



Student Officer Report - Welfare – Ciarán O'Brien

January/February

Housing:

- Organised props, sorted location and arranged filming of the SU's VR House of Horrors experience that is to be rolled out in collaboration with Advice SU to create a fun and competitive learning experience to help student renters advance their knowledge on their rights and responsibilities as private sector tenants
- Met with director of Shelter NI to discuss illegal letting fee case progress and co-ordinate funding for further cases and decide which legal firm was the appropriate agents to intrust with the work
- Attended the launch of the Holylands transition study and participated in the panel to represent the student perspective on how to improve the local area and community relations
- Participated in numerous housing video projects for final year student projects to document and explain the private tenant perspective of renting in the private sector whilst as university – these projects specifically focused more on illegal fees, deposit theft, evictions, corruption, environmental health and rising rents instead of the over-documented party culture that is perpetuated in the mainstream media
- Various media interactions with the BBC all concerned with student housing issues such as those detailed above

- A housing week was planned for early February which would contain an intense period of housing activism from the SRG due to February marking the beginning of the major house hunting season for students
- Several housing stunts to promote the voice of renters went ahead successfully, however the planned 'Take back the Holylands' protest which was to involve students and older long term residents of the holylands floundered due to internal opposition and concern within the SU about its message
- The SRG broke officially from QUBSU for reasons of operational autonomy – it has since flourished with its own social media presence and it maintains a relationship with QUB SU due to the nature of the SRGs membership

Mental Health:

- Received further training in the field of mental health first aid and begun preparations to bring a mental health first aid workshop

Sexual Health:

- Informing choices NI launch – lyric theatre
- Met with the Belfast Health Trust to plan our second STI world record attempt
- Also met with the Rainbow Project to discuss possibly of rapid HIV testing event

Other:

- Advised and assisted members of An Cumann Gaelach in organising QUBs first féile
- Joined volunteer SU in attending the International Welcome week event on Jan 6th in the Great Hall to engage with newest batch of international students
- Continued to attend Climate Action Group meetings and assisted in preparing for the Green New Deal referendum before canvassing for a YES vote
- Collaborated with SU marketing and Voice to create a Student Leadership Elections video to encourage people to run and additionally promoted election nominations across campus

- Met with NUS-USI & Ulster University Su to discuss action against the potential increase in Tuitions fee hinted at my Arlene foster, attended the Anti Tuition fee hike protest at city hall, and travelled to Stormont to lobby politicians against a fee increase
- Attended QUBs first Holocaust memorial day event
- Attended the Presidents forum to promote inter-society STI competition to encourage STI testing and positive sexual health
- Continued to regularly attend disciplinary interviews and panels with students for support, and also sat on my first fitness to practice panel
- Staffed the SU stall at the Nursing open day and gave the induction talk to QUBs newest nursing and mid wife students
- Attended the LGBT History month launch
- Met with the UCU exec to plan strike action and particularly discuss how disruption can be maximised against university authorities and minimized against students
- Participated as one of the 'leaders' at Volunteer SU's Inspiring leaders event on the 15th Feb in the Great Hall
- Participated as a Judge in one of the many SU awards panels