongoing engagement of Maynooth University and our wider stakeholders in supporting MSU's work on behalf of students.

The higher education environment continues to evolve rapidly, and students continue to face significant financial, social, and wellbeing pressures. In that context, MSU remains committed to operating responsibly, transparently, and sustainably while continuing to advocate strongly for the interests of students and investing in the development of student life at Maynooth.

As Director General, I remain confident in the strength of the organisation, the dedication of our people, and the future direction of Maynooth Students' Union.

Thank you for your continued trust and engagement.

Sincerely,



DILLON GRACE
DIRECTOR GENERAL



MSU EXECUTIVE TEAM 2024-25

Leading Your Union,
Representing Your Voice



Kyla Henry
MSU President
18 October 2024 – 30 June 2025



Baisat Alawiye
VP Welfare & Equality
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Keelin Brereton
Arts & Humanities
Faculty Convenor
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Charli Middleton
Social Sciences Faculty
Convenor
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Naoise McManus
Science & Engineering
Faculty Convenor
26 February 2025 – 30 June
2025



Sophie Fitzpatrick
Oifigeach na Gaeilge
DATE – 30 June 2025



Lily Kilmartin-Gath
Environmental Officer
26 February 2025 – 30 June
2025



Janela Trexy Aquino
Equality Officer
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Amina Traboue
Taught Postgraduate
Representative
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025



Eamonn Sullivan
Doctoral Postgraduate
Representative
1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

Resigned Prior to Term Completion



Gavin Fanning
MSU President
1 July 2024 – 3 October 2024



Kyla Henry
VP Student Life
1 July 2024 – 17 October 2024



Hannah Bagtasos
Science & Engineering
Faculty Convenor
1 July 2024 – 20 November 2024



Jade Orr
Environmental Officer
1 July 2024 – 26 November 2024



**Roddie Mac
Aonghusa**
VP Academic Affairs
1 July 2024 – 30 May 2025

TUAIRISC AN UACHTARÁIN

A chairde,

Welcome to the Maynooth Students' Union / Aontas Mac Léinn Mhá Nuad Activity Report for the 2024 –2025 Academic Year. This year was not what I had expected but it has been a great experience to serve as MSU – AMLMN President, that I will carry with me as I move on to new exciting opportunities.

It is a strange feeling as I reach the end of my time in Maynooth Students' Union as I have been involved since my 1st year in Maynooth. It's bittersweet but I reflect on the great moments that I have witnessed and been a part of during my time. If you had told Kyla when she came to Maynooth that she would end up being President of the Students' Union, I would have said "What is a Students' Union? Thought it was just a bar"

No year is the same in the Student Movement, and it is difficult to adapt to the changes that come with the role, but it has built my character in ways I never expected. I re-ran to have another shot at throwing fun events as VP Student Life and seeing what ways I can further develop that position but becoming President was a great honour to which I am thankful for.

Since stepping up as President I took on more high-level work than what I had been used to which was hard to adapt. I had long days of working on various things that are for the future of Maynooth Students' Union. A great achievement is the progress on the MU-MSU Partnership agreement. This document has been in process for years and to know this year that we have made great progress on this and it is going to approval at University Committees is one of the achievements I am most proud of this year.

KYLA HENRY
MSU PRESIDENT



Of course, this year we signed on the design team for our lovely Student Centre. It has been a long time coming but ground is moving on it, and I look forward to being invited back for the opening 😊.

It has been a difficult year, and I have not been perfect, but I am only human, and I have learned from this experience. I want to thank the Executive for holding me accountable and to congratulate you all on the work that has been achieved. Thank you to the staff at MSU for being very supportive and getting so much work done this year despite the small group. It has been a pleasure working with the staff in the University as well, it helped me understand the hidden functions of Higher Education.

Thank you to the students for electing me this year, it has been a pleasure and good luck to the incoming President and her team I look forward to seeing what ye achieve!

Slán!

Kyla



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, 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 a 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 students 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 student body and community now and in the future
- Promote and develop the Irish Language among its members, and throughout the University.

The main activities undertaken by MSU in relation to its purpose and key objectives begin on the next page.



USI STUDENTS' UNION TRAINING

SUT was a great opportunity to get trained up by professionals to represent you adequately and to also form collaborations with other sabbatical officers across the country. It was a wonderful opportunity to share ideas on different campaigns and initiatives and discuss the similarities and differences in our unions and how to utilize the resources we have. We also attended ethos groups every day in which we discussed what it truly means to be a student representative. There were many different sessions to improve our knowledge in our various fields such as the USI welfare working group, AHEAD Ireland, STAND.ie, Student volunteers Ireland and so on. A week we will truly never forget!

BDS LIST FOR PALESTINE

As we all know, MSU/AMLMN has a pro-Palestinian stance. This includes following a Boycott, Divestment and Sanction national campaign. We started composing a list of brand/companies that MSU/AMLMN should be boycotting as they are linked to Israeli military or the Israeli government. We conducted a full survey of the MSU Londis shop for any boycott list products.

TRIAL OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP

This month we worked on pitching a proposal for the ethnic minority support group to the university. It is an initiative that was implemented in Trinity College Dublin the previous academic year. We worked on bringing together the counselling service team, the EDI office team and Black Therapist Ireland. The aim of the group is to provide adequate and much needed-specified mental health support for ethnic minorities in higher education. This month we finalised a pilot that occurred in the first semester!

ARQUS CONFERENCE

Kyla represented Maynooth students at the Arqus Annual Conference in Braga, Portugal held from July 2nd to July 4th. Over the three days, Kyla attended keynote sessions, participated in the communications working group, and engaged with students from other alliance universities. This was an enriching experience and Kyla looks forward to further collaborating with the Student Representative Council this year.

USI/AMLÉ COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

This year, we had representatives serve on two of USI/AMLÉs committee. Kyla served on the Campaign Strategy Committee and was involved in preparation for the General Election Campaign, which led to her getting to speak at the launch of the Student Manifesto in October. Roddie served on their Governance Committee this year gaining a valuable insight into the Governance procedures of our national union.

MSU STUDENT HANDBOOK

The Student Handbook came back again for another year to offer guidance to first-year students on university life. These included introductions to the team, services offered by MSU and the University, and our tips and tricks to survive university life. We once again received great sponsorship for a variety of local and national businesses which we are thankful to for supporting us again with our Handbook.



AUGUST DESTRESS

For the Autumn Supplemental Examinations, MSU-AMLMN ran a DeStress initiative to assist students in managing their stress and supporting students to excel in their exams. Supported by food orders from MU Healthy Campus, hundreds of pieces of fruit, bags of popcorn, bottles of water, and cans of energy drinks were distributed across campus during the period. The VP Academic Affairs and VP Welfare & Equality also made themselves available for advice drop in-hours throughout the period to advise students on how best to take care of themselves and achieve exam success during the period. The initiative also included a visit from Canine Therapy Ireland, free Londis coffee vouchers, and informative infographics about studying, taking care of yourself, and staying healthy.



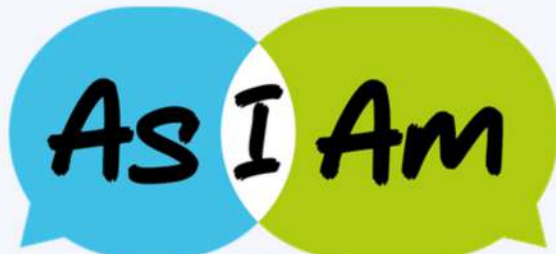
FRESHERS' PACKS

Ahead of the semester, MSU prepared for the arrival of incoming first year students by assembling 3,000 Freshers' Packs. These all in one welcome packs included the Student Handbook, Year Planner, information from university services, and a variety of treats to support students as they began campus life. The packing process also created valuable opportunities for current students to volunteer and reconnect, with many returning early to assist. MSU partnered with BWG, who supported 50 percent of the bag costs through MSU Londis. Additional contributions from Mixtape Marketing, Verve, Allied Global Marketing, and Richmond Marketing helped enhance the packs with items such as Kenco Coffee, O'Donnell's Noodles, JustEat discount codes, Haribo sweets, and Red Bull. Distributed following Orientation Talks, Freshers' Packs remain a key initiative in helping new students settle in.



CHARITY PARTNER SELECTION

This year, we decided to select one local and one national charity to fundraise for. Following the selection process, we selected As I Am and Community Cancer Caregivers to fundraise for throughout the academic year.



IRELAND'S **AUTISM** CHARITY



INTERACTIONS WITH LOCAL TDS AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

It is key for Students' Unions to have connections with Local TDs and County Councillors. This year we met with numerous of TDs and County Councillors. These have been positive interactions where we highlighted the issues students in Maynooth are facing and we also shared the results of our Housing and Commuting survey that was carried out last year. From these interactions we have had mentions in the Dáil Chamber this year from a TD and the Minister for Further, Higher Education, Research, Innovation. The Full-Time Officers also got an opportunity to meet with various Deputies and Leinster House in January.



MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY SUMMER SCHOOLS

Each year during the Summer Months, Maynooth University welcomes a host of International American students onto campus. Throughout their time on campus, they all call into the SU Info Centre to collect their very own Maynooth University Hoodie. It is great to see all our international friend's avail of the services the SU Info Centre has to offer.



ACADEMIC REPS

Every year academic representatives play a very integral, yet unique role here in MSU. Within this voluntary position, they support and educate their classmates on issues arising both within their course, and in the wider university realm.

This year we introduced a new position, Departmental Representative to MSU. This brought on a fresh, new perspective to academic realm. With 33 departments currently in Maynooth University, each rep had the opportunity to take on a greater responsibility within this new role, to support their Class Representatives within the Academic Rep sphere.

It is important to showcase the journey that academic reps took this year, from election to end of year celebrations.

- Electing our Academic Reps took place on the 9th October with the opening of nominations. During this period students were able to both nominate and vote for their peers and fellow student on who they wanted to represent their class at Union and University level.
- In November Rep training was held. This is the first step in any rep's journey as it is crucial to learn fundamental skills that are import for the role. Topics like Representation Best Practices, Union Structure, Anti-Racism, Academic Integrity, and Student Complaints were presented to reps.
- With the close of nominations on the 15th, voting took place on the 22nd October. Over 200 Academic Representatives were elected.
- SPPU students had their first Student Assembly meeting in December. The Assembly was formed of both Academic Representatives and students. This fostered a sense of community between SPPU and MSU.
- Faculty Assembly meetings took place over the course of semester one and two. Chaired by the relevant Faculty Convenor, this was a space to address issues with respected class and departmental reps. Within this space, it also provided an excellent forum for the VP Academic Affairs to discuss what MSU was doing and promote upcoming campaigns that them or their fellow officers were holding.

16 Faculty meetings were held

126 Students issues brought forward.

213 Reps elected:

58 Arts and Humanities

42 Science and Engineering

113 Social Science

REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

What a year, and how it flew.

It feels like only a few short days have passed since Monday, 1 July 2024. Alas, that is of course not the case. It's been a year of ups and downs, of enjoyable challenges, and not-so-enjoyable struggles. Firstly, I'd like to start by thanking everyone I worked with this year, particularly the staff in MSU-AMLMN. You have all supported me and helped me in different ways at key moments throughout the year, and I've appreciated every bit of it. Also, to all the University staff who I've worked alongside, you've all been so open to change and collaboration, and that made the year just that little bit easier.

When I started on July 1, I felt determined to make positive change for the students of Maynooth first and foremost, and for the organisation that is the Union. Whether I've accomplished all that I set out to do I don't know, but I do know that I've enjoyed nothing more than the reward of supporting individual students through casework throughout the year. Having helped students with supplemental examinations, international fee categorisations, periods of illness, mental health struggles, study strategies, plagiarism problems, returning to study, emigrating, and more, I feel like I've seen a vast landscape of issues this year, but grappling with all those issues has been fulfilling because of the people at the heart of them. Every student I have worked for on a one-to-one basis this year has been a pleasure to interact with, with no exceptions, and I think this is a testament to the type of kind, genuine person that is drawn to Maynooth. It was always an honour to have a fellow student trust me with a problem they were having, and it was all the more special seeing the gratitude in their eyes following progress or success.

During the year I have to say I also enjoyed coming to understand intimately how a university really runs. Being in the privileged position of getting to work with such a diverse set of offices across the institutions, I've learned a lot about differing perspectives, and I feel I've grown a lot as a person through my attempts at tempering and consolidating all those unique viewpoints into something approximating "a reality", whatever that means. My idealist's conception of a university has always been that of an open forum of ideas where all things are to be considered, tested, challenged, and discovered. Time and again this year I've seen people – in the Union and in the University – stand steadfast on deeply held beliefs about how things should be or how things are, and to me, it is this passionate discourse that summons us all to play our part in shaping the future. This to me is the fundamental purpose of a university.

