

Officer Report
of the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor
of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU)
to Student Senate



Carrie O'Neill

Social Sciences Faculty Convenor
Tionólaí Dhámh na n-Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta

PERIOD OF WORK: 15TH NOVEMBER 2022 – 6TH DECEMBER 2022
EMAIL: SOCIALSCIENCE@MSU.IE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Hey everyone,

I hope you guys are coping well with the assignment season. I'm currently drowning in assignments and MCQ's and practising for my Chinese oral exam. However, I am still **somehow** staying on top of everything – which is why I can't wait for the Christmas break!

This period of work has been quite meeting heavy, it has been quite a 'workout' trying to juggle everything at once. But also, holy s**t, it's already December senate! I'm still surprised at how fast the first semester has gone by. I also don't like how fast final year is going!

Nevertheless, I hope you all enjoy this Christmassy sitting of Senate and that you have a great Christmas break.

Wishing you all the best of luck in your January exams, and if you don't have any exams, enjoy the well-deserved rest.

Le grá,

Carrie xoxo

Figure 1 Photo of Gavin and I. Gavin is posing in his nice black varsity jacket.

I am looming behind Gavin's shoulder while wearing the purple Games Society Varsity Jacket.



CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.1-10.5 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Social Sciences Faculty Convenor. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

List of Constitutional Responsibility:

- 1. The Faculty Convenors shall be the primary means of communication between the students and student academic representatives in their faculty and the Executive. In particular, the Faculty Convenors shall be responsible for raising awareness of issues specific to their respective faculties in all appropriate fora including the Student Senate and Executive meetings.**

I continue to be available for both reps and students. As always my email is open if there are any issues that arise.

I continue to assist reps with any academic issues and support them in any way that I can.

- 2. They shall be responsible for organising the election of the Student Academic Representatives for the constituencies within their faculties.**

Please refer to my Second Officer Report.

- 3. Each Faculty Convenor shall arrange for a Faculty Assembly meeting to occur in their respective faculties normally six times per academic year, normally with three meetings per semester.**

The Social Sciences Faculty Assembly met on November 21st at 4pm in MSU and via MS Teams.

The next meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly will be on Friday, 9th December in MSU and MS Teams.

- 4. The Faculty Convenor shall be the Chairperson of their respective Faculty Assemblies.**

I continue to chair meetings of the Social Sciences Faculty. I chaired the previous meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly on November 21st.

- 5. They shall, where practicable, undergo training during the summer months as organised by the Union.**

Please refer to my first officer report.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for the role of Social Sciences Faculty Convenor, I outlined several manifesto pledges. Throughout my term, I will make progress on each of these promises to the best of my ability.

List of Manifesto Initiatives:

1. Social

- a) Promoting campaigns and initiatives and encouraging academic reps to get involved.
- b) Informal team bonding sessions for Academic Representatives such as tea/coffee mornings.

2. Equality (Accessibility & Diversity)

- a) Ensure all documentation is accessible for students and academic reps
- b) Continue to have a blended option for students who are not on campus
- c) Work with the VP Welfare & Equality to create a working group/forum to promote diversity in leadership roles.

3. Empower

- a) Encourage the Academic Representatives in the Social Sciences Faculty to go for other roles and positions if they are considering running for them.

- b) Ensure that the Academic Representatives elected as members of the Student Senate are made known to fellow representatives.
- c) Encourage members that sit on the MSU Student Senate to take part in the 'Senate Updates' section of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly meetings.

4. Campaigns

- a) Promote activism within the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly by having a segment dedicated to Academic Reps to bring any issues or campaigns related to activism.

Social

Promoting campaigns and initiatives and encouraging academic reps to get involved.

- I continue to promote any campaigns/initiatives to my academic reps via email, group chat and during meetings of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly.

Informal team bonding sessions for Academic Representatives such as tea/coffee mornings.

I am planning to have my third faculty assembly which will be a festive tea and coffee session.

Equality (Accessibility & Diversity)

Ensure all documentation is accessible for students and Academic Reps.

I have ensured that my first Officer Report is in an accessible format for students by:

- Using the font **Calibri**
- Using font **size 14**
- Using **1.5 line spacing**
- Providing a **description of any images** included
- Using **bold** for important points

Continue to have a blended option for students who are not on campus.

My last faculty assembly was held online. I will be facilitating an online option for the next faculty assembly on December 9th.

Work with the VP Welfare & Equality to create a working group/forum to promote diversity in leadership roles.

