

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION**

**MINUTES**

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council  
held on 12 December 2013 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union

**Present:**

Aaron Blair (School Representative – Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)  
 Alana Finn (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, AHSS)  
 Andrew Carruthers (AHSS, in the Chair)  
 Barbra Mutamba (Postgraduate, PG)  
 Bethany Ferris (School Representative – Institute of Theology)  
 Brendan Corr (Open First Year)  
 Brendan Reid (School Representative – Mathematics and Physics)  
 Caoimhe McNeill (Executive Management Committee, EMC)  
 Charlotte Troy (School Representative – History and Anthropology)  
 Christopher Smyth (Engineering and Physical Sciences, EPS)  
 Ciaran Gallagher (Open)  
 Connor Daly (EMC)  
 Connor Malone (PG)  
 Connor Hogan (School Representative – Modern Languages)  
 Conrad Johnston (School Representative – Chemistry and Chemical Engineering)  
 Daniel Lowe (Open)  
 David Knox (AHSS)  
 Declan Frith (AHSS)  
 Eoin Deeney (EMC)  
 Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (Open)  
 Jack Boyle (School Representative – Creative Arts)  
 Jack Donnelly (Open First Year)  
 James Barnes (PG / School Representative – Politics, International Studies and Philosophy)  
 James Rodgers (EPS)  
 Jan Sen Yu (AHSS)  
 Jessica Kirk (PG)  
 Julia Andrade Rocha (PG)  
 Julia Whitehouse (AHSS)  
 Karl Vidamour (AHSS)  
 Kathryn Waller (AHSS)  
 Katie Matthews (AHSS)  
 Katie Perry (AHSS)  
 Mannix McAlister (Open First Year)  
 Mark Earney (School Representative – Management)  
 Mark Millar (School Representative – Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology)  
 Martin Lilly (EMC)  
 Naomi Sheehan (School Representative – Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering)  
 Niall Bole (EPS)  
 Niall McShane (EMC)  
 Niall Robb (AHSS)  
 Odhran Devlin (Open)  
 Oisin Hassan (AHSS)  
 Paul Loughran (EPS)  
 Philip Barr (Open)  
 Samantha Rogers (AHSS)  
 Sammy Wade (AHSS)  
 Sana Ashraf (School Representative – Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Science)  
 Sarah Wright (Open)  
 Sean Fearon (AHSS)  
 Shannon Downey (Open First Year)  
 Thomas Thompson (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, MHLS)  
 Tiernan McAteer (EMC)

**In Attendance:**

Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)  
 Aisling Gallagher (NUS-USI)  
 Emma Mears (Marketing Manager)  
 Kristina Mulholland (Marketing Assistant)

Andrew Carruthers (Union Speaker, in the Chair) welcomed all attendees to this Statutory Meeting.

838. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Catherine McAteer (Open First Year)  
David Sands (School Representative – Psychology)  
Derek Crosby (PG)  
Farah Ibrahim (AHSS)  
Faye Ni Cheallaigh (EPS)  
Fergal McFerran (Open)  
James Hyde (PG / School Representative – Pharmacy)  
Jessica Black (MHLS / School Representative – Biological Sciences)  
Kerry Douglas (School Representative – English)  
Lauren Brown (AHSS)  
Matthew Neill (EPS)  
Sarah Calderwood (PG)  
Sarah-Louise Baird (EMC)  
Tara Pouryahya (MHLS)

839. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF 19 NOVEMBER 2013

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 19 November 2013 (SUC/M/13/6) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

840. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

841. COMMUNICATIONS

The Council noted the following communications:

841.1 The recent ratification of an amended version of the Constitution of the Politics Society.

841.2 The written answers supplied by the Vice President Campaigns and Communications in relation to questions that he did not have time to answer at the last Statutory Meeting were noted, namely:

**Answer to 11.7**

An interim decision was taken by our Executive Management Committee to support the UCU strike which took place on 31 October 2013, and our last meeting of Council on 19 November provided the first opportunity for both Student Officers and Councillors to discuss the strike. At this meeting a motion proposed by our SU President and seconded by myself as Vice President for Campaigns and Communications sought the support of Council for our decision to extend solidarity to academic and non-academic staff on strike and this was passed unanimously.