At many times throughout the year, I questioned what I was doing and whether there was a better way. At many other times throughout the year, I delighted in the various novel experiences I got the opportunity to be exposed to. At still more times throughout the year, I wondered why on earth I had chosen such a path.

To conclude, I want to wish the incoming officer team the very best of luck. The one piece of advice I would give you is the piece of advice I got from anyone before I started in my role: Remind yourself of all the little things you do right throughout the year, and the lasting impact of even the small wins. It's this advice that carried me as far as I got in the year. Also, breathe. Before you know it, you'll be looking to your future and the next steps in your life, so spend as much time in the present as you can.

Le gach dea-rath,



Roddie

RODDIE MAC AONGHUSA
VICE PRESIDENT ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

USI WALKOUT

There was a nationwide walkout organised by USI/AMLÉ against the government to protest a long list of student issues in higher education such as lack of student accommodation, expensive fees and lack of funding for HEIs. VP Welfare and Equality lead and motivated students to join the walk out protest and shared chants and words with the students in attendance. As always, ní neart go chur le chéile.

THE ENGAGEMENT COLLECTIVE

We decided to refurbish what was previously known as "the welfare crew" into something more exciting that represented the purpose of the group more. A student-based group of volunteers to assist with events, make friends and learn new skills. We advertised the engagement collective during orientation, and we had many first-year students sign up to be a part of the engagement collective this year (a total of 60 sign-ups). Shona (our event's co-ordinator) was big help in making sure they were trained properly. We co-hosted the training this year to make sure students had the necessary information to take part in our wonderful collective!

HAUNTED HAPPENINGS

The end of October saw the return of Haunted Happenings as we celebrated all things Halloween between the 21st and 25th of October. During this week, students embraced the spooky season with monstrous Paint and Sips, Movie Scream-ings, and hauntingly difficult Table Quizzes. The frights were turned up to the max on the Tuesday evening at our Purge Party, a UV Night and Costume Competition with special guests, Grooveline, and MU DJ Society. A big thanks to Accenture who sponsored €300 worth of prizes for our students for this event. Professional medium, Suzy Ward, joined us on campus with her Tarot Card readings, offering students a glimpse into their future in exchange for a small donation to our Charity Partners of the Year. The traditional roots of Samhain were also highlighted across this schedule as we hosted both a Barmbrack Coffee Morning and a Ye Olde Traditional Halloween Games Night – two events with which our International Students were particularly enamoured. For a less scary option, we rounded off the week with an Autumn Book Swap and Pop-Up Café in the Info Centre. The spookiest week on campus, this schedule highlighted the significance of this time of year within the Celtic culture and ultimately gave students a much-needed mental break before leaving campus for Study Week.

STUDENT MANIFESTO PRESS LAUNCH

Kyla spoke at the launch of the USI-AMLÉ Student Manifesto on the 14th of October. The manifesto consists of our key asks for the next government when we had been in the lead up to the General Election. She spoke on the section that focuses on student wellbeing and inclusion, with some key asks for the next government being ending Period poverty, bring the student to councillor ratio to 1:1000, and the introduction of a T-Fund for all HEI's.

MSU ORIENTATION WEEK 16-20 SEPT

From the 16th to 20th September, we were delighted to welcome our incoming first year students into MSU for the first time.

Each day, our Officer Team hosted course groups for their Orientation Talk, completing a minimum of six one-hour sessions per day for the entire five days. During these, our Officers provided our new students with information surrounding the services provided by MSU, their respective remits as their representatives, details surrounding engagement opportunities for interested students, and much more.

Not all serious, our Officers engaged the groups with ice-breaker activities, allowing them to get to know their peers as well as their representative team. Each of these sessions also had giveaway opportunities with chances to win amazing prizes including a night's stay on South Campus for our Freshers' Fest, kindly sponsored by MU Conference and Accommodation. After each talk, these groups were led to Ann Marie in the Info Centre where every student received a free MSU Freshers' Pack.

Outside of these talks, the MSU building was full of life as we hosted a minimum of four events a day: a morning breakfast hub, free food and fun activities at lunchtime, an icebreaker at 17:30, and an alcohol-free mingle event in the evenings. These events included activities such as Paint & Sips, Karaoke, Speed Friending, and Boardgame Nights, all co-ordinated with the intention of giving students a place to make friends as well as become familiar with the MSU and its facilities as their space on campus. A big thank you to the MAP Office for enhancing the atmosphere and cultivating a sense of cultural belonging around the building by installing a Roma & Traveller Photo Exhibition in our foyer as well as sponsoring a daily Afrobeats Workshop in the plaza at lunchtime.



Running from 23rd to 27th September, Freshers' Fest celebrated the return of our entire student population back to campus.

This year, in response to previous feedback from our ever-rising commuter population, we were committed to expanding our daytime options for entertainment. Each day, we co-ordinated a minimum of three commuter-friendly events between the hours of 8:30-18:00 in order to cater to a range of student timetables. Activities involved in these events included Music Bingo, Mario Kart on the Big Screen feat. Games Soc, Movie Days, and Paint and Sips. We also continued our initiative of offering a Breakfast Hub during campaigns, giving early-arrivers to campus a warm and dry place to relax, have a chat, and grab a free hot beverage and a snack.

Across the week, we had a range of pop-up promotional stands, offering freebies, giveaways, and information to our students. There was a conscious focus on mental wellbeing for the new semester as we welcomed both Niteline and Canine Therapy Ireland onto campus. A big thank you also to Healthy Campus who hosted a stand in our foyer to raise awareness for sexual health and wellness on World Contraceptive Day.

The evenings were just as busy as the daytimes, with opportunities to mix and mingle every night. We kicked off the week with our County and Country Colours Night in the MSU Bar, giving students the chance to rep their homebases and find friends from near and far. On Tuesday, MU's DJ Society took to the Venue stage along with everyone's favourite Drag Queen, Viola Gayvis, in a BRAT themed night of unapologetic green-itude. Our annual Big Fresher's Quiz returned to the schedule on the Wednesday, offering students the chance to meet their Representative Officers and learn more about them as well as Maynooth itself. Finally, Thursday was our grand finale as cultural phenomenon, Bingo Loco, arrived into the Venue with confetti, chaos, and a life-size cut-out of Taylor Swift. Throughout the week, we also expanded on our non-alcoholic options for sober and sober-curious students, offering two Evening Cafés in the Info Centre.

In terms of student engagement, this was our most successful Freshers' Week since before the pandemic. A particular highlight was reaching a post-2020 record attendance of a maximum capacity of 450 students at each Venue-based event. The charity aspect of our Union also saw significant success with the establishment of our cloakroom initiative for evening events. With just two evenings of cloakrooms, our students were able to both avail of a service and raise over €400 in the very first week of semester.



Black History Month was the first-ever two-week long BHM campaign the Union has run. It took place from the 7th to the 17th of October 2024. This campaign included a whopping eight events for students to attend free of charge! This year's theme was Reclaiming Narratives, and it was important that we showcased Black culture in a positive light and hosted events that Black students and the wider community would enjoy.



These events included:

- A food truck by Mama Shee
- A haircare workshop by Braid Stop
- An anti-racism workshop facilitated by Briana Fitzsimons
- A literature and listen hour
- A Congolese-inspired dance workshop by Lapree from Southside Moves
- A South African-inspired paint and sip
- A talk from Black Therapists Ireland
- Our showstopper event – Battle of the DJs in collaboration with DKIT SU

The two-week campaign kicked off with our food truck, which served free West African food to students. This event became very busy, very fast, and Mama Shee provided full plates of food to over 150 students in attendance.

The next day, we held our haircare workshop, which was full to capacity with a diverse range of students who wanted to learn how to cornrow and learn about the history of Afro hair.

Our anti-racism workshop was also well-attended, and students had the opportunity to learn more about inequalities and active allyship. To end the week, we hosted the dance class with Lapree, which was vibrant and energetic. Students really enjoyed learning new dance moves from a different country.

To kick off the second week, we held one of our most popular event types – a paint and sip inspired by South African culture. This event was also full, with many students voicing that they were spending their only free hour in the day to attend.

We had Black Therapists Ireland speak about the stigma surrounding mental health in African and Black communities. This also served as a taster session for the ethnic minority support group.

Finally, to end the week, we hosted our evening event – Battle of the DJs, where two DJs went head-to-head to see who could hype the crowd up the best. This event was run in collaboration with DKIT SU, and it was great to see a total of 150 students sign up.

This was a very successful Black History Month campaign, and it was wonderful to welcome and celebrate our Black students in Maynooth.



REFLECTION OF THE YEAR

Hey friends,

It has been my utmost pleasure to serve as your Vice President for Welfare and Equality this year. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to connect with many of you one-to-one—through casework, late evening events, campaigns, vox pops, demonstrations, or just during my walks around campus. It's safe to say I'll genuinely miss all 17,000 of you when my term ends—especially the first years, haha! Beyoncé or Taylor Swift? LMAO.

This year has been everything, and yet nothing, like I expected. I ran for this position to create the changes I—and others like me—wished for when we were students. I feel incredibly fortunate to have completed many of the goals I set out to achieve, and I'm so glad they made a difference to your university experience, even in small ways. Campaigns have been such a vital part of my work, and although they were seriously hard work (some more stressful than others—ID Week, you will always be famous), I'm so happy they happened. They brought so many of you into this union in ways we hadn't seen before!

A good friend once told me that one year simply wasn't enough—and that teaching was stealing me away from the student movement. But I truly believe this experience has given me the confidence, skills, and heart to continue this work in a new, yet equally meaningful way.

I want to thank all the wonderful people who believed in me—even before I believed in myself. You are amazing, and I hope I made you proud. A special thank you to the full-time MSU staff—especially the Events and Creative team—for bringing my campaigns to life, both physically and visually. Thank you also to the part-time officers who worked so hard this year and stood by me through the good, the bad, and the ugly. I am truly grateful.

And finally, thank you to the students. Nothing I did this year would have been a success without your support—your attendance at events, your kind words, your inspiration, and your trust in me to represent you well.

To my successor, I cannot wait to watch from afar how hard you are going to slay!

As I wrap up my little rant, I'll leave you with this advice: Be bold, brave, and be entirely yourself (cringey, but it'll make sense soon). Also—MUP BLANCH.

Lots of love and liberation,

Baisat
(aka: the People's Princess) xx



BAISAT ALAWIYE

VICE PRESIDENT WELFARE & EQUALITY



LAUNCH OF THE ETHNIC MINORITY SUPPORT GROUP

The Ethnic Minority Support group finally launched on the 6th of November 2024, to be trialled for the next 6 weeks. Present at these sessions was a therapist from Black Therapist Ireland, Deirdre from the Counselling service, occasionally myself and Thuba from the EDI office and of course students. There was a great starting point uptake in students of the two-hour session, and many provided feedback on how resonating and useful the group was. It also sparked the need for more educational awareness on different topics such as identity, cultural awareness, bias, privilege etc. The Ethnic Minority Support group continued in the second semester for another 6 weeks! Special thanks to the Welfare officer from Trinity SU for assisting with the entire process.

SHAG – MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR SHAG CARNIVAL!

For SHAG Week this year, we aimed for a broader scope—one that would suit students at any level of awareness, with education as our top priority.

We hosted a range of events, including educational workshops in collaboration with various facilitators. These focused on navigating disclosure, sexual health basics, and hygiene.

Alongside these, we also held more light-hearted events, such as our popular Sex Toy Bingo and the unforgettable SHAG Carnival.

The carnival featured eight different carnival-style games designed to raise awareness around key sexual health topics such as prostate cancer, STIs, and more.

The SHAG Carnival had fantastic engagement, drawing in over 60 students to this commuter-friendly event.

GENERAL ELECTION AWARENESS WEEK

In advance of the general election, MSU delivered a targeted awareness campaign to support student participation in the democratic process. A voter registration drive assisted over 100 students in registering ahead of the deadline. This was supported by a series of communications, including social media content outlining the importance of voting and key issues affecting students.

The VP for Welfare and Equality also hosted information sessions on the voting process and candidate research. Additional online resources, including clear “How to Vote” guides, ensured students could access information at their convenience, supporting informed electoral participation

ACADEMIC REP TRAINING

In early November, MSU-AMLMN organised Academic Rep Training for all the newly elected academic representatives. A number of different presentations were given by representatives from NStEP, the MSU-AMLMN Executive Committee, and Maynooth University, including topics like Representation Best Practices, Union Structure, Anti-Racism, Academic Integrity, and Student Complaints. The student representatives were grateful to all who presented on their various topics of expertise, and they left feeling prepared for the year ahead.

GRADUATION CEREMONIES

MSU were delighted again to have a presence at the 2024/2025 Graduation Ceremonies during the last year. These milestone ceremonies are held right here on our beautiful Maynooth University campus during the months of September, November 2024 and March 2025. From Maynooth University Hoodies, Jackets and especially our coveted Graduation Bears, our little MSU Pop-Up shop offers students an opportunity to obtain a little memento of their time spend in our wonderful university.

