

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



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Tionólaí Dhámh na n-Eolaíochtaí Sóisialta

PERIOD OF WORK: 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 – 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022  
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Haigh a chairde!

We made it to the second senate in one piece... well, kind of...

Love that we only had a week to get this done - so expect a somewhat short update from myself. I would like to emphasise the importance of taking care of yourselves during assignment season because nothing is worse than being stressed and burning out <3

Not fun being a final year with a million and one group projects and individual assignment being due all at once lmao.

My DMs and my email are always open if you ever need a chat, a rant or some coffee.

Le grá agus bród,

Carrie xoxo



*Figure 1 - Photo of myself and the S&E Faculty Convenor, Gavin, at the First Sitting MSU Student Senate*

## 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 communications between the students and student academic representative 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 for a including the Student Senate and Executive Meetings.**

My email is always open to both reps and students if there are any issues.

I continue to assist reps with any issues that arise in their lectures/modules.

I have assisted with multiple Academic Issues, including but not limited to:

- Lack of clarity with content / assignments
- Overload with assignments and continuous assessments

I have met with academic reps to further discuss academic issues and have suggested various ways to solve the issues that have occurred.

I have emailed lecturers on behalf of academic reps to provide feedback.

**2. They shall be responsible for the recruitment of Student Academic Representatives within their own faculty.**

Following the Academic Rep Recruitment campaign held in October (which was described in depth in my first officer report), the Social Sciences Faculty has 65% of Academic Reps elected. Due to the increase in the seats in all 3 faculties, this is definitely an increase in our academic representation.

**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 will be meeting on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November.

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

I will be chairing the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> November.

**5. A Deputy Chairperson and Secretary shall be elected from the Faculty Assembly at the first meeting for the year.**

The Deputy Chairperson is Aoife Hynes and the Secretary is Sarah Lindsay Swan.

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

I have participated in Executive Crossover and Officer Training in June.

## **MANIFESTO INITIATIVES**

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

#### **2. Equality (Accessibility & Diversity)**

- a) Ensure that 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/advisory panel to promote diversity in leadership roles.

#### **3. Empower**

- a) Encourage the Academic Representatives in the Social Sciences Faculty to go for other roles / positions if they are thinking of 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 Students Senate to take part in the 'Senate Updates' section of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly meetings.

#### **4. Activism**

- 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 have discussed the feasibility of this with the Academic Representation Administrator.
- I am planning to have an informal session with my Academic Reps for the between the second and third meetings of the Social Sciences Faculty.

## **Equality (Accessibility & Diversity)**

**Ensure that all documentation is accessible for students and Academic Reps.**

- I continue to ensure that my Officer report and other documentation that I circulate is following the guidelines of the 'Accessible Documentation' Mandate.

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

- I will be ensuring that there will be a blended option for academic reps for

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

- I have met frequently with the VP Welfare & Equality and the LGBT+ Senator to write up a plan for the panel.
- We are hoping to have the Ethnic Minority Advisory Panel set up in the coming weeks.

## **Empower**

**Encourage the Academic Representatives in the Social Sciences Faculty to go for other roles / positions if they are thinking of running for them.**

- There will an election for two vacant seats on the Student Charter Committee.
- This election will be held at my next faculty assembly.
- I will continue to encourage reps to run for positions as they begin to appear.



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

- I have ensured that all Academic Reps that also sit on the Student Senate have been made known to their peers.
- Please refer to my first officer report.

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

- The next meeting of the Social Sciences Faculty Assembly is due to take place after the First and the Second Sittings of the Student Senate.
- I will be encouraging the Reps that are Senators to give their own updates from Senate.

### **Activism**

**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 will be promoting various activist campaigns such as the Trans and Intersex Pride on November 19<sup>th</sup> for Trans Day of Remembrance.
- I will be sending details of this into the SS Faculty group chat.

## **MOTIONS & 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. 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

### **1. Active Engagement in National Climate Justice Protests**

There was a protest regarding COP27 in Dublin on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, I could not attend due to illness. However, I do plan to attend any protests in the future if they arise.

### **2. Accessible Documentation**

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 the use of Irish for the following:

- In my **Email Closing and Signature**
- In the documentation such as my **Officer Reports**

### **4. MSU Position on Publicly Funded Education**

No work has been done on this yet.

### **5. Neutrality in other Students Union Elections**

I have remained neutral in other Students Union Elections.

### **6. Action on Decriminalisation of Drugs Referendum**

No work has been done on this yet.

### **7. Voter Registration**

No work has been done on this yet.

## 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 the **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

### Training:

Academic Representative **training** took place on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> October** and **Saturday, 22d October**.

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.

*Committee 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 and Feedback Committee
7. MSU Student Charter Committee
8. MSU Constitutional & Representation Review Committee
9. MU Faculty of Social Sciences
10. MU Social Sciences Teaching & Learning 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 attended the first sitting of the Seventh Session of the Student Senate held on **November 9<sup>th</sup>**. The next sitting is due to take place on **November 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

## **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 Social Sciences Faculty Assembly is due to meet on November 21<sup>st</sup> from 4pm – 5pm

## **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.*

- The first meeting of the MSU Academic Assembly met on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The next meeting of the MSU Academic Assembly has yet to be determined.

## **MSU Academic Representation Review Committee**

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

- No meetings of the MSU Academic Representation Review Committee have taken place.

### **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.*

- No meetings of the MSU Student Engagement & Feedback Committee have taken place yet.

### **MSU Student Charter Committee**

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

- No meetings of the MSU Student Charter Committee have taken place yet.

### **MSU Constitutional & Representation Review Committee**

*Established by the MSU Constitution and the Student Senate to examine the Constitution 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.*

- No meetings of the MSU Constitutional & Representation Review Committee have taken place 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 next meeting is due to take place on Monday, 28th November at 3pm.

## **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.*

- I attended the MU Social Sciences Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee on 15th November at 10am on MS Teams.
- The date of the next meeting has yet to be determined.



## **GENERAL ACTIVITIES**

The work of 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. The Open Closet Planning
2. Ethnic Diversity Panel

### **The Open Closet Planning**

I have met with the Active Citizenship Senator (Jessica Lennon), LGBT+ Senator (Ben Holmes) & Independent Senator (Steph Collins) regarding the planning of the Open Closet.

I have worked on the Open Closet since it started last year when I was Charityy Senator and wanted to keep up the work with running it.

The Open Closet is running from the 23rd & 24th of November in the MSU Foyer.

### **Ethnic Diversity Panel**

I have met with the VP Welfare & Equality and the LGBT+ Senator with the creation and planning of the Ethnic Diversity Panel.

There has been discussions of the membership of the panel, creation of a Microsoft Forms for the membership and the roll out dates for the Forms.

## 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 (07/11/2022)**

7<sup>th</sup> November – 17:00 – MSU Executive Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> November – 18:00 – MSU Student Senate

10<sup>th</sup> November – 13:00 – Meeting with Academic Rep

10<sup>th</sup> November – 16:00 – Meeting with LGBT+ Senator (Ben Holmes)

- **Week 20 (14/11/2022)**

14<sup>th</sup> November – 11:00 – Meeting with VP Education, ACSP Faculty Convenor & S&E Faculty Convenor

15<sup>th</sup> November – 10:00 – MU Faculty of Social Sciences Teaching & Learning Sub-Committee

## **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 to date.