

Constitution of the Maynooth Pride Society

IN FORCE AT THE START OF THE PRIDE SOCIETY EGM
HELD ON March 5th



Authenticated By

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Maynooth Pride Society

Date: 28/02/2021

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Constitution of Maynooth University Pride Society

Article I. Title

1.1 The name of the Society shall be known as Maynooth University's 'Pride Society' or 'Cumann Bróid?', hereinafter referred to as 'the Society'.

1.2 The name of the Society stands as an inclusive name to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and respected Allies and advocates.

Article II. Statement of Intent

2.1 All members of the Society shall be bound by this Constitution.

2.2 As the Society is a constituent society of Maynooth Clubs & Societies which represents the students of Maynooth University, St. Patricks College, Maynooth and their associated campuses across Ireland, these colleges shall hereinafter be referred to as 'the College'.

2.3 The constitution management and conduct of the Society shall abide by the relevant rules and regulation of the College.

2.4 The terms 'they, them and their' are used within this constitution out of respect and acknowledgement of various gender identities so that no intention of defamatory, derogatory, or discriminatory manner is implied.

Article III. Aims and Objectives.

3.1 The society shall hold the following as its aims and objectives:

3.1.1 To build a culture of acceptance for those who, associate with LGBTQ+, as well as fortifying a sense of Equality for all students within the College.

3.1.2 To provide a forum through which students at this college may, gather to learn about LGBTQ+ related issues or causes.

3.1.3 To provide a sociable atmosphere in which society members can, meet and interact.

3.1.4 To provide an environment for students to discuss matters of importance to them without fear of judgement, condemnation, or disparagement.

3.1.5 To organise and facilitate events so that society members may meet, the members of other LGBTQ+ societies in other universities.

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3.1.6 To deliver LGBTQ+ related material in order to further educate the students at the College of LGBTQ+ matters.

3.1.7 To campaign & advocate for inclusive facilities for all members of the LGBTQ+ community on campus.

Article IV. Membership

4.1 Membership of the Society shall include all students, staff, members and graduates of the College.

4.2 Membership of the Society shall be obtained by paying the appropriate subscription fee at the Society's stand during the Clubs & Societies Fair Day, or upon paying the appropriate subscription fee to MULIFE at any time thereafter.

4.3 The annual subscription for each year shall be fixed by the Governing Committee.

4.4 Exceptions shall be made for students who cannot afford the subscription fee, following a meeting with an Executive Committee member.

4.5 In this Constitution the term “student” shall be deemed to include all, persons studying on a full-time, part-time, or repeat basis within the College.

4.6 The Society recognises the importance that graduates and former students of Maynooth can play in the development of the Society. It shall therefore endeavour to maintain contact with such former members as a wish to retain their connection with the Society.

4.7 The Committee shall empower to create a class of “Associate Member” of the Society.

4.7.1 Graduate Membership shall be open to former members of the Society who are no longer students of Maynooth. It shall not be a requirement for associate membership that such members should hold a degree, or another academic award given by Maynooth.

4.7.2 Associate Members shall pay an annual membership fee to the Society. The amount of this fee shall be determined by the Governing Executive Committee but may be altered by a majority vote at a general meeting of the Society. The associate membership fee shall not be less than the ordinary membership fee and no more than 10 times the ordinary membership fee.

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4.7.3 Associate Members shall be ineligible to run for election to the Society's Governing Executive Committee.

4.7.4 Associate Members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all general meetings of the Society.

4.7.5 Other rights of Associate Members shall be determined by the Governing Committee but may also be granted or revoked by a majority vote at a general meeting of the Society.

4.7.6 The rights of an Associate Member shall not exceed those of an ordinary member of the Society.

4.8 Whenever any member wishes to leave the Society, they shall make known their desire to the Secretary, Vice President or President in writing, or to the Society via means of a general announcement, stating their reasons. Upon the receipt of this communication to the Society their name shall be removed from the Roll of Members and permitted to leave.

4.9 If a Society member is causing an issue or distress within the Society, the President & Secretary shall arrange a meeting with that member to discuss their membership. The committee must decide upon the relevant consequences prior to this meeting depending on the members reasoning.

4.10 If a Society member is causing an issue or distress within the Society AND has received a suspension notice prior, a Committee meeting shall be held to determine whether the member in question should be expelled from the society. If expulsion is voted for by unanimity, the President must inform the member in question of their expulsion.

Article V. Governing Committee

5.1 The Committee shall run the Society on behalf of its members and in accordance with the aims and objectives, set out in Article III of this Constitution.