We again offer huge congratulations to all our graduates, and we wish them every success in their future pathways 😊



This year, in acknowledgement of the diversity of our student's backgrounds and religious affiliations, we decided to take a more inclusive approach to our December schedule of events. As such, Winter Fest was born out of the culture of community, coziness, and compassion associated with the coldest time of year, rather than a singular religious tradition.

As with Orientation and Freshers' Week, we once again hosted a daily Winter Morning Breakfast Hub in our Info Centre to give students, especially commuters, a place to get in out of the cold and grab a hot drink and some snacks. Other daytime events throughout the month included Table Quizzes, Movie Marathons, and Paint and Sips.

Once again, Paint and Sips proved to be one of our most popular event types with two sessions reaching full capacity. In line with our improved approach to Winter Fest, these editions of Paint and Sips gave students the opportunity to paint regular canvasses, Christmas tree decorations, or Hanukkah Dreidels. Due to the smaller population of Jewish students on campus, information on dreidels and their association with Judaism was available at the Paint and Sip station so students could engage consciously and appropriately with the tradition. As well as this informational aspect, Paint and Sips have proven time and time again to have a positive mental effect on our students, and especially in this instance, offered them a creative outlet in the lead up to their January exams.

Evening events were also popular with high levels of attendance at our Blizzard Bash on Dec 10th and our Snow-It-All Quiz on Dec 11th. A big thank you to MU Drama Society for hosting the Lipsync Battle as the main entertainment for the Blizzard Bash and to MU DJ Society for providing the tunes to close out the evening.

During the coldest time of year, it can be challenging to create pockets of community when students are both busy studying as well as naturally moving towards a more hibernation-heavy style of living. However, this year has taught us a lot about the types of events students want to see in December as well as the support systems we can put in place to see them through the cold. Although a pilot year for us, we look forward to growing, developing, and learning better ways of executing a more inclusive Winter Fest over the coming years.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Monday 25th of November, students, staff, and members of the Maynooth community were invited to the MSU building to witness the annual lighting of our Christmas Tree.

The MSU Bar along with our Engagement Collective distributed free mulled wine, hot chocolate, and mince pies to the crowd, while MU Musical Society provided festive choral music. Even Santa Claus made an appearance, handing out well-deserved treats to our hard-working students a month early!

MSU President, Kyla, addressed the crowd with a reflection on the year so far and a countdown from the crowd rung in the lighting of the tree. A wholesome evening for all, this annual event once again drew some of the largest crowds of our events schedule and gave our community a reason to come together ahead of the festive season.





As with tradition, MSU was again proud to present to our amazing Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical University students our annual 12 Days of Christmas FREE student prize draw.

This FREE prize draw is a great opportunity to spread some Christmas cheer and bring some well-deserved treats to the lucky student winners as we prepare for the festive season.

QR codes were available in the MSU Info Centre, MSU Londis Store and the MSU Club. Students had the opportunity of scanning the QR codes daily to enter the FREE draw.

As always, this event was hosted by our MSU Front Office Manager Ann Marie, each day on the run up to the Christmas break in the MSU Info Centre.

Each day the MSU Info Centre was buzzing, as lots of students gathered in anticipation of grabbing one of the amazing prizes on offer. We also streamed the draw LIVE on Instagram, giving students the opportunity of watching remotely to see if they were one of the lucky daily winners.

Since its initial launch back in 2018 where we had just 10 contributors and 36 prizes, we are delighted to say that the event has grown so much. This year we had 33 Contributors, and 102 prizes which is truly amazing. We have seen a continual increase in student engagement within our annual Free prizes draw, with over 2100 students entering this year 😊

There were amazing prizes donated this year, some of which included, One4All Vouchers, Hoodies, Designer Glasses, Hampers, Board Games, Food Vouchers, Book Shop Vouchers, MU Water Bottles & Grad Bears, RedBull, etc.

We are so thankful to all our amazing contributors this year. Thank you on behalf of all our wonderful students for your continued support, as without you this simply would not be possible. 😊



RACE EQUALITY STEERING GROUP

This month your VP WE focused on contributing to Maynooth University Race Equality Project. The VP WE's role in this was sharing the student perspective in relation to race equality and areas of improvement in the university. Current students were also invited to sit on this group also. We discussed many different issues such as student space, EDI initiatives on campus, representation in teaching staff, policing and many more important issues affect racialised communities on campus. Your VP WE attended various steering group meetings to come up with solutions to these various matters on campus that would be a part of policy for this project. Great to have the opportunity to contribute to this important project, that will improve the lives of racialised students across campus.

I.D WEEK

In February, MSU delivered a week-long programme celebrating cultural diversity and identity across the student body. In collaboration with a range of student societies, including Africa Society, Indian Society, Ukrainian Society, Latin American Society, Spanish Society, and Purpose Society, a diverse schedule of events was offered. These included a cultural craft fair, music bingo, a themed debate, an ethnic minority careers fair, an intersectionality workshop, and a culture and quiz night. The programme saw strong engagement from students and received very positive feedback, particularly in relation to the opportunity for cultural expression and representation on campus. Our showstopper event (culture and quiz night) showcased talents within the student body and the wider community with performances from all over the world.

SHAG 2: BACK WITH A BANG!

A second phase of SHAG programming was delivered with a focus on relationships, connection, and diversity in sexual health experiences. Events included a friending session, a healthy relationships workshop delivered in collaboration with the University Counselling Service, a cake decorating workshop, and an intersectionality and sexual health panel discussion led by students. These events were well attended and reinforced the importance of creating inclusive spaces where students can share experiences and access peer-led and professional supports.

JANUARY DESTRESS

During the January examination period, MSU implemented a targeted DeStress campaign to support student wellbeing. Recognising the pressures associated with exams, the Union distributed a wide range of supports, including breakfast bars, fruit, snacks, and water, to help students maintain energy levels. Welfare stations were stocked with essential items such as face wipes, deodorant, and dental products to support students during long study days. The campaign also included the return of canine therapy sessions delivered by Canine Therapy Ireland, alongside a morning breakfast offering in the SU Info Centre. These initiatives were well received and contributed to a supportive and student-focused exam environment.



Lady Whistledown's

ReFreshers' x SHAG Week: Back with a Bang

Dearest Gentle Reader,

If you missed the social occasion of the year, fear not, for your ever-dedicated correspondent has documented all the finest details for your perusal. Tuesday, the 4th of February, saw the grand return of students to our campus, ringing in not just a new term, but a most dramatic fortnight: the ReFreshers' x SHAG: "Back with a Bang" campaign.

It appears some events need no introduction as familiar favourites once again proved themselves among the student cohort with crowds descending upon delightful Big Screen Mario Kart featuring MU's Society of Games, spirited Table Quizzes, and inspiring Paint and Sips. A new enterprise also made its debut as the "Spring Scavenger Hunt" whisked students on an expedition across campus, reacquainting them with ever-so-useful corners of collegiate life. A word of sincere gratitude must be extended to the MAP Office, the Residence Office, Typo Coffee, the Student Helpdesk, Student Skills & Success, and Students & Learning, whose most generous prize contributions ensured successful participants were met with reward.

The creation of relationships and connections as well as the exploration of diversity in sexual health experiences laid the foundation of the Sexual Health, Awareness, and Guidance component of the fortnight. A welcoming Friending Event offered socialisation opportunities for even the wallflowers amongst us while appropriate etiquette in relationships was explored in the Healthy Relationships Workshop hosted by Deirdre McDonagh of MU's Counselling Service. The union's inaugural Cake Decorating Workshop was the heart of Valentine's Day, where sweet creations met even sweeter intentions in support of our Charity Partners of the Year. Finally, student voices were amplified and diversity in experiences was celebrated in an Intersectionality in Sexual Health Panel chaired by Aoife Murray.

The jewel of the week, however, shone with the gathering of over three hundred students in the most beautiful of regalia at the Bridgerton Ball. With timeless music from The Bohemian Strings string quartet as well as more modern offerings from (Drag) Queen Viola Gayvis, this was truly a night worthy of even this writer's note. Her Majesty Queen Viola herself was enamoured with the attending parties' efforts, crowning a Diamond of the Season who surpassed all expectations with a dazzling handmade, crochet ballgown.

And so, this writer retires her pen for another season, content with its offerings and eagerly awaiting the next.

Yours most truly,

Lady Whistledown



STUDENT CENTRE EVALUATION BOARD

Back in January, Kyla took part in an exciting step towards the new Student Centre which was the Evaluation Board. Spread across two days Kyla, alongside the Director of Estates, the Head of Capital Development, and a representative from Mazars to select the Design Team for the Student Centre. After reviewing several applications, our Architects are MOLA who have previously worked on the DCU Student Centre and UCD Student Centre

MSU X OFFICE OF STUDENTS AND LEARNING BREAKFAST HUB

A new initiative done in partnership with the Office of Students and Learning was the Breakfast Hub each Tuesday from 8.30am until 10am in the Arts common room. This initiative brought opportunities for staff and students to connect with a different group of staff coming down to help out with the breakfast hub. We hope this initiative continues for the next academic year.

CHILL & SKILL

With Student Health & Well-being today being such an important part of college life, back in February 2023 the MSU Front Office manager, Ann Marie, collaborated with the lovely Sharon Tyndall (an amazing mature student) to introduce our weekly "Chill & Skill" events. These events give students the opportunity of learning a new skill (or practicing an old one), while also taking some well-deserved "time-out" of their busy college life.

Supplies were purchased so that the students could knit, crochet, sew, sketch, colour, or simply "chill" with their friends. Soon the word spread around campus that these events were happening, with some very kind people donating resources to this simple, but effective weekly event.

Ann Marie, Sharon and the gang will be back in semester one to start this weekly event once more, so if you're interested, pop into the MSU Info Centre, grab yourself a set of needles and join us as we develop an old skill or learn a new one 😊

SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge, d'eagraigh an t-Oifigeach Gaeilge in AMLMN imeachtaí éagsúla le teanga dúchas na hÉireann a cheiliúradh. Ag tosú le hAonach na Gaeilge, d'fhreastal eagraíochtaí Gaelacha difriúla ar an Ionad Eolais le labhairt le daltaí faoi deiseanna difriúla a bhaineann le saol na Gaeilge. Leis sin, eagraíodh taispeántas den scannán Kneecap agus priontáil t-léinte. Gan dabht, an imeacht is rathúla ar reáchtáladh ná an Oíche Litríochta. Ag an Oíche Litríochta, léigh léachtóirí éagsúla ó Ollscoil Mhá Nuad a bhfilíocht is a scríobhnóireacht amach don slua, Ré Ó Laighléis ina measc. Ansin, bhí Mic Oscailte: tugadh deis do daltaí sa slua a scríobhnóireacht a roinnt, agus baineadh an-taitneamh as an bhfilíocht agus as an gceol ar fad!

UPSKILL

At the end of March, MSU-AMLMN hosted an UpSkill week with various events to allow students to try new skills which weren't strictly academic. The events included a very popular Open Decks collaboration with the DJ Society, a Lego flower arranging collaboration with the Lego Society, a jewellery making and t-shirt printing design workshop, and support of a special edition of Sharon and Aishling's brilliant Chill & Skill workshop in the Info Centre.

MAYNOOTH PALFEST '25

On the week of April 7th, Maynooth BDS hosted PalFest, a celebration of Palestinian culture and an acknowledgement of the role which the expression of a people, pervasive joy, and "bearing witness" can have in the resistance of oppression. MSU were delighted to become involved in this cause through the loaning of both our Venue space and Outdoor Plaza. The Events Team collaborated with Dr Colin Coulter from Maynooth BDS to ensure that both spaces were suitable for a range of activities, including a dance performance, a Palestinian Food Truck from D6-based restaurant, Shaku Maku, and the return of the "Gig for Gaza". As a pro-Palestinian union, we were honoured to support Colin and his team, and were thrilled to hear that PalFest successfully raised €2000 for two Palestinian charities and distributed close to €3000 to the Palestinian artists involved.

USI X IFUT LOBBY DAY

On the 6th of March, the MSU President represented Maynooth at the USI X IFUT Lobby Day where they met with a numerous amount of TDs and Senators highlighting issues that students in Maynooth and across the country are facing.

The key asks from the lobby day were as follows;

- Publicly Funded Higher Education
- Student Accommodation and Digs
- Transgender Healthcare
- Medical Cards for Students
- Free Irish Classes for Students
- PHD worker rights and end precarious contracts

MSU

ELECTIONS

★ MARCH '25 ★

March 2025 marked a vibrant and inspiring chapter in Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) history, as students from both Maynooth University (MU) and St Patrick's Pontifical University (SPPU) came together to elect a new MSU Executive and Student Senate. This year's elections stood out not only for the diversity of candidates but also for the shared commitment to enhancing the student experience across both institutions.

