



VICE-PRESIDENT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

LEAS UACHTARAN COMHIONANNAS AGUS ÉAGSÚLACHT

OFFICER REPORT

JULY - AUGUST 2019

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Queen's Students' Union

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A chairde ☺

I'm Hamsa, and I'm your Equality & Diversity Officer! This will be my second term in this post, and my first officer report for this academic year.

In my officer reports I try my best to outline all the work I have done, meetings I have attended and updates on campaigns I am working on, but things do fall through the cracks, especially when things get really busy during the semester! I am always happy to answer any questions or clarify anything in regards to my work- both in council or via email.

This officer report will outline all the work I have undertaken since 1 July 2019, and will give you a brief outline on the campaigns I have been working on since I started my new term. There are also projects I have been involved in over the previous year which I am carrying over which I will provide updates on. Most of my campaigns and work and broken down by liberation groups as best as I am able to (thanks to my wide remit!). You can find more information on this in my plan of work as well.

In Unity,

Hamsavani Rajeswaren



Meetings & Events

Date	Meeting/Event	Location	Remarks
02/07/2019	Graduation Ceremony	QUB	Attending as SU rep on Academic Procession
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03/07/2019	Student Meeting	SGC	
04/07/2019	Meet The Officers- SU Staff Lunch	QUBSU	
08/07/2019 – 12/07/2019	USI Students' Union Training	Athlone	Annual Training for Student Officers
16/07/2019	MEETING with Ethnic Minority Sports Organisation NI	QUB	Meeting about encouraging Students of Colour to get involved in sports
	Meeting with Ibrar Bhatt	QUBSU	Meeting about international/B AME student experience at SSES AW
17/07/2019	Executive Management Committee	QUBSU	
18/07/2019	Feminist Network Update Meeting	QUB	Plans to work with Belfast Feminist Network
23/07/2019	Buddy Scheme Catch-Up	QUBSU	Catch-Up with Voice and Marketing on Buddy Scheme plans for the year
24/07/2019	Meeting with ACS and iRISE	QUBSU	
25/07/2019	Buddy Scheme Catch-Up	QUBSU	Follow-up meeting
	Access Able Meeting	QUB	
	Buddy Scheme AHSS Tie-In	QUB	Meeting to discuss supporting AHSS study abroad students

26/07/2019	Pride Awards	Belfast City Hall	
29/07/2019	Sweep with President	QUBSU	Catch-Up meeting with SU President
30/07/2019	IWO Briefing	QUB	Meeting with ISS to plan IWO schedule
	Pride Sign-Making	QUBSU	
31/07/2019	IoC Working Group	QUBSU	Internationalising the Curriculum WG
	Meeting with Union Director	QUBSU	
	Executive Management Committee	QUBSU	
	Disability Action Plan Updates	QUBSU	Meeting with Voice to discuss SU action points
01/08/2019	Pride Banner Hanging	QUBSU	
	Freshers 2019: Brainstorm	QUBSU	Meeting with Voice and Marketing to brainstorm Freshers Fair
03/08/2019	Pre-Pride Parade Breakfast	QUBSU	
	Belfast Pride	Belfast City Centre	Leading the student bloc at Pride
06/08/2019	Belfast Mela Launch	Lyric Theatre	Attended Arts Ekta's annual launch of Belfast Mela
	EDI Seminar Planning Meeting	QUB	Meeting with CED to discuss workshops on decolonisation for EDI seminar
	Music School recce	QUB	Venue for Black History Month
	Sweep with President	QUBSU	Catch-Up meeting with SU President
07/08/2019-09/07/2019	USI SUT+	UU Jordanstown	Students' Union top-up training for officers

