

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

### MINUTES

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council  
held on 26 January 2023 in Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.

#### Present:

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
Alicia Kerr	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
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)
Beatrice Titcombe	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Beth Elder	Student Officer Education
Bryony Tunney	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ellie McGuigan	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
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
Jess Hindley	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Jessica Crisp	Part-Time - Women Students' Officer
Julien Kolta	Part-Time - International Students' Officer
Kieran Minto	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Kieron Portbury	Student Officer Equality & Diversity
Leo Davies	Part-Time - Student Parents' and Carers' Officer
Liam Magill	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Matthew McCallion	Postgraduate School Rep - 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)
Petra Stone	Part-Time - LGBT+ Students' Officer
Rebecca Smyth	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Psychology (SBS)
Róisín Costelloe	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ryan Irwin	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Undergraduate Faculty Representative
Ryan Rogan	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Samantha Emily Koitz	Postgraduate School Rep - School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (SHAPP)
Sophie McManus	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Sowmya Balachandran	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Tara Lynne O'Neill	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Thom Hinds	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Tiarnan Smyth	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tiarnan Tracey	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tiffany Gracias	Postgraduate School Rep - Institute of Professional Legal Studies (IPLS)
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)  
LOUISE MCGEOUGH (ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION ASSISTANT)  
CIARAN HIGGINS (STUDENTS' UNION DIRECTOR)  
MATTHEW MCCALLION (DEPUTY UNION SPEAKER)

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

#### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the following Councillors:

Anna Herron

Part-Time - Environmental Officer

Asha Marie Larson-Baldwin	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Emma Murphy	Union President
Hany Bahgat	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Jane Moore	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SECS)
Meghan-Louise Meban	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative
Molly Quinn	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Law (SLAW)
Pete / Shijie Wang	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Arts, English and Languages (SAEL)
Storm Eaton Kilgallen	Part-Time - Irish Language Officer
Matthew Charlwood	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative

## 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

### 2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting of 5 December 2022 SUC/M/22/7

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 5 December 2022 (SUC/M/22/7) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### 2.2 Minutes of Special Meeting of 7 December 2022 SUC/M/22/8

It was agreed that the minutes of the Special Meeting of 7 December 2022 (SUC/M/22/8) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

### 2.3 Minutes of Special Meeting of 13 January 2023 SUC/M/23/1

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 13 January 2023 (SUC/M/23/1) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

### 3.1 Policy Updates

There were none.

### 3.2 Constitutional Amendments SUC/P/23/7

#### 3.2.1 Amendments Approved (Statutory Meeting of 5 December 2022) – Update

The Clerk of Council confirmed that the amendments approved by Council at the Statutory Meeting held on 5 December were approved by Referendum on 15 December 2022 and approved by Management Board on 21 December 2022.

The amendment concerning the composition of Management Board shall be considered by Senate within the current academic year.

#### 3.2.2 Amendments Approved (Special Meeting of 7 December 2022) – Update

The Clerk of Council confirmed that the amendments approved by Council at the Statutory Meeting held on 5 December were approved by Referendum on 15 December 2022 and approved by Management Board on 21 December 2022.

### 3.3 Referendums (Special Meeting of 13 January 2023) – Update

The Clerk of Council confirmed that as approved by the Council on at the Special Meeting of 13 January 2023, Referendums have been called to option the opinion of the membership on the following proposals:

- QUB Should Pay Its Fair Share towards Students' Cost of Survival
- Oppose Increases in Student Tuition and Accommodation Fees
- QUB Should Invest its Substantial Financial Assets in Student-Owned Co-Operatives

The referendums are scheduled to take place from Tuesday 23 January 2023, 8.00 a.m. – Thursday 26 January 2023, 8.00 p.m.

#### 4. COMMUNICATIONS

##### 4.1 Condolences

There were none.

##### 4.2 National Students' Union Updates

Council noted that the National Union of Students (NUS) has dismissed its president, Shaima Dallali, over anti-Semitism claims. It follows an independent code-of-conduct investigation after allegations were made against her.