5.2 Although decisions should be arrived at by the unanimous approval of the Committee (where possible), Committee decisions shall be decided by majority voting.

5.3 A quorum shall be 2/3s of the Committee members.

5.4 The Committee shall consist of:

i. President

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- ii.** Vice-President
- iii.** Secretary
- iv.** Treasurer
- v.** Campaigns & Events Officer
- vi.** Supporters & Equality Officer
- vii.** Public Relations Officer (PRO)
- viii.** Trans & Non-Binary Officer
- ix.** First Year Representative
- x.** Diversity Representative
- xi.** Honorary President (Optional)

5.5 The positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer must be filled at the end of each academic year's AGM. In the event that they are not filled, the outgoing committee member(s) shall fill the role until the next AGM, where possible.

5.6 Campaigns and Events Officer, Supporters & Equality Officer, two PRO, two Diversity Reps, and Trans & Non-Binary Officer should be filled at the end of each academic year's AGM. If any one of those positions is not filled, it shall be filled at the start of year AGM.

5.7 The position of First Year Representative, two Diversity Rep and any vacant positions shall be filled at the start of the academic year AGM.

5.8 The position of Honorary President is an optional Committee position. The position can be optionally decided upon on at the first Committee meeting at the beginning of the academic year.

5.9 Committee members shall attend all relevant training offered by the Clubs & Societies Office in relation to their role. Should the committee member be unable to attend, the President shall delegate someone to attend in their absence.

5.10 The Term of Office of these elected officers shall be one academic year. A person shall not hold the same office for more than 2 successive years.

5.11 The Executive Governing Committee reserve the ability to change roles within the committee provided it is a majority rule decision and the new role is an agreed swap amongst BOTH respective parties OR the respective party and a currently vacant position.

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5.12 The President of the Society must cast the deciding vote in the event of a tied vote.

Article VI. Election of the Governing Committee

6.1 The Governing Committee members shall be democratically elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) or at an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting (EGM).

6.2 To seek election to the Governing Committee, each candidate must have two nominations by current members of the Society.

6.3 All elections shall be held by secret ballot with each member having a single non-transferable vote.

6.4 Only fully registered student members and full members of the Society shall be entitled to vote and be eligible for election to the committee.

6.5 The President may not cast a vote in the election of any of the positions that are being filled.

6.6 Candidates can run for more than one committee position, however, can only hold one of the positions they ran for.

Article VII. Duties of The Governing Executive Committee

7.1 President:

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7.1.1 The President shall be elected at the AGM of the Society. Their duties shall be to coordinate the working of the Executive and to look after the general functioning of the Society.

7.1.2 The President shall be President and chief officer of the Committee and all subcommittees of the Society.

7.1.3 The President shall chair at meetings of the Committee and officiate at all meetings of the Society. If the President cannot attend, the Vice-President shall chair the meeting.

7.1.4 The President shall have power to suspend a member of the Society from any or all their rights and privileges for such time as they deem fit, depending on how severe the circumstances are that call for such an action to be taken.

7.1.5 The President shall be in charge of the delegation of tasks in the executive governing committee.

7.1.6 The President shall ensure the smooth running of the Society for the duration of the academic year to the best of their ability.

7.1.7 The President shall act as Admin for MU-Life by accepting membership requests and assigning privileges to the executive committee.

7.2 VP:

7.2.1 The function of the Vice-President is to assist the President in all their roles and to deputise for them in any absence. If the Vice-President cannot deputise for them within their absence, the Vice-President must appoint the secretary to fulfil this position.

7.2.2 The Vice-President shall assist the Secretary when it is deemed necessary. Or when their assistance is requested.

7.3 Secretary:

7.3.1 The Secretary shall be in charge of all administration of the society.

7.3.2 These responsibilities include the collection of post and the email account of the Committee.

7.3.3 The Secretary shall take on the responsibility of maintaining of an accurate list of members on MU Life.

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7.3.4 The Secretary shall be in charge of the organising of meetings of the Committee.

7.3.5 The Secretary will aid the President in the updating of the Constitution along with the Vice-President.

7.3.6 The Secretary Take minutes at any and all meetings that deem to be necessary.

7.3.7 The Secretary shall communicate regularly and be open for members to contact them with any query.

7.3.8 The secretary shall keep equipment lists for the Society.

7.4 Treasurer:

7.4.1 Submits all income & expenditure & uploads Receipts & Lodgement slips on MULIFE.

7.4.2 Maintain accounts of all income and expenditure.

7.4.3 Collect money in relation to the society i.e., membership fees, ticket income, event fees etc. The Treasurer has the task of making lodgements into the account.

