

QUEEN'S STUDENTS' UNION
REPORT TO COUNCIL – JANUARY 2019

UNION
PRESIDENT

SU.PRESIDENT@QUB.AC.UK

New Build

- Last semester we completed the Stage 4 user sessions which covered furniture layouts, heating and lighting strategies etc.
- Demolition has begun on the old building (this was intentionally delayed until the end of first semester to accommodate Erasmus students living in Guthrie House). This is expected to take about 6 months, with construction then beginning in summer.
- In second semester the most important aspects of the new build project is the operation protocol to be agreed which will set out the process of managing a shared facility between different departments. This will be discussed at a meeting in January.
- We will also begin looking at the internal design of the building.
- In terms of our temporary decant building, the hoarding presents significant challenges in terms of visibility and engagement. This will be mitigated by both the designs to be printed on the hoarding and additional signage and also by use of social media and on-ground engagement.

Strategic Plan

- We are in a process of writing a new Strategic Plan to set out our goals, ambitions, priorities etc. over the next 5 years and to set out how we develop all of our services – Volunteer, Enterprise, Advice, Clubs and Socs, Democracy and meet the needs and desires of our membership.
- We have completed the consultation phase that was carried out over the last semester, including:
 - Academic heads and QUB departments
 - Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and lay-members of Senate
 - Focus groups with different groups of students – PTOs, Clubs and Socs, Academic Reps, Council etc.
 - NUS-USI President
 - Questionnaire out to SUs around UK and Ireland
 - Student Survey
- The plan will be drafted over the next few months, come to SU Council for approval and will be signed off by June.

Autonomy and Independence

- Currently in the process of drafting a relationship agreement over coming months which will address the key concerns identified in the report regarding the autonomy of the Students' Union.
- This will come to SU Council for approval and will be signed off by June.

OMNI

- We have completed the report of findings based on the survey ran in the last academic year.
- This has been presented to a number of groups including the Mental Health Strategic Group, UEB, Senate and DASA Senior Management Team. It will be presented to students in the second semester.
- We have begun using the findings to inform strategies and issues coming through the University in this academic year. The next step of the OMNI project is to design a long-term strategy to tackle the factors that influence mental health, using the data collected as a basis. This will be undertaken in the second semester.
- Continuing to engage in SU / University Operational Group where such actions are underway as: rolling out mental health first aid training mental health awareness training, recruiting new staff members in Advice SU / accommodation / faculties, reforming the out-of-hours service, procuring a new e-learning platform etc.
- Continuing to engage in the steering group on the new BHSCT pilot project

Industrial Action

- Following the announcement of 8 days of industrial action, the SU worked to ensure both that support was given to UCU and to students during the strike.
- This involved:
 - Calling an urgent meeting with QUB to discuss student support, mitigations to be put in place to protect students academically as much as possible (for example, ensuring that students would not be assessed on material not taught)
 - Calling a meeting with UCU to discuss practical support for the industrial action
 - Meeting with UUSU and NUS-USI to discuss support for the strike.
 - Producing a substantial amount of comms pieces including: an all-student email, a template letter to the VC, press statements and an FAQs for students
 - Joining the picket line on strike days
- Following the strike, the SU will continue to support students (e.g. in appeals procedures) and will continue to work with UCU to achieve the aims of the strike.

General Election 2019

- Following the announcement of a general election on December 12th, the SU engaged in a voter registration initiative. The SU took no stance on how students used their vote but actively encouraged to register and then to use their vote.
- This was very successful as we were able to register approx. 600 within the first 24 hours of the drive and an estimated 800-1000 in total. It is difficult to know whether those people went on to cast their votes, more so if they cast them in South Belfast or in their home constituencies (though electoral commission analysis may reveal this in time) but it is extremely beneficial to have greater numbers of students even on the electoral register as a means of making the voices of students heard by policy-makers.