In the lead up to the strike Student Officers met with representatives of UCU, We supported the strike, we agreed to facilitate it at our Students' Union, and shared a statement of support for UCU via our website. On the day I delivered a speech to those on strike emphasising the importance of academic and non-academic colleagues in higher education.

Reinforcing the point that Student Officers and I made a temporary decision to support the strike, in the absence of Council sitting and having the opportunity to debate issues and motions, it would have been very presumptuous of the Executive Management Committee to send out an all-student email. In addition to this, without Council's support there was no guarantee that the University could be persuaded to send this out. As Vice President for Campaigns and Communications I do not have the power to send an all-student email, and so I strongly disagree with the assumption that there was an error or failure on my behalf.

At our last meeting of Student Council I emphasised that if Council wanted the Students' Union to support further UCU action then, by supporting a motion of solidarity at that meeting our Students' Union would be in a much better position to advocate sending an all-student email.

**Answer to 11.8**

Immediately after the incoming Vice-Chancellor, Professor Johnston made his remarks, our Students' Union President wrote a letter and met with Professor Johnston to make our Union's position clear on tuition fees. Our position was that we are categorically against any rise in tuition fees in Northern Ireland. As Vice President for Campaigns and Communications I am currently working alongside the University on a campaign to maintain or increase the level of higher education funding in Northern Ireland.

On the date of our last meeting of Council, the University and Students' Union together launched this campaign with a Joint Universities Showcase event at Stormont Parliament Buildings with the University of Ulster and Open University. At our last meeting of Council our SU President brought forward a motion to mandate our Students' Union Executive Management Committee to begin work on a campaign to ensure that that government recognises the importance of affordable Higher Education in Northern Ireland, and that our Union should work with NUS-USI to campaign against any increase in tuition fees, to keep the current cap and to ensure that there is appropriate funding available for Higher Education in Northern Ireland. This motion was unanimously passed by Council and together with our President I will continue to work on this campaign.

841.3 The meeting was addressed by Aisling Gallagher, Women's Officer, National Union of Students – Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI), who reported the following:

- Background information in relation to the ongoing industrial action involving academic and support staff at Queen's, the University of Ulster and elsewhere, in support of an improved pay offer and enhanced associated terms and conditions.
- Background information in relation to 'occupation' events and similar taking place across the United Kingdom in support of the above industrial action.
- That, at the University of London on 4 December 2013, approximately 100 students had been in occupation and were, allegedly, forcibly removed and assaulted by members of the police.
- That, in relation to the same protest, five students had been arrested and detained overnight.
- That, in a further protest action at the University of Sussex on 5 December 2013, there had been 38 arrests of activists, many of whom were students.

Ms Gallagher stated that what was happening in Great Britain was quite frightening and she urged the Students' Union to send messages of solidarity to those students and others engaged in protests elsewhere.

842. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

843. ELECTIONS

There were none.

844. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

844.1 Proposed Recognition of New Clubs and Societies

Council was requested to amend Rule 8, Paragraph 820 in order to recognise the following proposed Clubs and Societies:

Queen's University Belfast Japanese Society

Proposer: Fahim Islam (40098753)  
 Secunder: Laura Jane Martin (40077923)

Queen's University Belfast Free Project Society

Proposer: Rhian Wynne (40041934)  
 Secunder: Tamara Coates (40060962)

It was noted that all of the above had provided all of the stipulated documentation, which was available for inspection upon request.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Japanese Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Free Project Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

#### 845. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Reports were considered by the Council:

Report of the Union President	SUC/P/13/42
Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications	SUC/P/13/43
Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies	SUC/P/13/44
Report of the Vice President Community	SUC/P/13/45
Report of the Vice President Education	SUC/P/13/46
Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity	SUC/P/13/47
Report of the Vice President Welfare	SUC/P/13/48

#### 845.1 The Union President highlighted the following matters when presenting his Report to the Council:

- The Students' Union's new 'Bright Ideas' campaign to increase democratic engagement by student members and to enhance the representative role of the Council and the elected student officers.
- The 'Bright Ideas' initiative will proactively encourage non-involved students to contribute to the creation of Students' Union policy positions, by contributing ideas that can form the basis for policies to be considered by the Council.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Union President (SUC/P/13/42) was accepted.