I worked with LGBT+ Senator to bring the motion for the Ethnic Diversity Advisory Panel, which was passed at by the members of the Student Senate during the second sitting.

The Ethnic Diversity panel is now up. We have a Microsoft form up for any ethnic minority student to join. Here is the link for anyone that does want to join the panel.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=BPCCPiRWUEacMisNAmNFj6R3ravlm61BpA-TZwZgVAhUM0JIVkZKRE42RkFYMFZOQjNYV05HTTZDny4u>

Empower

Encourage the Academic Representatives in the Social Sciences Faculty to go for other roles and positions if they are considering running for them.

I encouraged my reps to go forward for two positions for the Student Charter Committee at the last meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly. The members of the SSFA that were elected to the SCC are Omme Jamil and Jack Kiernan.

Ensure that the Academic Representatives elected as members of the Student Senate are made known to fellow representatives.

Please refer to my first officer report.

Encourage members that sit on the MSU Student Senate to take part in the 'Senate Updates' section of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly meetings.

The Independent Senator, Conor Cronin, gave their senate update at the last Faculty Assembly. It has been great to see the engagement with my reps during sittings of the Senate.

Campaigns

Promote activism within the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly by having a segment dedicated to Academic Reps to bring any issues or campaigns related to activism.

I continue to share graphics and information about campaigns on my socials. I will e
continuously using the group chat to update reps about the different campaigns and
initiatives.

MOTIONS & MANDATES

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

List of Motion & Mandate:

1. Active Engagement in National Climate Justice Protests
2. Accessible Documentation
3. Irish Language Campaign Visibility
4. MSU Position on Publicly Funded Education
5. Neutrality in other Student Union Elections
6. Action on Decriminalisation of Drugs Referendum
7. Voter Registration

Note: There are some motions listed above that are not included below. You may refer to my previous officer reports, as I, unfortunately, have not made any progress with these.

1. Active Engagement with National Climate Justice Protests

- Due to my final year commitments, I have not been able to attend any climate justice protests. I will be going to them where I can.

2. Accessible Documentation as MSU Regulations

I continue to ensure that my officer reports are in an accessible format for students by:

- Using the **font Calibri**
- Using **font size 14**
- Using **1.5 line spacing**
- Providing a **description** of any **images** included
- Using **bold** for important points

3. Irish Language Campaign Visibility

I continue to try my best to use my **cúpla focal** when I can.

I have used Irish for the following:

- In my **Email Closing and Signature**
- In the documentation such as my **Officer Reports**
- Within my officer report updates at senate

4. Neutrality in other Students Union Elections

I have continued to remain neutral in other Students Union Elections.

ACADEMIC REPRESENTATIVES

As Social Sciences Faculty Convenor, it is my duty to ensure that academic representatives are elected. Below you can find an update on my progress with this duty.

Academic Representatives Elected

I have elected 65% of the Academic Representatives in the Social Sciences Faculty.

Here is a breakdown of the Academic Representative figures in my Faculty:

Category	Seats		Seats Filled		Nominations	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Overall	303	100	200	66	260	100
SS	123	40.6	80	65	108	41.5

I will be emailing department heads to further push to fill the remaining academic representative seats.

Training:

- Please refer to my First Officer Report.

COMMITTEES

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

Committees that the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor is a member of:

1. MSU Executive
2. MSU Student Senate
3. MSU Social Sciences Faculty Assembly
4. MSU Academic Assembly
5. MSU Academic Representation Review Committee
6. MSU Student Engagement & Feedback Committee
7. MSU Student Charter Committee
8. MSU Constitutional & Representative Review Committee
9. MU Faculty of Social Sciences
10. MU Sciences Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee

MSU Executive

The Union Executive acts as a collective authority and are responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Union. The Executive has the power to take necessary decisions in between meetings of the Student Senate.

I have attended **all** meetings of the MSU Executive.

I have tried my best to attend all meetings in person but of course, it is not always feasible. I have opted to attend meetings of the MSU Executive virtually if I cannot attend physically.

MSU Student Senate

The governing body of the Union is the Student Senate. The three core functions of the Senate are to formulate Union policy, mandate members of the Executive, and hold the Executive accountable.

I have attended both sittings of the Student Senate held on November 9th & November 23rd. The next sitting of the Student Senate is due to take place on **Tuesday, December 12th.**

MSU Social Sciences Faculty Assembly

The Social Sciences Faculty Assembly provides a forum for discussions on all issues relevant to the education, welfare and student experience for students in the Social Sciences Faculty.

The last Social Sciences Faculty met on November 21st. The next meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly is due to meet on Friday, December 9th.

