

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

MINUTES

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 24 October 2022 in Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.

Present:

Abhishek Kumbhar	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Adam Wilson	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Undergraduate Faculty Representative
Aidan Moran	Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement
Aishwarya Chandrakant Kulkarni	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Ali Gardezi	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Anna Herron	Part-Time - Environmental Officer
Arnab Jana	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Astrid Ware	Postgraduate School Rep - Social Sciences, Education and Social Work (SSESW)
Avery Johnston	Part-Time - Trans Students' Officer
Bea Holland	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Beth Elder	Student Officer Education
Bryony Tunney	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Deirbhile Flynn	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Dermot Hamill	Students' Union Council - All First Year Representative
Elliot Sellers	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (SMAE)
Emma Murphy	Union President
Eoin Ussher	Students' Union Council - Queen's Accommodation
Gwen Ridout	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Psychology (SBS)
Hany Bahgat	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Huda Al Baqali	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Jamie-Lukas Campbell	Student Officer Postgraduate
Jenny Steele	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Jessica Crisp	Part-Time - Women Students' Officer
Jomyn Lee	Students' Union Council - International Student Representative (including INTO)
Julien Kolta	Part-Time - International Students' Officer
Kieran Minto	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Leo Davies	Part-Time - Student Parents' and Carers' Officer
Matthew Charwood	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative
Matthew McCallion	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Law (SLAW)
Meghan-Louise Meban	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative
Molly Quinn	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Law (SLAW)
Monica Amir Saad	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Undergraduate Faculty Representative
Nadine Curtis	Students' Union Council - MHLS Representative (Undergraduate)
Niamh Bone	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Olubunmi Favour Olawale	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Pete / Shijie Wang	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Arts, English and Languages (SAEL)
Petra Stone	Part-Time - LGBT+ Students' Officer
Rebecca Smyth	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Psychology (SBS)
Ryan Irwin	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Undergraduate Faculty Representative
Samantha Emily Koitz	Postgraduate School Rep - School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (SHAPP)
Sean Dynes	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Sophie McManus	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tiarnan Smyth	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tiarnan Tracey	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tj Lindsay	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Mathematics & Physics (SMP)
Tobenna Okeke	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)
Vishesh Bhagchandani	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)

In Attendance:

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (CLERK OF COUNCIL)
BARRY CRUICKSHANK (REPRESENTATION SUPPORT OFFICER)
LOUISE MCGEOUGH (ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION ASSISTANT)
CIARAN HIGGINS (STUDENTS' UNION DIRECTOR)

The Speaker of Council welcomed all attendees to the First Statutory Meeting of the 2022-23 session of the Students' Union Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the following Councillors:

Beatrice Titcombe	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Caroline Brennan	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (SCHEM)
Ellie McGuigan	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Jane Moore	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)
Kendra Sneddon	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Kieron Portbury	Student Officer Equality & Diversity
Liam Magill	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Marta Cipriano	Part-Time - Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer
Róisín Costelloe	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Sarah Carlisle	Students' Union Council - All First Year Representative
Shea McCourt	Undergraduate School Representative - Social Sciences, Education and Social Work (SSESW)
Sowmya Balachandran	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Storm Eaton Kilgallen	Part-Time - Irish Language Officer
Thom Hinds	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Statutory Meeting of Tuesday 24 May 2022 (SUC/M/22/4)

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting (Annual Business Meeting) of 24 May 2022 (SUC/M/22/4) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Policy Updates

3.1.1 Irish Language Residential Scheme

Emma, the Students' Union President updated Council on the progress that had been made since the approval of the Irish Language Residential Scheme motion. The Irish Language Residential Scheme formally opened in Queen's Accommodation, Elms BT1, at the beginning of term after extended lobbying by the Students' Union and Irish Language activists. She further updated that there was an official launch on Wednesday 12 October 2022. The launch was a huge success and was attended by students, representatives of the Students' Union, and the University.

3.1.2 Support for Student Parents and Carers

Emma, the Students' Union President updated Council on the progress that had been made since the approval of the motion, Support for Student Parents and Carers. At the start of term the Students' Union set up a Parents' and Carers' Fund where eligible students were able to apply for one of the fifteen awards of £100 and Emma was happy to announce that the fund had awarded £1,500 to eligible students.