One of the most significant developments was the introduction of a new role on the Executive: the SPPU Convenor. This position ensures that students from St Patrick's Pontifical University now have a direct voice at the highest level of student representation, strengthening the unity and inclusivity of the MSU.

The campaign season was marked by a spirit of collaboration and innovation. Candidates, though technically opponents, stood side by side at Campaign Hubs, engaging with students, answering questions, and showing a camaraderie that reflected their shared goals. It was a refreshing display of unity, where the focus remained firmly on student welfare and community building.

To bring the elections closer to students, MSU launched several new initiatives. Info Hubs were set up across campus during the nomination period, offering guidance and encouraging participation. For the first time, MSU made a long-term investment by purchasing 20 polling stands, reducing reliance on external rentals and paving the way for more sustainable campaigning and awareness efforts in the future.

The manifestos and Hustings revealed a passionate cohort of students ready to tackle real issues and bring positive change. With a newly elected Executive and Senate, and a renewed sense of purpose, the MSU community looks forward to an exciting and impactful year ahead.



PAPER BLANK DIARIES

Our MSU Info Centre manager Ann Marie seized the opportunity to again reach out to Paper-Blank in the hope of securing some beautiful planners/diaries for our Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical College students.

In mid-April a delivery of well over 2000 creative planners arrived just in time to give a special treat to our amazing students.

Students were delighted as they queued to receive their very own beautiful FREE planner and again were spoiled for choice at the range that were on offer in the MSU Info Centre.

Again, a huge "THANK YOU" to Paper-Blank, your generosity in giving us these amazing planners to pass out to our students free of charge is much appreciated paperblanks 🙌

GREEN WEEK

In conjunction with Maynooth Green Campus, in late March, Maynooth Students' Union again co-hosted Green Week in our Student Centre. We offered students the opportunity to engage with fun games while also learning all about being a little bit greener. In the MSU Info Centre we had Giant Jenga, Giant Connect Four and many many more games, all with that little bit of learning attached to them. There were lots of amazing prizes for our lucky winners too 😊 We also hosted our annual Clothes Swap Shop, where students could avail of choosing from the many items on offer. Again, sustainable fashion at its best 😊

Also, as part of Green Week our MSU Environmental Officer Lily Kilmartin-Gath, used Vox-Pops to go out among our wonderful students asking Green and Sustainable questions to gain what knowledge they had on these subjects, well done to all who answered, maith thú gach duine 😊



ACCESSIBLE SPORTS DAY

MSU/AMLN Access Sports Day was one to remember! On the 8th of April 2025 we had our Access Sports Day that was open to all students of all abilities and disabilities. The idea was that students should have the opportunity to participate in physical activity without the pressure of being particularly athletic or activities being inaccessible for them. This event took place in the Astro pitch and a large thank you to Paul Davis and Ivan Griffin for going over several details and walk-arounds with us.



The sports day featured 9 different stations such as our 50ft Inflatable Obstacle Course, Sponge and Bucket Races, Inflatable Gladiator Course, Seated Volleyball, Inflatable Axe Throwing, Dizzy Penalty Shootouts, Egg and Spoon Races, Crazy Mini Golf, and Boccia. All the games were adapted to suit different disabilities. A very big thank you to Cian from the Access office for working with us on this and helping us identify the type of accommodations we needed for each station. Many of the stations were ran by student volunteers from our Engagement Collective. These students displayed an enormous amount of responsibility and initiative and ran the stations like pros!

We had a sensory tent which was home to our medic but also had various sensory items, snacks, sunscreen and Cian on hand to help student who may be feeling overwhelmed or needed a break.

The highlight of the day included the ice cream truck which had 200 people in a line for it. Fortunately, we were able to provide 120 students with free ice cream! This was needed as temperatures that day were reaching up to 18 degrees.

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive and we were viral on TikTok because of it! Without measure, it is safe to say well over 300 students attended the sports day at some point during the day and had an amazing time.





CHARITY EVENT IN AID OF OUR CHARITY PARTNERS



April this year single-handedly became one of the most memorable months for MSU/AMLMN. During the same week as our Access Sports Day and PalFest, we also hosted the April Bonanza.

On the 10th of April, we introduced a brand-new event – the April Bonanza, also known as the Public Crossover. This event was created to introduce the general student body to the incoming MSU team and to commemorate the final weeks of the current officers. It also doubled as our annual charity fundraiser. We kicked off the week with a charity race to raise as much money as possible for our charity partners – Cancer Caregivers and As I Am.

We wanted students to have fun in the sun, so we organized a range of activities including limbo, paint and sip, and giant games. There were also interactive events to engage with the student body, such as the watermelon eating competition, officer look-alike competition, and many more. Students who attended were automatically entered into a student appreciation raffle, where we gave away 10 different prizes of their choice.

The food was a major hit too! We provided free slushies, popcorn, and candy floss for students to enjoy. As it was also Maynooth's Festival of Palestinian Culture, we hosted Shaku Maku on our grounds, where they sold a variety of Palestinian dishes – the queues stretched down the road!

The winner of our charity race was Baisat, the Vice President for Welfare and Equality. In last place was the MSU President, who had a bucket of ice water dumped over them by the incoming MSU President.

In total, we raised €1,286 for our chosen charities. We hope to see many more April Bonanza traditions in the future of MSU.





MU MUSIC DEPARTMENT ENSEMBLE EXAMS

In 2024/25, MSU hosted a pilot collaboration with the Maynooth University Music Department, facilitating summer Rock and Pop Ensemble Exams in the MSU Venue. The space, equipped with a raised stage and integrated sound system, provided an opportunity to replicate a live performance environment, enhancing the assessment experience for students. The MSU Events Team delivered technical support, while additional hospitality, including a tea and coffee station, was provided for participants. Feedback was positive, and MSU looks forward to further collaboration with the Music Department in future years.

COMMITTEE WORK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

During summer 2024, MU undertook a project to produce both staff and student guidelines regarding the use of Generative AI. With a number of contributions from the MSU-AMLMN VP Academic Affairs throughout this project, the first stage was seen to completion in mid-October, when the Student Guidelines were launched by the MU Office of Student Skills and Success.

A second project undertaken during the summer, was a comprehensive review of a proposal from DkIT to have MU accredit their level 10 (Doctoral) degrees. This initial process concluded in September, with key inputs from the MSU-AMLMN VP Academic Affairs ensuring clarity on the supports being provided and the new appeal mechanisms being put in place for these level 10 students, who would become the joint responsibility of both MU and DkIT.

At the beginning of the Academic Year, it was announced that MU's John & Pat Hume Doctoral Scholarships would be paused for a period of review. The MSU-AMLMN VP Academic Affairs, along with academics from across the University, successfully pushed for this decision to be reversed, as this would have left an even greater number of PhD researchers in precarious positions. Following extensive work by a working group of academics and PhD researchers, including valuable input from the MSU-AMLMN Doctoral Officer, the decision was made to increase the stipends awarded from €22,000 per year to match the IRC and RI scholarships at €25,000 per year. This was a landmark positive result for to increase research funding for PhD students, when initially it seemed that research funding would be cut.

SAAI AWARDS

The Student Achievement Awards Ireland returned in 2025, recognising excellence across the student movement. MSU/AMLMN received five nominations, including HEA Access Champion of the Year, Social Justice Campaign of the Year, Environmental and Sustainability Activism of the Year, Gradam Sheaimpín Mac Léinn na Bliana don Ghaeilge, and Mature Student of the Year. These nominations reflect the breadth and impact of MSU's work across representation, advocacy, and student engagement.



CARNIVAL IN THE CARPARK

On Thursday, May 1st, 2025, Maynooth Students' Union transformed an ordinary car park into a vibrant hub of celebration with its Carnival in the Car Park. From 12pm to 6pm, over 2,000 students gathered under blue skies to enjoy a day packed with fun, laughter, and unforgettable memories.

The event, completely free for students, was designed as a well-earned break before the exam season. Whether students stayed for the full six hours or popped in between lectures, the carnival offered something for everyone. Its commuter-friendly setup made it easy for all to join in the festivities.

The atmosphere was electric. Music filled the air, queues for ice cream stretched down the middle of the car park, and the sounds of carnival games and laughter echoed throughout the day. A standout highlight was the Miami carnival ride, which thrilled students with a whopping 2,134 rides, a true centrepiece of the event.

Adding to the magic, a mind reader roamed the crowd, astonishing groups of students with uncanny insights and keeping them so entertained they lingered far longer than planned. A caricaturist sketched hilarious portraits, sparking screams of laughter and creating keepsakes to remember the day.

Over 1,000 prizes were won at various game stalls, including the grand prize, a brand-new laptop. The event radiated positive energy, with students sharing smiles, enjoying the sunshine, and celebrating the end of the academic year together.

MSU's Carnival in the Car Park wasn't just an event, it was a celebration of all that is great about being part of the MU/SPPU community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to all the students who made it such a special day. Here's to more moments like this, fun, free, and full of good vibes.



DeStress

ON



The return of the end of year exams also seen the second DeStress campaign. Staff and Officers joined forces to support students during the examination period. This campaign provided students with various recourses for their examination needs with also a chance to relax and chill after their exam.

Students were greeted each morning with a breakfast club both in the Arts common room and the MSU Info Centre. Porridge, tea, coffee, and breakfast bars were provided for students to fuel their mind before they study or go into their exam. Student services were on hand in the Arts block along with MSU to provide some last-minute advice and guidance.

With Ireland's ever unpredictable weather, we held games outside in the John Hume green. Students came along to take part in giant; Jenga, Connect Four, and even Snakes and ladders. Of course, where there is sun there is ice-pops which we gave out to students each day. This gave students a space to rest their body and their mind, a place they could enjoy some games with their friends or even ask exams related questions too.

In the library, a 'positivi-tree' was erected. The tree had positive affirmations attached, which gave students the opportunity to hopefully quell their nerves before an exam. The library also hosted our daily food drop. Fruit, water, coffee, chocolate, popcorn and mints were handed out to the students that were studying hard during this time. Sanitary products were made widely available in the library too.

The Info Centre served as a one-stop-shop for students looking for stationary before going into their exams. There were pens, highlighter, study flash cards, pencil sharpeners, erasers and calculators which are essential to any students in need. A quiet room was created upstairs in MSU. This provided students who may feel overwhelmed a respite with a calm environment. Weighted blankets, fidget toys and mood lighting were provided to create a tranquil space.

One of the highlights of the campaign was when Canine Therapy Dogs Ireland came back to visit MSU! Students were so excited to see the dogs outside the MSU building, providing some well needed cuddles to stressed- out students.

OUR STUDENT STAFF

Ellen McClean | MSU Info Centre

Hi, my name is Ellen, and I came to work in the MSU Info Centre during my second year of studying Theology and Art in St Patrick's Pontifical University in connection with Maynooth University. For me and many of my classmates, coming into the Students' Union as a SPPU student felt intimidated as it felt a long way from our little south campus home. Taking a leap of faith and applying for the position was a big move for me as I had previously only been in the building for my Leap card but as soon as I stepped into the building for my first day I knew that I was welcomed into the MSU family.



The idea of working and keeping up with my education at the same time during the week was daunting at first but seeing how much the SU prioritises the education of their student staff was both beneficial and incredibly moving as it is hard to find that as a student working. I have always loved helping people which is what gravitated me toward the position of working in the Info Centre. The experience that I have gained in only a year of working in the Info Centre, is something that will not only help me now as a student but is something that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

Becoming a staff member in the SU has given me a greater knowledge on what opportunities I have as a student which has given me the reassurance I needed in my studies. I feel like a changed person since starting in the Info Centre as the support I have been given has changed me into a more confident, outgoing person with a stronger passion for what the future has to hold.

Emma Appleby | MSU Info Centre



For me working in the MSU Info Centre was both a beneficial and satisfying experience. I believe that it has significantly boosted my confidence within my second year of studying here in the university. I really enjoy coming to work each day at the MSU Info Center and always went home with a huge smile on my face, having made a difference to the people I met and helped during my shift. I am always thrilled when I see Ann Marie, the manager of the front office. I've picked up loads of skills since I started working there in September that I will use in my next job, from confidence, public speaking to self-reliance and collaborative abilities. Working beside me has been the most amazing bunch of student staff, with whom I have formed lifelong connections!

I am starting to get a feel for the workings of MSU and how well our Maynooth students are served. As an operations student staff member at the MSI Info Center, I have particularly appreciated being able to translate the facility into both English and Irish by creating equipment signs that has the Irish translation next to it. I was really pleased with myself for being able to apply my newly acquired talents to transform this proposal that I brought to management.

My understanding of the University has also expanded significantly due to answering students' questions and being approachable, which was another aspect of working at MSU that brought me happiness. Self-confidence was a struggle I had in my first year of college, and this job has unquestionably helped me to get over this.

