

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



Niall Daly

President | Uachtarán

PERIOD OF WORK: WEDNESDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 2022 – TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2022

EMAIL: PRESIDENT@MSU.IE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A chara,

Thank you so much for your engagement with the First Sitting of the Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate. While it was far from a perfect meeting, I think we made it work. I believe we drew the perfect line between accountability and respectfulness. I know members of my Executive appreciated it, and this is something I really hope to see continue throughout the year.

This Officer Report is quite a bit shorter than the last one (and far better formatted). The period of work accounts for less than 2 weeks, but there have been some substantial developments in the #WheresMyLevy campaign as you probably know by this stage.

So, have a read of my report, please feel free to ask me any questions in advance, and I will see you at the Second Sitting of the Student Senate!

Ní neart go cur le chéile,

Niall Daly
MSU President

CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.6 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU President. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

List of Constitutional Responsibilities:

- 1. The President shall be the CEO, First Officer & Chief Spokesperson of the Union and shall be ultimately responsible for the administration of the Union. All staff of the Union shall ultimately be responsible to the President.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

- 2. They shall exercise and perform the powers and functions conferred on the President by this Constitution and any additional functions, duties or responsibilities conferred by the Student Senate.**
 - As the Maynooth Students' Union President, I consistently strive to ensure that I am performing the powers and functions of my role, as well as the additional functions, duties, or responsibilities conferred on my role by the Student Senate.
 - I aim to show this through my Officer Reports.

- 3. In conjunction with the finance function of the Union they shall be responsible for preparing a master budget for the Union for approval by the Board of Trustees and ensuring strict adherence to that budget.**
 - With the Director of Finance on an extended period of leave, and conscious of the difficulties I detailed at the First Sitting of the Student Senate, the budget remains an area of concern for the organisation.
 - The Senior Management Team, of which I am the leader, remain committed to steering Maynooth Students' Union through this difficult period by taking steps including, but not limited to, effective budgeting, cost saving exercises, and lobbying for the reinstatement of withheld funds.

- 4. They shall be responsible for the strategic development and overall direction of the Union.**
 - Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains largely unchanged since my last Officer Report.
 - The Annual Plan of Work will appear on the agenda with a view to approval at the Second Sitting of the Student Senate.

- Refer to the Plan of Work section of this report for a comprehensive update on the Annual Plan of Work.
5. They shall be ultimately responsible for the financial affairs of the Union and establish regulations for the financial administration of the Union.
- Refer to Constitutional Responsibility 3.
6. They shall be ultimately responsible for the provision of entertainments for members of their Union.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
7. They shall be ex-officio chair of all meetings of the Union, except where otherwise explicitly stated in the Constitution but may delegate any of these positions to another officer.
- As the Maynooth Students' Union President, I chair all meetings of the Union as required and appropriate.
8. They shall have plenary powers between meetings of the Executive to fulfil the aims and objectives of the Union, but shall be responsible to the Executive and the Student Senate for these actions.
- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.
9. They shall have the right of attendance and address at all meetings established within the terms of this Constitution.
- As the Maynooth Students' Union President, the right of attendance and address is conferred on me by the Constitution.
 - Unsurprisingly, it is not a right I find myself having to invoke, ever.
10. They shall be, ex-officio, a member of the University's Governing Authority and Academic Council.
- (a) They shall endeavour to sit on all relevant committees and sub-committees of the University.
- I remain a member of Maynooth University's Governing Authority.

- There was a meeting held on Thursday, 10 November 2022.
- I remain a member of Maynooth University's Academic Council.
- There was a meeting held on Monday, 7 November 2022.

11. The President shall maintain a record of all boards, committees and other bodies within the University, and the Union representation at each.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

12. They shall be responsible for leading all national campaigns on behalf of the Union.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

13. They shall be ultimately responsible for all Union publications.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

14. They shall nominate one of the sabbatical officers to deputise and specify the order of succession amongst the Vice Presidents.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

15. They shall maintain a record of all boards, committees and other bodies within the University, and the Union representation at each. They shall ensure that this record is included in any crossover document compiled for the training and reference of their successor.

- Refer to Constitutional Responsibility 11.