ACTIVITY TO DATE

Activity	Date
NOVEMBER	
Pivotal Meeting	5/11/19
Student Engagement	
Officers / Advice SU catch-up	
EMC	6/11/19
NUS-USI Manifesto Launch	
Registrar Sweep	7/11/19
Visit from UK SU Directors	
Voter Registration Campaign	
New Build PIG	
RAG Review Meeting	8/11/19
Student Plus Sweep	
Strike Meeting w/ DASA & Student Plus	
Strike Meeting w/ UCU	11/11/19
Student Plus Development Group	
Strike Meeting w/ NUS-USI	
Standing Committee	
Climate Action Group	
New Build User Session	12/11/19
Estates Strategy Meeting	
SU Council	
New Build User Session	13/11/19
Academic Board	
Meeting w/ An Cumann Gaelach	
PG Forum	
New Build User Session	15/11/19
Constitution Meeting w/ Voice	
Inspiring Leaders	16/11/19
Constitutional Chats 2	18/11/19
Meeting with UCU	
OMNI catch-up	19/11/10
Strike Meeting w/ SU Marketing	
Student Engagement	
Climate Action Group	
EMC	20/11/19
Strike Meeting w/ UUSU & NUS-USI	
Commercial Services Forum	21/11/19
Advice Housing Meeting	
Council Strategic Plan Focus Group	22/11/19
VC Sweep	
Student Plus Sweep	
UCU Strike	25/11/19 – 4/12/19
Climate Action Group	26/11/19
OMNI catch-up	27/11/19
Standing Committee	

Public Engagement Sweep	28/11/19
OMNI Strategic Group Pre-Meet	
Climate Strike	29/11/19
Strategic Plan Sub-Group	
DECEMBER	
Student Project	2/12/19
SU Management Board	
SU Council	
An Cumann Gaelach Rally	4/12/19
EMC	
Student Plus Sweep	6/12/19
New Build PIG	9/12/19
OMNI Strategic Group	
OMNI UEB Presentation	10/12/19
OMNI Pre-Senate Briefing	
Nurses Meeting	
Graduation Ceremony	12/12/19
OMNI catch-up	16/12/19
VC OMNI Meeting	
Senate OMNI presentation	17/12/19
Senate	
Roy Bailie Meeting	
Away Day	18/12/19

UPCOMING ACTIVITY

Activity	Date
OMNI DASA SMT Presentation	6/1/20
Public Engagement Sweep	7/1/20
SDAC	
VC Sweep	8/1/20
Voice Sweep	
Standing Committee	
Advice Housing Meeting	9/1/20
New Build PIG	
UEB / UOB Strategic Plan Meeting	
Officer Sweep	
Student Engagement	14/1/20
SU Council	
Student / Supervisor Partnership Workshop	15/1/20
SPMG	
EMC	
DE Forum	
Officers / Director Strategic Plan Meeting	
Health & Safety Consultative Committee	16/1/20
Student Plus Sweep	17/1/20
New Build Operations Workshop	20/1/20
Officer Sweep	
Student Engagement	21/1/20
Registrar Sweep	22/1/20
Officer Sweep	27/1/20
Run For Something Event	
DASA Sweep	28/1/20
Student Engagement	
EMC	29/1/20
SSAG	
Standing Committee	
Regional Council	30/1/20
Student Plus Sweep	31/1/20
EPS Open Day	1/2/20
Officer Sweep	3/2/20
SU Council	
Student Engagement	4/2/20
Academic Board	5/2/20
SU Management Board	
VC Sweep	6/2/20
Officer Sweep	10/2/20
Student Engagement	11/2/20
EMC	
Health & Safety Management Group	
Student Plus Sweep	14/2/20
New Build PIG	

Officer Sweep	17/2/20
Student Engagement	18/2/20
SU Area Safety Committee	
SPMG	19/2/20
Commercial Services Forum	20/2/20
DE Forum	24/2/20
Officer Sweep	
Public Engagement Sweep	25/2/20
Student Engagement	
DASA Sweep	26/2/20
Research & Postgrad Committee	
SU Team Meeting	27/2/20
Regional Council	28/2/20
Student Plus Sweep	