09/07/2019	Buddy Scheme Run-through	QUBSU	Meeting with Voice to prep funding pitch
	Meeting with Isabel Jennings	QUB	MRCI funding for Buddy Scheme
12/08/2019	Officer Team Sweep	QUBSU	
13/08/2019	EDI Seminar Meeting	QUB	Meeting with CED
14/08/2019	IoC Working Group	QUB	
	Community Engagement Meeting	QUB	Intro meeting with Dee Corbett
	Executive Management Committee	QUBSU	
15/08/2019	Officers meeting with Tracy Galvin	QUBSU	
	Buddy Scheme Organising	QUBSU	Planning Buddy Scheme pub-crawl
	Alliance For Choice meeting	Women's Sector Network	
16/07/2019	Buddy Scheme Prep	QUBSU	Prep for meeting with ISS
	Buddy Scheme Catch Up with ISS	QUB	Touch-Base with ISS head and Grad Intern
19/07/2019	Plagiarism Panel – School of Psychology	QUB	Student accompaniment
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21/07/2019	Student Meeting	QUB	
	Meeting with Wilma Fee & Helen McNeely	QUB	Intro meeting for student officers
	QFT Recce Meeting	QFT	Planning for Black History Month
23/07/2019	Limerick & UCD SU visit	QUBSU	
26/07/2019	Central Student Appeals Committee	QUB	Student Accompaniment
	Meeting with UCU VP	QUBSU	Catch-up with Fabian Schuppert
	CED: Attainment Gap touch-base	QUB	Meeting with Tracy Galvin
27/08/2019	Executive Management Committee	QUBSU	

28/08/2019	UN Women Champions Network Follow-up	QUBSU	
	Social Event with Residential Assistants	The Speakeasy	
29/08/2019	E&D Policy Review Group	QUB	

Projects & Progress Updates

Summer is a quiet(ish) time for us in the union, as there are very few students about at this time of the year- but it's also an important time for planning. The projects in this report will be updated throughout the year in my officer reports with progress updates 😊

→ International Buddy Scheme

I've been working with our marketing and student voice departments to plan what Buddy Scheme over the next year is going to look like, discussing budgets, and working out our timeline and resources.

The Buddy Scheme has definitely grown massively over the past year, and we've had to handle each wave as it came- it was the first year we had an intern for the project and ran it as a year-long scheme. Evaluating the costs of running events and having an intern while taking into account the demand from students to be involved in the buddy scheme has led us to realise that while we are getting a substantial amount of funding for the buddy scheme- most of which is spent on funding the intern's role- we are still severely under-funded.

I'm currently in the process of planning our first mee-up event of the year- which is also our biggest event of the year, and am working closely with ISS as well as our student officer team to deliver the event successfully. It's an exciting time as a new intake of international students arrive, and we are planning Language catch-up events as well as lots of fun workshops & social events.

If you would like to get involved with the buddy scheme please drop us an email at su.buddyscheme@qub.ac.uk, or you can also join our Facebook group to stay in the loop about our upcoming events! 😊

Progress: Ongoing



→ Belfast Pride

This year we hosted the first ever SU Pride breakfast before joining the NUS-USI student block in Belfast City Centre for the march.

The breakfast was co-hosted by NUS-USI and we also invited all the students from USI who travelled up for the march to join us. It was a great morning filled with breakfast (who doesn't love pancakes?!) and lots of face paints and glitter.



→ Black History Month

Black History Month last year was incredibly well received by both our student and staff communities, and this year we are delighted to have funding from Annual Fund and also support from the Afro-Caribbean Society and QUB BAME & International Staff Network- iRISE.

We have started planning our event line-up for the month of October, and its panning out to look like an exciting month filled with equal parts of fun and radical learning. This year's focus on for Black History Month is: 'Recognition'- we want to recognise and platform the contributions of Black staff and students to Queen's and wider society, as well as recognising the impact of Black excellence across Ireland.

We've also teamed up with Queen's Film Theatre, The Graduate School, and The Naughton Gallery, as venue partners for this year.



→ Annual Leave and Sick Leave

I have taken 1 days of Annual Leave and 1 day of sick leave since 1 July 2019.