16. They shall ensure that full crossover training is provided for all incoming officers of the Union and shall be ultimately responsible for ensuring that each sabbatical officer provides a cross-over manual and abides by HR policies implemented by the Union.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

17. They shall ensure that all Executive members produce and publish officer reports six times per year and at least three times per semester.

- Fulfilment of this Constitutional Responsibility remains unchanged since my last Officer Report.

18. They shall liaise between the Executive and the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board of Trustees.

- There was a meeting of the Executive held on Monday, 7 November 2022.
- There was a meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Monday, 7 November 2022.

19. For the time that the Union is a member organisation of the Union of Students in Ireland, the President shall be the principal delegate and spokesperson to the National Council and Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland.

- There was a Comhairle Náisiúnta held on Friday, 4 November 2022.
- I was unable to attend this meeting.
- The Annual Congress of the Union of Students in Ireland will not take place until April 2023.

PLAN OF WORK

At the beginning of this Executives term of office, we created a plan of work. The Plan of Work is the guiding document for the executive. Below is how I have contributed to the completion of the Plan of Work.

- The Annual Plan of Work was completed, albeit with minor tweaks since, by the end of August 2022.
- I indicated in my last Officer Report that the Annual Plan of Work would not be submitted to the First Sitting of the Student Senate.
- I also indicated that this because I want to allow Student Senators adequate time to review and be consulted on it.
- Therefore, it is my intention that on Monday, 14 November 2022, a draft Annual Plan of Work and Campaigns Calendar for 2022-23 will be circulated to all Student Senators.
- I have allocated 16:00 – 17:00 on Tuesday, 15 November, Wednesday, 16 November, and Thursday, 17 November and 15:00 – 16:00 on Friday, 18 November 2022 as drop-in sessions so that Student Senators have an opportunity to provide feedback to and have their questions answered by the Maynooth Students' Union Executive on the Annual Plan of Work.
- It is my intention that all of the above be communicated to Student Senators when they are provided with the draft Annual Plan of Work and Campaigns Calendar on Monday, 14 November 2022.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for Maynooth Students' Union President, I outlined several manifesto pledges. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these promises to the best of my ability.

List of Manifesto Initiatives:

I have ever so slightly tweaked some of my Manifesto Initiatives in this Officer Report. Based on Student Senators' feedback, it appears some were quite vague and/or represented more broad brushstrokes/aspirational ideas as opposed to actual goals. I have attempted to make them more actionable and tangible as a result.

Events | *Secure funding from Maynooth University to hire a full-time Events Co-ordinator for Maynooth Students' Union for 2022-23.*

- As indicated in my last Officer Report, I secured an increase in funding to hire necessary full-time positions from the Bursar of Maynooth University at a meeting on Wednesday, 6 July 2022.
- The Director General provided a comprehensive update as to the status of Maynooth Students' Union's recruitment practices at the First Sitting of the Student Senate.
- Conscious of the difficulties the organisation is facing due to a lack of staff among other things, it remains a priority for me to ensure the appropriate people are hired as soon as possible.
- The Senior Management Team are currently arranging the next round of hiring with a view to having the new staff in place for January 2023.

Equality | *Support the Maynooth Students' Union Vice President Welfare & Equality with their events, campaigns and initiatives.*

- Over this period of work, I have continued to support the Vice President Welfare & Equality with their events, campaigns, and initiatives.
- Examples include planning to participate in a video for International Men's Day on Saturday, 19 November 2022, and logistical planning for their HeadSpace campaign set to take place during the week starting Monday, 14 November 2022.

Equality | *Implement a Part-time Equality Officer position in the new Maynooth Students' Union Constitution.*

- It is still my intention to develop, propose and pass a new Constitution in 2022-23.

- Work on this new Constitution will begin shortly now that we have a Constitutional & Representative Review Committee elected.
- Any new Constitution needs to expand the number of Part-time Officers on the Maynooth Students' Union Executive, and it is envisioned that one of these will be an Equality Officer.