Emma, Students' Union President further updated Council she was currently working closely with the Department of Student and Academic Affairs (DASA) regarding exceptional circumstances for Student Parents' and Carers'.

3.1.3 Support for the Campaign to Ban Conversion Therapy

Emma, Students' Union President updated Council that Kieron, The Equality & Diversity Officer is continuing to lobby the University for recognition that conversion therapy took place within the University and a statement that the University distances itself from such practices.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Condolences

Emma, Students' Union President Updated Council that there had been several fatalities this term and as a mark of respect would like to honour these individuals with a moments' silence.

Council would like to remember:

- Johnny Fox Lewis (Student)
- Krishnan Subramanian (Student)
- Baroness May Blood (Trade unionist and former member of University Senate)

4.2 Introduction to Student Council and the Procedures for Student Council

The Clerk of Council gave an introduction to Student Council and the procedures for Student Councillors.

The Clerk of Council gave a presentation on the overview of the procedures for the Student Council and encouraged members of Council to contact the Student Voice Team with any queries.

Councillors were advised that they are required to send apologies to the Deputy Clerk of Council if they are unable to attend a meeting of Council. It was noted that any member of Council who misses two consecutive meetings of Council (without submitting apologies) shall have been deemed to have resigned their seat.

The salient points included:

- Student Voice Email
- Raise Your Hand
- Location of the Meetings
- Register Your Attendance
- Speaking
- Propose a Motion
- Procedural Motion
- Point of Information
- Point of Order
- Emergency Motions / Amendments
- Voting on Motions
- Rulings on Meeting Procedures
- Conduct
- Use of Data

4.3 Resignations from the Executive Management Committee

The Clerk of Council updated Council that Student Officer Welfare: Lauren Moore has resigned from her position on the Executive Management Committee.

He further updated that there are now 80 members of Council.

4.4 Bye-Elections to the Executive Management Committee - Results

The Council noted that a bye-election took place for the Executive Management Committee, and for the following constituencies of Council:

- Student Parents' and Carers' Officer

After a voting period, Leo Davies was elected.

4.5 Introduction to the Students' Union Executive 2022-23

Emma, the Student Union President introduced Councillors to elected members of the 2022-23 Executive Management Committee:

E Murphy	Students' Union President
B Elder	Vice President Education
Vacant	Vice President Welfare
A Moran	Vice President Campaigns and Engagement
K Portbury	Vice President Equality and Diversity
JL Campbell	Vice President Postgraduate
A Larson Baldwin	Union Speaker
D Sachin Pawar	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer
M Greer	Disabled Students' Officer
A Herron	Environmental and Ethical Trading Officer
J Kolta	International Students' Officer
S Eaton Kilgallen	Irish Language Officer
P Stone	LGBT+ Officer
M Cipriano	Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer
L Davies	Student Parents' and Carers' Officer
J Crisp	Women Students' Officer
A Johnston	Trans Students' Officer

4.6 Autumn Elections 2022 - Update

The Council noted that elections took place for Course Representatives positions, and for the following constituencies of Council:

- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences
- Postgraduate
- All Students
- All First Year Students
- International Students
- School Representatives

The Council further noted that elections took place for the following Non-Sabbatical Student Officer positions:

- Student Parents' and Carers' Officer (Bye-Election)

654 students voted across all elections on 6 October 2022, casting a total of 2754 votes across all elections.

4.7 Students' Union Council – Schedule of Meetings and Submission Deadlines

The Clerk of Council explained to Council that the Students' Union Council normally meets six times per academic year. The schedule of Statutory (ordinary) meetings for 2022-23 is as follows, as published on the Student Council SharePoint site:

Meeting Date / Time	Agenda Submission Deadline	Constitutional Amendments Submission Deadline
Mon 24 Oct 22 - 5.00pm	Thu 20 Oct 22 - 9.00am	Mon 10 Oct 22 - 9.00am
Wed 16 Nov 22 - 5.00pm	Wed 9 Nov 22 - 9.00am	Fri 28 Oct 22 - 9.00am
Mon 05 Dec 22 - 5.00pm	Mon 28 Nov 22 9.00am	Wed 16 Nov 22 - 9.00am
Thu 26 Jan 22 - 5.00pm	Thu 19 Jan 23 - 9.00am	Mon 9 Jan 23 - 9.00am
Wed 15 Feb 23 - 5.00pm	Wed 8 Feb 23 - 9.00am	Fri 27 Jan 23 – 9.00am
Tue 18 Apr 23 - 5.00pm	Tue 4 Apr 23 - 9.00am	Fri 24 Mar 23 - 9.00am

All agenda items must be submitted the Student Voice team by the specified deadlines. This includes policy motions, reports from Committees and any proposals to amend the Constitution.