With flexible hours and a living wage income, Ann Marie makes this experience feel nothing like a part-time job, it was fun and rewarding. I have nothing but praise for this profession; it has improved me as a person and shown me what a true team looks like—one where there's always time for humour and cooperation when needed. The fact that each day is unique makes it truly rewarding.

OUR STUDENT STAFF

Eleanor Slater | MSU Creative Team

Working in the student union office was one of the best decisions I made in my second year at Maynooth. From the moment I started, I felt welcome and totally at ease. Vicky showed me straight away that I was going to love it there, and she was right.

Over the year, I got to develop my creative side in ways I hadn't before, like photography, videography and content creation. I went to great events, met loads of other students, grew a lot as a person, and most importantly, had a lot of fun.

There was never a dull moment in the office. Whether we were chatting, listening to Charli XCX, or just cracking up laughing, something was always happening. I met so many amazing people from the volunteer team, events team, Info Centre, the Executive and Senate.

The office wasn't just a place I went to work, it became somewhere I could go on a bad day, a place to share good news, or just somewhere to hang out. I was always welcome to come in if I needed to study, work on an assignment, or even just stay dry when it was lashing rain outside.

Vicky was always so understanding of the fact I was a student. If I had something due or felt overwhelmed, there didn't need to be a big explanation, she just got it. I'll always be grateful to have had her as a boss.

Not once did I wish I was working somewhere else. This job set the bar for how I hope to be treated in any job I have in the future.

A massive thank you to Vicky, Shona, Olivia and Baisat. Through the MSU, I came out of my shell and became part of something bigger. I'll always be thankful for that and for all of you.



Ruaidhri Peters Lynam | MSU Creative Team

As part of my role in the MSU Creative Operations team, my role was to help in creating content for the various media platforms that MSU is on. This included taking photos of events and editing them for the website and Instagram page, creating graphics for different events and information around different campaigns and producing short form videos to showcase different events and campaigns put on by the Union.

I have enjoyed my time working with the rest of the creative operations team and collaborating with the events team through out the year. I feel that I have developed my skills in producing content and meeting deadlines required.



OUR STUDENT STAFF



Laura O' Reilly | MSU Events Team

My name is Laura and this year I was a part of MSU's Events Operations Team. I applied to this job as a chance to work in a new environment and gain experience in an area that I would like to work in more in the future.

I started this job in October, with very little experience, and immediately felt supported by my fellow events team members, members of the creative team, full time staff members and everyone I got to work with.

The events team is small, so we could all get to know each other and this meant we all worked very well together. I have formed friendships with the other student staff members, who I would have never met if not for this job! I felt the full-time staff were so supportive and wanted to get to know us and treat us as people, not just as employees. I worked under Shona, and I can safely say she is the best manager I have ever had; she was always friendly, encouraging and supportive! Through the support offered by the other MSU Staff, I was able to become comfortable in the role very quickly!

The role was exciting and dynamic, and no two days were ever the same (because no two events are ever the same!) This allowed me to gain experience in areas I had never thought of and learn skills that I couldn't have imagined myself being able to do a year ago. I learned so many new skills – such as how to work lights and sound boards, how to set up for different types of events, how Event Management Plans (EMPs) work and so much more, and I got to work with a wide variety of people, from MSU officers to lecturers to clubs and society leaders.

There was an understanding among everyone that college had to come first, so rosters were always made to work around our classes and deadlines, and we always had some say in the hours we worked. MSU is very flexible in this regard, and it is something else I was very grateful for.

Overall, I would definitely recommend working as part of the events team to anyone looking for a flexible job where they will gain real experience in a new field. I am very grateful to Shona and MSU for the opportunity to work here!

MSU INFO CENTRE

Whilst on campus the MSU Info Centre is your one-stop-shop for your student needs. It is located on North Campus, beside the MSU Club.

If you have any questions or queries, you can call into the MSU Info Centre where Ann Marie and her amazing student team will be glad to answer them, or point you in the right direction 😊



WHAT'S FOR YOU AT THE MSU INFO CENTRE

Take a look below at all the amazing services we currently offer in our MSU Info Centre. We take pride in the fact that we continue to offer student friendly prices, so that YOU our Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical College students receive value for your money across our services.

Services & Offerings:

- Information & Sign-Posting Point
- Bookable Space
- MSU On-Line Store
- Social Space (Coffee Mornings/Chill Out Space)
- Meeting Space (University Offices-Moodle Support/Bursars Office, MAPP Office, MU International Office etc.)
- A Pathway to meeting Your MSU Officers
- Merchandise (Graduation Bears, hoodies, Jackets, GAA Merch, Gift Cards, etc.)
- Travel Card (Leap Cards)
- Post-Point Top-Up Service (travel Card/phone credit, etc.)
- Parcel-Connect Point
- Take a Book/Leave a Bookshelf
- Laptop Station
- Printing
- Binding
- Laminating
- Refreshments/Snacks purchase point
- Contraception Resource Point (Condoms/Pregnancy Tests)
- MSU Election Point
- Recycling Station (Stationary, Vapes, Batteries, etc.)
- Recharging Mobile Phone BRICK Station Point
- Delivery Point (for items such as Academic Rep hoodies)
- Room Booking (Resource Point)
- Notice Board (Job Advertisements, Events, etc.)
- Lost & Found Point

If you have any suggestions on future services to have here in our MSU Info Centre, we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to contact our MSU Front Office Manager Ann Marie, with your ideas, as we are always striving to provide more for our Maynooth University & St Patrick's Pontifical University student body 😊



MSU HOUSING & COMMUTING STUDENT SURVEY

With accommodation, or more importantly, the lack of it, impacting greatly on our student population, MSU recently offered students the opportunity of engaging with a Housing & Commuting Student Survey. Findings showed that 68% of the response reported that commuting was having a negative impact on their mental health. Whilst on campus it is therefore so important that student social spaces are inclusive, inviting and available to students, especially when they initially arrive on campus via the many means of transport they use. The MSU Info Centre understands, especially during the cold Winter months that having somewhere warm and indeed open is a necessity for our commuting students. In recent years the MSU Info Centre re-established its opening hours to reflect this.

Apart from being an everyday social space for our students, we can also report that over the last academic year our MSU Info Centre was “booked” on just under 160 occasions for various events such as Coffee Mornings/Afternoons, visiting information sessions for International Delegates, Elections Campaigns Area, Spraoi Session Film Event, Chill & Skill sessions, Moodle Support sessions, Bursars’ Office One-One information, De-Stress Campaign (Semester One & Two), whilst also catering for the day – to – day operations of the office, which is always student focused and student centred.

The MSU Info Centre wholeheartedly welcomes the many students who frequent this space, and we will continue to strive to increase this engagement in the coming academic year.

MSU CLUB

The year began on a high note as we catered for a group of American students visiting for the summer program. This proved to be a successful few weeks, during which we provided food and hospitality services tailored to their needs. The event was well-received and helped us start the year with strong engagement and positive feedback.

As the academic year commenced, daytime footfall remained consistently strong. Between both semesters, we recorded over 130,000 customer transactions, highlighting the ongoing popularity and steady demand for our services during core daytime hours. This reflects positively on the effectiveness of our offerings and customer engagement during this period.

While there has been a noticeable dip in activity during the evening and nighttime hours compared to previous years, certain events have continued to draw interest. Quiz Nights and Live Football screenings remain popular and help to maintain a loyal evening audience.

We were fortunate this year to experience several spells of good weather, which greatly enhanced the atmosphere in our outdoor seating area. This space has been widely utilized and appreciated by students, becoming a vibrant social hub during warmer days.

To encourage participation and reward engagement, we distributed over 300 lunch vouchers as prizes throughout the year. These were awarded during events such as our popular weekly Quizzes and Bingo nights. Additionally, our Christmas Karaoke competition was a seasonal highlight, culminating in one lucky winner receiving a €250 voucher.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with various drinks suppliers to run promotional events. These initiatives not only brought excitement to our venue but also allowed students to sample new products. In total, we facilitated the sampling of over 2,000 drinks, accompanied by a wide range of branded merchandise and giveaways for our patrons.

Overall, this year has been marked by strong daytime performance, successful student engagement initiatives, and a continued effort to create a welcoming and enjoyable environment for our community.

MSU LONDIS

July 2024 was very busy in MSU Londis and it was great to see large numbers of language school students on the campus. August was typically very quiet and allowed us to begin the recruitment process and to plan and prepare for September and the start of the 24/25 academic year. We used this time to fully stock the store and review the traffic flow.

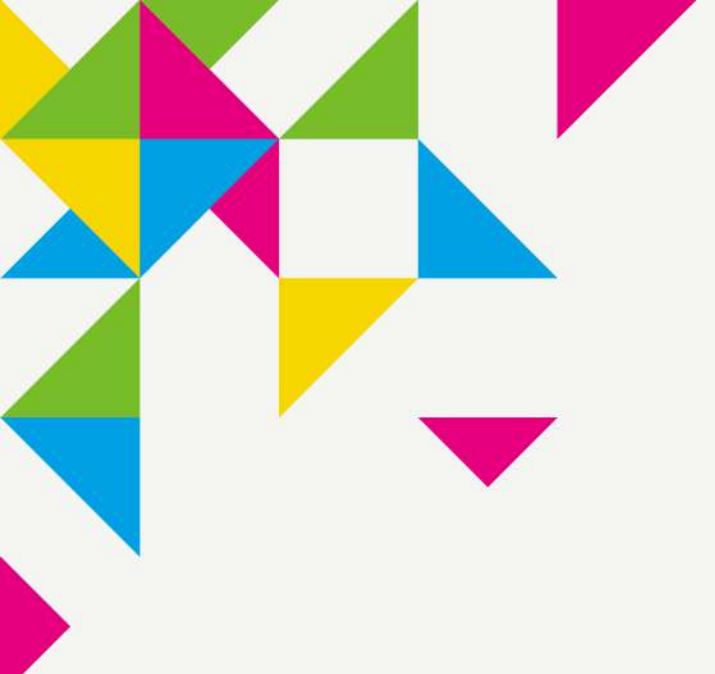
This year we were able to hire fourteen student staff headed up by myself, Fiona and Jana. We had a great blend of returning staff and many new faces. Their contribution was invaluable in managing increased customer flow and maintaining high service levels.

Our dedicated team helped us win two prestigious awards this year. In September, we were awarded the Retail Excellence Award by BWG Londis. We got the opportunity to celebrate this award in Lyrath Estate with other retailers and the BWG directors and staff. In March, we achieved the LRQA Gold Standard Award. This accolade reflects our strong quality management practices and our dedication to continuous improvement.

As ever, we supported the students Union with some very important campaigns throughout the year including the distress campaigns around exams and the upkeep of the Pantry opposite the shop in the John Hume building. The Pantry has become a vital service provided by the students' union, and we will continue to support and help improve it. We also continued our support for the wider campus community and were delighted to be able to source goods for the tea mornings and the healthy campus team.

I would like to thank my team, Fiona and Jana for their hard work and dedication throughout the year in supporting the delivery of our busy service offering. Our successful year would not have been possible without the unwavering support of our customers, the hard work of our staff and the leadership, dedication and commitment of Fiona and Jana. (Thank You)

Brian Torley
MSU Londis Manager



PART A

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, & MANAGEMENT

MSU Board of Trustees

MSU Audit & Risk Committee

MSU Student Senate

MSU Executive

MSU Staff

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

As an unincorporated association, Maynooth Students' Union (MSU) operates within a unique governance environment that requires strong oversight, effective accountability, and careful stewardship of resources in support of its representative and constitutional objectives. The Board of Trustees plays a key role in ensuring that MSU operates in accordance with its Constitution, regulatory obligations, and the principles of good governance expected of a modern students' union.

The 2024-25 year represented an important period of stabilisation and progress for MSU. MSU recorded a surplus of €81,933 following the prior year deficit, reflecting the collective efforts of the Executive, management, staff, and trustees to strengthen financial oversight, improve operational performance, and support the long-term sustainability of the organisation.

Throughout the year, the Board oversaw a broad range of governance, strategic, and organisational matters, with a particular focus on financial sustainability, risk oversight, governance development, and supporting MSU through a period of leadership transition. The Board also supported key strategic initiatives, including the proposed Partnership Principles, draft Funding Agreement with MU, and the future Student Building development project.

Beyond financial performance, MSU continued to deliver extensive representative, welfare, educational, equality, and community-focused supports for students throughout the year.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank MSU's Executive Officers, Student Senate, committee members, volunteers, and staff team for their commitment and contribution throughout the year. I also wish to acknowledge my fellow trustees and members of the Audit & Risk Committee for the professionalism, expertise, and diligence they bring to the governance of the organisation.