Student Partnership | *Progress the ongoing Partnership Agreement discussions between Maynooth Students' Union and Maynooth University with a view to achieving the best possible Partnership Agreement in the shortest amount of time.*

- On Friday, 2 July 2022, my predecessor sent the Partnership Agreement to the Bursar of Maynooth University.
- Prior to this, the Bursar had indicated that there were 4 areas of the Partnership Agreement that Maynooth Students' Union needed to address.
- One of which was the funding model, which neither Maynooth University nor Maynooth Students' Union could agree on.
- My predecessor never received the Partnership Agreement back from Maynooth University during 2021-22.
- On Wednesday, 6 July 2022, I raised this with the Bursar. The Bursar informed me that he will send it back, but that we wouldn't like it.
- He was right.
- Maynooth University completely gutted our Partnership Agreement, taking out any mention of Maynooth Students' Union's autonomy amongst many other things.
- The Partnership Agreement remains an area of concern for the Maynooth Students' Union Executive, Board of Trustees, Maynooth University's Audit and Risk Committee, and Governing Authority.
- On numerous occasions, I have indicated the significance of and need for a Partnership Agreement to the President of Maynooth University including, but not limited to, one-on-one meetings, Maynooth University's Audit and Risk Committee, Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee, and Governing Authority.
- The President of Maynooth University has indicated that they are willing to work with Maynooth Students' Union on a Partnership Agreement, and this is something that I will be following up on in our next one-on-one meeting, scheduled for Thursday, 24 November 2022.

Student Engagement / Democratic Affairs | *Secure funding from Maynooth University to hire a full-time Democracy Co-ordinator for Maynooth Students' Union for 2022-23.*

- Refer to Events Manifesto Initiative.

MOTION & MANDATES

There are many motion & mandates that require participation from my role. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these motion & mandates to the best of my ability. Below is a list of all active motion & mandates that require my participation, with updates on my progress with each one.

List of Motions & Mandates:

1. *Mental Health Training*
2. *The Promotion of MSU Student Senate*
3. *Senate Wall*
4. *Demand for Action on Student Funded Levy Projects*
5. *MSU Independence Dossier*
6. *MSU Student Email Communication*
7. *'How to Use Your Union' Infographics*
8. *Living Wage*
9. *Continued Action on Student Funded Levy Projects*

Mental Health Training

- It was my intention to provide training for Student Senators prior to the First Sitting of the Student Senate.
- This proved to be challenging, however, once we have the Annual Plan of Work drop-in sessions finished, we will provide a comprehensive training, including Mental Health Training.
- I had hoped to invite Student Senators to the Vice President Education's Mental Health Training scheduled to take place on Friday, 18 November 2022, but it is no longer going ahead.

The Promotion of MSU Student Senate

- Prior to the First Sitting of the Student Senate, a graphic advertising it was posted on our Instagram.
- It is my intention to publish an Achoimre of each meeting on the Maynooth Students' Union website once passed.
- As indicated at the First Sitting, it is also my intention to publish Officer Reports once they are passed by the Student Senate on the Maynooth Students' Union website.
- Graphics and posters dealing with what the Student Senate is, who the Student Senators are, what the Committees do and so on will be produced as part of my #KnowYourUnion campaign, scheduled to take place on the week starting Monday, 30 January 2022.

Senate Wall

- I have spoken with the Director General about the idea of a Senate Wall.
- Given that the 2021-22 Student Senate took a photo of all the members at the start of the Sixth Sitting, we need to get it printed and frame it.
- Then we need to identify an appropriate area for the Senate Wall.

Demand for Action on Student Levy Funded Projects

- Refer to General Activity #WheresMyLevy.

MSU Independence Dossier

- When I became the Maynooth Students' Union President, I was presented with the Independence Dossier.
- Given the scale of #WheresMyLevy, it is my intention to expand it with records of everything that has taken place over the course of the campaign.

MSU Student Email Communication

- I have requested Maynooth University's all-student mailing list a number of times since I became the Maynooth Students' Union President.
- Maynooth University's Registrar has offered us use of the mailing list to circulate an email offering a choice to opt-in to a Maynooth Students' Union mailing list.
- This is something we will likely take them up on.
- #WheresMyLevy allowed us an opportunity to create a mailing list for the purposes of updating our membership on the status of the campaign, and any future actions we may take.
- This mailing list has approximately 2,100 email addresses.

'How to Use Your Union' Infographics

- The Vice President Welfare & Equality, who was the original proposer of this mandate, and I will be developing 'How to Use Your Union' Infographics as part of my #KnowYourUnion campaign, scheduled to take place on the week starting Monday, 30 January 2022.

Continued Action on Student Levy Funded Projects

- Refer to General Activity #WheresMyLevy.

