

SUC/A/23/5

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

To: Members of the Students' Union Council

Dear Councillor,

Please attend the first Statutory Meeting of the 2022-23 Students' Union Council, to be held on Monday 24 October 2023 at 5.00pm in the Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.

Yours sincerely,

DAMIEN CORRIDAN

Clerk to the Students' Union Council

AGENDA

FIRST CIRCULATION

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 2.1 Statutory Meeting (Annual Business Meeting) of 24 May 2022 SUC/M/23/4
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 3.1 Policy Updates
 - 3.1.1 Formalising Logistical and Wellbeing Support for International and Ethnically Diverse Student Officers & Implementing Protocols for a More Inclusive Students' Union
 - 3.1.2 Supporting Postgraduate Students and Postdoctoral LGBTQIA+ Researchers at Queen's
 - 3.1.3 The Students' Union to Include a Working Definition of Antisemitism
 - 3.1.4 Consent Training for Clubs and Societies
 - 3.1.5 An Open and Transparent Students' Union
 - 3.1.6 Support for Students with Eating Disorders
 - 3.1.7 Investigate the Potential Implementation of Drug Testing Kits in the Students' Union
 - 3.1.8 Introduction of Mandatory Consent Training for Students at QUB
 - 3.1.9 Student Fee Refunds
4. Communications

- 4.1 Condolences
- 4.2 Introduction to Student Council and the Procedures for Student Council
- 4.3 Introduction to the Students' Union Executive 2023-24
- 4.6 Autumn Elections 2023 – Update
- 4.7 Students' Union Council – Schedule of Meetings and Submission Deadlines
- 4.8 National Conference Delegate Elections 2023-24 – Proposed Schedule
- 4.9 Student Leader Elections 2023-24 – Proposed Schedule

5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments

There are none.

6. Business for Consideration

- 6.1 Appointment of Returning Officer for the Student Officer Elections 2023-24

- 6.2 Student Officer Plan of Work 2023-24 SUC/P/22/42

The Elected Student Officers shall present an overview of their Student Officer Plan of Work 2023-24 to the Council.

- 6.3 Establishment of the Clubs and Societies Committee of Council SUC/P/22/43

7. Business for Discussion

- 7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion
- 7.2 2023-24 Academic Year – Emerging Issues / Concerns
- 7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update
- 7.4 Discussion on University Campus Events - Free vs. Paid
- 7.5 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Introduction and Update
- 7.6 Students' Union Democracy Review – Update

8. Bye-Elections

There are none.

9. Elections

- 9.1 Please note that the following elections will be held at this Meeting of the Students' Union Council:

Non-Sabbatical Officer of the Students' Union (without voting rights)

The Union Speaker 1 vacancy

Candidates will each be allowed one minute to address the Council.

NB: Members may vote for 'Reopen Nominations' in the above election

Students' Union representatives to be elected by the Council for the following Union Committees (see Rule 5 of the Constitutional Rules for details of the remits of Students' Union Committees)

At this meeting, Councillors will be invited by the Union Speaker to self-nominate for the following positions:

Students' Union Management Board	5 vacancies
Standing Committee	15 vacancies
Environmental and Ethical Committee	10 vacancies
Campaigns Committee	10 vacancies
Scrutiny Committee	9 vacancies

Students' Union representatives to be elected by the Council for the following University Committees

At this meeting, Councillors will be invited by the Union Speaker to self-nominate for the following positions:

University Senate	1 vacancy
Academic Council	1 vacancy

All election counts, with the exception of that for the election of the Union Speaker, will be conducted on Wednesday 25 October 2023. Results will be published on the completion of the counts.

10. Motions

10.1 Amendment to Current Policy: The Students' Union to Include a Working Definition of Antisemitism

Current policy, as approved by Council states:

- "Disregarding Jewish voices on matters of antisemitism or speaking over to assert that there is no antisemitism, is in itself antisemitic. If there is evidence of antisemitism that Jewish voices are calling antisemitic, the denial of this is antisemitic."

