

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



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Vice President Student Life

PERIOD OF WORK: 1ST JULY 2022 – 30TH JULY 2023
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FOREWARD:

Absolute scenes with this Officer Report guys, the date is currently 16/11/2022, I had initially planned on submitting the report on Tuesday the 15th (Due date) but everyone in my house caught COVID (DAYS BEFORE MY TRIP TO AMERICA), so I had to run away to stay in my girlfriends house in Meath to shelter from the plague. In my hurry to do so, I forgot to upload the 80% completed officer report from my PC to my laptop, so here I am on the bus, rushing to do it all over again.



CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 10.10 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Vice President Student Life. I have outlined my constitutional responsibilities below and have commented on my progress in fulfilling them.

I have removed the constitutional responsibilities I outlined in my previous report as having been completed, they are listed below:

10.10.1

10.10.5

List of Constitutional Responsibility:

1. Communicate all relevant matters from the Union to the Clubs and Societies and from Clubs and Societies to the Union.

Communication in the last two weeks has been mostly revolved around final updates for the #WheresMyLevy campaign, and more recently, the elections of the Clubs & Societies Convener.

By the time the Senate has convened, the Senators should have been elected, so hello to them!

3. Aid and advise Clubs and Societies on the organisation of events and other activities.

No clubs and societies have reached out to me in regards to events they are running at the moment, so either there hasn't been anything planned, or no one wants to invite me. Either way, sad times.

Additionally, I am in contact with Music/Performance Societies to try set up a carol service for our MSU Christmas Lights/12 Days of Christmas event.

4. Promote Clubs and Societies participation and activities throughout the University

Now that the #WheresMyLevy campaign has started to wind down, our social media accounts will reopen for general activity use, I suspect there will be an uptick in posts relating to Clubs & Societies events in the upcoming weeks.

5. Sit on all committees relevant to Student Life and Engagement at both Union and University level.

I listed all previous committees and their breakdowns in the previous report, so to save time and (virtual) paper, I will not list them here again.

6. Liaise with the Executive on matters relating to the advertisement and promotion of Union activities and entertainments.

We had been using the MSU Clubs account for the last couple of months to advertise/promote these events, but as I outlined in 10.10.4, we will be business as usual on our MSU account in the coming weeks.

7. They shall assist the Faculty Convenors and Student Academic Representatives in the organisation of the entertainments for their constituencies.

If any Faculty Conveners want to plan an event and do something fun, let me know, otherwise I'll be at my desk drinking coffee.

8. Find suitable charitable candidates and through a vote of MSU Student Senate determine the Annual MSU Charity.

Good news everyone! Threshold have given us their press release for the joint statement (it needs a lot of work), as well as the promotional material. This will be worked on and released in the coming weeks. Yay!

9. Act as a spokesperson for the Union on matters regarding the development of student entrepreneurship and volunteering.

The bulk of the volunteering groups for the Levy campaign have winded down, I want to personally thank each and every person on the team who contributed. It was absolutely invaluable from start to finish.

To keep momentum on this, myself and the VP Welfare are hoping to create a Student Supporters Group to help with other events and fundraisers we will have throughout the year.

10. Be responsible for all Union fundraising towards charitable purposes and goals, and shall arrange one major event for this purpose in each semester.

The main charity fundraising event for this semester was supposed to be the Maynooth Games (which have been pushed back to Second Semester), but I have found a replacement!

12 Days of Christmas will be this semesters fundraising event, with a range of fun little microevents leading up to a big finish with a Taylor Swift (tribute) Christmas (Day).

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.

PLEASE NOTE

The Plan of Work has been updated! It should have been submitted and read by you guys at this point, that's cool. In fact, I have a plan of work meeting with you guys in like seven minutes (current time 15:53). See you all there!