The findings of a wider investigation into the NUS were published on 12 January 2023, the full report can be found online. The report outlines the following:

- *In May 2022, NUS commissioned Rebecca Tuck KC to lead an independent investigation looking at allegations of antisemitism as well as historic matters and broader culture. NUS worked closely with the Union of Jewish Students throughout.*
- *NUS is confident that the investigations have been thorough, fair and conducted to the highest standards throughout. There is no room for doubt that this process has been as robust as it gets.*
- *The KC's report is a detailed and shocking account of antisemitism within the student movement. It is a truly difficult read for all of us but we welcome the clarity it brings to enable us to act with confidence to tackle antisemitism head on. There is no place for antisemitism within NUS and we are committed to ensuring that Jewish students feel safe and welcome in every corner of our movement. Antisemitism is an attack on our shared values of equality and solidarity. We have a proud history of fighting struggles alongside Jewish students. We must tackle antisemitism in all its forms with collective responsibility and in doing so restore our collective. We are stronger united.*
- *NUS' priority now is to take forward the recommendations from Rebecca Tuck KC's independent report to tackle antisemitism in all its forms across the breadth and depth of NUS. We have developed an action plan which will help us achieve this, but it is vital that we listen and learn from others, which is why we are setting up an Advisory Panel to scrutinise this plan and oversee its implementation. We must shine a light on the realities of antisemitism and be transparent in our reporting of progress.*
- *Whilst the independent investigation has come to its conclusion, we understand that this is an ongoing endeavour. We have rightly opened ourselves up to scrutiny and welcome the findings from the independent investigations. Our action plan is the next step towards earning and restoring trust with Jewish students and to ensuring they are able to feel safe and supported within NUS.*

##### 4.3 National Conference Delegate Elections 2022-23 – Schedule

The Clerk of Council confirmed the elections to delegations for national conferences is currently open and urged Councillors to vote.

The National Conference Delegate Elections are for:

- NUS Conference Delegates
- USI Conference Delegates
- NUS-USI Conference Delegates

##### 4.4 Student Leader Elections 2022-23 – Schedule

The Clerk of Council confirmed that the nominations for the Student Leader Elections 2022-23 would be opened on 9 January 2023. Council noted elections would return to four days of polling.

The Schedule is as follows:

**Nominations Close:** Thursday 2 February (5.00pm)

**Polling Opens:** Monday 27 February 2023

**Polling Closes:** Thursday 2 March 2023

#### 4.5 Council Membership – Update

The Clerk of Council updated Council that the Council membership had gone up by one, with Sarah Sonner becoming the Postgraduate School Rep for Medicine and Dentistry.

#### 5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

There were none.

#### 6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

##### 6.1 Recognition of Clubs & Societies

The following applications for recognition were considered by the Standing Committee when it met on 18 January 2023:

6.1.1 Queen's University Belfast Bhakti Yoga Society (General Interest Society)

6.1.2 Queen's University Belfast Language and Solidarity Initiative Society (General Interest Society)

6.1.3 Queen's University Belfast Nigerian Society (Cultural Society)

6.1.4 Queen's University Belfast Rubber Duck Appreciation Society (General Interest Society)

6.1.5 Queen's University Belfast Tango Society (General Interest Society)

6.1.6 Queen's University Belfast Turkish Society (Cultural Society)

Nadine Curtis, Standing Committee member updated Council that all applications had completed required documentation and met the criteria in the Constitution to be considered for recognition.

She further stated that The Committee considered the application individually and met with representative from each group and finally noted that the Standing Committee recommends that Council formally recognise these groups as official Clubs and Societies, categorised as follows:

Queen's University Belfast Bhakti Yoga Society (General Interest Society)

Queen's University Belfast Language and Solidarity Initiative Society (General Interest Society)

Queen's University Belfast Nigerian Society (Cultural Society)

Queen's University Belfast Rubber Duck Appreciation Society (General Interest Society)

Queen's University Belfast Tango Society (General Interest Society)

Queen's University Belfast Turkish Society (Cultural Society)

Nadine proposed voting on the Societies as a block. Following a vote, this was approved.

