



### 3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

#### 3.1 Policy Updates

##### 3.1.1 Bereavement Leave for Postgraduate Research Students

Jamie-Lukas, VP Postgraduate updated Council updated Council that there have been no further developments since the approval of the motion, Bereavement Leave for Postgraduate Research Students.

##### 3.1.2 Queen's Accommodation Charges and Fees

Emma, the Student Union President updated Council that there have been no further developments since the approval of the motion, Queen's Accommodation Charges and Fees.

##### 3.1.3 Parity Between Queen's Accommodation Campuses

Emma, the Student Union President updated Council that there have been no further developments since the approval of the motion, Parity Between Queen's Accommodation Campuses.

##### 3.1.4 Supporting University and College Union (UCU) Industrial Action

Emma, the Student Union President updated Council on the progress that had been made since the approval of the motion, Supporting University and College Union (UCU) Industrial Action. Emma Informed Council that this motion was a continuation on previous years policies and the Student Officer team and the Students' Union would continue to support UCU during Industrial action. This means:

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.

##### 3.1.5 National Student Survey (NSS) Boycott

Aidan, VP Campaigns & Engagement updated Council on the progress that had been made since the approval of the motion, National Student Survey (NSS) Boycott. Aidan informed Council that the Survey was now open and he would be trying to target specific courses to have maximum effect and would update at next Council.

##### 3.1.6 Drug Harm Reduction

Kieron, VP Equality & Diversity updated Council on the progress that had been made since the approval of the motion, Drug Harm Reduction. There was an event on the 30th March in Mandela Hall titled "The Truth About Drug Science - an evening at Queen's University Belfast", featuring talks and a panel discussion with academics and

students around harm reduction. The event was well attendance and feedback was very positive.

### 3.2 Referendums (Special Meeting of 13 January 2023) – Results

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 took place from Tuesday 23 January 2023, 8.00 a.m. – Thursday 26 January 2023, 8.00 p.m.

#### Results

#### **QUB SHOULD PAY ITS FAIR SHARE TOWARDS STUDENTS' COST OF SURVIVAL**

**YES**                    **1,819**    **98.0%**

**NO**                     **37**      **2.0%**

1,872 students voted in this Referendum, representing 7.56% of eligible voters.

16 students recorded an abstention and therefore did not agree or disagree with the proposal.

The proposal is carried and is deemed to be a valid expression of the views of the members of the Union.

#### **OPPOSE INCREASES IN STUDENT TUITION AND ACCOMMODATION FEES**

**YES**                    **1,660**    **96.2%**

**NO**                     **65**      **3.8%**

1,754 students voted in this Referendum, representing 7.08% of eligible voters.

29 students recorded an abstention and therefore did not agree or disagree with the proposal.

The proposal is carried and is deemed to be a valid expression of the views of the members of the Union.

#### **QUB SHOULD INVEST ITS SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSETS IN STUDENT-OWNED CO-OPERATIVES**

**YES**                    **1,479**    **95.2%**

**NO**                     **75**      **4.8%**

1,652 students voted in this Referendum, representing 6.67% of eligible voters.

98 students recorded an abstention and therefore did not agree or disagree with the proposal.

The proposal is carried and is deemed to be a valid expression of the views of the members of the Union.

## 4. COMMUNICATIONS

### 4.1 Condolences

Emma, Students' Union President Updated Council that there had been a fatality since our last meeting of Council and as a mark of respect would like to honour this individual with a moments' silence.

Council would like to remember:

- Dr Aaron Lake

#### 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 – Results

The Clerk of Council confirmed the National Conference Delegate Elections 2022-23 Results.

##### **National Union of Students (NUS) Conference**

Will take place from Wednesday 15 – Thursday 16 March 2023 in Harrogate Convention Centre, Harrogate.

Delegates are:

Aoife Maguire (Elected Delegate)  
 Aidan Moran (Elected Delegate)  
 Emma Murphy (Student Officer Team Representative)  
 Kieron Portbury (Elected Delegate)

### **NUS-USI Conference**

Will take place on Wednesday 22 – Thursday 23 March 2023 in The Ormeau Baths, Belfast.

Delegates are:

Niamh Bone (Elected Delegate)  
Jamie-Lukas Campbell (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Beth Elder (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Aoife Maguire (Elected Delegate)  
Aidan Moran (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Emma Murphy (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Tobenna Okeke (Elected Delegate)  
Dariya Mariya Petryshyn (Elected Delegate)  
Kieron Portbury (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Eoin Ussher (Elected Delegate)  
Adam Wilson (Elected Delegate)

### **Union of Students in Ireland (USI) Congress**

Will take place from Monday 27 – Thursday 30 March 2023 in Sligo, Ireland.