#### 845.2 The Vice President Campaigns and Communications highlighted the following matters when presenting his Report to the Council:

- The work undertaken by the Students' Union in relation to combating the planned introduction of the Immigration Bill.
- That testing was underway in relation to the new Students' Union website, prior to a 'soft' launch in the near future.
- The ongoing 'litter pick' campaign.

In response to a question from Kathryn Waller (AHSS) regarding political party conferences, the Vice President stated that he had attended the SDLP Conference and, although he had been invited to attend the DUP Conference, a prior commitment meant that he had been unable to attend this event.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (SUC/P/13/43) was accepted.

#### 845.3 The Vice President Clubs and Societies highlighted the following matters when presenting his Report to the Council:

- That the Refreshers' Fair would be taking place on 12 February 2014.
- That the grant allocation process for Clubs and Societies was at an advanced stage.

- That there were over 10,000 Club and Society membership 'sign ups' to date, a record number.
- That work was being undertaken to encourage the establishment of a greater number of academic and subject-based Societies.
- The need to increase the overall level of funding for Clubs and Societies.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (SUC/P/13/44) was accepted.

845.4 The Vice President Community was not present at the Meeting.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Community (SUC/P/13/45) was accepted.

845.5 The Vice President Education highlighted the Inaugural Meeting of Academic Board when presenting his Report to the Council.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Education (SUC/P/13/46) was accepted.

845.6 The Vice President Equality and Diversity highlighted the successful Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Pink Training event, attended by 330 delegates, when presenting her Report to the Council. She thanked those student officers, staff and volunteers who had contributed to the success of the event.

Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (Open), on behalf of Council, commended the work of Ms McNeill regarding the delivery of USI Pink Training.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (SUC/P/13/47) was accepted.

845.7 The Vice President Welfare highlighted the following matters when presenting his Report to the Council:

- Ongoing activities relating to the 'Are Ye Well' campaign.
- The staging of a 'Green Fair' on 18 November 2013.
- The development of partnership arrangements with public health agencies.

In response to a question from Sarah Wright (Open), the Vice President confirmed that the Students' Union would again be requesting that any strike pay withheld by the University as a result of the industrial action be allocated to the Student Hardship Fund.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Welfare (SUC/P/13/48) was accepted.

846. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

846.1 Report of the Students' Union Management Board

Paper SUC/P/13/49 noted.

The Union President highlighted the main issues that had been considered by the Management Board since the last Statutory Meeting of the Council, and he commended the work of the Commercial and Bars / Ents Teams.

In response to a question from Samantha Rogers (AHSS) regarding the terms for repaying the Students' Union's large scale loan to the University, Mr McShane confirmed that he would be raising this matter with University management in the future.

The Council considered the following proposal from the Management Board, regarding potential further development of the Students' Union premises:

The Management Board has noted that the University is keen to investigate the feasibility of allocating resources to develop the Students' Union, in line with our aim of providing the best possible Student Experience and our vision of becoming the premier Students' Union in the UK and Ireland.

This process would involve consultation throughout with student representatives and student members, and any such recommended developments arising from the process would be subject to the agreement of the Council.

This Council is asked to approve a proposal to undertake a feasibility study and consultation process to investigate all options for the physical redevelopment of the Students' Union.

In response to a question from Niall Bole (EPS), the Union President confirmed that the University would meet all costs associated with the production of all feasibility or consultation studies and reports regarding the potential future physical development of the Students' Union premises.

Sarah Wright (Open) asked whether, in the event of further development of the Union premises being undertaken, the loan repayments would increase from their present level. Mr McShane replied that it was his understanding that, if additional redevelopment of the Students' Union was to be undertaken, it would be on the basis of significantly reducing the current loan repayment levels or, better still, having them written off altogether.

On the basis outlined above, the Management Board proposal was approved by the Council.

847. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

There were none.

848. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

There were none.