COMMITTEES

I have listed the committees that I am a member of and have tried to give a description of their remit and some of the activities they undertake. I have also listed my contribution to

Committee that the Maynooth Students' Union President is a member of:

1. Maynooth University Governing Authority
2. Maynooth University Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee
3. Maynooth University Academic Council
4. Maynooth Students' Union Executive
5. Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate
6. Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees

Maynooth University Governing Authority

The Governing Authority has responsibility for the strategic direction of the University, the management and administration of its revenue and property and the general conduct of its affairs.

- The Maynooth University Governing Authority met on Thursday, 10 November 2022.
- It is confidential.
- Refer to General Activities #WheresMyLevy.

Maynooth University Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee

The Finance, Human Resources and Campus Development Committee which shall has an oversight role in relation to monitoring the implementation of the University Strategic Plan, the management of the finances and human resources of the University and the management of the assets of the University.

- The Maynooth University Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee met on Tuesday, 1 November 2022.
- It is confidential.
- Refer to General Activities #WheresMyLevy.

Maynooth University Academic Council

Academic Council controls the academic affairs of the University, including the curriculum of, and instruction and education provided by, the University.

- The Maynooth University Academic Council met on Monday, 7 November 2022.

Maynooth Students' Union Executive

The Union Executive shall meet and act as a collective authority, and shall be collectively responsible for the day to day operation of the Union, in addition to each officer's own portfolio, and shall have powers to take necessary decisions in between meetings of the Student Senate.

- As the Maynooth Students' Union President, I chair the Maynooth Students' Union Executive.
- The Maynooth Students' Union Executive met on Monday, 7 November 2022.
- Once passed, an Achoimre is uploaded to the Maynooth Students' Union website providing a summary of the Maynooth Students' Union Executive's meetings.

Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate

The Student Senate is the Governing Body of the Union. The functions of the Student Senate include inter alia; 1. The formulation of Union policy; 2. The right to mandate the members of the Union Executive individually or as a body to undertake certain tasks in addition to any adopted policy; 3. Ensuring that the members of the Union Executive are held accountable in the conduct of their respective roles.

- The First Sitting of the Seventh Session of the Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate was held on Wednesday, 9 November 2022.
- The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 23 November 2022.

Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees defend 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 shall oversee the following aspects of the Union's: 1. Finances, financial management and financial planning; 2. Commercial activities and commercial development; 3. Expenditure and financial controls; 4. Corporate governance; 5. Implementing a conflict of interest policy which shall be binding on all officers of the Union; 6. Policies, procedures and costs in relation to expense payments to Union officers and staff and all comparable expenditure; and 7. Employment and management of staff.

- The Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees met on Monday, 7 November 2022.
- #WheresMyLevy and Maynooth Students' Union's funding challenges were discussed.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of Maynooth Students' Union President is not just confined to constitutional roles and manifesto initiatives. There is a wide variety of activities undertaken by me in the execution of my role. I have given a comprehensive list of these activities below.

List of some of the main other general activities undertaken:

1. Meeting with Maynooth Students' Union's Charity Partner of the Year
2. #WheresMyLevy

Meeting with Maynooth Students' Union's Charity Partner of the Year

- On Thursday, 3 November 2022, the Maynooth Students' Union Full-time Officers and Director General met with Threshold.
- We discussed #WheresMyLevy and the impact it has had on Maynooth Students' Union's workload, how we would communicate Threshold's selection as Maynooth Students' Union's Charity Partner of the Year; Threshold indicated they would provide us with a statement for our approval.
- We also discussed Maynooth Students' Union promoting and providing space to Clubs & Societies who may be fundraising for other charities; Threshold indicated they wouldn't have an issue with this.
- Finally, we discussed fundraising for Threshold, areas of collaboration, campaigns, and how they can support our activities.

#WheresMyLevy

- At both Maynooth University's Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee and Governing Authority, the Student Centre, Maynooth Students' Union's #WheresMyLevy campaign, and how Maynooth University would address the anger of its students was discussed at length.

On Friday, 11 November 2022, after Maynooth University issued an all-student email, we were happy to be able to publish the following statement to our members on social media:



WHERE'S MY
LEVY?