Delegates are:

Beth Elder (Elected Delegate)  
Ryan Irwin (Elected Delegate)  
Aoife Maguire (Elected Delegate)  
Emma Murphy (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Kieron Portbury (Student Officer Team Representative)  
Eoin Ussher (Elected Delegate)

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

The Clerk of Council confirmed that the nominations for the Student Leader Elections 2022-23 closed on Thursday 2 February 2023. Council noted elections would return to four days of polling.

The Clerk of Council further updated Council that there was a record – 36 nominations for the Full Time Student Officer positions.

The Schedule is as follows:

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 has not changed since the last meeting of Council.

#### 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 8 February 2023:

### 6.1.1 QUB Domestic Abuse Awareness Society (General Interest Society)

Emma Murphy, Standing Committee Chair 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 and met with representative from the society and finally noted that the Standing Committee recommends that Council formally recognise this group as an official Society, categorised as follows:

QUB Domestic Abuse Awareness Society (General Interest Society)

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

## 7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

### 7.1 Students' Union Commitment to White Ribbon NI Charter SUC/P23/8

Proposal: *That Queen's Students' Union commit to implementation of the White Ribbon NI Charter within the Students' Union*

*White Ribbon NI is a charity focused on ending violence against women and girls in all forms, including physical, verbal, cultural, and institutional violence. White Ribbon is a global movement that was formed in 1991, and in 2021 a Northern Ireland branch was established.*

*Organisations can sign the White Ribbon Charter and make the pledge to work to end violence against women and girls. A number of NI organisations are already signed on, including political parties, city councils, sports clubs, and government departments. After signing the Charter, White Ribbon NI helps an organisations to develop a "Listen, Learn, Lead" plan, a 3-year action plan that gives an organisation practicality and accountability in ending violence against women and girls.*

*Queen's Students' Union is dedicated to tackling violence against women and girls, and ensuring the safety, comfort, and equality of opportunity for all women and girls. Signing on to this Charter and subsequently developing an action plan will keep us focused on tackling gender-based violence as it affects students, and leading the way in ensuring women and girls are able to live freely and comfortably in society.*

Following a vote, the proposal was passed.

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

Emma, Students' Union President 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, she 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.

Emma, Students' Union President was also delighted to announce that the Student Pantry in the Students' Union has now opened and encouraged Councillors to spread the word amongst students.

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

Emma, Students' Union President 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.

Emma 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 students' education as they affect conditions under which staff can work, their contact time with students, and the time they can invest in preparing for classes and marking assignments.

Emma, Students' Union President 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

7.4 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.

7.5 Students' Union (Building) – Update

Emma, Students' Union President updated Council that the official opening of One Elmwood is schedule for 2 May 2023.

7.6 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

Emma, Students' Union President updated Council that the OMNI report has been finished and reviewed and the findings will be published imminently. She further updated that the Students' Union were working on an action plan based on the findings and would update Council when this was complete.

7.7 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Update

There was none.

7.8 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 were none.

## 10. MOTIONS

10.1 **Policy Submitted to NUS 2023**

The following policy proposal which was submitted by Queen's Students' Union to NUS Conference 2023 formally requires ratification by the Students' Union Council. (Note: This motion will not become the formal policy of Queen's Students' Union and will not become part of our live policy file.)

**Civic Engagement + Freedom to Protest**

*What's the topic you want conference to discuss/what's the title?*

Civic Engagement + Freedom to Protest - pulling together voter registration, the right to strike and the right to protest as various forms of civic engagement that are under threat.

*What areas does this fit under - Civic Engagement*

*What's the issue and how does it affect students?*

Students have always made our voices heard: by protesting on the streets, campaigning against our institutions, organising around our rights to education and as workers, and by voting. This government has threatened all of these. Needing to bring photo ID to vote risks excluding many students; in NI where this currently exists only 51% of young people are registered correctly. The government's 'anti-boycott bill' will make campaigning for divestment more difficult, and anti-strike laws and the Public Order Bill, which criminalises many types of protest, further contribute towards dismantling our democratic rights to hold those in power to account.

*What changes would we like to see in society to change this?*

The right to protest is vital for enacting freedoms of expression, assembly, and association. We must be free to shape society and hold those in power accountable, including that public money is spent ethically. We need to break barriers to democracy, not scare and confuse people out of using their voice. Colleges and universities should take responsibility for the civic engagement of their students and learners and support them to engage in their communities. The laws, policies, and culture underpinning society should encourage healthy debate and protest, supporting students to be active in society and a force for social change.

