



VICE-PRESIDENT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

LEAS-UACHTARÁN COMHIONANNAS AGUS ÉAGSÚLACHT

# ***OFFICER REPORT***

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2019

028 9097 1058

[su.equality@qub.ac.uk](mailto:su.equality@qub.ac.uk)

Queen's Students' Union

3 Elmwood Avenue



A chairde 😊

Time's flying by fast! This is my second report to council and so much has happened over the past 2 months- nonetheless having students back on campus is a welcomed buzz of activity after the quieter summer months.

September and October have been incredibly busy, and so I have tried my best to outline all my meetings here, but I am sure there will be things that have fallen through the cracks!

This officer report will outline all the work I have undertaken since 1 Sept 2019, and will give you a brief progress updates on campaigns as well. As always, I am more than happy to take any questions on my work and this report at council or via email!

In Unity,

*Hamsavani Rajeswaren*



## Meetings & Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting/Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
02/09/2019	Internationalising the Curriculum Seminar	QUB	Seminar for staff, run by CED
04/09/2019	Team Building Day	QUBSU	Team Building with Officers
	Meeting with DARO	QUB	Intro for student officer team
05/09/2019	Buddy Scheme Intern Shortlisting	QUBSU	
06/09/2019	Open Days	QUB	Promoting the SU via talks & engagement at the SU stall
07/09/2019	Rally For Choice	QUBSU	Spoke at the Rally as a student rep
09/09/2019	International Buddy Scheme Intern Interviews	QUBSU	Plans to work with Belfast Feminist Network
	Health & Safety Training	QUBSU	Health & Safety + Fire Safety Training
10/09/2019	Black History Month Catch-Up	QUBSU	Meeting with iRISE & ACS
	Meeting with Appeals & Complaints	QUB	Intro for student officer team
11/09/2019	IWO September 2019- Welcome	QUB	Welcome address from SU to 1300 new international students
	Buddy Scheme Prep	QUBSU	Preparing Buddy Bags & prepping materials for Meet-Up
	Executive Management Committee	QUBSU	
12/09/2019	International Buddy Scheme Meet-Up	QUB/QUBSU	
13/09/2019	Commercial Services Forum	QUBSU	
	International Students' Induction Talks	QUBSU	

	International Buddy Scheme: Pub Crawl	Speakeasy	
15/09/2019	Welcome Weekends	QUB	Meeting new students in Elms BT9
16/09/2019	Induction Talks	QUB	
	Induction Talks	QUB	
	Black History Month Catch-Up	QUBSU	Meeting with iRISE & ACS
17/09/2019	SU Strategic Plan Sub-Group	QUBSU	
	RAG Pub Crawl	QUBSU	
18/08/2019	Big Brunch	QUBSU	
	Peace By Peace Conference	UNISON	Spoke on a panel looking at peacebuilding from a queer perspective
	Meeting with Susan McKay	QUBSU	
19/09/2019	Induction Talks	QUB	
	Social Media Training	QUB	
	Alliance For Choice Meeting	WRDA	
20/09/2019	Induction Talks	QUB	
	Equality & Diversity Policy Screening Group	QUB	
	Climate Strike	Belfast City center	
	Induction Talks	QUB	
24/09/2019	Run For Something	QUB	Encouraging PG students to run for elections
25/09/2019	Fresher's Fair	QUBSU	
26/09/2019	Fresher's Fair	QUBSU	
30/09/2019	Education, Equality & the Economy- PIVOTAL	QUB	Launch of PIVOTAL think tank
02/10/2019	INTO Welcome Speech	QUB	INTO Progression Event
	Black History Month Launch	QUB	
04/10/2019	Meeting with Kara Bailie	QUB	
07/10/2019	DASA Senior Team Managers Meeting	QUBSU	
08/10/2019	NvTv Studio Recording-BHM	QUBSU	

	Student Engagement	QUB	
09/10/2019	Rainbow Project Protest	Lanyon Gates	Protest to demand Queens on transparency around practice of conversion therapies in QUB
	EMC	QUBSU	
	BHM: Race & Class with Zack Oke	QUBSU	
19/07/2019	Plagiarism Panel –School of Psychology	QUB	Student accompaniment
	Plagiarism Panel –School of Psychology	QUB	Student accompaniment
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

### → International Buddy Scheme

We have now hired our new intern for the year- Gemma Canham and I'm more than delighted to be working with her on the Buddy Scheme.

We have also hosted our annual meet-up and pub crawl as part of International Welcome & Orientation, and delivered our event with support from ISS. The meet-up had an amazing atmosphere, and we welcomed about 400 students to join us for pizza & our now famed International Quiz. We also talked to students a little more about what the union was about and the services we provide, and not to mention loads of prizes were up for grabs!

The feedback we received from the event was fantastic, and we are looking forward to a semester filled with fun coffee-catch-ups & a Christmas event bringing us all together. We'll also be working to deliver tailored events for The Graduate School, INTO Queen's & for study abroad students.

I'm also currently working with Student Voice, and Gemma, to review the structure of the Buddy Scheme to see how we can make this a more sustainable programme in the long run!

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

### ***Progress: Ongoing***





## → Black History Month

I'm very proud to say that together with QUB iRISE, and ACS we have now delivered our second Black History Month campaign, and this year we were bigger, better, and louder than ever before.

We hosted 9 events throughout the month featuring a range of workshops, panels, and talks as well as showcasing artists from the Black community in NI & an Afro Caribbean night in The Speakeasy.

The campaign received a lot of attention, especially events featuring external speakers & workshops around decolonising gender & education. All the events were well attended & we even attracted a bit of attention from our local media as linked below!

You can find photos from our Launch & Black HERstory event here:

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/qubsu.org/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2560984197290037](https://www.facebook.com/pg/qubsu.org/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2560984197290037)

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/qubsu.org/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=2517401614981629](https://www.facebook.com/pg/qubsu.org/photos/?tab=album&album_id=2517401614981629)

NvTv- BHM Feature: <https://vimeo.com/365253262>

NvTv- Race & Sport Feature: <https://vimeo.com/370117065>

WED 2 **Black History Month Launch**  
Harty Room & McMordie Hall, QUB  
6-8pm

WED 9 **Race & Class with Zack Oke**  
Clubroom 3, SU Elmwood  
6.30-7.30pm

THUR 10 **The Gender Agenda:  
Decolonising Gender**  
Clubroom 4, SU Elmwood 5.30-6.30pm

FRI 11 **Decolonising Education**  
The Senate Room, QUB  
2.30-4pm

WED 16 **iRISE: Contesting 'Race' and  
Sport with Prof Kevin Hylton**  
Naughton Gallery & Canada Room, QUB  
12.30-2pm

WED 16 **ACS Club Night**  
The Speakeasy  
9pm-late

WED 23 **Black HERstory**  
The Graduate School, QUB  
6-8pm

SUN 27 **Screening of 'Cabin in The Sky'**  
Queen's Film Theatre, QUB  
3.40-5.30pm

WED 30 **BHM Closing Ceremony: Screening  
of 'Absent from the Academy'**  
Queen's Film Theatre, QUB  
6-8pm

#BLACK HISTORY QUB

## → Beyond The Binaries

I have begun planning Beyond The Binaries with our Trans & LGBT+ Officers. The week long campaign will centre on celebrating and reflecting the contributions of the Trans, intersex & non-Binary community to Queen's and wider society in NI.

We will be running 6 events throughout the week- more info will be available soon, keep an eye out!



## → Annual Leave/Sick Leave

I have taken 0 days of Annual Leave and 3 days of sick leave since my last report.