Following a vote, the above Clubs & Societies were ratified.

## 7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion

Aidan, Students' Union Campaigns and Engagement Officer informed Council about the Cost of Living support package that has been put in place by the University and even though she welcomed the proposals put to the University by the Students' Union, he wanted to stress that work will continue to support students during these difficult times.

It was noted that the Students' Union, in partnership and funded by, the University supported the provision of free "Express Breakfasts" at three sites on campus – including the SU Lounge, over a three-week period at the end of January 2023. This is in addition to the 5,000 free breakfasts distributed last semester in the Students' Union.

He further updated Council that she was in constant communication with the University about proposed action and additional support for students and would continue to update on further developments.

A proposal to establish a "student pantry" in the Students' Union has also been approved by the University and will be funded by the University's cost of living budget.

### 7.2 University and College Union (UCU) – Industrial Action Update

Jamie-Lukas, Students' Union Postgraduate Officer updated Council updated on University and College Union (UCU) – Proposed Industrial Action.

The University and College (UCU) staff trade union - which represents academic and academic-related staff - in higher education across the UK, is in an industrial dispute at a national level with universities.

The issues of dispute are: staff pensions; staff pay levels; workload; use of casual employment contracts; and equality issues in the workplace.

The UCU and national representatives of universities have been in discussions for some time but have not come to an agreement.

UCU members in universities across the UK have exercised their right in law to commence industrial action against the universities.

They have agreed to take two types of industrial action in February and March 2023:

- Strike Action (Staff were on strike over 18 days)
- Action Short of a Strike (This means working strictly to the terms of an employment contract and not doing any additional work.)

It is likely that there will be further, more protracted, industrial action in 2023 unless the UCU and universities come to an agreement on the issues under dispute.

Jamie-Lukas further updated Council that during the Students' Union supports the UCU industrial action.

The Students' Union held an all-student vote (also called a referendum) on 23-24 Nov 2021 to give students an opportunity to have their say on the strikes. An overwhelming 84.6% of those who voted were in favour the Students' Union supporting UCU industrial action!

The elected Students' Union Council has also voted to support the industrial action.

This means that:

- The Students' Union will give full and public support to UCU
- Student Officers will support the cancelling of classes, lectures and teaching where staff members have chosen to strike
- Student Officers will attend and encourage other students to join staff protests (pickets) when possible
- Student Officers will have very limited attendance at University meetings. (e.g., student disciplinary meetings, meetings about the strike action etc.)
- The Students' Union will support further strike action next semester

The Students' Union believes that the issues under dispute have a direct impact on the quality of your education as they affect conditions under which staff can work, their contact time with you, and the time they can invest in preparing for classes and marking assignments.

Jamie-Lukas, Students' Union Postgraduate Officer also believes that the strikes are part of a broader campaign against marketisation which has led to rising tuition fees, rising hidden costs of education and a greater focus on outcomes and league tables.

Strike Dates:

1. Wednesday 1 February
2. Thursday 9 February
3. Friday 10 February
4. Tuesday 14 February
5. Wednesday 15 February
6. Thursday 16 February
7. Tuesday 21 February
8. Wednesday 22 February
9. Thursday 23 February
10. Monday 27 February
11. Tuesday 28 February
12. Wednesday 1 March
13. Thursday 2 March
14. Thursday 16 March
15. Friday 17 March
16. Monday 20 March
17. Tuesday 21 March
18. Wednesday 22 March

### 7.3 2022-23 Academic Year – Issues / Concerns

Beth, The Students' Union Education Officer updated Council that the Universities lecture recordings target was not met but should be in place to be met by September 2023.

### 7.4 Students' Union (Building) – Update

Kieron, Students' Union Equality & Diversity Officer updated Council that the official opening of One Elmwood is schedule for 21 March 2023. Kieron highlighted that as this was a strike date the date would be subject to change.