List of Plan of Work Tasks I Have Worked on:

1. Maynooth Games
2. Orientation Week **(Completed)**
3. Good Morning Maynooth (Podcast)
4. SHAG Week (Support) **(Completed)**
5. Drug Safety and Awareness (Support)
6. Light Up Our Campus
7. 12 Days of Christmas
8. Jobs/Internship Fair

Maynooth Games

I know in the previous report I said "This will be the final update until I dig this out of the dirt" but I found a shovel.

The Maynooth Games are back and will be returning in week three of Semester two! Everything is basically ready to go (I will have to rejig the final grand prize though), so I'm really excited and I hope you all take part!

Good Morning Maynooth (Podcast)

Good god I am so behind on this its not even funny. If the Senate decide to crucify me, this is the timber from which they shall build it.

There has been a number of setbacks and delays with getting the episodes out, primarily technical and time-based issues. I'm pleased to say the first episode is still in review and ready to go, and hopefully (?) will be out by the time Senate comes around.

In regards to the second episode, we're all working from home this week, I'm in America the following week, it's not looking good folks. But hey! I'm gonna keep trying, I think I just need to refine my strategy like. Massively.

Drug Safety and Awareness (Support)

This campaign will hopefully be getting started now that the Levy campaign is winding down, I am still working on it in a support capacity, the aim is to have the campaign started in early December.

Light Up Our Campus

Now that the sun is setting sooner, and time is freeing up, it's the perfect time to start planning for this initiative and getting in touch with the Director for Student Facilities Michael Rafter to survey the campus and begin implementing solutions to problem areas in terms of lighting and security on our campus.

12 Days of Christmas

The 12 Days of Christmas event will be a series of festive "microevents" in the leadup to the Christmas break which will also feature charity fundraising and giveaways. The aim is to start this event the 28th of November.

Jobs/Internship Fair

Second semester initiative, not really sure how to go about setting this up, but it would be good for our 4th year Undergrads/Postgraduate Students to help inform them on the job market post college.

MANIFESTO INITIATIVES

While running for the Vice President Student Life, I outlined several manifesto pledges. Throughout my term I will make progress on each of these promises to the best of my ability.

- Engagement
 - **Work with the entertainments committee and executive to organize and promote events.**
I have continued to attend the weekly Events and Promotions Steering Team in the organization of events at the MSU.
 - **Clubs and Societies engagement**
My current focus on engaging with Clubs and Societies at the moment is electing our Club & Societies Senators for the next Senate, currently we have four responses for Societies Senator, and zero for Clubs.
 - **Elections promotion**
No updates on this until the March elections I suppose.
- Community
 - **Volunteer Initiatives**
The Volunteers shall be reorganized into the first Galactic Student Supporters Group!



- **Accommodation revamps (Short term)**
Very Tricky initiative given the countrywide (worldwide) accommodation crisis, I will continue to chase leads on presenting solutions to short term problems in the community. Possible avenues of communication with the Maynooth Community Council and CATU.
- **Maynooth Town/University Relations**
Relations continue to be great with the Town Community Council, we still attend the monthly meetings, though I believe we missed this months one, sadge.

- **Accessibility**
 - **Blended Learning (Education Remit, Support role)**

Following the trend from around the country in other Universities, it's looking unlikely that blended learning will not be returning. Sorry folks.
 - **Commuter Events**

We have started trialing earlier events in the SU Bar with live music and such, unfortunately I am not able to comment on the feedback or success of the event as I was away that day. I will continue to monitor the situation and propose new ways of bringing daytime entertainment to the SU for our Students, I am also open to any ideas.
 - **Daytime events, non-drinking.**

As per the previous senate, I am still pursuing the possibility of having new non-alcoholic options brought to the SU Bar, I will liaise with Mark to poll new options and see what we can do in this area.

- **Activism**
 - **Protest organization + information**

There will be a number of USI Protests and Gathering in the coming months I am keeping an eye on and will work with the President to bring this to the Student Body in an approachable and engaging way.
 - **Election information/turnout/boosting**

Just wait till March!
 - **Political education and engagement**

Something Something please read Das Capital by Karl Marx to educate yourself on the evolution of the socio-economical climate of our society and the affects of living in a post-capitalism world.