“
Since the decision was taken by Maynooth University's Governing Authority to terminate the construction of your Student Centre, Maynooth Students' Union have made it our mission to demand answers, clarity, and commitments from Maynooth University.

The #WheresMyLevy campaign grew from the aftermath of this decision and after six long weeks, Maynooth University have made significant progress on meeting the demands laid out in this campaign.

”

“
Maynooth Students' Union thanks every student who had a part to play in the #WheresMyLevy campaign. You volunteered with us, you petitioned with us, you surveyed with us, you lobbied with us, you walked out with us, you marched with us, you delivered petitions with us, and much more.

Maynooth Students' Union is not just your Executive. Maynooth Students' Union is the 15,000 students of both Maynooth University and St. Patrick's Pontifical University. You make the Union, and the Union makes you strong. The #WheresMyLevy campaign would not have been possible without you.

”

What did you demand?

- ***Maynooth University must publicly state their commitment to delivering a Student Centre, and ensure its prioritisation over other capital developments on campus.***
- ***The student levy must be frozen, with no increases to the charge for a period of at least 5 academic years beginning in 2023-24.***
- ***Maynooth University must be transparent in its communication as to how the student levy is being used, prove their commitment to joint oversight of the fund, and work with Maynooth Students' Union and the students of Maynooth to regain their trust.***

What have Maynooth University committed to?

The Governing Authority of Maynooth University approved the formation of a Student Facilities Project Action Group on Thursday, 10 November 2022. The group will see equal staff and student representation, and its purpose will be to provide recommendations on the development of student facilities – including a Student Centre – in the short and long-term.

The Governing Authority and President of Maynooth University both reaffirmed their commitment to student facilities and a Student Centre. Following robust questions from the MSU President at the meeting, Maynooth Students' Union are confident that this group will result in intensified much needed facilities in the short-term, and a Student Centre in the long-term.

What have Maynooth University committed to?

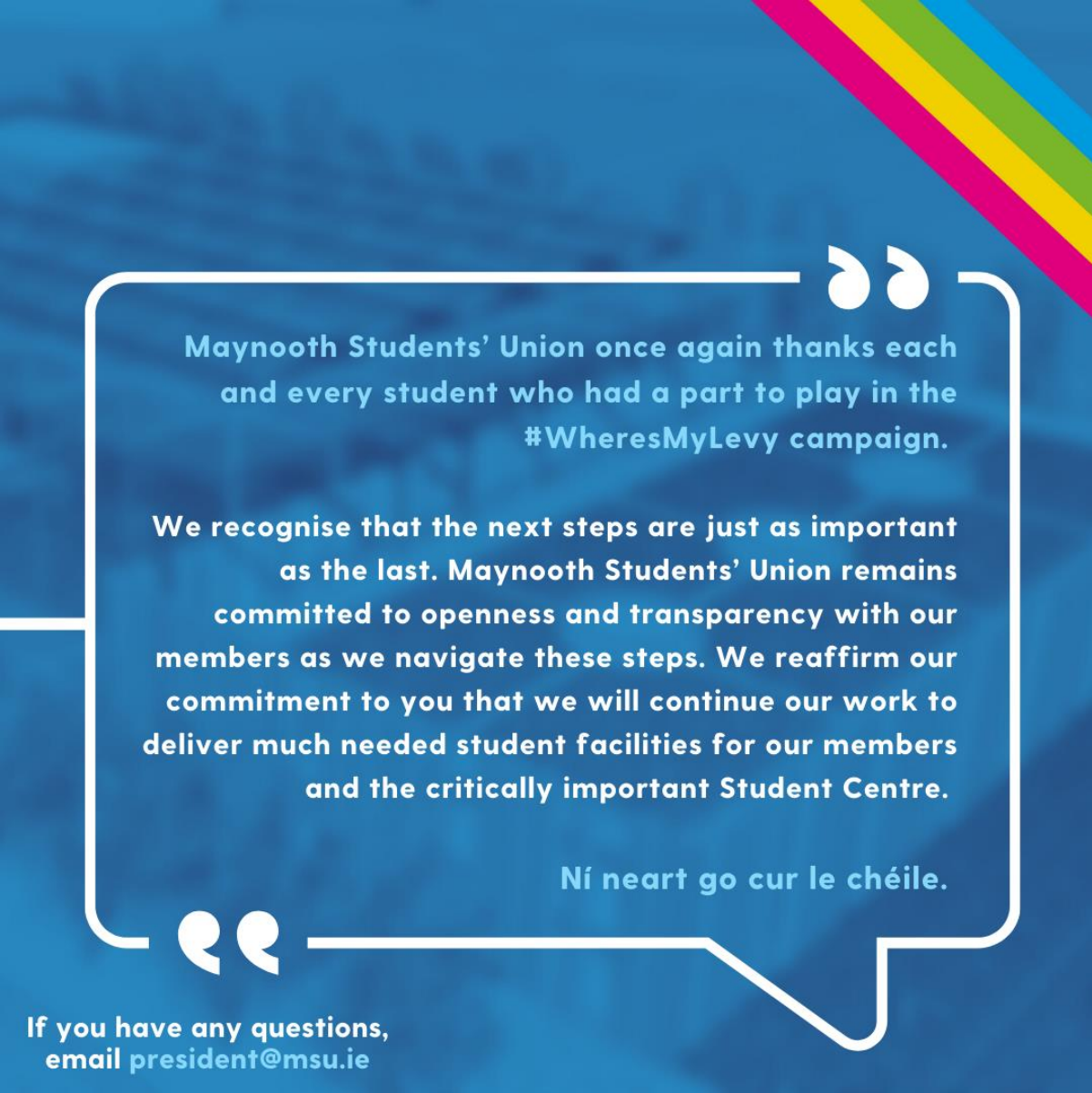
The President and Bursar of Maynooth University have both affirmed that the initial plan to increase the student levy by 2% per academic year starting in 2023-24 will no longer happen.

