

S/M/S4.012|2-19|

MANDATE

MSU Support for the Implementation of a Coherent Anti-Bullying Policy for Maynooth University Students

Submitted by: LGBT+ Senator (Megan Dowdall-Cullen)

Seconded by: First Year Senator (Joe Greene)

Student Senate notes:

- There has been a number of incidents on campus regarding hate crimes in the past few weeks.
- There is no structured anti-bullying policy for students of Maynooth university with set in stone disciplinary structures.
- The only Articles in the constitution based on hate crimes is Article 8(5), Article 17(4) and Article 18 of the Union Policy Schedule 1 – Section 12.
- There is nothing in place regarding hate crimes on or off campus or where to report it if it was to happen to you.
- That Clubs and societies have little to no outline within the rules about anti-bullying and hate speech.
- The University website or student handbook does not have a section solely dedicated to bullying and where to seek help if being bullied on campus

Student Senate therefore mandates:

- For the Maynooth Students' Union to lobby for the implementation for a coherent anti-bullying policy for the students of Maynooth, with a specific emphasis on bullying based on gender, sexual preference, marital status, family status, age, disability, race, religion or any member of the travelling community.
- For workshops around anti-bullying and hate speech to be carried out by the VP Welfare & Equality on campus to promote an all-inclusive university.
- That the students' union, in collaboration with the University, promote posters across campus about hate crimes and how to report a hate crime if you were to be the victim of one.

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MSU Constitution

Sets out the organs of the students union and their functions.

Article 8(5)

8. Vice President Welfare & Equality

5. Ensure that there are procedures in place, which are adhered to, for members discriminated against on grounds of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, political belief, age, nationality, disability, race or membership of the Traveller community.

6. Consult, in strict confidence with members in the event of discrimination by any member of the Union or University, and shall represent individuals when requested to the relevant body or authority.

7. Be responsible for formulating and having enacted the Union's welfare and equality policies and procedures.

Article 17(4)

4. The Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible to the Students' Union in respect of all matters that come under its control.

1. The Board of Trustees shall not become involved in Union policy that does not concern the general operations, finances, and/or commercial services of the Union, and in the event of a conflict, the decision of Student Senate shall be final.

Look at article 18 – Union Policy

Schedule 1 – Section 12

(a) The LGBT+ Senator shall be to assist the Vice President Welfare & Equality:

- i. On any matter pertaining to LGBT+ rights and issues
- ii. Maintaining good relations with the LGBT+ community within the University
- iii. Organising campaigns in relation to LGBT+ rights and issues
- iv. Promoting and defending the rights of LGBT+ members of the Union
- v. Liaising with relevant societies, including by collaborating on events

Student senate policy manual not yet uploaded

Maynooth Students' Union Annual Survey of Student Opinion (2019) Report

Issues impacting negatively on college experience increasing across the board:

Mental Health [56% (+11%pts)] falling just behind Financial [59% (+5%pts)]

5.5 Address the cohort of students who feel like they don't belong. Over a quarter of the student population felt that they don't belong on their course or in Maynooth. While we can't be certain of the exact reasons for this, the SU needs to explore what services/campaigns it could offer to try to reach this demographic