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 Motion & Mandate:

1. 4.003 [1-19]: Active Engagement with 'Fridays For Future' Protests
2. 4.019 [3-19]: Climate Emergency Motion
3. 5.012 [4-21]: 'How to Use Your Union' Infographics
4. 5.014 [4-21]: **Student Virtual Safe Space**
5. 5.019 [5-21]: Promotion of Supports or Students with Disabilities
6. 5.020 [5-21]: Creation & Promotion of Graphics detailing what Halal food is in an effort to combat Islamophobia and promote
7. 5.022 [5-21]: MU & MSU Sexual Harassment Policy Review
8. 5.036 [6-21]: Bullying & Anti-Harassment Policy
9. 5.037 [6-21] Prayer Room on Campus

4.003 [1-19]: Active Engagement with 'Fridays For Future' Protests

Still no word as to the return of these Protests in Maynooth, we were unable to raise this at this month's Community Council meeting as we were unable to attend.

4.019 [3-19]: Climate Emergency Motion

As per the previous Senate, my current avenue of exploration is following up with Colin regarding the reusable cup scheme, I haven't tracked him down since the last Senate due to there only having been about a week of actual in-office time since then.

5.012 [4-21]: 'How to Use Your Union' Infographics

This motion will be incorporated into the MSU Presidents' "Know your Union" campaign in late November.

5.019 [5-21]: Promotion of Supports or Students with Disabilities

An incredibly important motion, but sadly one on which no progress of note has been made on my side, (perhaps other Officers could update on this). I hope to reach out to interest groups such as Access and MAP to learn how to implement this properly.

5.020 [5-21]: Creation & Promotion of Graphics detailing what Halal food is in an effort to combat Islamophobia and promote

This motion was in discussion during the July-August plan of work meetings, sadly no progress of note has been made. I hope to reach out to interest groups to gather data on how to implement this appropriately.

5.022 [5-21]: MU & MSU Sexual Harassment Policy Review

I was unable to raise this at the EDI meeting due to running out of time on the agenda, I believe there is talks of a overall policy review in the upcoming months so this could be an important time to look over this.

5.036 [6-21]: Bullying & Anti-Harassment Policy

Same as the previous motion, this will be contained in the upcoming overall policy review (hopefully)

5.037 [6-21] Prayer Room on Campus

Great Progress on this, following the results of the Student Experience survey, and other top level University Committees, this seems to be a priority of the University Executive. Expect updates on this soon.

Life update: I am off my bus to Meath and now lying in bed working on my office 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.

Committee that the Vice President Student Life is a member of:

1. Governing Authority
2. Societies Management Committee
3. Clubs Management Committee
4. Executive Committee
5. MU Clubs & Societies Committee
6. MU Campus Life Committee
7. MU EDI Committee
8. USI National Council

Governing Authority

Maynooth Universities Highest Governing Committee

Governing Authority convened for the first time since the cancellation of the Student Centre on November 10th, it was kind of an insane meeting for the duration of discussion surrounding the protests, the levy, solutions, and all that stuff.

In the end though we came out of it really well I think. The President has outlined in greater detail the outcome of the meeting, and honestly you should read that because the majority of my involvement in the meeting was taking about 10 pages of notes, (87 points in total).

Societies Management Committee

Committee to manage and discuss affairs surrounding Societies in Maynooth.

I am unable to attend the next meeting of the Societies Management Committee as they have delayed the meeting to next week, when I am on leave.

Clubs Management Committee

Committee to manage and discuss affairs surrounding Clubs in Maynooth.

Same as the Societies Management Committee, they are holding the next week on the week of the 23rd, I will be on leave, RIP Clubs.

Executive Committee

Committee consisting of the Full Time Officers and Part Time Officers to discuss campaigns and Union matters.