Given that construction of the original Student Centre has been cancelled, Maynooth University cannot increase the student levy until the projects to be funded by it have been substantially delivered.

What have Maynooth University committed to?

The Bursar of Maynooth University has made several commitments to Maynooth University's Governing Authority and Maynooth Students' Union regarding the transparency and joint oversight of the student levy fund.

It was agreed that the Bursar's Office would provide the Finance, Human Resources, and Campus Development Committee of Maynooth University's Governing Authority, which the MSU President sits on, with annual reports on student levy income and expenditure, and that these reports will be discussed with Maynooth Students' Union prior to their presentation to the FHRCDC. The Bursar of Maynooth University has also indicated that they will contact the MSU President prior to student levy fund expenditure going forward.



Maynooth Students' Union once again thanks each and every student who had a part to play in the #WheresMyLevy campaign.

We recognise that the next steps are just as important as the last. Maynooth Students' Union remains committed to openness and transparency with our members as we navigate these steps. We reaffirm our commitment to you that we will continue our work to deliver much needed student facilities for our members and the critically important Student Centre.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

**If you have any questions,
email president@msu.ie**

MEETING SCHEDULE

Below is an indicative schedule of meetings that I have attended. This is shown to portray how often I have meetings and the level of consistency with which these committees meet at. There are also many meetings needed outside of those committees.

Meeting Schedule:

- **Week 19 (31/10/2022)**

1st November – 14:00 – Maynooth University FHRCDC

3rd November – 10:00 – Meeting with Threshold

- **Week 20 (07/11/2022)**

7th November – 12:00 – Meeting with the Bursar of Maynooth University

7th November – 14:30 – MSU Democratic Affairs Weekly Meeting

7th November – 15:00 – Maynooth University Academic Council

7th November – 16:00 – Maynooth Students' Union Executive

7th November – 18:00 – Maynooth Students' Union Board of Trustees

8th November – 14:00 – MSU Events & Campaigns Weekly Meeting

9th November – 18:00 – Maynooth Students' Union Student Senate

10th November – 14:30 – Maynooth University Governing Authority

11th November – 12:30 – Meeting with Student Services, Access, and Chaplaincy

11th November – 16:00 – Meeting with President of Pride Society

- **Week 21 (14/11/2022)**

14th November – 10:00 – Meeting with Maynooth Students' Union DG and DFS

14th November – 14:30 – MSU Democratic Affairs Weekly Meeting

15th November – 14:00 – MSU Events & Campaigns Weekly Meeting

EXPENSES CLAIMED

To ensure that I am transparent and accountable for my expenditure below is a list of all expenses that I have claimed.

List expenses claimed:

- None