

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION**MINUTES**

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 12 December 2012 in Committee Rooms 3 and 4, Level 3, Students' Union

Present:

Aidan Hughes (Executive Management Committee)
Aidan McGrinder (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, MHLS)
Aisling Gallagher (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, AHSS)
Alexander Arrell (AHSS)
Alexander Redpath (Postgraduate, PG)
Andrew Carruthers (AHSS)
Anthony McKee (Open First Year)
Anton Thompson-McCormick (AHSS)
Aoibhin McNeill (Engineering and Physical Sciences, EPS)
Asen Yordanov (School Rep, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering)
Bobby Kane (Open)
Brendan Reid (School Rep, Maths and Physics)
Brian Mahon (PG)
Caoimhe McNeill (AHSS)
Cathy Corbett (EPS)
Christopher Gault (MHLS)
Ciaran McKinley (PG)
Connor Daly (EMC)
Cormac Kerr (AHSS)
Daniel Hogan (EPS)
Denise McKeegan (MHLS)
Derek Crosby (PG)
Eoin Deeney (PG)
Eoin McGarrity (AHSS)
Eoin McMullan (Open)
Fergal McFerran (Open First Year)
Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (Open)
Gary Spedding (MHLS)
Gilbert Rice (MHLS)
Jack O'Neill (EPS)
James Mills (PG)
Jamie Pow (AHSS)
Jason O'Neill (EMC)
Jason Sime (AHSS)
Jennifer Lau (AHSS)
Jessica Kirk (EMC)
Joanne O'Neill (EMC)
Kerrie McConnell (MHLS)
Kevin Cassidy (MHLS)
Khor Ching Vei [Luke] (EPS)
Kirsten McConnell (AHSS)
Laura Graham (MHLS)
Lauren Brown (Open)
Lorcan Gallagher (EPS)
Matthew Hunt (Law)
Matthew O'Connor (AHSS)
Meghan Rafferty (Open)
Neale Watson (School Rep, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Niall Bole (EPS)
Niall McShane (EMC)
Nuala McAdams (EMC)
Orry Robinson (EPS)
Paul Fletcher (MHLS)
Peter Agnew (EPS)
Rebecca Hall (School Rep, History and Anthropology)
Rebecca Murray (English)
Sarah Lynn (School Rep, Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences)
Sky Aughey (Open First Year)
Tara Pouryayah (School Rep, Biological Sciences)
Thomas Thompson (MHLS)
Tony Houston (AHSS)
Tyler McNally (AHSS)

In Attendance:

Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)
Damien Corridan (Deputy Clerk of Council)

733. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Aidan Bannon (MHLS)
Amy Keegan (AHSS)
Brent Diffin (Management)
Catherine Madden (Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work)
Chloe Minish (PG)
Christopher Smyth (EPS)
Clare Rea (MHLS)
Frank Taggart (Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)
Gerard McGuigan (AHSS)
Leo Hacking (MHLS)
Meghann Ward (Psychology)
Nicole McShane (Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology)
Paul Walsh (EPS)
Shannon O'Neill (Pharmacy)

734. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF 27 NOVEMBER 2012

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Tuesday 27 November 2012 (SUC/M/12/7) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

735. BUSINESS ARISING

735.1 There was none.

736. COMMUNICATIONS

736.1 Council noted the resignation of Lauren Cockburn (PG) from Council.

736.2 Council noted that a Students' Union staff member will be to provide live Twitter updates of the proceedings of Council at the next meeting of Council.

737. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

738. ELECTIONS

There were none.

739. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

739.1 Proposed Recognition of New Clubs and Societies

Council was requested to amend Rule 8 in order to recognise the following proposed Clubs and Societies:

Queen's University Belfast Scrabble Society
Queen's University Belfast Korean Society
Queen's University Belfast Networking and Employment Society
Queen's University Belfast Political Review Society
Queen's University Belfast Islamic Society

Queen's University Belfast Sexual Awareness for Everybody (SAFE) Society
Queen's University of Aerospace Engineering Society

Proposer: Niall McShane (Vice President Clubs and Societies)
Secunder: Jason O'Neill (Union President)

It was noted that all of the above had provided all of the stipulated documentation, which was available for inspection upon request.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Scrabble Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Korean Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Networking and Employment Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Political Review Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Islamic Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Sexual Awareness for Everybody (SAFE) Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen's University of Aerospace Engineering Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

740. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report of the Union President (**SUC/P/12/40**)
Report of the Vice President Welfare (**SUC/P/12/41**)
Report of the Vice President Education (**SUC/P/12/42**)
Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (**SUC/P/12/43**)
Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (**SUC/P/12/44**)
Report of the Vice President Community (**SUC/P/12/45**)
Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (**SUC/P/12/46**)

740.1 Report of the Union President (**SUC/P/12/40**)

The Union President highlighted the following matters:

- The on-going full-time staff recruitment drive within the Students' Union
- A recent 'best-practice' visit to London-based Unions and his attendance at the Times Higher Awards.

- Recently achieved University approval for Student Experience Bursary funds to be permitted for use to pay for individual Clubs and Societies membership fees.

In response a query from Gary Spedding (MHLS) regarding the benefits of the best practice visits, the President stated that King's College London and the London School of Economics had provided good examples of promotion of the activities of elected student representatives and operational and financial examples of best practice, including mechanisms to increase the number of students employed by the Union.

Paper SUC/P/12/40 approved.

740.2 Report of the Vice President Welfare (SUC/P/12/41)

The Vice President's report was taken as read.

The Vice President offered her apologies for being unable to attend the Education and Welfare Committee meeting on 10 December 2012.

Paper SUC/P/12/41 approved.