849. QUESTIONS.

To the Union President:

- 849.1 I want to ask how we are supposed to have faith in a united sabbatical team when there are grossly conflicting views and opinions, to the point where parties are in direct disagreement and actively competing against one another. Whilst I appreciate individuals have the right to their own opinions, is it acceptable that Caoimhe McNeill's motion regarding 'Blurred Lines' - which I believe falls under her Equality and Diversity agenda, was undermined by some of her fellows VPs, most notably Eoin who actively opposed the motion vocally, and was only support by one Officer. How are we, as Councillors, as well as the student population, supposed to be led by a group whose members show such little cohesion and respect amongst themselves, evidenced by these actions? And what are you, as President, doing to improve cohesiveness in your team?

(Submitted Anonymously)

The Union President thanked Council for the submission of this question, as it afforded him the opportunity to provide some clarifications regarding the role of the Students' Union and that of the elected student officers. Mr McShane stated that:

- The Students' Union was a value-based democratic organisation that gives its members, including student officers, a voice to speak for, against or on any policy motion that is brought before its decision-making bodies.
- Within a mature students' union, challenging debate should be welcomed, with the right to speak being respected, regardless of whether or not one agreed with what is being said.
- The elected student officers had many opportunities to discuss challenging issues on an ongoing basis – whether it be at Officer Briefing Group, Executive Management Committee or, more informally, within the shared office space or whilst attending events together.
- Having an opinion on an issue was actually a good thing.

To the Vice President Education:

849.2 In May 2013, the Council re-affirmed that:

Policy File 1 1.2: The Council notes the lateness with which examination timetables are published. This Council recognises that this delay in the publication of timetables is unfair to all students...The Council mandates that the Executive Management Committee lobbies the relevant University departments, including the Academic Board and the Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs, to publish examination timetables no later than Week Five in the semester. Timetables for resit examinations should also be published immediately after the previous examination results are announced.

It is now Week 9 and we still have not got our examination timetables; although they are due to come out at the end of this week. Could the Vice President of Education please explain what work has been done by the student officer team to work towards achieving this, and whether this is an achievable goal?

Proposer: Julia Whitehouse (40059308)  
 Seconder: James Rodgers (40079389)

The Vice President Education stated that he was liaising with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor and the Director of Academic and Student Affairs in order to try to deliver improvement in this area. Mr Deeney stated that the University had established an Academic Year Structure Working Group, chaired by Professor Shane O'Neill, to address the issues associated with the scheduling of academic delivery, including examinations and assessment, and that the Students' Union was represented on this Group by the Union President, the Vice President Education and the Deputy Director.

There was no supplementary question from the Proposer or Seconder.

849.3 Whilst I appreciate individuals have the right to their own opinions, is it acceptable that Caoimhe McNeill's motion regarding 'Blurred Lines' - which I believe falls under her Equality and Diversity agenda, was undermined by her fellows VPs, most notably you who actively opposed the motion vocally? How are we, as Councillors, as well as the student population supposed to be led by a group whose members show such little cohesion and respect amongst themselves, and who cannot respect other officer's remits, evidenced by these actions?

(SUBMITTED ANONYMOUSLY)

The Vice President Education stated that he had discussed this matter with the Vice President Equality and Diversity prior to the debate in question and it was his view that there was no lack of cohesion amongst the student officers arising from the exchange of differing views that had taken place during the debate.

Mr Deeney stated that he was somewhat upset at the wording of the question which, in his opinion, painted a most unfair picture that bore little resemblance to the facts of the matter. He emphasised that he was completely respectful of the views of Ms McNeill and others in relation to "Blurred Lines" and he totally accepted that he was now bound by the policy that had been adopted by Council and which, as a democrat, he had no issue with. Mr Deeney stated that he would be happy to discuss his views, held in a personal capacity, on this matter.

850. MOTIONS.

850.1 This Council notes that the University has, in recent years, initiated and funded a number of projects via its Annual Fund that enhance the student experience.

This Council further notes that one such project previously supported by the Annual Fund was the Queen's 'Night Bus', a service that would collect students late at night and ensure that they were transported back to Elms Village safe and sound.

This Council acknowledges that, as a result of the recent economic climate, it was no longer possible to fund this project from either the Annual Fund or the Students' Union's recurrent funding subvention.