MSU Academic Assembly

The Student Academic Assembly provides a forum for all academic representatives to provide feedback and advice on academic-related issues to the VP Education and the Faculty Convenors.

Please refer to my first officer report.

MSU Academic Representation & Review Committee

The Academic Representation Review Committee advises the VP Education on the effectiveness and development needs of student academic representation.

The MSU Academic Representation and Review Committee met on November 22nd at 5pm. I, unfortunately, could not attend as I had been in a lecture at that time.

I attended the second meeting of the ARRC on December 2nd.

MSU Student Engagement & Feedback Committee

The Student Engagement & Feedback Committee reviews the mechanisms for students to provide feedback on the quality of their educational experience.

I attended two meetings of the MSU Student Engagement and Feedback Committee on both November 23rd and December 2nd.

MSU Student Charter Committee

The Student Charter Committee reviews and develops the Student Charter between MSU and Maynooth University.

I attended the first meeting of the Student Charter Committee which was held on Friday, December 2nd at 11am.

MSU Constitutional & Representative Review Committee

Established by the MSU Constitution and the Student Senate to examine the Constitution so as to be in a position to advise the Student Senate of the need for any changes it deems necessary, and to review and develop the representative structures of the Union.

The MSU Constitutional and Representative Review Committee has not met yet.

MU Faculty of Social Sciences

The Maynooth University Faculty of Social Sciences deals with all business relating to the departments of the Faculty. The Faculty makes decisions and recommendations on a range of internal and academic issues.

I have attended all meetings of the MU Faculty of Social Sciences to date. The third meeting of the Faculty of Social Science was held on Monday, November 28th at 3pm on MS Teams.

MU Social Sciences Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee

The Teaching & Learning sub-committee is a purely advisory body that gives recommendations to the Faculty. These recommendations are in relation to new academic courses, modules, and programs. The committee also discusses the standard of teaching and learning more generally in the Social Sciences Faculty.

The next meeting of the MU Teaching and Learning Sub-Committee has not yet been determined.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of the Social Sciences Faculty Convenor 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. **USI PTO Training**
2. **Open Closet**
3. **MSU Christmas Lights**
4. **Chomhairle Naisiúnta Review Meeting**

USI PTO Training

There was PTO Training held by the USI Regional Officers on Friday, November 25th. I could not attend due to clashes with my lecture.

The Open Closet

On November 23rd & 24th, I assisted the VP Welfare & Equality, LGBT+ Senator, the Active Citizenship Senator with the Open Closet, which was in collaboration with the MU Pride Society.



Figure 2 Photo of Jessica (Active Citizenship)

and I during the Open Closet

MSU Christmas Lights

On Monday 28th November, I attended the turning on of the Christmas Lights outside of the MSU Student Centre. I was there taking photos which can be seen on the @maynooth_su Instagram. The events consisted of live music and choir, mulled wine, mince pies and hot chocolate. It was great to see so many people around and the vibes were immaculate ✨



Figure 3 A photo of me during the turning on of the Christmas lights outside MSU. I am standing in front of the Christmas tree, smiling/laughing.

Chomhairle Naisiunta Review Meeting

On Tuesday, 6th December, there was a review of the documents from Chomhairle Naisiunta. Senators were invited to attend this review to help the Sabbatical officers hold the USI Coiste Gnó accountable, on a national level.

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 21 (21/11/2022)

21st November – 16:00 – MSU Social Sciences Faculty Assembly [Attended]

21st November - 17:00 – MSU Executive Meeting [Attended]

22nd November – 17:00 – MSU Academic Representation & Review Committee
[Apologies Sent]

23rd November – 16:00 – MSU Student Engagement and Feedback Committee
[Attended]

23rd November – 18:00 – MSU Student Senate [Attended]

25th November – 13:00 – USI PTO Training [Could Not Attend]

Week 22 (28/11/2022)

28th November – 15:00 – MU Faculty of Social Sciences Meeting [Attended]

28th November – 16:45 – MSU Christmas Lights

30th November – 16:00 – Meeting with Academic Rep

2nd December – 11:00 – MSU Student Charter Committee [\[Attended\]](#)

2nd December – 12:00 – MSU Student Academic Representation Review Committee

[\[Attended\]](#)

2nd December – 14:00 – MSU Student Engagement and Feedback Committee

[\[Attended\]](#)

Week 23 (05/12/2022)

6th December – 16:00 – Chomhairle Naisiunta Review

8th December – 13:00 – Meeting with Academic Reps

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:

I have claimed no expenses.