

# Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

## Officer Report

Student Officer Postgraduate

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Period Covered by Report: *1 January 2020 to 29<sup>th</sup> February 2020*

Hello everyone,

Hope you are all staying safe amid COVID-19. Please continue to follow and regularly review the latest guidance and advice provided by the University's [dedicated page on coronavirus FAQs](#) , and on the [Public Health Agency](#) and [Foreign and Commonwealth Office \(FCO\)](#) websites.

Also congratulations to all our newly elected officers. You all are deserving.

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        |
| 7/01/2020         | Advance HE and EDI meeting                         | Lanyon          |
| 07/01/20          | Student/supervisor workshop planning meeting       | Graduate School |
| 08/01/20          | Meeting with Karen Morrison-Dean of Education MHLS | 90 Lisburn Road |
| 08/01/20          | Meeting with NUS-USI President- Robert-Murtagh     | QUBSU           |
| 13/01/20          | Launch of Semester two Program                     | Graduate School |
| 13/01/20          | Officer Team Sweep                                 | QUBSU           |
| 14/01/20          | Climate Action Group Meeting                       | QUBSU           |
| 14/01/20          | QUBSU Council meeting                              | QUBSU           |

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| 15/01/20    | Student Supervisor Relationship Workshop                                  | Graduate School               |
| 17/01/20    | Undergraduate Prospectus Photo  | Lanyon                        |
| 20/01/20    | Focus group session with International Students and IoC lead-Tracy Galvin | QUBSU                         |
| 20/01/20    | AHSS social space meeting   | AHSS faculty - dean's office. |
| 20/01/20    | SGC Career Fair   | SGC                           |
| 23/01/20    | Seminar Event- At the Start of My PhD- What I wish I had known.           | Graduate School               |
| 23/01/20    | Meeting with JD students and School of Law                                | Lanyon                        |
| 24/01/20    | No to Tuition Fee increase planning-with Robert Murtagh                   | QUBSU                         |
| 24/01/20    | Meeting with Tracy Galvi  | QUBSU                         |
| 27/01/20    | Run For Something   | Graduate School               |
| 27-30/01/20 | Green New Deal Referendum   | QUB                           |
| 29/01/20    | Supporting Students Attainment Action Group                               | Lanyon                        |
| 30/01/20    | Meeting with Beverley at INTO QUB   | INTO                          |
| 30/01/20    | Staff Excellence Judging Panel Final meeting before awards                | Lanyon                        |
| 4/02/20     | SU Council  | QUBSU                         |
| 5/02/20     | Academic Board  | QUBSU                         |
| 5/02/20     | Casework meeting  | PFC                           |
| 6/2/20      | Postgraduate Advisory Board Meeting                                       | Lanyon                        |
| 10/02/20    | Staff Excellence Awards   | Whitla hall                   |
| 10/2/20     | Education Matters Campaign  | PFC                           |
| 11/2/20     | PG representation and network   | QUBSU                         |
| 12/2/20     | UCU and NUS-USI Joint lobby Event   | Stormont                      |
| 12/2/20     | International Students Network Event                                      | Great Hall                    |
| 12/2/20     | PG Forum/PG 24 hour study spaces review                                   | Graduate School               |
| 13/2/20     | SVET delegation   | Graduate School               |
| 13/2/20     | Student Supervision working Group   | Graduate School               |
| 13/12/20    | SU Management Board Meeting   | QUBSU                         |
| 13/2/20     | ACG Meeting   | QUBSU                         |
| 17/02/20    | CAPE Review AHSS  | Lanyon                        |
| 18/2/20     | Student Supervisor Conference Planning meeting                            | Graduate School               |
| 20-21/2/20  | UCU strike  | Picket line(QUB Gates)        |
| 20/2/20     | Commercial Services Forum   | QUBSU                         |

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| 24-26/2/20 | UCU Strike   | Picket line(QUB Gates) |
| 26/2/20    | Research and Postgraduate Policy Meeting                         | Lanyon                 |
| 27/2/20    | Internationalisation of the Curriculum meeting with Tracy Galvin | QUBSU                  |
| 28/2/19    | Consultation on QGIS for research students                       | Lanyon                 |

### Campaigns / Projects

| Campaign / Project/Activities          | Recent Progress  |
|--|--|
| PG Drop in Session                     | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> |
| 24 hour access to study spaces for PGs | <p>Immense progress has been made regarding 24 hours 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 communicated to all PGs in due course.</p>  |
| PG Representation                      | <p>In light of COVID-19, An email was sent to all PG reps with information and tips for supporting the cohorts they represent in the event of a lockdown.</p> <p>Also a follow up on matters identified from previous networking session is ongoing to provide support that enables reps engage effectively with their peers and schools respectively.</p>   |

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| <p>National Students' Union Campaigns</p>     | <p>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></p> <p>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></p> <p>This month, both the NUS-USI president and the USI postgraduate officer will be attended The Run for Something on the 27<sup>th</sup> of January as part of events in the run up to the QUBSU elections.</p> |
| <p>Internationalisation of the Curriculum</p> | <p>In January in conjunction with Travy Galvin and Center for Educational Development (CED), I recruited a group of 16 international students for a focus group session to investigate the issue around what an internationalised curriculum will look like at QUB. The findings from the session were reported to CED for further implementation.</p>   |
| <p>Partnership with the Graduate School</p>   | <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>   |

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| <p>AHSS Social Space</p>             | <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>  |
| <p>Events</p>                        | <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>Committees and Working Groups</p> | <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 beneficial to the study body but in particular to the postgraduate community that I represent always ensuring your interest is well presented, and protected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Academic Board</li> <li>• Academic Council</li> <li>• Collaborative Provision Group</li> <li>• Courses and Regulations Group</li> <li>• Education Committee</li> <li>• Research and Postgraduate Committee</li> <li>• Executive Management Committee</li> <li>• Management Board</li> <li>• MHLS Postgraduate Education Sub-Group</li> <li>• Postgraduate Advisory Board</li> <li>• Postgraduate Forum</li> </ul> |

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|--|---|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Student Partnership Project Group</li><li>• Supporting Student Attainment Action Group</li><li>• Internationalisation of the Curriculum</li></ul> |
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