All motions and proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted in the names of two students, called the 'proposer' and a 'seconder'. When you are submitting an item for the agenda, you will be the proposer. You must also give the name and email address of your seconder.

4.8 National Conference Delegate Elections 2022-23 – Proposed Schedule

The Clerk of Council reported that elections to delegations for the national conference of the following national unions will most likely take place in early semester two:

- The National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS)
- The Union of Students' in Ireland (USI)
- The National Union of Students – Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI)

4.9 Student Leader Elections 2022-23 – Schedule

The Committee noted that nominations for the Student Leader Elections 2022-23 would open on the first day of term in 2023. The voting period will be during the week commencing 28 February 2023.

4.10 Students' Union Constitutional Amendments (September 2022) – Update

There were none.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

There were none.

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Appointment of Returning Officer for the Student Officer Elections 2022-23

The Council approved the proposal by the Director of the Students' Union to appoint Peter Robinson (NUS Charity Director) as Returning Officer for the 2022-23 Student Officer elections.

6.2 Student Officer Plan of Work 2022-23

SUC/P/22/41

This report was deferred to the next meeting.

7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion

The Union President undertook sought feedback from Councillors on the key Cost of Living issues facing students.

7.2 2022-23 Academic Year – Emerging Issues / Concerns

Substantive discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.3 New Students' Union Project – Overview and Update

Substantive discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.4 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

Substantive discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.5 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Introduction and Update

Substantive discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.6 Students' Union Democracy Review – Update

Substantive discussion of this matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

8. BYE-ELECTIONS

The Council noted that a bye-election took place for the Executive Management Committee, and for the following constituencies of Council:

- Student Parents' and Carers' Officer

After a voting period, Leo Davies was elected.

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 Union Speaker (1 vacancy)

Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin, Eoin Ussher, and Matthew McCallion were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected

9.2 Students' Union Management Board (3 vacancies)

Dermot Hamill, Eliot Sellers, Hany Bahgat, Hazel McMorrow, Huda Al Baqali, Jomyn Lee, Kieron and Niamh Bone were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.3 Standing Committee (15 vacancies)

Ali Gardezi, Alicia Kerr, Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin, Dermot Hamill, Eoin Ussher, Gwen Ridout, Jomyn Lee, Kieran Minto, Matthew McCallion, Nadine Curtis, Róisín Costelloe, Samantha Koitz, Sophie McManus, Tara Lynne O'Neill, Tiarnan Tracey, Tiarnan Smyth and Tobenna Okeke were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.4 Environmental and Ethical Committee (10 vacancies)

Alicia Kerr, Arnab Jana, Gwen Ridout, Huda Al Baqali, Kieran Minto, Nadine Curtis, Niamh Bone, Petra Stone, Samantha Koitza, Tara Lynne O'Neill were duly proposed and deemed elected.

9.5 University Senate (1 vacancy)

Hany Bahgat, Huda Al Baqali, Kieran Minto, Róisín Costelloe, Samantha Emily Koitz and TJ Lindsay were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.6 Academic Council (1 vacancy)

Julien Kolta and Ryan Irwin were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected

9.7 Scrutiny Committee (9 vacancies)

Abhishek Kumbhar, Alicia Kerr, Bryony Tunney, Eoin Ussher, Jess Hindley, Matthew McCallion, Molly Quinn, Róisín Costelloe, Sophie McManus were duly proposed and deemed elected.

10. MOTIONS

There were none.

11. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Report of the Management Board

This report to be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee

12.2 Report of the Union President

12.3 Report of the Vice President Campaigns & Engagement

12.4 Report of the Vice President Education

12.5 Report of the Vice President Equality & Diversity

These reports shall be considered at the next meeting of the Council.

13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were none.

14. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

There were none.

15. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

There were none.

16. QUESTIONS (TO ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES)

There were none.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

18. DATE OF NEXT STATUTORY MEETING OF THE STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

The Second Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2021-23 will take place Wednesday 16 November at 5.00p.m. in Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.