*How does it impact FE students / Apprentices?*

Colleges need support in getting students and apprentices registered to vote, through funding or bringing back their ability to block register students. Ethical investment/procurement policies

should include public money going only to organisations that employ apprentices. Apprenticeships are a public good and should be supported by public money.

*How does it impact on black\*, disabled, LGBT+, trans and women students?*

Eligible voters from liberation groups, specifically migrants and students of colour, are already less likely to vote and more likely to be targeted by the Public Order Bill. The Public Order Bill is likely to target these groups and women who are consistently overpoliced at protests currently.

\*The NUS definition of the Black Students Campaign represents all students of African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean heritage.

*How does it impact on International Students, Postgraduate Students, Part Time and Mature Students?*

Students juggling work, study and caring responsibilities are time poor and less likely to get voter ID cards. Hostile environment policies already means that international students can be risking their visas by taking part in protest, and the creeping powers of the Public Order Bill silences them further.

*Is there a particular impact or response for small and specialist institutions?*

SUs without the resources to get their students registered to vote should receive support from local councils, funded by the government.

*Does this apply across the UK or specifically in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland? Would there be different consequences for the proposal in different parts of the UK?*

There is good practice we can build on from Scotland and Wales in getting 16-year-olds registered to vote; and comparing ethical investment and procurement legislation across the UK and Northern Ireland can help to campaign more strategically together on issues affecting us all.

*What action could NUS, students and SUs take to work on this?*

- NUS: initiate a national student voter registration drive in the new academic year; lobby institutions through
- UUK and mission groups to partner with SUs/SAs to make voter registration part of enrolment.
- SUs/SAs and NUS: lead a digital campaign to promote student registration, voting at the next general election, and national student voice.
- SUs and NUS: defend freedom of speech; the right to disagree and protest through their policies and provide guidance of how students can organise and protest safely. Students and learners: SUs/SAs, the NSoA and NUS, should work to develop collaborative ethical investment and procurement policies for educational institutions.

Proposer: Beth Elder (Student Officer Education)

Seconder: Emma Murphy (Students' Union President)

Beth Elder proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

## 10.2 Policy Submitted to NUS-USI Conference 2023

The following policy proposal which was submitted by Queen's Students' Union to NUS-USI Conference 2023 formally requires ratification by the Students' Union Council. (Note: This motion will not become the formal policy of Queen's Students' Union and will not become part of our live policy file.)

### **The Cost of Survival: tackling the impact of the COL Crisis on students in NI.**

*What's the topic you want conference to discuss/what's the title?*

The Cost of Survival: tackling the impact of the COL Crisis on students in NI.

*What areas does this fit under - Cost of Living*

*What's the issue and how does it affect students?*

The Cost-of-Living Crisis has hit students hard. Students are being forced to work longer hours, and the mental health impact of financial pressure are affecting students' ability to learn. We have seen the cost of food, transport and accommodation impact on students; so it is important for government, institutions, and SUs to support students across all of these areas. In the context of Northern Ireland, there is:

- A complete lack of an Executive
- Reliance on Westminster as we are held in a political stalemate
- A 40% increase in maintenance loans next year, but no emergency, immediate support
- What changes would we like to see in society to change this?

We need to see a shift to:

- A culture which values education and doesn't use it as a political pawn
- Student voice in governmental decision-making
- Reformation of the Executive
- Politicians listening

Student Poverty is government policy, and this cannot go on. We need action at both an institution and government level to deliver on the basics. We need food on the table. We need a freeze and decrease in our rents. We need a way to get to class that doesn't put us out of pocket. And we need more money to survive to another day.

*How does it impact FE students / Apprentices?*

Often ignored and devalued in our profit-driven education system, FE students and Apprentices are victims of a regime of austerity that leaves their needs behind. With less financial support available than undergraduate university students, we must unlock their voice to ensure our movement tackles issues felt directly on the ground.

*How does it impact on black\*, disabled, LGBT+, trans and women students?*

Students and apprentices who identify within liberation groups need to feel supported and empowered to co-create our campaigns. The COL crisis exacerbates power structures which puts students in dangerous living situations and certain groups may be disproportionately affected, such as migrants, disabled students and trans people reliant on private healthcare.

\*The NUS definition of the Black Students Campaign represents all students of African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean heritage.