Finally, I would like to thank the students of MU and SPPU for their continued engagement with MSU. MSU exists to represent and serve its members, and the Board remains committed to ensuring that the organisation continues to operate in a transparent, sustainable, and student-centred manner into the future.

Sincerely,



PATRICK HENNESSY

**CHAIRPERSON
MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025

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

The Board met on 11 occasions during the reporting period. Membership and attendance at Board of Trustees meetings for the reporting period are set out in the table below.

The Director General attend meetings of the Board of Trustees but is not members of the Board of Trustees.

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



GAVIN FANNING



KYLA HENRY
(MSU President)



ALEX BALFE



MOLLY BUCKLEY



LORNA FITZPATRICK



RICHARD HAMMOND S.C.
(Deputy Chairperson)



PADDY HENNESSY
(Chairperson)



DR. RORY MCDAÏD



CATHY PEMBROKE

MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025

Member	Appointment	Term	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
GAVIN FANNING	1 July 2024	One year (term of office as president)	3	1	33%
KYLA HENRY	18 October 2024	Date of appointment to 30 June 2025	10	10	100%
ALEX BALFE	1 July 2024	One year (term of office as past president)	11	11	100%
MOLLY BUCKLEY	14 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	11	9	82%
LORNA FITZPATRICK	14 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	11	11	100%
RICHARD HAMMOND S.C. (Vice Chairperson)	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment	11	11	100%
PADDY HENNESSY (Chairperson)	9 October 2023	Three years from the date of appointment	11	11	100%
DR.RORY MCDAID	14 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	11	4	36%
CATHY PEMBROKE	1 July 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	11	10	91%

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025



**GAVIN
FANNING**

MSU Ppresident
1 July 2024 – 3
October 2024.

Gavin Fanning,
originally from
Waterford,
studied General
Science at
Maynooth
University.



**KYLA
HENRY**

MSU Ppresident
18 October 2024
– 30 June 2025.

Kyla Henry,
originally from
Cavan, studied
Media and
Sociology at
Maynooth
University.



**ALEX
BALFE**

Alex Balfe served as MSU President during the 2023 to 2024 academic year, having previously held the role of Vice President for Education. In a second term representing students, Alex focused on promoting an inclusive and engaged campus community while advocating on issues affecting the student experience. Drawing on extensive experience in student representation, Alex worked closely with students across academic, welfare, and community matters, encouraging participation in university life and ensuring students felt supported throughout their time at Maynooth University.



**MOLLY
BUCKLEY**

Molly Buckley is originally from Tullamore, Co. Offaly and is a Public Health Nurse by profession. She has extensive experience working in the community and voluntary sector, with a particular focus on equality, disability rights, and social inclusion. Molly has held chairing roles across a range of local and national organisations and has supported the delivery of initiatives in areas including domestic violence, disability services, homelessness, voluntary housing, and older persons' services. Her key strengths include advocacy, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and building effective partnerships across diverse networks.



**LORNA
FITZPATRICK**

Lorna Fitzpatrick is Co-Founder and Director of Fenton Fitzwilliam, a public affairs and strategic communications consultancy based in Dublin. She has significant experience in advocacy, stakeholder engagement, public policy, and communications. Prior to this, Lorna served as Advocacy and Engagement Manager with the National Council for the Blind in Ireland and previously held the position of President of the Union of Students in Ireland for two terms. She holds a degree in Human Resource Management and currently serves as a Trustee of Maynooth Students' Union and as a member of the Student Grants Appeals Board.

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2024-2025



**RICHARD
HAMMOND S.C.**

Richard Hammond S.C. is a solicitor and Senior Counsel practising with Hammond Good Solicitors and Notaries Public in Mallow, Co. Cork. He specialises in succession law and professional regulation, with extensive experience advising legal practitioners and organisations. Richard is a former President of the Southern Law Association and currently serves on the Council of the Law Society of Ireland. He also lectures on the Professional Practice Courses at the Law Society of Ireland and contributes regularly to continuing professional development programmes and legal publications.



**PATRICK
HENNESSY**

Fr Patrick Hennessy SDB serves as Provincial Bursar and Economist of the Salesian Order in Ireland. A qualified teacher, he has worked across second and third level education and has extensive experience supporting community development initiatives. He has been involved in the establishment and funding of a range of community-based projects, including ACRE, and currently coordinates the Provincial Development Office. His work focuses on education, community engagement, and organisational support within the voluntary and charitable sector.



**DR RORY
MCDAID**

Dr Rory McDaid is Director of Research at Marino Institute of Education and Principal Lecturer in Education. He is Course Leader for the MES in Intercultural Learning and Leadership and Director of the Migrant Teacher Project. Rory lectures in sociology of education, intercultural education, social justice, and equality. His research focuses on teacher migration, refugee education, cultural mediation, and diversity in education. He also serves as President of the Board of SIRIUS, the Policy Network on Migrant Education, and is a Visiting Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin.



**CATHY
PEMBROKE**

Cathy Pembroke is a graduate of Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and a former local and national Students' Union representative. With over 18 years of experience in higher education, she has worked across a range of student support services, supporting learners at all stages of their educational journey. A passionate advocate for amplifying student voice, Cathy has dedicated her career to enhancing student success and inclusion in higher education. She has contributed to the development and delivery of a range of student support initiatives, including transition, access, and retention strategies.

CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT

Dear Members of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU),

As Chairperson of the MSU Audit & Risk Committee (ARC), I am pleased to present this statement, summarising the ARC's role in supporting financial oversight, internal control, and risk governance within MSU during the year.

The ARC assists the MSU Board of Trustees in fulfilling its responsibilities in relation to financial stewardship, audit processes, risk management, and the integrity of internal systems. Its work includes reviewing financial statements, monitoring audit activity, advising on internal controls, and supporting the ongoing development of effective governance and risk frameworks that underpin the sustainability of MSU's operations as an unincorporated association.

During the year, the ARC met on seven occasions. These meetings provided structured oversight and detailed review of key areas including the external audit process, draft financial statements, and the organisation's evolving risk profile. The Committee also considered MSU's financial controls and provided input on relevant policies, ensuring that governance arrangements remained appropriate, proportionate, and aligned with good practice.

A key responsibility of the ARC is to advise the Board on the appointment of external auditors and to make recommendations regarding the approval of the annual financial statements. This work ensures transparency and supports confidence in the accuracy and completeness of MSU's financial reporting.

Looking ahead, the ARC remains committed to maintaining strong oversight of financial governance and risk management systems. The Committee will continue to support the Board in ensuring that these systems are responsive to organisational change and external pressures, and that they continue to protect the long-term sustainability of MSU.

Sound governance and effective financial management are essential to MSU's ability to deliver its core mission of representing and supporting students. The ARC will continue to play its part in safeguarding these foundations.

I would like to thank my fellow Committee members for their commitment, professionalism, and thoughtful engagement throughout the year, and I also acknowledge the cooperation and support of colleagues across MSU who have contributed to the Committee's work.



DR. SHANE MCCARTHY

**CHAIRPERSON
MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**

MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2024-2025

A sub-committee of the MSU Board of Trustees

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

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, audit, and risk management. The Committee's responsibilities include:

- Reviewing the draft annual financial statements of the Union.
- Recommending the approval of financial statements to the Board of Trustees.
- Advising the Board of Trustees on matters relating to external and internal audits.
- Recommending whether to award contracts to external auditors.
- Reviewing and advising on Union policies and risk management systems.
- Considering and reviewing the system of internal financial controls.
- Satisfying itself that arrangements are in place to promote economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Over the course of the year, the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) has convened on seven occasions. Its focus has centered on key issues such as the 2024-25 audit, financial statements, Union policies, risk management, and the overall funding of MSU.

Throughout these initiatives, the ARC has worked closely with the MSU Finance Office. This collaborative relationship has contributed significantly to ensuring the smooth operation of MSU's financial operations.

MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2024-2025

A sub-committee of the MSU Board of Trustees

Member	Appointment	Term	Number of Meetings Eligible to Attend	Number of Meetings Attended	Percentage Attendance
MOLLY BUCKLEY	28 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	7	5	71%
DERMOTT JEWELL	23 January 2025	Three years from the date of appointment	4	3	75%
DR SHANE MCCARTHY (CHAIRPERSON)	28 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	7	7	100%
HUGH MCGEOWN	28 June 2024	Three years from the date of appointment	7	5	71%



MOLLY BUCKLEY



DERMOTT JEWELL



DR. SHANE MCCARTHY
(CHAIRPERSON)



HUGH MCGEOWN

PROFILES OF MEMBERS OF THE MSU AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE 2024-2025



**MOLLY
BUCKLEY**

Molly Buckley is originally from Tullamore, Co. Offaly and is a Public Health Nurse by profession. She has extensive experience working in the community and voluntary sector, with a particular focus on equality, disability rights, and social inclusion. Molly has held chairing roles across a range of local and national organisations and has supported the delivery of initiatives in areas including domestic violence, disability services, homelessness, voluntary housing, and older persons' services. Her key strengths include advocacy, facilitation, stakeholder engagement, and building effective partnerships across diverse networks.



**DERMOTT
JEWELL**

Dermott Jewell holds a B.Sc. (Management and Law, TCD) and is a former CEO who now serves as Policy and Council Advisor to the Consumers' Association of Ireland. He has over 30 years' experience in consumer rights, regulation, and dispute resolution, including lecturing and training across Ireland and the EU. He has held senior roles including Chair of the Financial Services and Pensions Ombudsman Council and Director of the Investor Compensation Company. He is currently active across multiple national regulatory and advisory bodies and is accredited in mediation and employment investigation, with additional qualifications in governance and arbitration.



**DR. SHANE
MCCARTHY**

Dr Shane McCarthy is a solicitor and governance professional with extensive experience in regulation, consumer protection, audit and risk, and organisational change. He has held senior leadership and board roles across complex organisations and currently works as a consultant solicitor providing strategic legal advice. He holds an MA in Criminology and a PhD in Law, with research focused on parole decision-making and risk. He is also a published co-author of *Probation and Parole in Ireland: Law and Practice*, which received the Irish Law Awards Book of the Year in 2022.



**HUGH
MCGEOWN**

Hugh McGeown is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Ireland, having qualified in 2004 following his studies at the University of Ulster. He became a partner in 2008 and has since built extensive experience advising a wide range of clients, including indigenous and multinational organisations across multiple sectors. His work includes supporting clients in investment management, regulatory compliance, and corporate governance. He also advises start-ups through all stages of growth, including establishment in Ireland, financial reporting, payroll, and outsourced compliance services.

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

As speaker and deputy speaker of 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 represent the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University at Senate this year.

The members of the MSU Student Senate are elected by the students of Maynooth University and St Patrick Pontifical University and each of the 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 along with ensuring issues faced by students in Maynooth are heard locally and nationally also.

During the eight sitting of MSU Senate several policies and mandates were debated and discussed including the MSU Plan of Work a considerable number of motions across all aspects of student life in Maynooth and both national and international issues were also debated. Motions brought to the MSU Senate varied from issues facing the day to day running of MSU including the Boycott of Aramark, to student welfare issues including the Implementation of a Separate Transition Fund, communicating the work of MSU through the MSU Student Email Communication motion, embedding Gaeilge in MSU through the Stratéis na Gaeilge motion and a focus on the future of democratic engagement in MSU through the Democratic Affairs Review working group consultation motion. This sitting of Senate also saw some emergency motions brought to MSU Senate including a motion to take a stance on the Palestine/Israeli conflict and the Re-Implementation of Re-Open Nominations (RON) regardless of position' motion.

The MSU Senate's main function is to ensure MSU has 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 as 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 eight sitting of Student Senate for without them the work of Senate could not be achieved.