This Council believes:

- That it is regrettable that the Queen's 'Night Bus' no longer operates.
- That the reinstatement of the 'Night Bus' service would help to ensure the safety of Queen's students travelling to Elms Village late at night.
- That the reintroduction of this service would reduce the number of students travelling past residential areas in Belfast late at night, hence improving the University's community relationship with other Belfast residents.
- That the return of the 'Night Bus' would encourage more students to take full advantage of the Students' Union's social and other facilities and, subsequently, would enhance the sense of a Queen's community spirit.

This Council instructs the Union President and the Vice President Welfare:

- To contact relevant University personnel and investigate the financial feasibility of reintroducing this service at the earliest opportunity.
- To report back to the next and subsequent Statutory Meetings of the Council on any progress.

Proposer: Brendan Corr (40107847)  
 Seconder: Katie Matthews (40040014)

Brendan Corr (Open First Year), proposing the motion, stated that the service in question had previously been available to Queen's students but had been discontinued due to a lack of funding. He believed that this was a tried and tested means of improving safety and security for students at night. He stated that, whilst it was not possible to quantify this, the previous existence of this service had undoubtedly prevented incidents of attack or worse on vulnerable students.

Mr Corr further stated that the availability of this service might encourage greater numbers of students to use the Students' Union's facilities and would result in fewer persons under the influence of alcohol walking about at night creating noise and inconvenience for local residents.

Sarah Wright (Open), speaking against the motion, stated that the previous service had been delivered by a commercial company and had proven to represent poor value for money. She reported that, following a re-evaluation exercise, the service had been taken over by a community transport organisation but, owing to the low

number of students using the Night Bus, it was discontinued and the successful 'Cab Now, Pay Later' was introduced.

Julia Andrade Rocha (Postgraduate), speaking on the motion, stated that services of this nature were commonplace on many US campuses, mainly as a measure to discourage drink driving by students. She wondered whether it would be worthwhile to carry out a feasibility study on this service as, even though it failed once, it may still be viable if managed and promoted in a different way.

Niall Bole (EPS), speaking against the motion, stated that he had spoken to the student officer who had originally introduced the scheme and, despite the fact that it was a sound concept, it had proven to be expensive. He stated that, following the re-evaluation exercise, another company had offered an attractive discounted rate and then that company had subsequently gone out of business. It was Mr Bole's view that the 'Cab Now, Pay Later' scheme successfully addressed the concerns that Mr Corr had raised in his motion.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

The Proposer waived his right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was defeated (For 19, Against 19, Abstentions 2).

#### 850.2 ***SU Council Motion on Engagement with Under-Represented Students***

This Council endorses the measures outlined in paper SUC/P/13/50 and instructs the Executive Management Committee to implement this proposal at the earliest opportunity.

Proposer: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)  
 Secunder: Martin Lilly (Vice President Clubs and Societies)

Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity), proposing the motion, stated that the actions outlined within paper SUC/P/13/50 would facilitate the creation of a series of effective working groups and would increase student activism on campus and beyond. Ms McNeill stated that the proposal would enable students to more easily raise important issues and, more importantly, to run their own campaigns and 'missions'. She reported that enhanced training opportunities would be made available to prospective activists and that a particular drive would target those commonly 'hard to reach' student segments.

Julia Andrade Rocha, speaking against the motion, stated that she would be defined as being a member of more than one 'hard to reach' student segment. She believed that she would not be happy if the views of the working groups were unreasonably constrained by current Students' Union policy. It was Ms Rocha's views that student segments were currently disconnected from their Union and she was unsure whether they would sign up to this initiative in sufficient numbers. She stated that more clarity was required in terms of how productive activism would actually result from this proposal.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

The Proposer waived her right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was clearly passed.

#### 850.3 **Council motion on the Emeleus Lecture Theatre**

This Council notes the dangerous lack of light in the dual-stairwells of the Emeleus Lecture Theatre. In winter when it is dark early, students leaving late lectures face an unsafe exit from the Lecture Theatre. Many students have been reduced to using their mobile phones as a light to guide themselves down the stairs or making their

way down blindly. This Council notes that this is a threat to student safety and puts students at risk.

