

Queen's University Students' Union

Part-Time Student Officer Report

Role: MHLS Faculty Rep

Name: Peter McMurray

Period: 2019/2020 academic year

Date	Event	Actions
28/10/19	SU Council	Voted to support motion declaring climate emergency
30/10/19	MHLS Course Rep Forum	Introduced myself to course reps and outlined my focus on student mental health
Nov 2019	MHLS Faculty Education Board - Operational	Introduced myself to faculty board, set out plan for increased student voice on Board
Nov 2019	SU Council	Voted in support of QUB writing to Health Secretary to support families who suffer miscarriage
Dec 2019	MHLS Faculty Education Board	Met with Prof Elbron prior to board meeting to discuss role of myself on the board and explore ways two-way communication between board and students could be improved
Dec 2019	Meeting with new Dean Karen Morrison	Explored ways MHLS students could more actively engage with SU Explored way achievements of MHLS students could be better celebrated

Dec 2019	SU Council	<p>Brought a motion to council in support of nursing students during the current nursing strike, which mandated EMC to write in support of nursing staff given the challenging working conditions and issues with pay parity – universally supported</p> <p>Brought a motion with support from Christian medical fellowship advocating we update our abortion policy to better reflect the broad range of student views on this divisive issue and adopt a neutral stance, leaving each student free to act with their conscience and not having a set view imposed on the SU – narrowly defeated (would have passed with a swing of 7 votes)</p> <p>Posed questions to Sabbatical Officers</p>
Jan 2020	<p>SU Council</p> <p>MHLS FEB</p>	<p>Motion submitted to council and approved regarding QUB signing up to the Student Minds Mental Health charter</p> <p>Motion submitted but rejected at council calling for creation of part time officer for Mental Health</p> <p>Utilised in-depth reading of SU Constitution to bring impeachment proceedings when Sabbatical Officer reports where not submitted in line with the required deadlines</p> <p>Attendance at MHLS faculty education board</p>
Feb 2020	SU Council	<p>Motion calling for solidarity with persecuted Christians (rejected for further revisions due to concerns it might impact on SU policy on Palestine)</p> <p>Motion approved calling on SU to advocate for increased provision for mental health services in NI via NUS/USI/NUSI channels</p>
April 2020	Digital EMC	Continued to work with rest of EMC on getting QUB signed up to the Student Minds mental health charter pilot

May 2020	Student Council	<p>Motions going forward to show solidarity for those facing persecution due to religious faith (rewritten given previous version not approved by council), condemnation by the SU of all troubles related acts of terrorism and a motion pledging support for all parents (especially QUB students and staff) affected by Covid-19 impacting on maternity/paternity leave and maternal mental health</p> <p>Bringing forward a constitutional amendment to introduce an Interfaith Part Time Officer as an equality and representation issue</p>
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Faculty Officer MHLS Activity Report

Regular EMC attendance advocating for SU to reflect the broader student body, in particular MHLS students and those with views that don't conform to current SU policy.

Regular email updates to School reps and course reps updating on what is happening at school and faculty level, and inviting their support in council motions and promoting their engagement with SU council.

Worked with Nursing School Rep Eden Baker on a motion to support nurses and students during current healthcare crisis in Northern Ireland. Also drafted letter that SU President has sent to political leaders on behalf of the SU voicing student concerns on this issue. This resulted in a great show of support by the SU body to our nursing students and alumni.

Advocating for improved student mental-health and well-being provision in light of current Mental Health Crisis – working on a staff-student partnership relating to this and also working with Medicine School Rep Hayley Donnelly on motions that came before council in January relating to adopting Student Minds Mental Health Charter and creating a part-time officer for mental health.

I have kept student mental health a major focus of my role this year, and have also tried to expand the reach of the SU to MHLS students via focus groups with reps headed up by Jason Bunting, and encouraging faculty students to engage in greater numbers with this year's SU officer elections.

As well as this I have tried to speak up for underrepresented voices amongst the student body, and brought forward a number of motions to council that advocated for positions and issues that are relevant to many students but which may not have popular support amongst those elected to council. I was able to work with a number of councillors of diverse backgrounds (The Honourable Opposition) who shared these views in order to use my position of responsibility as a part time officer to guide

them, to be a leader in my knowledge of the mechanisms of council, and give them the courage to speak out on these issues. This was seen most prominently in the abortion neutrality debate, which I am informed led to one of the most attended council meetings of recent times and a closer vote than any recent debate on this issue.

I was able to feed back to Faculty education board on student matters, including concerns re the appointment of Hilary Clinton and gave feedback when requested to our new Dean who was concerned by newspaper headlines relating to social media comments during the SU elections.

I also was able to undertake the Inspiring Leaders course and took on the lead in my group for the team presentation.