7.4.3 Liaise with Clubs & Societies Office, for training, support, and audits.

7.5 (x2) Public Relations Officer (PRO):

7.5.1 The PRO is tasked with the a of all events.

7.5.2 The PRO is tasked with supporting the Campaign & Events Co-ordinator with the updating of Events, News and Activities on MU Life.

7.5.3 The PRO is tasked with the submitting of any upcoming event details to SU Communications for promotion on Facebook and SU website.

7.5.4 The PRO is tasked with set up and maintaining websites and social media e.g., Twitter, Facebook, YouTube.

7.5.5 The PRO is tasked with gather consent before taking pictures at events from relevant persons.

7.5.6 The PRO shall be tasked with the creative elements of the society and for any other needs deemed necessary by the Committee.

7.6 Support and Equality Officer:

7.6.1 The Support and Equality Officer shall be tasked with the ensuring that all society members feel welcome and comfortable within the Society and at Society events.

7.6.2 The Support and Equality Officer shall be tasked with the Running of the First Day contact (The First Day Contact requires the officer to be able to meet members of the society, to come to events with them or find them suitable, persons to go with them if they wish to not go alone).

7.6.3 The Support and Equality Officer shall liaise with the committee in regard to the Society members concerns when necessary.

7.6.4 The Support & Equality Officer shall play a key role in the organisation and the facilitating of events during the Society's 'Ally Week'.

7.7 Campaign & Events Co-ordinator:

7.7.1 The Campaign & Events Officer shall be tasked with the booking of venues for events.

7.7.2 The Committee shall support the Campaign & Events Co-ordinator in the ensuring of the smooth running of all the society events.

7.7.3 The Campaign & Events Officer shall liaise with the relevant staff on all bookings of events relating to events held in the SU, and with SU Campaign weeks.

7.7.4 The Campaign & Events Officer shall work with the PRO's to help promote any and all events.

7.8 Trans & Non-Binary Officer:

7.8.1 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must assist with all Trans and Gender Identity events i.e., Purple Training.

7.8.2 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must host safe spaces for all Trans and identity questioning members.

7.8.3 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must promote Trans awareness around campus.

7.8.4 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must be approachable and available if a society member wishes to discuss gender identity confusion and/or the possibility of them being Trans.

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7.8.5 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must provide information on the services and supports available to Trans people in Ireland.

7.8.6 The Trans & Non-Binary Officer must organise a Trans Week to raise awareness for Trans people, during the week of November 20th (Trans Remembrance Day).

7.9 First Year Rep:

7.9.1 The job of the first-year rep is to bring awareness about the Pride Society to first year classes and help involve more first years in the society.

7.9.2 Work with and support the Support & Equality officer on raising awareness on the issues faced by First year students.

7.10 (x2) Diversity Rep:

7.10.1 The Diversity Reps are there to represent all members of the college community. They will attend committee meetings, participate in committee decisions, and assist with the day to day running of the society and associated events.

7.10.2 The Diversity Reps will help the Support & Equality Officer focus on the inclusion of all students within the College Community, with an emphasis on Ethnic Minorities, Mature Students, Postgrad Students, Exchange Students etc.

7.11 Honorary President:

7.11.1 The Honorary President is a figure that is voted on by the Committee after the nomination made by the President or any other member of the Committee. The vote on the Honorary President shall be done by secret ballot, show of hands or online vote depending on the circumstances of the vote.

7.11.2 The Honorary president may be Alumni of the Society and Alumni from the College. The Honorary President shall only be called into play when the President is seeking advice over an issue that they require guidance from outside the Committee.

Article VIII. Dismissal and Resignation of Committee Members

8.1 Henceforth the President shall be considered included in all matters referencing the Committee.

8.2 No member of the Committee shall be dismissed from office unless one/or more of the following situations arise:

8.2.1 Written notice of a resolution to seek such a dismissal, signed by 10% of the members of the Society is received 4 working days prior to a general meeting at which such a resolution shall be debated.

8.2.2 The committee member has missed three consecutive meetings of the Committee without having sent their apologies for missing the meeting to a Committee member at least one hour in advance of the meeting.

8.2.3 2/3s of the Committee may also call a Committee meeting to debate the dismissal of another committee member. This is referred to as a vote of 'No Confidence'.