This Council believes that this is not an appropriate state of affairs. The safety of students is vital and the lack of a light on this staircase is a threat to student welfare. Council also believes that this should be resolved immediately, in order to ensure student wellbeing and improve safety around campus.

This Council proposes that the VP Welfare, Tiernan McAteer, consults with Queen's Estates Department about this issue and recommends that a light is put in place immediately.

Proposer: Niall Robb (40084325)  
 Seconder: Tiernan McAteer (Vice President Welfare)

Tiernan McAteer (Vice President Welfare) proposed the motion on behalf of Mr Robb, stating that he was already consulting with the University's Estates Department on this matter.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

Mr McAteer waived his right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was clearly passed.

850.4 This Council notes that some individuals are using the tagline QUB on Facebook. This Council further notes that this is probably done in an attempt to make such Facebook pages appear as if they are run officially by the University.

Council believes that students are much more likely to trust a Facebook page if they believe it is run by the University and therefore the 'admins' of such pages are given a unique position of trust – trust that has the potential to be abused.

Council notes with great disappointment that a student used such a Facebook page to gain the trust of a large number of students and then used said page to promote his campaign for elected student officer positions.

Also, this Council notes that the Facebook page 'qub jobs' posted inappropriate messages and, whilst these messages were swiftly deleted, the risk of other inappropriate messages being posted and mistaken for University correspondence and bringing QUB into disrepute remains large.

This Council does not agree with individuals using taglines such as qub, qubsu or any other abbreviation which attempts to emulate the Queen's identity without prior consent by the university.

This Council therefore instructs the Union President to pursue the relevant authorities and put in place measures that will prevent students from QUB using aforementioned Facebook pages and that suitable punishments are put in place for those they do. The relevant authorities are also to be requested to pursue courses of action that may lead to the closing down of said Facebook pages as soon as is practicable.

Proposer: Christopher Smyth (40060508)  
 Seconder: Sky Aughey (40079675)

Christopher Smyth (EPS), proposing the motion, stated that he was concerned about the unauthorised use of the University's name to seemingly endorse products and services. He made particular reference to the 'QUB Jobs' Facebook page and he asked whether the Union President could do anything regarding the use of the University's name in this context.

Niall Bole (EPS), speaking against the motion, stated that the 'QUB Jobs' page was run by students for the good of students and the use of this 'tag' merely denoted that this page was for the attention of Queen's students. He stated that the page made no claim to be 'official' or endorsed by the University.

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), speaking on the motion, expressed concern about those sites that utilised the Queen's name and demeaned or made fun of people, for example, whilst they were studying in the Library (the 'QUB Fit Feed' page).

Connor Daly (Vice President Campaigns and Communications), speaking for the motion, commended the point that the previous speaker had made. He reported that he had been a member of the committee that had devised the University's new social media policies for students and staff, and he stated that the University had a duty of care to its students. He further stated that the enactment of the policy relating to the use of social media would be entirely appropriate in this case, as these sites could misinform students and falsely build trust.

Mark Millar (School Representative), speaking against the motion, stated that it was unfair to verbally attack a named person (the originator of the 'QUB Jobs' page) given the good work that this individual had carried out to provide students with employment opportunities.

Samantha Rogers (AHSS), speaking on the motion, stated that this motion was about whether or not people should be able to use the 'QUB' prefix and she believed that, whatever the rights and wrongs of this, some students would undoubtedly believe such sites and pages to be officially endorsed by the University.

Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity), speaking for the motion, stated that whilst this was not the most harmful episode to have ever occurred on Facebook, it was nonetheless a case of misrepresentation.

A 'friendly amendment' was accepted by the proposer to remove paragraphs 3 and 4, with the amended motion now reading:

This Council notes that some individuals are using the tagline QUB on Facebook. This Council further notes that this is probably done in an attempt to make such Facebook pages appear as if they are run officially by the University.

Council believes that students are much more likely to trust a Facebook page if they believe it is run by the University and therefore the 'admins' of such pages are given a unique position of trust – trust that has the potential to be abused.

This Council does not agree with individuals using taglines such as qub, qubsu or any other abbreviation which attempts to emulate the Queen's identity without prior consent by the university.