Proposal: Delete text above and replace with the following:

- "Disregarding Jewish voices on matters of antisemitism or speaking over to assert that there is no antisemitism, is in itself antisemitic. Not giving fair attention and consideration to claims of antisemitism, can be considered antisemitic."

The full amended policy will therefore be as follows:

The Students' Union to Include a Working Definition of Antisemitism

Council Notes:

- Antisemitism has seen a sharp increase and has had an effect on Jewish Students' mental health.

- Numerous cases of antisemitism where Jewish students felt intimidated purely on the basis that they are Jewish have occurred within the Students' Union and affiliated establishments.
- These cases are often handled by individuals who have no connection to Judaism or the Jewish people.
- There is no current definition of antisemitism that can be used by individuals who may not know what is and isn't antisemitic to appropriately handle these cases.

Council Believes:

- A working definition of antisemitism is vital for dealing with antisemitism. While antisemitism is accepted as a form of racism, the manner in which it is handled often suggests that it is not treated as such.

Therefore Council Mandates:

- The following proposition to be understood as the Students' Union's definition of antisemitism.
 1. It is racist to essentialize (treat a character trait as inherent) or to make sweeping negative generalizations about a given population. What is true of racism in general is true of antisemitism in particular.
 2. What is particular in classic antisemitism is the idea that Jews are linked to the forces of evil. This stands at the core of many anti-Jewish narratives, such as the idea of a Jewish conspiracy in which "the Jews" possess hidden power that they use to promote their own collective agenda at the expense of other people. This linkage between Jews and evil continues in the present: in the fantasy that "the Jews" control governments with a "hidden hand," that they own the banks, control the media, act as "a state within a state," and are responsible for spreading disease (such as Covid-19). All these features can be instrumentalized by different (and even antagonistic) political causes.
 3. Antisemitism can be manifested in words, visual images, and deeds. Examples of antisemitic words include utterances that all Jews are wealthy, inherently stingy, or unpatriotic. In antisemitic caricatures, Jews are often depicted as grotesque, with big noses and associated with wealth. Examples of antisemitic deeds are: assaulting someone because she or he is Jewish, attacking a synagogue, daubing swastikas on Jewish graves, or refusing to hire or promote people because they are Jewish.
 4. Antisemitism can be direct or indirect, explicit or coded. For example, "The Rothschilds control the world" is a coded statement about the alleged power of "the Jews" over banks and international finance. Similarly, portraying Israel as the ultimate evil or grossly exaggerating its actual influence can be a coded way of racializing and stigmatizing Jews. In many cases, identifying coded speech is a matter of context and judgement, taking account of these guidelines.
 5. In the context of the Union: Implications that Jewish students, staff members or officers are working together to gain control over the Students' Union or societies. Identifying words often include: 'scheming', 'plotting' with other Jewish individuals and if working with non-Jewish individuals, those individuals are referred to as 'lackeys' or 'minions'.
 6. Denying or minimizing the Holocaust by claiming that the deliberate Nazi genocide of the Jews did not take place, or that there were no extermination camps or gas chambers, or that the number of victims was exaggerated is antisemitic.

7. Making light of the Holocaust and the suffering of the Jewish people is antisemitic. This can be seen by either telling jokes that seem in support of the Holocaust or laughing (this can also be represented through the use of emojis on social media.)
8. Disregarding Jewish voices on matters of antisemitism or speaking over to assert that there is no antisemitism, is in itself antisemitic. Not giving fair attention and consideration to claims of antisemitism, can be considered antisemitic.
9. Applying the symbols, images and negative stereotypes of classical antisemitism (see guidelines 2 and 3) to the State of Israel.
10. Holding Jews collectively responsible for Israel's conduct or treating Jews, simply because they are Jewish, as agents of Israel.
11. Requiring people, because they are Jewish, publicly to condemn Israel or Zionism (for example, at a political meeting).
12. Assuming that non-Israeli Jews, simply because they are Jews, are necessarily more loyal to Israel than to their own countries.
13. Denying the right of Jews in the State of Israel to exist and flourish, collectively and individually, as Jews, in accordance with the principle of equality.
14. Assumptions that Jews have an inherent support for Unionism or Loyalism are antisemitic.