*How does it impact on International Students, Postgraduate Students, Part Time and Mature Students?*

We must ensure that any government response to the COL crisis is accessible to everyone in our education system. Whether you are an international student being exploited by a cash-grabbing system, or a parent choosing between textbooks and putting food on their child's table- we need to see change now.

*Is there a particular impact or response for small and specialist institutions?*

We must work with small and specialist students' unions to ensure their officers and staff have support to mobilise and organise on campus. We must also ensure that support students receive is relevant and targeted- like tackling the costs of tools or materials.

*Does this apply across the UK or specifically in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland? Would there be different consequences for the proposal in different parts of the UK?*

Each nation across the UK may need different solutions to the Cost of Living Crisis, because of the differences in devolved and reserved matters. However, our goal is fundamentally the same - get students the support that they need, when and how they need it.

*What action could NUS, students and SUs take to work on this?*

Both at an individual nations level, and at Westminster we need to be taking demands directly to the doors of government. We need direct action to tackle the costs hitting students and apprentices- whether that is food poverty, costs of travel, rent or any other bills. For this to happen, we need to organise within our students' unions to gain active supporters for our campaigns and mobilise students on the ground to feel motivated to take action when and where they can. NUS-USI should lead this collaboration against Stormont inaction, and collaborate with NUS UK with actions where possible.

Proposer: Beth Elder (Student Officer Education)  
 Seconder: Emma Murphy (Students' Union President)

Beth Elder proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

### 10.3 **Abortion Pills in the Students Union Sexual Health Clinic**

In addition to the current Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Sexual Health Clinic in the Students' Union, the Union should introduce Reproductive Healthcare Services, to make Early Medical Abortions (EMA) available through the use of abortion pills, for up to week ten of pregnancy.

Council Notes:

- Abortion became legal in NI in 2020 after the repeal of section 58 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861, and implementation of the Abortion Regulations (NI) 2020. In late 2022 the Secretary for State announced the full commissioning of abortion services to be complete by summer 2023.
- Abortion is a human right as defined by various CEDAW reports.
- Under Section 8 (b) of the Abortion Regulations (NI) 2020, it states that any treatment for the termination of pregnancy must be carried out at a clinic provided by an HSC

trust for the purpose of carrying out terminations (whether or not the clinic also provides other services).

- 1 in 3 women will have an abortion in their lifetime.
- If your pregnancy is less than 10 weeks you can access early abortion services in Northern Ireland, within one of the five Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts (Belfast, Northern, South Eastern, Southern and Western).
- World Health Organisation has said that Early Medical Abortion (EMA) medication is safe, even when taken outside a clinical setting.
- An EMA involves taking two pills, Mifepristone, and the Misoprostol. An EMA is safer than both penicillin and Viagra.
- The continual posts about abortion advice on QUB Love, mean that there is a clear need for access to clear access for services for students.
- The inaccessibility of primary care services to students who are not from Northern Ireland adds additional stress and highlights the need for accessible student services.
- NI students are placed at a disadvantage compared to students in England and Scotland, where primary care and clinics that terminate pregnancy are easy and accessible, for example Chalmers Sexual Health Clinic in Edinburgh.

Council Believes:

- Students are disproportionately disadvantaged by unclear access to abortions.
- Abortion is a healthcare procedure.
- The benefits of them being able to make decisions about their own bodily autonomy in a kind and understanding environment will increase mental wellbeing.
- Students should be given all appropriate and scientific knowledge and opportunities to make informed choices that are right for them.
- Students should not have to seek information about their human rights on anonymous forums where they are flooded with scientifically inaccurate anti-choice propaganda.

Council Mandates:

- The SU to lobby for the implementation and access of EMA's in the Students' Union.
- The SU continues to uphold a prochoice stance and push for decriminalisation of abortion across the entirety of the UK and Ireland.
- The SU to advertise the current advice and support in the Sexual Health Clinic for individuals seeking abortion.

Proposer: Jenny Steele (Student Councillor)

Seconder: Jess Crisp (Women Students' Officer)

Jenny Steele proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

#### 10.4 **Institution Wide Implementation of Lecture Recording**

Council notes that:

- In 2017 SU Council passed a motion to support the recording of lectures to aid accessibility.
- In 2020 SU Council passed a motion to mandate full implementation of lecture recording across the University.
- Queen's University Belfast is the only Russell Group University that does not have a centrally supported lecture capture policy in place.
- According to a survey on digital learning undertaken by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI), lecture recordings are the most in demand digital resource.
- The 2022 OMNI Mental Health survey revealed the top ranked stressor influencing students' mental health was course / academic pressures.
- The University announced the implementation of gold standard lecture capture equipment in the 20 large lecture theatres across the institution by September 2023, following significant delays due to supply shortages.
- The University intends to fully implement Panopto as the centrally adopted lecture capture solution by September 2023.
- Literature suggests that lecture attendance is not significantly impacted by the recording of lectures.