Executive Continues to meet on a biweekly basis, my best friends in the whole world, my good time pals, they love to distract me and make a mess in the office, I have purchased noise cancelling headphone so I can enjoy their company more.

I will be unable to attend the next Executive Committee meeting as I will be away on leave (get ready to hear this one a lot)

MU Clubs & Societies Committee

This committee is the overarching structure above the SMC and the CMC, it holds all executive members of both committees as well as Michael Rafter, the director for Facilities at MU.

There has been no meeting of this committee since the last Senate, there is one planned for next week, but, you guessed it, I'm in AAAAAAMMMMEEEERRRIICCAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA.

MU Campus Life Committee

The campus life committee is to make recommendations to Academic Council on matters of strategy and policy in relation to all aspects of life on the university campus, for staff, students, and the community.

Please refer to my last four updates regarding committees for a guess at what I might say in this section, (Why do all the committees convene at the same time in November, crazy?)

MU EDI Committee

The Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, and Interculturalism (EDI) committee is established as a joint standing committee of the GA and Academic Council.

[This is the same section as the last report, because I genuinely, -genuinely- feel the same way about this committee]

This committee is a bit of headscratcher, it consists of, from what I understand, one member of the University, who works very hard at what he does. Unfortunately the entire committee seems to be a flurry of workshops, meetings, talks, and more that absolutely clog up my inbox and calendar.

It can be hard to differentiate the important matters of the committee such as executive meetings or decision making processes due to the sheer volume of interactions from it's organisers.

I try to filter out but end up feeling frustrated and unwilling to engage, I have had a few meetings (3-4) this year and can't really articulate what initiatives or campaigns they have organised.

I will continue to try organise the aims and purposes of this committee, but I would refer to the VP Welfare for questions on this committee as they seem to have a better grasp of it than I do.

USI National Council

The Union of Students Ireland is the overall body of SU's around the country that pass down national mandates to FTO's.

I have not attended any USI Council meetings, the team have attended them in their capacities for the time being. As the only Student Life Executive Officer in the counter, I find this kind of funny. I'm just standing there like "hello" and I hear only the infinite void of silence and slight confusion answer me.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

The work of Vice President Student Life 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. Semester Two Event Planning
2. Election of Clubs & Societies Senators
3. Charity Partner of the Year Finalisation
4. Hanging out with Accommodation Senator Luka Pranciliaskas

1. Semester 2 Event Planning

Now that the Plan of Work has been restructured, I've started filling out my calendar for the next Semester, slotting in events that had to be pushed back and making sure that everything is ready to run on time.

The first will start with the Know Your Union Campaign (MSU Presidents campaign), followed by Maynooth Games, and some fun stuff for Valentines and beyond. I'm looking forward to a semester not filled with political action, even though, lets face it, that was pretty fun too.

2. Election of Clubs & Societies Senators

The election cycle for this is chugging along nicely, we will have elected our new senators by the time this council convenes, though I fear we may be lacking in the clubs department for the time being.

Alongside this, I'm hoping to hold an end of year Clubs & Societies Forum to test the waters for feasibility of continuation of this system. The forum will be a place for semester feedback and how C&S see the current system along with any issues they may want brought forward to the University.

3. Charity Partner of the Year Finalisation

As outlined earlier in the document, myself and the rest of the executive had a catchup meeting with Threshold followed by communication of their press release, once this is edited and ready to go, we can post it to the MSU socials and get the ball rolling with fundraising.

4. Hanging out with Accommodation Senator Luka Pranciliaskas

The MSU Executive had the great pleasure of attending the graduation of the Vice President for Education on South Campus, it was a lovely affair with a choir and a beautiful chapel, followed by some food in Pugin Hall.

Myself and the Science & Engineering Faculty Convener Gavin Fanning were delighted to hang out with Luka after this event and took a photo to mark the occasion.



Lukewarm regards,

Lucas

EXPENSES CLAIMED

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

No expenses have been claimed as of 16/11/2022.