Proposer: Aidan Moran (Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement)
 Seconded by: Sajid Khan (Student Officer Equality & Diversity)

10.2 Motion for Welfare for Students affected by the Israel/Palestine Situation

Council Notes:

- There has been a rapid escalation in violence in the Middle East which has consisted of extreme racial violence and slaughter.
- On previous occasions where this conflict has escalated, there has been a noted increase in Antisemitic and Islamophobic behaviour.
- There are students who, through one avenue or another, have a connection to the conflict and may be directly or indirectly affected by the violence.

Council Believes:

- Antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place on campus and institutions should take steps to ensure that they are prevented as much as possible.
- No student should share collective responsibility for institutions claiming to represent them nor be forced to present an opinion on that institution.
- Academic staff must recognise that they have a position of authority and be mindful of the responsibility that comes with that to ensure that racial tensions must not be exacerbated on our campus.
- When talking about this conflict, Islamophobia and Antisemitism can accidentally be invoked due to a lack of knowledge over the complexities of the conflict and its relationship to various ethnic groups.

- Students affected by the conflict will need support and recognition from the relevant institutions.
- A more direct approach to this conflict should be had but there needs to be time to discuss this strategy.

Therefore, this Council mandates:

- To ensure adequate communication to students to the relevant wellbeing services available to them.
- To work with the relevant institutions to ensure that students affected by the conflict have this taken on board when reflecting judgement on them, whether through academic exceptional circumstances, disciplinary panels or issues revolving around accommodation.
- To work with the University to ensure that staff are aware of the details of Islamophobia and Antisemitism so that they can avoid them. Cultural awareness training should be more readily available to university staff and students.
- For the relevant institutions within the University and the Students' Union, to communicate to students and staff that Islamophobia and Antisemitism are not accepted within the University Charters and can face disciplinary action.

Proposer: Rheannon Platman (Student Councillor)

Seconder: Mischa Gerrard (Disabled Students' Association Chairperson)

11.	<u>Report of the Management Board and Recommendations</u>	
11.1	Report of the Management Board	
12.	<u>Report of the Executive Management Committee and Recommendations</u>	
12.1	Report of the Executive Management Committee	
12.2	Report of the Union President (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/44
12.3	Report of the Union President (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/45
12.4	Report of the Union President (September 2023)	SUC/P/23/46
12.4	Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/47
12.5	Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/48
12.6	Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (September 2023)	SUC/P/23/49
12.14	Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/50
12.15	Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/51
12.16	Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (September 2023)	SUC/P/23/52
12.18	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/53
12.19	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/54
12.20	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate (September 2023)	SUC/P/23/55
12.10	Report of the Student Officer Education (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/56
12.11	Report of the Student Officer Education (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/57
12.12	Report of the Student Officer Education (September 2023)	SUC/P/23/58
12.18	Report of the Student Officer Welfare (July 2023)	SUC/P/23/59
12.19	Report of the Student Officer Welfare (August 2023)	SUC/P/23/60

12.20 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (September 2023)

SUC/P/23/61

Reports of the Student Officer Welfare shall be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

13. Reports from other Union Committees and Recommendations

There are none.

14. Reports from University Committees

There are none.

15. Constitutional Questions

There are none.

16. Questions (to Elected Student Representatives)

There are none.

17. Any Other Competent Business

18. Date of Next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council

Wednesday 15 November 2023 at 5.00 p.m. in the Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Students' Union.