Council believes that:

- Recorded lectures are a vital tool to support students' learning throughout their time at University.
- A wide range of students are impacted by lack of lecture recording for various circumstances including disability and illness.
- There is an urgent need for Queen's to develop and implement a policy on lecture recording that addresses staff concerns around the use of lecture recording for performance management, and use during periods of industrial action. The policy should ensure recordings cannot be used without staff permission.
- The Cost of Living crisis makes it increasingly difficult for students to attend all of their lectures in person, and students' access to learning materials should not be impacted as a result of this.

Council therefore mandates:

- The Undergraduate & Postgraduate Education Officers should work with the Centre for Educational Development to develop and implement policy on lecture recording. This should be based on institution wide consultation with staff and students and should take into consideration the concerns of the University and College Union (UCU), specifically relating to replacement of contact-based teaching and the right to remove electronically produced teaching materials.
- The Students' Union to lobby for the introduction of lecture capture equipment in smaller teaching spaces.

Proposer: Beth Elder (Student Officer Education)

Seconder: TJ Lindsay (Maths and Physics School Representative)

Beth Elder proposed the motion.

Following a vote, the motion was carried.

10.5 **EMERGE CNY MOTION: Students' Union to Boycott Feminism in Schools Conference on 11th March 2023.**

Council Notes:

- The 2023 Feminism in Schools Conference is due to take place on the 11<sup>th</sup> March at Queen's University Belfast.
- Individuals involved in the event have, in the past, made transphobic comments in the public domain.
- Alliance for Choice Derry questioned whether the conference would exclude transphobic gender critical facilitators and were informed that they would not be excluded.
- Gender Critical individuals routinely make transphobic statements and refuse to acknowledge transgender identities.
- Gender Critical facilitators will prove harmful to any trans individuals attending.
- In 2022, the highest number of transphobic attacks were recorded in NI.
- There is currently no framework for schools to deal with trans students.
- The PSNI have also been invited to attend the conference to discuss tackling violence against women and girls.
- PSNI officers are currently suspended on suspicion of sexual misconduct as reported by the BBC on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January.
- Anti-choice, anti-lgbtq+ rights MLA Emma Little-Pengelly will be attending the Jobs4Girls panel at the conference.
- The Students Union has pro-choice, and pro-lgbtq+ policies.

Council Believes:

- Trans people deserve compassion, and the university should not be providing a space for attacks on the trans and non-binary community.
- Feminism must be trans inclusive and any conference directly aimed at teenagers should not be pushing or allowing transphobic rhetoric.
- The PSNI are not best placed to be discussing violence against women and girls given the current influx of cases against officers around the UK and NI.
- Anti-choice, anti-lgbtq+ rights MLAs should not be participating in feminist conferences aimed at school children due to the harms their views cause.
- The LGBTQ+ community of the student body must be protected, and this conference does not do that.

- Abortion is healthcare and should not be up for debate at feminist conferences.

Council Mandates:

- Student Officers and the Students' Union are to boycott the Feminism in Schools event.
- SU are to release a statement announcing the boycott for the above reasons.

Proposer: Jess Crisp (Women Students' Officer)

Seconder: Jenny Steele (Student Councillor)

Jess Crisp 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

Emma Murphy, the Students' Union President gave a verbal report of Management Board.

This report was accepted.

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

### 12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee

Emma Murphy, the Students' Union President gave a verbal report of the Executive Management Committee.

This report was accepted.

### 12.2 Report of the Union President (Jan 2023) SUC/P/23/9

This report was accepted.

### 12.3 Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Engagement (Jan 2023) SUC/P/23/10

This report was accepted.

### 12.4 Report of the Vice President Education (Jan 2023) SUC/P/23/11

This report was accepted.

### 12.5 Report of the Vice President Equality & Diversity (Jan 2023) SUC/P/23/12

This report was accepted.

### 12.6 Report of the Vice President Postgraduate (Jan 2023) SUC/P/23/13

This report was accepted.

## 13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 13.1 Report of the Standing Committee (8 February 2022) SUC/P/23/14

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

There was none.

18. DATE OF ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

The Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2022-23 will take place Tuesday 25 of April 2023 at 5.00p.m. in Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.