### 7.5 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

Kieron, Students' Union Equality & Diversity Officer updated Council that the OMNI report has been finished and reviewed and the findings will be published imminently. They further updated that the Students' Union were working on an action plan based on the findings and would update Council when this was complete.

7.6 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Update

There was none.

7.7 Students' Union Democracy Review – Update

The Clerk of Council updated Council on the Students' Union Democracy Review, the progress that has been made so far, and some feedback so far. The Clerk of Council explained how important this feedback would be in shaping future officer teams, and the new Students' Union.

The Clerk of Council then led a discussion on the Students' Union Democracy Review getting feedback from members, which was positive and supportive of the review.

8. BYE-ELECTIONS

Council is asked to note that, following a bye-election, the Councillors named below have been elected to the Students' Union Standing Committee:

Nadine Curtis and Ali Gardezi

9. ELECTIONS

There are none.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 **Bereavement Leave for Postgraduate Research Students**

This Council notes that:

Postgraduate Research (PGR) students in receipt of funding are currently (in many cases) ineligible for bereavement leave during their time of study and that the only option available for many PGR students who suffer a bereavement and who need to take leave from their studies for the duration of the bereavement period is to request a Leave of Absence.

This Council further notes that:

Taking a Leave of Absence results in not only the student's research programme being placed on hold for the duration of the Leave, but also is their funding withheld; this funding includes their stipend that is necessary for supporting their livelihood throughout their research programme (which they are effectively conducting as a full-time job).

This Council regrets that:

Northern Ireland employment law only guarantees employees statutory leave without pay for a reasonable period for bereavement but praises the fact that employees may at least be granted paid bereavement leave as part of their employment contracts.

This Council believes that:

Bereavement leave is a necessary right to allow students time to grieve the loss of a loved one and that this is especially prudent in the case of PGR students considering the nature of their work.

This Council mandates:

The VP Postgraduate to investigate methods allowing PGR students to be eligible for bereavement leave by ensuring that their stipends may be funded during said leave.

Proposer: Matthew McCallion (PG School Rep, Law)  
Seconder: Jamie-Lukas Campbell (Student Officer Postgraduate)

Matthew McCallion proposed the motion.

Following a vote, this motion was carried.

## 10.2 **Queen's Accommodation Charges and Fees**

Council Notes:

1. That QSU is engaged in a cost of living campaign in the face of cost of living crisis facing society.
2. That Queen's Accommodation has assisted in this campaign by removing certain fees and fines.
3. That many residents of Queen's Accommodation are first year students living away from the family home for the first time.

Council Further Notes:

1. That certain costs of Queen's Accommodation are presently quite high. These include, but are not limited to, laundry and vending machines on-site.
2. That residents of BT9 - Willow Walk are entitled to a statement at the half-term updating them on their energy usage, which is measured by an energy meter, and they have not as-of-yet received this.

Council Therefore Mandates:

1. That QSU lobbies to seek a reduction on price for laundry and the usage of vending machines for Queen's Accommodation residents.
2. That QSU lobbies for residents to receive their energy statements.

Proposed: Eoin Ussher (Student Councillor)  
Seconder: Beth Elder (Student Officer Education)

Eoin Ussher proposed the motion.

Following a vote, this motion was carried.

## 10.3 **Parity Between Queen's Accommodation Campuses**

Council Notes:

- That Queen's Accommodation has allowed residents in Elms BT1 and BT2 to sign in guests after 8 PM on a trial basis;
- And that residents have responded favourably to the long-awaited trial policy, particularly as the cost-of-living crisis and stagnant student financing and career prospects continue to impact residents while accommodation fees continue to rise.

Council Further Notes:



- That the same condition has not been extended to BT9, despite Queen's Accommodation advertising BT9 to postgraduate and non-traditional learning students.

Council Therefore:

- Mandates the Union to lobby for parity between all Queen's Accommodation campuses on the matter of guest sign-ins.

