

# Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

## Officer Report

Student Officer Postgraduate

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Period Covered by Report: *1 November 2019 – 20 December 2019*

Hello everyone,

Welcome to a new decade and a new year 2020. I am so excited about the great events that will be happening this year, especially with elections round the corner.

My report consists of two parts: the first part is a list of the events/meetings I have participated in within the period the report covers. The second part provides an update on the projects I have been working on, and upcoming events

The [Students' Union](#) website has information on my role and my plan of work for the year.

EVENTS / MEETINGS		
Date	Details of Activity (and outcomes for students)	Location
5/11/19	Internationalisation of the Curriculum Working Group (IoC)	Lanyon
05/11/19	Student Engagement	MBC
05/11/19	Meeting with Kara Bailie	Graduate School
06/11/19	Launch of NUS-USI Manifesto	Speakeasy
6/11/19	EMC	QUBSU
7/11/19	Voter Registration Campaign	QUBSU
8/11/19	RAG Review	QUBSU
11/11/19	Staff Excellence Judging Panel	McClay Library
12/11/19	Training for Supervisors	Lanyon
12/11/19	SU Council	Stormont
13/11/19	Academic Board	QUBSU
13/11/19	PG Forum	Graduate School

14/11/19	Meeting Advice SU Manager	QUBSU
15/11/19	24 hour Study Spaces discussion/planning	Graduate School
15/11/19	PG Semester 2 Programme planning	Graduate School
15/11/19	Constitutional Amendment forum	QUBSU
18/11/19	Academic Council	Lanyon
19/11/19	Advice SU Pop-Up	Graduate School
19/11/19	Climate Action Group	QUBSU
20/11/19	EMC	QUBSU
20/11/19	UUSI/NUS-USI/QUBSU Full Execs Strike Talks	Ulster University(J/Town)
21/11/19	Commercial Services Forum	QUBSU
21/11/19	Internationalisation of the Curriculum	Lanyon Building
21/11/19	Parents and Carers Network Catch up	QUBSU
25/11/-04/12	UCU Strikes	QUB
27/11/19	Committee of Discipline	Admin Building
28/11/19	Meeting with Stephen McCrystall	QUBSU
29/11/19	SU strategic Management Sub Group	QUBSU
2/12/19	Faculty Postgraduate Education Subgroup	MHLS 90 Lisburn Road
2/12/19	SU Management Board	QUBSU
2/12/19	SU Council	QUBSU
3/12/19	ROCK Conference	Hilton
4/12/19	EMC	QUBSU
4/12/19	Supervisor/Student Partnership Project Meeting with Janette Elwood	38 University Road
5/12/2019	Graduation Ceremony	Whitla Hall
11/12/19	Meeting with ISS	SGC
12/12/19	Meeting with Student Voice (Reps)	QUBSU
12/12/19	PhD Law Students Dinner	Northern Whig
13/12/19	PG 24 hour study spaces review	Graduate School
18/12/19	Officer Team Away Day	Lanyon
18/12/19	Meeting with Tracy Galvin	CED
18/12/19	Meeting With David Grant	QFT
19/12/19	Student/supervision Working group Meeting	Graduate School

#### Campaigns / Projects

Campaign / Project/Activities	Recent Progress
PG Drop in Session	Drop –in sessions continue to run every Tuesday at 2-4pm at the Graduate School Group Room 7. The sessions have gone very well as PGs have found it to be a safe space to come in and have a chat on issues that they are dealing with. All postgraduate students are welcome to any of the sessions and although I may not have all the answers to the different

	queries, I am able to signpost students to someone who can help.
24 hour access to study spaces for PGs	Immense progress has been made regarding 24 hour access to study spaces, and particularly in the summer, there will be 24 hour access provided. At the moment the Graduate school has agreed to plans for the opening. The exact dates will be confirmed and communicated to all PGs in due course.
PG Representation	A catch up/networking session was held with PG reps in December. The networking session was a chance to share stories of the successes and challenges of the role. However, following from that session I and the student voice team have identified areas that need strengthening and require additional support to enable PG reps get their message across to their schools. We continue to work on the issues raised to enable reps engage effectively with their peers and schools respectively.
National Students' Union Campaigns	I continue to work closely with the USI postgraduate officer to ensure that postgraduate's welfare remains a priority. Universities. As a member of the postgraduate Working Group, I have been involved through telephone conversations and through online platforms in discussions around postgraduate Working Rights Charter. Information about this can be found <a href="#">here</a> Very recently a Creative Network Exchange has been created to better connect students currently within creative courses/ disciplines, and to better support student reps of creative colleges, institutions and courses. You can join the group <a href="#">here</a> This month, both the NUS-USI president and the USI postgraduate officer will be visiting QUB to join in The Run for Something on the 27 <sup>th</sup> of January as part of events in the run up to the QUBSU elections. Please send me an email if you are interested in participating in the Run For Something Campaign
QUBSU Parents and Carers Network	In November, the monthly QUBSU Parents and Carers Network event took place. The group is not a very large one. A reason for this is that there seems to be confusion as to whether it is a group meant to cater to both undergrads and postgrads. Although there has been in attendance students at both undergrad and postgrad level, but the confusion may be barring higher attendance to the monthly meetings. I am currently discussing with the other officers and student voice on how to promote the group and the needs of the group to ensure effective support is available to all members.

Partnership with the Graduate School	<p>Excellent working relationship has been established with the Graduate School. Our partnership projects have continued to make progress as a result of these excellent working relationship.</p> <p>I continue to receive support such as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office space for Drop in session each week on Tuesday 2-4pm</li> <li>• QUBSU Branding visible across Graduate School all year around – plasmas, notice boards, study space and magazine stand</li> <li>• Social Media created for collaborative promotion of events related to PG students</li> <li>• ‘Student-Supervisor Relationship Workshop planning and delivery’</li> <li>• SO Postgraduate Weekly Update Published in the Graduate School Weekly Update.</li> <li>• Regular catch-up with Kara Bailey and Margret Topping</li> </ul>
AHSS Social Space	<p>The SO Postgraduate and the SO Education have closely been working closely with the dean and some staff of the faculty of Arts Humanities and Social Science (AHSS), in partnership with QUB Estates to provide a bespoke social space for both undergrads and postgrads of the AHSS faculty. Funding has been secured for this project and we are working towards progressing the project to the next level and making it ready and available to due time for students.</p>
Upcoming events	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Supervisor/Student Relationship Workshop- 15 January 2020- 10-3pm@Graduate School</li> <li>ii. At the start of my PhD: Things I wish I had Known- 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020 5:30-7:30pm @Graduate School</li> <li>iii. Run for Something: Inspiring Stories of Leadership 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020 5:30-7:30pm @Graduate School</li> </ol> <p>Send me an email if you are interested in attending any of the above events.</p>
Committees and Working Groups	<p><b>Committees and Working Groups</b></p> <p>Below is a list of committees and Working groups I sit on. I have been in attendance in most meetings that have been called and always listening and contributing in ways that are</p>

beneficial to the study body but in particular to the postgraduate community that I represent always ensuring your interest is well presented, and protected.

- Academic Board
- Academic Council
- Collaborative Provision Group
- Courses and Regulations Group
- Education Committee
- Research and Postgraduate Committee
- Executive Management Committee
- Management Board
- MHLS Postgraduate Education Sub-Group
- Postgraduate Advisory Board
- Postgraduate Forum
- Student Partnership Project Group
- Supporting Student Attainment Action Group
- Internationalisation of the Curriculum