

Officer Report
of the **Doctoral Postgraduate Representative**
of Maynooth Students' Union (MSU)
to Student Senate



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Doctoral Postgraduate Representative

Period of Work: 2 November – 15 November 2022

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Executive Summary

Dear colleagues,

It has been a true pleasure to meet you last Wednesday and a real honour to discuss my policies and ideas for PhD students briefly.

Over the past two weeks, as the newly-elected Doctoral Postgraduate Representative, I had the very first meetings with the other MSU Executive officers and my first sitting of the Student Senate.

At the time of writing, on Monday 14 November, I was supposed to meet and discuss with the MSU President and the Vice-President for Student Life but, sadly, both these meetings could not take place due to, respectively, force majeure and “extenuating circumstances”. I am positive that, in the coming week, I will have the chance to interact with both of them on this matter.

Kind regards,

Giovanni

Constitutional Responsibilities

Article 10.12 of the MSU Constitution sets out the constitutional responsibilities of the MSU Doctoral Postgraduate Representative. I have outlined which of my constitutional responsibilities I have been working on below.

List of Constitutional Responsibility:

Dealing with issues relating to the education, welfare and student experience of doctoral postgraduate members of the Union

Nothing to highlight, so far.

Attend meetings of committees of which I am a member and to coordinate and maximise student representation on other appropriate academic structures

As the newly-elected Doctoral Postgraduate Representative in the SU, I have attended various meetings in my office and advocated for the positions of doctoral students where appropriate.

Assist Vice President of Welfare & Equality & Vice President of Education with their duties relating to doctoral postgraduate students

Nothing to highlight at the moment. Further discussions with both of the VPs will follow.

Informing and encouraging the career development of all members of the Union

I will be working on this matter with the relevant full-time officers of the MSU.

Run at least one event for doctoral postgraduate students each semester

I will be working on this matter with MSU VP for Student Life for launching the biweekly coffee and tea mornings. However, our meeting on Monday 14 November at 12:00 was

postponed by Lucas due to “extenuating circumstances”. In the coming week, we will have a chance to discuss the events for PhD students.

Manifesto Initiatives

While running for the position of Doctoral Postgraduate Representative, I outlined several manifesto pledges. Below are all my initiatives and a brief explanation of the ones I have worked on since my last report.

List of Manifesto Initiatives:

1. Networking events with other PhD students at Maynooth, coffee and tea mornings and evenings, biweekly

Networking events

I had planned meetings with the MSU Vice-President for Student Life, at 12:30, and with the MSU President, at 13:00, on Monday 14 November. Unfortunately, neither the first nor the second meetings took actually place and we did not have a chance to discuss the ideas I had in mind for my Executive position and could discuss with them my policies. I am confident that next week we will find a way to meet up for discussing the relevant points.

Motion & Mandates

I have not received any mandates, so far, and I look forward to contributing to any MSU Executive mandates, if related to PhD students.

Committees

Committee that the Doctoral Postgraduate Representative is a member of:

1. Academic Council (*ex officio*)
2. Postgraduate Feedback Council (*ex officio*)
3. MSU Executive

4. MSU Senate
5. Doctoral representative, Department of History
6. PhD representative in the Faculty of Arts, Celtic Studies, and Philosophy's Athena Swan Implementation Group

MSU Executive

Anything regarding doctoral students of the Union has been brought up during the Executive meeting and the Student Senate I have attended in the past two weeks.

Meeting Schedule

You can find below the schedule of meetings that I have attended and, also, those two which did not take place.

Meeting Schedule:

7 November, 17:00, MSU Executive

9 November, 18:00, MSU Senate Seventh Session

14 November, 12:30, Meeting with VP for Student Life, postponed to the week after by the VP due to "extenuating circumstances"

14 November, 13:00, Meeting with MSU President, postponed due to force majeure

Expenses Claimed

Since taking office last October, I have not claimed any expenses.