Council Further Mandates:

- That the Union requests information relating to any issues and successes of the guest sign-in trial as found by the Accommodation offices, to ensure a coherent policy relating to student accommodation at Queens.

Proposer: Eoin Ussher (Student Councillor)

Seconder: Jamie-Lukas Campbell (Student Officer Postgraduate)

Eoin Ussher proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

#### 10.4 **Supporting University and College Union (UCU) Industrial Action**

Council Notes:

- The University and College Union (UCU) have balloted for strike action on two separate legal disputes, one on pensions and one on pay and working conditions.
- In 2022, 85% of UCU members who voted backed strike action in relation to pensions, 74% supported strike action in relation to pay, equality, casualisation and workloads.
- Industrial action has been called for a total of 18 days throughout February and March.
- Locally, UCU at Queen's have confirmed their intention to join with 150 universities across the UK in the industrial action with 79% of members who voted supporting this decision.
- This follows strike action taken in 2018 which was initiated by proposed reforms to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) pension scheme, and new data released by the USS trustees has revealed that restoring benefit cuts forced through by Universities UK earlier this year would cost less than current contributions and still leave the scheme in surplus.
- These threats are likely to be most damaging to workers at the beginning of their careers, including PhD students, which will have devastating impact in future.
- The UCU have stood in solidarity with students taking action against the rise in accommodation and post graduate tuition fees.

Council Believes:

- Staff should receive fair pay, pensions and working conditions.
- Staff's working conditions are inseparable from students' learning conditions.
- Students and staff should stand in solidarity, including the struggle for fair pay, pensions and working conditions.

- Threats to staff pay, pensions and conditions are part of the same ideology of marketization that is to blame for rising tuition fees, rising costs of education and cuts to education.

Council Mandates:

- Members of the Executive Management Team to give public support to UCU.
- Full Time Officers to stand in solidarity with the UCU when a picket line is called.
- The Students' Union to encourage students to vocalise concerns at management rather than the striking staff.

Proposer: Aidan Moran (Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement)  
Seconder: Eoin Ussher (Student Councillor)

Aidan Moran proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

### 10.5 **National Student Survey (NSS) Boycott**

Council Notes:

- The NSS, PTES and PRES surveys are used as a way to rank universities according to their students.
- QUB relies heavily on these surveys as a way to generate income via applicants to study at the university.
- Boycotting and threatening to boycott the NSS survey has had massive impacts in terms of negotiations for students here at QUB and elsewhere across the UK.

Council Believes:

- Boycotting the surveys is a weapon that could be heavily utilised by the Students' Union for leverage in the campaigns surrounding the cost of living.

Council Mandates:

- The Full-Time Officer team to use the threat of a boycott or disruption of the survey in negotiations with university management to achieve the demands surrounding the economic crisis.
- The Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement to mobilise a team to campaign for the organisation or disruption of the NSS boycott if these demands are not met.

Proposer: Aidan Moran (Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement)  
Seconder: Bea Titcombe (Student Councillor)

Aidan Moran proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

### 10.6 **Drug Harm Reduction**

Council Notes:

- Drug harm reduction is an approach to drug use that moves away from preventative measures and towards reducing the harm drug users inflict on themselves.

- There have been growing calls for the decriminalisation of drug use in recent years and the treatment of drug use and addiction as health issues rather than criminal issues.
- Research has shown that two of the most common counterarguments to the decriminalisation of drug use – a lowering of the age of onset of drug use, and a lowering of the price of drugs – are invalid and have not been substantially evidenced.

Vicknasingam B, Narayanan S, Singh D, Chawarski M. (2018) "Decriminalization of drug use", *Curr Opin Psychiatry*, 31(4), pp. 300-305.