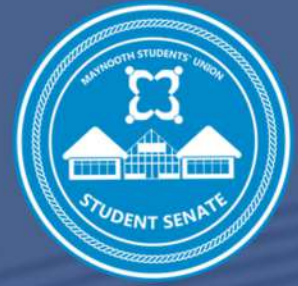


Marie Lyons
Speaker



Craig MacGabhan
Deputy Speaker

MSU STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATION 2024-2025



SPEAKER OF MSU STUDENT SENATE: MARIE LYONS

MSU PRESIDENT: KYLA HENRY

VP ACADEMIC AFFAIRS: RODDIE MAC AONGHUSA

VP WELFARE & EQUALITY: BAISAT ALAWYIE

ARTS, CELTIC STUDIES & PHILOSOPHY FACULTY CONVENOR: KEELIN BRERETON

SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY CONVENOR: CHARLI MIDDLETON

SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FACULTY CONVENOR: HANNAH BAGTASOS

OIFIGEACH NA GAELIGE: SOPHIE FITZPATRICK

TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE: AMINA TRABOUE

DOCTORAL POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE: EAMONN SULLIVAN

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER: JADE ORR

EQUALITY OFFICER: JANELA TREXY AQUINO

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

ACSP FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

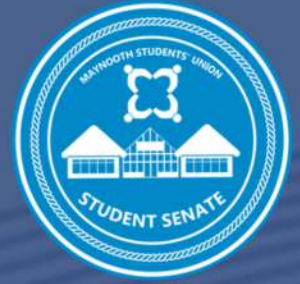
SS FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

S&E FACULTY ASSEMBLY MEMBER: VACANT

MSU STUDENT SENATE REPRESENTATION 2024-2025



ACCOMMODATION SENATOR: JACOB GOULD
ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP SENATOR: ANDREW VICTORY
CAMPUS LIFE SENATOR: RACHEL LYONS
CHARITY SENATOR: KYM PHILLIPS
COMMUNITY SENATOR: MICHAEL PAN XIAO
COMMUTER SENATOR: CORMAC REGAN
DARE SENATOR: VACANT
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY SENATOR: LILY KILMARTIN-GATH
ETHNIC DIVERSITY SENATOR: BLESSING DURUANYAWU
FIRST YEAR SENATOR: IZZIE SOLAN
FROEBEL SENATOR: ANNA DUFFY
GENDER EQUALITY SENATOR: MARY MAHONY
HEAR SENATOR: VACANT
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SENATOR: ASH TIWARI
LGBT+ SENATOR: SEAN KERRIGAN
MATURE STUDENT SENATOR: OWEN HARRISON
MENTAL HEALTH SENATOR: ELLE GEORGE
MINCÉIR SENATOR: VACANT
PARENTS & CARERS SENATOR: SHARON TYNDALL
PART-TIME COURSE SENATOR: MICHAEL COMER
TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE SENATOR: KAY SALAM
REBECCA MCCARTHY
RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE SENATOR: KAY SALAM
ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE SENATOR: ANDREA POWNALL
STUDY ABROAD & ERASMUS+ SENATOR: KIAN CURRAN MAHON
SOCIETIES SENATOR: BEA MELIA
INDEPENDENT SENATORS: CONOR DEVLIN
JULIE O'DWYER
ALEX YEARSLEY
GAVIN THOMAS

MSU EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2024-2025

The MSU Executive is the student-led team that drives the daily representative work of Maynooth Students' Union, and everything they do is with you in mind. Elected by students, for students, the Executive is made up of Full-Time and Part-Time Officers who are here to make sure your voice is heard loud and clear on the issues that matter most.

The four Full-Time Officers are the senior members of the Executive. They represent you across every aspect of university life - from academic matters and welfare concerns to equality, campus culture, and beyond. They sit on key decision-making bodies and make sure that the student voice shapes policy and progress at every level.

Each Part-Time Officer also takes on a unique portfolio, bringing fresh ideas, energy, and leadership to support students across different areas of student life.

Whether you've got a question, a problem, or a big idea, your Executive is here to listen, support, and make change happen. And if you're ready to lead, every ordinary member of MSU is eligible to run in our elections (happening in October and March each year). Why not get involved?

Leading Your Union, Representing Your Voice

MSU EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2024-2025

KYLA HENRY | MSU PRESIDENT



Kyla Henry was elected MSU President in October 2024, having previously served as Vice President Student Life and Deputy President. A graduate of Media Studies and Sociology, Kyla has held a range of representative roles, including Class Representative, Faculty Assembly Member, and Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy Faculty Convenor. As President, she provided leadership to MSU while championing student engagement, effective representation, and an inclusive campus community.

BAISAT ALAWIYE | VP WELFARE & EQUALITY



Baisat Alawiye served as Vice President Welfare & Equality while completing a Professional Master of Education. Having previously represented students as Froebel Senator for two consecutive terms, she brought extensive experience in student advocacy to the role. Baisat focused on promoting student wellbeing, equality, and inclusion, while supporting initiatives that fostered an accessible, welcoming, and supportive university environment for all students.

KEELIN BRERETON | ARTS & HUMANITIES FACULTY CONVENOR



Keelin Brereton served as Arts & Humanities Faculty Convenor, building on previous experience as a Student Academic Representative, Arts, Celtic Studies and Philosophy Senator, and Mature Student Senator. A committed advocate for student inclusion and domestic abuse awareness, she successfully advanced motions at AMLÉ Comhdháil in 2024 and 2025. Keelin's contribution to student representation was recognised nationally through AMLÉ Mature Student of the Year Awards in both 2023 and 2024.

CHARLI MIDDLETON | SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY CONVENOR



Charli Middleton served as Social Sciences Faculty Convenor following earlier involvement as a Student Academic Representative for Politics and a Social Sciences Faculty Assembly Member. She contributed to educational policy development and initiatives promoting partnership between students and the University. Charli also represented students at AMLÉ Comhdháil, where she successfully advanced a motion supporting the decolonisation and diversification of the curriculum. In 2024, she received an AMLÉ SAAI Award for Academic Representative of the Year.

NAOISE MCMANUS | SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FACULTY CONVENOR



Naoise McManus served as Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor while studying Theoretical Physics and Mathematics. In this role, they represented students across the Faculty, advocating on academic matters and the wider student experience. Naoise worked closely with student representatives, academic staff, and MSU officers to ensure student perspectives informed discussions and decision-making processes throughout the University.

MSU EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2024-2025



SOPHIE FITZPATRICK | OIFIGEACH NA GAELIGE

Ba í Sophie an t-Oifigeach na Gaeilge don bhliain acadúil 2024/2025. Is mac léinn í Sophie in Ollscoil Mhá Nuad agus bhí sí sa dara bliain fad is a bhí sí mar Oifigeach na Gaeilge. Tá sí ag déanamh staidéir ar dhlí agus Nua-Ghaeilge. Bhí ar Sophie an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn san aontas trí imeachtaí Gaeilge, imeachtaí dátheangacha, aistriúchán agus Gaeilge ar na méain shóisialta. Ba ionadaí í do ghaeilgeoirí ar champas.



LILY KILMARTIN-GATH | ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

Lily Kilmartin-Gath served as Environmental Officer while completing a Bachelor of Arts degree. She supported MSU's sustainability agenda by promoting environmental awareness and encouraging student engagement with climate action initiatives. Lily worked collaboratively with students, MSU officers, and University stakeholders to advance sustainable practices and contribute to a more environmentally responsible campus community.



JANELA TREXY AQUINO | EQUALITY OFFICER

Janela Trexy Aquino served as Equality Officer while completing a BSc in Robotics and Intelligent Devices. She supported the VP Welfare & Equality in delivering campaigns, assisting students through casework, and promoting equality and inclusion across the University. Janela was actively involved in STEM advocacy throughout her time at Maynooth and represented the University at the Johnson & Johnson STEMfest.



AMINA TRABOUE | POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Amina Traboue served as Taught Postgraduate Representative while completing a Master's degree in Digital Marketing. She focused on enhancing engagement, support, and opportunities for postgraduate students across the University community. Amina established Postgraduate Appreciation Week, creating opportunities for networking, professional development, and skills enhancement. She also represented postgraduate students on a range of committees and forums, ensuring their perspectives were reflected in institutional discussions and decision-making.



EAMONN SULLIVAN | DOCTORAL POSTGRADUATE REPRESENTATIVE

Eamonn Sullivan served as Doctoral Postgraduate Representative while undertaking a PhD at Maynooth University. He represented doctoral and postgraduate students across a range of University forums, including the Maynooth University Gender Equality Steering Group. During the year, Eamonn was awarded an Irish Research Council Postgraduate Scholarship. His doctoral research, The Automation and Surveillance of Work and Workers, explores the impact of emerging technologies on employment and workplace practices.

MSU EXECUTIVE MEMBERS 2024-2025



GAVIN FANNING | MSU PRESIDENT
(1 JULY 2024 – 3 OCTOBER 2024)

Gavin Fanning served as MSU President from 1 July to 3 October 2024, taking leave from his BSc studies to fulfil the role. During his tenure, he represented students at institutional and national level and provided leadership to MSU. Gavin's long-standing contribution to student representation included service as DARE Senator, Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor, VP Education, and ultimately MSU President.



KYLA HENRY | VP STUDENT LIFE
(1 JULY 2024 – 17 OCTOBER 2024)

Kyla Henry served as Vice President Student Life and Deputy President from 1 July to 17 October 2024 before being elected MSU President. A graduate of Media Studies and Sociology, she brought extensive representative experience to the role, having served as a Class Representative, Faculty Assembly Member, and Faculty Convenor. Kyla focused on student engagement, community building, and ensuring students were supported to participate fully in university life.



HANNAH BAGTASOS | SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FACULTY CONVENOR
(1 JULY 2024 – 20 NOVEMBER 2024)

Hannah Bagtasos served as Science & Engineering Faculty Convenor from 1 July to 20 November 2024 while completing a BSc in Computer Science & Software Engineering. She represented students within the Faculty, ensuring their concerns and priorities were communicated effectively to relevant decision-makers. Hannah worked closely with student representatives, academic staff, and Union officers to support a positive and engaging academic experience.



JADE ORR | ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER
(1 JULY 2024 – 26 NOVEMBER 2024)

Jade Orr served as Environmental Officer from 1 July to 26 November 2024 while completing a Bachelor of Science degree. She promoted sustainability initiatives, encouraged student participation in environmental campaigns, and supported efforts to raise awareness of environmental issues across campus. Working alongside fellow student leaders and University stakeholders, Jade contributed to initiatives aimed at creating a more sustainable university community.



RODDIE MAC AONGHUSA | VP ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
(1 JULY 2024 – 30 MAY 2025)

Roddie Mac Aonghusa served as Vice President Academic Affairs from 1 July 2024 to 30 May 2025 following completion of a BSc in Computational Thinking. He supported students throughout their academic journey and oversaw MSU's Academic Representative system. Working closely with student representatives and University stakeholders, Roddie advanced academic interests and student partnership initiatives. Prior to his election, he served as MSU's Oifigeach na Gaeilge.

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2024-2025

It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make Maynooth Students' Union tick - and we're lucky and proud to have an incredible team of professional staff who help bring your student experience to life.

From representation and governance to events, communications, and services, our staff work side-by-side with your elected officers to ensure that MSU can effectively champion the needs of both MU and SPPU students.

Nearly every campaign you see, every service you use, and every good idea that becomes reality – it's all made possible by their hard work and dedication.

So whether you're looking for help, looking to get involved, or just looking for a friendly face – **your MSU team is here for you.** Always!



MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2024-2025



**SHONA
CASSIDY**

shona.cassidy@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

Shona Cassidy | Events Coordinator

Shona graduated with a BA in Music and English from Mary Immaculate College before moving to Maynooth University in 2021 to complete an MA in Creative Music Technologies. She joined MSU in 2022 as part of the Events and Facilities Operations Team and, following her strong contribution to campus life, was appointed Event Coordinator in 2024. Shona leads the planning and delivery of a diverse programme of events, from Freshers' Week through to end-of-term celebrations, working closely with Sabbatical Officers to ensure a dynamic and inclusive offering. Her role spans programming, budget management, supplier coordination, and event production. With a strong focus on student engagement, Shona is committed to creating memorable campus experiences and is already developing new initiatives for students.



**ANN MARIE
CUDDEN**

frontdesk@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

Ann Marie Cudden | Front Desk Manager

Ann Marie returned to Maynooth University as a mature student in 2007, qualifying as a teacher before building a career across multiple university departments. She joined MSU in 2017 and has since become a central figure in the Union's front-of-house services. As Front Desk Manager, Ann Marie leads the SU Info Centre, providing essential supports including Leap Cards, printing, and general student guidance. Her deep institutional knowledge and student-centred approach make her a trusted resource for students navigating university life. Widely recognised across campus, she is known for her enthusiasm, accessibility, and commitment to service excellence. A strong advocate for sustainability, she actively promotes environmentally conscious practices within the Union. Ann Marie's work continues to enhance the accessibility and quality of student-facing services.



**DILLON
GRACE**

dillon.grace@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

Dillon Grace | Director General

Dillon, originally from Tipperary, graduated from Maynooth University in 2015 with an LLB. A first-generation student, he has held multiple leadership roles within MSU, including Chair of Union Council, VP Education/Deputy President, and MSU President. During his presidency, he oversaw organisational strategy, budget management, and student representation at senior governance levels. Transitioning to staff, Dillon contributed to policy development as Union Development Administrator and later led democratic functions as Director of Democracy. As Director General, he provides strategic and operational leadership across the organisation, with a focus on strengthening governance, transparency, and student engagement. Dillon is committed to advancing robust democratic structures, ensuring accountability, and embedding student voice at all levels of decision-making within MSU.