This Council therefore instructs the Union President to pursue the relevant authorities and put in place measures that will prevent students from QUB using aforementioned Facebook pages and that suitable punishments are put in place for those they do. The relevant authorities are also to be requested to pursue courses of action that may lead to the closing down of said Facebook pages as soon as is practicable.

Proposer: Christopher Smyth (40060508)  
 Secunder: Sky Aughey (40079675)

Julia Andrade Rocha (PG), speaking against the motion, stated that Clubs and Societies should be legitimately able to use these taglines and the banning of a simple 'like' page for your student group was unnecessarily bureaucratic.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

The Proposer waived his right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was passed (For 26, Against 13, Abstentions 1).

- 850.5 This Council recognises the important role that the University and our members play within the local community.

This Council believes that the Executive Management Committee should play a constructive role in working with the University, local residents and statutory authorities to ensure that the area is a safe and peaceful place to live, work and study.

This Council further notes the importance of community engagement and the role that our members have to play within our city. Positive community relations are an important part of our responsibilities; therefore this council mandates the Students' Union to develop further collaboration with our community as well as encouraging our students to become active citizens in the local area.

This Council instructs the Vice President Community to retain comprehensive volunteering opportunities for our members and to maintain contact with local resident's groups and statutory agencies to ensure that our Students' Union preserve effective community engagement.

Proposer: Sarah-Louise Baird (Vice President Community)  
 Seconder: Niall McShane (Union President)

Niall McShane (Union President) proposed the motion on behalf of Ms Baird, stating that the Students' Union did not have current live policy regarding its important community work. He emphasised that it was important for Council to democratically underpin the partnership work that the Union was undertaking in this area.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

The Proposer waived his right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was clearly passed.

#### 850.6 EMERGENCY MOTION

Council notes:

1. Since Monday 2 December 2013, students in the University of Ulster Coleraine have occupied their Senior Common Room as a result of the proposed closure of this facility by the University, who want to turn it into an Executive Dining Room.
2. Defend Education groups across the UK have since gone into occupation in support of the strike and in protest of the increasing privatisation that has pervaded our campuses in recent years.

Council believes:

1. That education is a right, not a privilege.
2. That the bravery shown by both occupiers across the UK and those closest to us in Coleraine is admirable.
3. That this fight is bigger than one single student, one single campus, or one single university. It is about a fully funded Higher Education sector, fully accessible to all, and the idea that our places of education are just that: places of education, not businesses.

Council resolves:

1. To send a message of solidarity to Occupy Coleraine from the sabbatical officers and the wider Queen's community as a whole.
2. To condemn the privatisation and restructuring of universities that is having an adverse effect on students across the UK.
3. To condemn the disgraceful actions of the police at the occupation of the University of London Union and to send solidarity to them and their counterparts at Sussex.

Proposer: Kathryn Waller (40077853)  
Seconder: Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (40040424)

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), proposing the motion, stated that the need for the occupation action at Coleraine was symbolic of the restructuring of Higher Education from an educational activity to little more than a business commodity. She believed that the provision of common room facilities encouraged a collegiate environment and she further stated that the voices of students were not being listened to, leading to the occupation action as a last resort.

Sammy Wade (AHSS), speaking against the motion, stated that whilst education was a right, the fact that students were obliged to pay tuition fees appeared to suggest otherwise.

Sarah Wright (Open), speaking on the motion, stated that the Students' Union at the University of Ulster Coleraine (UUC) campus was much less developed than that of Queen's and the UUC Students' Union financial situation was so serious that they had been unable to pay their national union affiliation fees in full during the current academic year.

Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (Open), speaking for the motion, believed that our elected student officers should be encouraged to express solidarity on behalf of the Queen's student membership. He stated that services at UUCSU had been largely outsourced and that the common room was essentially the last remaining public space available to students. He added that the fact that students now had to pay tuition fees was almost making access to Higher Education the exclusive preserve of the rich.

It was proposed to proceed to the vote – this was accepted.

The Proposer waived her right to summarise and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was clearly passed.

851. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none

852. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Union Speaker announced that the next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council would take place at 6.00 p.m. on Monday 10 February 2014 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union.

DOMINIC DOHERTY (Clerk, Students' Union Council)