- UK-based organisations such as Release and Drug Science work on educating people about the reality of drug use and advocating for those unfairly convicted for drug use, with work founded in research.
- MPs have previously advocated for the decriminalisation of drugs as a method of reducing the number of drug-related deaths.
- There is a complete lack of drug harm reduction education in Northern Ireland, and guidance released by the Department of Education focuses solely on preventing drug use and criminalising students who may be using drugs.
- Examples of drug decriminalisation in countries such as Canada and Portugal have shown a wealth of positive benefits, including a decrease in drug users and increases in funding for rehab programs.
- Queen's University Belfast's Student Policy on Alcohol And Drugs stipulates under point 6.4: *"Where possible the University will take a supportive approach, however there may be circumstances where action will be taken under other University regulations such as those relating to conduct, discipline, fitness to study and fitness to practise. Such circumstances may include when the behaviour or action is considered to be serious, causing danger or major concern to others, the individual fails to comply with suggested treatment or the alcohol and/or drug misuse is repeated. For students on professional programmes, this could mean a referral to Fitness to Practise and potentially being suspended or excluded from the University"*.
- Queen's Accommodation's Conditions of Occupancy 2022-23 states *"any action which breaches drugs-related legislation will be regarded as a serious disciplinary matter and will be dealt with accordingly."*
- The University of Bristol is a good example of a University to adopt a harm reduction policy for drugs and alcohol and focus on reducing barriers to accessing support – *"The University of Bristol understands that students use alcohol and other drugs. We also understand that a zero-tolerance stance is harmful and damaging as it prevents students reaching out as they may fear being punished."*

Council Believes:

- Drug use in Northern Ireland should be decriminalised.
- Instances of drug use should be treated as health and wellbeing issues rather than criminal issues.
- Drug use education should take a harm reduction approach.
- No student should receive disciplinary action as a result of alcohol or drug use.
- Students are entitled to receive educational support from the university or partner organisations relating to: safe alcohol and drug use, responding to health issues arising from alcohol and drug use, and recovering from addiction.

## Council Mandates:

- The SU to form connections with any local or national organisations working on drug harm reduction where it is relevant.
- The SU to, where relevant, advocate on a political level for the decriminalisation of drug use.
- QUB to remove any stipulations regarding disciplinary action from the Student Policy on Alcohol and Drugs.
- QUB to remove any stipulations regarding disciplinary action relating to alcohol or drug use from the Queen's Accommodation Conditions of Occupancy.
- Where disciplinary action would be enacted based on alcohol or drug use, QUB to instead develop methods of ensuring student wellbeing relating to drug and alcohol use and helping students to receive the support they are entitled to.
- QUB to seek avenues for drug harm reduction work to be delivered to the student body.
- QUB to cease any ongoing disciplinary action relating to drug or alcohol use and to instead focus on supporting the health and wellbeing of the students in question.

Proposer: Kieron Portbury (Student Officer Equality & Diversity)  
 Seconder: Cici Gordon (Student)

Kieron Portbury proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

## 11. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 11.1 Report of the Management Board

There was deferred to the next meeting of the Student 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 (November 2022) SUC/P/22/63

This report was accepted.

#### 12.3 Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Engagement (Nov 2022) SUC/P/22/64

This report was accepted.

#### 12.4 Report of the Vice President Education (November 2022) SUC/P/22/65

This report was accepted.

#### 12.5 Report of the Vice President Equality & Diversity (November 2022) SUC/P/22/66

This report was accepted.

#### 12.6 Report of the Vice President Postgraduate (November 2022) SUC/P/22/67

This report was accepted.

## 13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 Report of the Standing Committee (9 November 2022) SUC/P/22/68

This report was accepted.

- 13.2 Report of the Standing Committee (30 November 2022) SUC/P/22/69

This report was accepted.

- 13.3 Report of the Environmental & Ethical Committee (11 Nov 2022) SUC/P/22/70

This report was accepted.

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

Council is asked to note that RAG week is taking place the week commencing Monday 6 February and the Students' Union Rag Chair Bryony Tunney has helped organise a full schedule of events and urged Councillors to promote and attend as much as they possible can.

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

The fifth Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2022-23 will take place Wednesday 15 of February 2023 at 5.00p.m. in Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.