8.3 In the case of a resolution to dismiss a Committee member, voting shall be held by secret ballot, with each member having a single non-transferable vote and shall be passed by a simple majority. The carrying out of the vote must be applied in a manner that is consensually deemed appropriate by the members of the Committee.

8.4 A Committee member wishing to resign must submit a letter in writing declaring their intention to resign to the Secretary or President, who will immediately inform the Committee as a whole. The responsibilities of that person shall be delegated to other Committee member(s) until an EGM can be held to elect a new person to that position.

8.5 The President of the Society reserves the power to 'suspend' a member of the Committee if that person is found to be in violation of any rules and regulations set by the College and/or found to be not fulfilling their agreed responsibilities. The suspension will be discussed by the Committee, at the earliest possible meeting, to address the matter of removing or sustaining the suspension or the potential dismissal of that committee member.

Article IX. Meetings

9.1 Elections for the offices of the Committee shall take place at the AGM or EGM.

9.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

9.2.1 There shall be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) held every year.

9.2.2 The AGM shall be held no later than in the final month of the academic year, where the incoming Committee members will be elected (where possible).

9.2.3 A quorum of the meeting shall be 3 Committee members and 10% of the Roll of Members.

9.2.4 The business of the AGM shall include elections for the relevant offices of the incoming Committee as well as annual reports from the outgoing Committee members.

9.3 Extra-ordinary General Meeting (EGM)

9.3.1 An EGM shall be convened if:

9.3.1.1 10% of the Roll of Members of the Society requests such a meeting in writing.

9.3.1.2 A quorum of the Committee requests such a meeting in writing.

9.3.1.3 A vacancy on the current Committee occurs and there is a need to elect a replacement.

9.4 Notice of all meetings shall be given to the members at least 3 days prior to the date of the meeting.

9.5 At a meeting, a member may propose a resolution relating to the business of the Society. Unless a secret ballot is demanded by any 5 members, the resolution shall be voted on by a show of hands and a declaration from the President of the vote's results shall be conclusive evidence that the resolution passed or failed.

9.6 In the event that the President's resolution (9.5) is challenged, a recount of the votes will be administered in which a number of appropriate people will be appointed by the committee as "Tellers" to count the votes. The result will be

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announced by the President or the Secretary (where requested by the general meeting).

9.7 Meetings of the Committee:

9.7.1 For meetings of the Committee the quorum shall be 2/3s of the Committee members. The President shall not, however, declare the meeting void, unless a member draws their attention to the fact that no quorum is present.

9.7.2 Committee meetings shall take place weekly over the academic year, the only exception is in the lead up to study breaks and exam periods.

9.7.3 All Meetings shall be convened by the President. However, any member of the Committee may convene a meeting through the President.

9.7.4 Each officer on the Committee has the right to vote concerning any business of the Society.

9.7.5 In the absence of the President from meetings of the Committee, the Vice-President of the Society shall assume the duties of the President unless the President in writing or in the format of an online message using a private page (for example a Committee only Facebook group) appoints a Deputy.

9.7.6 A ruling of the President shall be a binding precedent in all subsequent Committee.

9.7.7 The rulings of external Presidents shall have no force of precedence in the Society.

9.7.8 The decision of the President shall be final on all questions of order raised at the meeting; but a member shall be entitled to have registered upon the minutes of the society an objection to such decision, provided they state the grounds of their objection, and refers to the passage in the Constitution or to precedents in the records of the Society which they regard is as inconsistent with such decision. Decisions objected to, in this manner, shall not be regarded as precedents.

9.7.9 The Vice-President and/or the Secretary shall keep a record of all such rulings made during the session when they hold office.

Article X. General

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10.1 If the Committee feel that a committee member is unable or unwilling to contribute fairly to the running of society events or fulfilling their specific responsibilities, a Committee meeting will be organised with the committee member to discuss this further.

10.2 Any committee member who is absent for three consecutive committee meetings without apologies shall be deemed to have resigned and the decision of dismissal shall be decided by the rest of the committee, via anonymous, unanimous vote.

10.3 Any committee member who is absent from any four meetings per semester (with or without apologies) must meet with the Committee to discuss their continued position or shall be deemed to have resigned.

Article XI. Amendments to this Constitution

11.1 The Constitution shall be brought to the attention of the society members at both AGM's during the academic year.

11.2 A proposal to amend this Constitution must receive the approval of 2/3s of the members present and entitled to vote at the relevant meeting.