MSU STAFF

MEMBERS 2024-2025



**MARIA
MAGUIRE**



SCAN TO LISTEN

Maria Maguire | Leadership & Advocacy Manager

Maria joined MSU in January 2025, bringing extensive experience from across the student movement, including roles with National Student Engagement Programme and Quality and Qualifications Ireland. She has a strong track record in advancing student representation, governance, and democratic engagement. In her role as Leadership & Advocacy Manager, Maria supports the development of student leaders and strengthens advocacy structures within MSU. Known for her strategic perspective, she connects governance, policy, and student voice to drive meaningful impact. Maria has quickly embedded herself within the Maynooth community, contributing to a collaborative and student-focused organisational culture. She is committed to empowering students to engage effectively in decision-making and to ensuring that representation structures remain responsive, inclusive, and impactful.



**OLIVIA
MCCLEAN**

olivia.mcclean@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

Olivia McClean | Representation Administrator (Academic)

Olivia began her journey with MSU in 2021 as part of the SU Info Centre team. After completing her undergraduate degree, she gained further experience in another students' union as a Student Advisor before returning to Maynooth University to complete an MA in Irish History. In 2025, she was appointed Representation Administrator (Academics). In this role, Olivia supports the effective functioning of the Student Academic Representative systems, ensuring strong academic representation across the university. Her work includes coordination, research, logistical support, and collaboration with the VP Academic Affairs on campaigns and policy initiatives. Olivia is passionate about enhancing academic representation structures and is focused on delivering new initiatives to strengthen student voice in Maynooth.



**VIKTORIJA
PECIULYTE**

vic.peciulyte@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

Viktorija Peculyte | Content Creator

Viktorija (Vic/Vicky) graduated from Maynooth University in 2021 with an International Bachelor's Degree in Media Studies and Nua-Ghaeilge. During her studies, she was actively involved in student life, serving as Secretary and later President of the Visual Media Society, as well as Societies Senator. She joined MSU in 2022 as part of the Creative Operations Team before becoming full-time Content Creator in 2023. In her role, Viktorija leads on digital communications and visual identity, producing social media content, designing publications, and supporting major campaigns such as student elections. Her work ensures strong engagement with the student body and consistent, high-quality communications across platforms. She brings creativity, technical expertise, and a strong understanding of student audiences to her role.

MSU STAFF MEMBERS 2024-2025



**BRIAN
TORLEY**

brian.torley@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

BRIAN TORLEY | Retail Manager

Brian joined Maynooth Students' Union in February 2015, bringing extensive retail experience and a strong commitment to customer service and teamwork. These principles have underpinned the continued growth and success of MSU Londis during his tenure. He has overseen significant developments, including a major store redevelopment in 2017, and has led the team to multiple industry recognitions, most recently the Londis Excellence Award. Brian's ability to anticipate market trends and implement effective strategies has been central to the shop's evolution into a key campus service.

Outside of work, he is an avid Liverpool supporter and enjoys discussing football with colleagues and suppliers.



**FIONA
TIERNEY**

londis@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

FIONA TIERNEY | Assistant Retail Manager

Fiona has been a Retail Supervisor at MSU Londis since December 2017, bringing extensive experience in customer service, team leadership, and store operations. With a background in hospitality, she developed a strong foundation in service excellence and operational efficiency, which continues to inform her work. Fiona thrives in the fast-paced university environment, working closely with students and staff to ensure a seamless and positive shopping experience. Known for her reliability, professionalism, and attention to detail, she is committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive atmosphere. Fiona is also focused on continuous improvement, regularly seeking ways to enhance operations and customer satisfaction. Outside of work, she enjoys walking, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



**JANA
SIMUNEKOVA**

londis@msu.ie



SCAN TO LISTEN

JANA SIMUNEKOVA | Retail Supervisor

Jana Simunekova joined the Londis Maynooth Students' Union team in 2022 as a Store Supervisor, bringing enthusiasm and a strong affinity for the vibrant student environment. Originally from Slovakia, she quickly adapted to the role and developed a passion for the pace and energy of campus life. Jana supports the day-to-day operations of the store, ensuring smooth running across all areas while maintaining a welcoming and engaging atmosphere.

Her approachable manner and ability to balance operational demands with excellent customer service have made her a valued colleague and a popular presence among students. Jana's positivity, dedication, and commitment continue to contribute significantly to the store's ongoing success.



PART B



REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT

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

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

BALANCE SHEET

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

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 St Patrick's Pontifical University (SPPU) 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 President's Report.

Results for the year

The surplus for the financial year amounted to €81,933 (2024 - deficit €72,041).

Trustees

The members of the MSU Board of Trustees:

- **Alex Balfe** (appointed 1 July 2024) (resigned 30 June 2025)
- **Molly Buckley**
- **Gavin Fanning** (appointed 1 July 2024) (resigned 3 October 2025)
- **Maeve Farrell** (appointed 1 July 2025) (resigned 12 September 2025)
- **Lorna Fitzpatrick**
- **Richard Hammond S.C.**
- **Patrick Hennessy**
- **Kyla Henry** (appointed 18 October 2024) (resigned 14 September 2025)
- **Dr. Rory McDaid**
- **Charli Middleton** (appointed 15 October 2025)
- **Cathy Pembroke** (appointed 1 July 2024)

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The Trustees present their report and the audited financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

Statement on 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.

Post balance sheet events

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

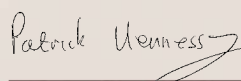
Auditors

The auditors, BDO, continue in office.

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



Charli Middleton
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 24th June 2026

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

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 surplus or 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.

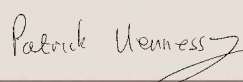
The Trustees are responsible for ensuring that the Union keeps or causes to be kept adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the Union, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and deficit of the Union to be determined with reasonable accuracy, 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



Charli Middleton
President



Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 24th June 2026

Report of 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 2025, 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 accompanying financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the Union as at 30 June 2025 and of its surplus for the financial year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 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 auditor's 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 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 we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

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 66, 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, unless management either intends to liquidate the union or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

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 Irish Auditing and Accounting Supervisory Authority's website at: <https://iaasa.ie/publications/description-of-theauditors-responsibilities-for-the-audit-of-the-financial-statements/>. This description forms part of our auditor's 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: 24th June 2026

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Income	4	2,929,181	2,817,218
Cost of sales		(1,030,832)	(999,763)
Gross profit		1,898,349	1,817,455
Administrative expenses		(1,816,416)	(1,889,496)
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		81,933	(72,041)
Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year		603,868	675,909
Surplus/(deficit) for the financial year		81,933	(72,041)
Retained earnings at the end of the financial year		685,801	603,868

All amounts relate to continuing operations.

There were no recognised gains and losses for 2025 or 2024 other than those included in the income and expenditure account.

Signed on behalf of the board:

Charli Middleton

Charli Middleton
President

Patrick Hennessy

Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 24th June 2026

	Note	2025 €	2024 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible fixed assets	9	66,500	74,754
		<u>66,500</u>	<u>74,754</u>
Current assets			
Stocks	10	87,319	85,774
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	11	79,970	33,983
Cash at bank and in hand	12	804,817	828,881
		<u>972,106</u>	<u>948,638</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(352,805)	(419,524)
Net current assets		<u>619,301</u>	<u>529,114</u>
Net assets		<u>685,801</u>	<u>603,868</u>
Financed by:			
Reserves	16	685,801	603,868
Closing reserves		<u>685,801</u>	<u>603,868</u>

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

Charli Middleton

Charli Middleton
President

Patrick Hennessy

Patrick Hennessy
Chairperson of the Board

Date: 24th June 2026

The notes on pages 72 to 84 form part of these financial statements.

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 2025.

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, 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 under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland'. The disclosure requirements of Section 1A of FRS 102 have been applied other than where additional disclosure is required to show a true and fair view.

The following principal accounting policies have been applied:

2.2 Foreign currency translation

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. Accounting policies (continued)

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.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.4 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.

2.5 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.

2.6 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.

Employer contribution to PRSA's

The Union has in place a PRSA scheme. Membership of the scheme is voluntary and employees may join following successful completion of their probationary period. The employer collects the employee contributions and remits the total (Employee + Employer) contribution to the scheme provider, on behalf of the employee. 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.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.7 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.

2.8 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.

2.9 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. Accounting policies (continued)

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

2.12 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.

2.13 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. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 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.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

2.14 Financial instruments (continued)

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Capitation income	835,000	767,813
Sales shop	1,264,639	1,208,661
Sales bar	759,603	727,059
Other services	69,939	113,685
	2,929,181	2,817,218

All income was generated in Ireland.

5. Surplus/(deficit) on ordinary activities

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

	2025 €	2024 €
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	23,779	24,190
Defined contribution pension cost	20,238	20,918
Operating lease charge	28,890	28,890

6. Employees

Staff costs were as follows:

	2025	2024
	€	€
Wages and salaries	702,849	673,221
Employers PRSI	67,232	71,339
Pension costs	20,238	20,918
	790,319	765,478

The average monthly number of employees, including Trustees', during the financial year was 29 (2024 - 31).

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	2025 Numbers	2024 Numbers
€20,000 - €40,000	7	8
€40,001 - €60,000	1	1
€60,001 - €70,000	-	1
€70,001 - €80,000	1	1
€80,001 - €90,000	1	-

Capitalised employee costs during the financial year amounts to €NIL (2024 - €NIL).

7. Key management remuneration

	2025	2024
	€	€
Wages and salaries	174,203	222,390
Employers PRSI	19,228	26,935
Pension costs	7,600	9,206
	201,031	258,531

Included in the above is the stipend paid to the President of the Union for the year of €38,650 (2024 - €28,000), and employers PRSI for the year of €4,148 (2024 - €3,094).

8. Trustee remuneration

Trustees are not paid a salary for their role on the board, however during the year an amount of €65,500 (2024 - €56,700) was paid to trustees.

Included in this amount was the stipend paid to the President of the Union for the year of €38,650 (2024 - €28,000)

During the year, honorariums paid to the Trustees amounted to €26,850 (2024 - €28,700)

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Admin Assets €	Shop Assets €	Clubs / Ents Assets €	Bar Assets €	Total Assets €
Cost or valuation					
At 1 July 2024	61,468	244,813	689,807	230,591	1,226,679
Additions	-	1,025	-	14,500	15,525
At 30 June 2025	61,468	245,838	689,807	245,091	1,242,204
Depreciation					
At 1 July 2024	55,303	239,227	686,110	171,285	1,151,925
Charge for the year	3,054	2,947	2,836	14,942	23,779
At 30 June 2025	58,357	242,174	688,946	186,227	1,175,704
Net book value					
At 30 June 2025	3,111	3,664	861	58,864	66,500
At 30 June 2024	6,165	5,586	3,697	59,306	74,754

10. Stocks

	2025 €	2024 €
Closing Stock	87,319	85,774
	87,319	85,774

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

11. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	€	€
Trade debtors	43,299	17,054
Prepayments & other debtors	36,671	16,929
	79,970	33,983

All debtors are due within one year.

12. Cash and cash equivalents

	2025	2024
	€	€
Cash at bank and in hand	804,817	828,881
	804,817	828,881

13. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	€	€
Trade creditors	80,241	198,821
Amounts owed to Maynooth University	19 7,651	14,781
VAT payable	4,388	32,806
PAYE/PRSI	18,254	21,007
Accruals and other creditors	160,520	78,921
Deferred income	81,751	73,188
	352,805	419,524

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 €5,800 (2024 - €3,800) charity funds raised by the Union, and which is payable to the nominated annual charity. These funds are held in a designated bank account.

14. Financial instruments

	2025 €	2024 €
Financial assets measured at amortised costs		
Cash at bank and in hand	804,817	828,881
Trade debtors	43,299	17,054
	848,116	845,935
	2025 €	2024 €
Financial liabilities measured at amortised costs		
Trade creditor	80,241	198,821
Amounts owed to Maynooth University	7,651	14,781
	87,892	213,602

15. Contingent liabilities

The Union had no contingent liabilities at the end of the financial year (2024 - €NIL).

16. Reserves

Reserves of the Union can be categorised as:

- 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
- 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	2024/2025	2023/2024	Movement
General Funds	573,080	479,762	+93,317
Restricted Funds	112,721	124,106	-11,384
Total	685,801	603,868	+81,933

17. 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 €20,238 (2024 - €20,918). The amount outstanding at the financial year end was €3,676 (2024 - €1,712).

18. Commitments under operating leases

At 30 June 2025 the Union had future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases for each of the following periods:

	2025	2024
	€	€
Not later than 1 year	28,890	28,890
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	17,176	46,066
	46,066	74,956

19. 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 €835,000 (2024 - €767,813) from MU. There were €44,981 (2024 - €48,236) of purchase recharges and €28,890 (2023 - €39,632) of rent expenses charged from MU. The amount due to MU at the year end was €7,651 (2024 - €14,781).

20. Approval of financial statements

The board of Trustees approved these financial statements for issue on 24th June 2026



Maynooth Students' Union
Aontas na Mac Léinn Mhá Nuad



MAYNOOTH STUDENTS' UNION

ANNUAL REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

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