740.3 Report of the Vice President Education (SUC/P/12/42)

The Vice President highlighted the following matters:

- An candidate has been recommended for appointment to the staff role of Course Representation Support Officer.
- It is important that Councillors inform their fellow students of the recent changes to the University's exceptional circumstances regulations.

Paper SUC/P/12/42 approved.

740.4 Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (SUC/P/12/43)

The Vice President's report was taken as read.

Paper SUC/P/12/43 approved.

740.5 Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (SUC/P/12/44)

The Vice President highlighted the following matter:

- Successful publication of the SU Magazine

In response to a query from Gary Spedding (MHLS), the Vice President noted that he would take a lead on the recently approved Council policy concerning the installation of ATMs in the MBC and the McClay Library.

Paper SUC/P/12/44 approved.

740.6 Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (SUC/P/12/45)

The Vice President highlighted the following matters:

- The establishment of a Clubs and Societies Development Working Group, to include Club and Society Committee members, to inform Club and Society developments.

In response to a query from the Niall Bole (EPS), the Vice President stated that work was underway to identify a mechanism to practically realise the use of Student Experience Bursary monies to pay for Club and Society membership fees.

Paper SUC/P/12/45 approved.

740.7 Report of the Vice President Community (SUC/P/12/46)

The Union Speaker notified Council that the report of the Vice President Community had not been submitted to the Clerk of Council within the timeframe set down in the Standing Orders and was thus considered to be rejected by Council, subject to right of appeal to Council.

The Vice President Community requested that Council consider his report, apologising for the delay and stating that a wide variety of work commitments had prevented him from submitting his report within the necessary timeframe.

A display of voting cards indicated that Council assented to consider the report of the Vice President Community.

In response to a question from Cathy Corbett (EPS) concerning the cost to the Students' Union of the QUB Apprentice competition, the Vice President stated that the competition:

- Is not funded by the Union's core funding, but by external funds supported by the Research and Enterprise Directorate.
- Prizes are provided by the University and an external sponsor (Deloitte).
- The competition benefits not only the eight individuals that participate, but also promote the Union's employability initiatives to a wider audience
- Had videos which have received approximately 20,000 views on Youtube.
- Was a source of positive media coverage on national television and in national newspapers
- Is a unique employability experience for those that participate, not just the final eight participants.

Paper SUC/P/12/46 approved.

741. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

741.1 Report of the Students' Union Environmental Committee (SUC/P/12/47)

Jennifer Lau (AHSS) reported on the progress being made by the Union in maintaining its Green Impact Gold accreditation status.

Paper SUC/P/12/47 approved.

741.2 Report of the Education and Welfare Committee

Matthew O'Connor (AHSS) reported the following:

- The election of Chloe Minish (PG) as Chairperson and Aoibhin McNeill as Secretary.
- Continuing issues surrounding the timing of examinations
- A recent review of joint honours degrees in the University

741.3 Report of the Campaigns and Communications Committee

Fergal McFerran (Open First Year) reported the following:

- Discussions surrounding increased promotion of the activities of Council
- The non-attendance of the Union at the NUS Demo 2012

741.4 Report of the Community, Equality and Diversity Committee

Fergal McFerran (Open First Year) reported the following:

- Discussions regarding the responsibilities of student officers
- The promotion of community, equality and diversity activities

741.5 Report of the Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee

Niall Bole (EPS) reported the following:

- Discussions on increased promotion of Clubs and Societies

742. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

There were none.

743. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

There were none.

744. QUESTIONS.

To the Union President

744.1 Preceding your election as President, the Students' Union had hosted the May Ball in the Mandela Hall on an annual basis for a number of years. One of the main manifesto promises you ran on in your first election was to introduce an open air May Ball event. You submitted to Council a range of options for this event, setting out that if an open air event was not possible as set out as Plan A and Plan B, the May Ball would be held in the Mandela Hall (under Plan C). None of three plans were realised and as such there was no May Ball in 2012. In light of this failure on your part to not only realise a campaign promise but also ensure the continuation of an event normally held annually, do you not agree that you owe the students of QUB, particularly those who voted for you, an explicit, public apology?

Proposer: Anonymous

Seconder: Anonymous

The Union President stated that a formal May Ball had regularly taken place in the Students' Union up until two years ago, when the Ball created a deficit of approximately ten thousand pounds, and therefore it was essential that any Ball that is organised going forward be financially sustainable.

The Union President further stated that he had:

- Met with Union staff, University staff, students with event management expertise and an external consultant
- Secured an on-campus location for the event
- Found that there substantial practical issues surrounding the costing, licencing and act procurement for the event

- Established that there was a large risk involved in carrying forward the event in the current economic climate
- Decided that it would not be prudent to expose the Union to financial risk and would rather focus the Union's resources on effectively delivering for students, which has been borne out in the positive satisfaction level that students have with the Union.

The Union President stated that he was looking at the feasibility of outsourcing various elements of the event's organisation.

To the Vice President Equality and Diversity

744.2 Rule 4.8.9 of the Students Union Constitution expressly states that the Equality and Diversity Officer "shall organise an 'international culture week' of events in order to entertain, educate and inform the student membership and the general public." As you are now six months into your term, I would like to enquire what plans you have made so far in relation to the 2012-13 international culture week, including proposed dates and events?

Proposer: Anonymous

Secunder: Anonymous

The Vice President Equality and Diversity stated that an 'international culture week' has not been organised by a Union officer for several years, with student officers instead focusing on supporting international student societies with the organisation of their events on a year-round basis, rather than just focusing on one week during the academic year.

The Vice President further stated that these events have greater reach and empower international students, noting that international culture events are still organised by the Students' Union, such as the recent Culture Cracker event.

744.3 Is it true that you sent an email to the LGBT society stating that due to your connection with the Christian Union at QUB, you would not attend any LGBT committee meetings or work with them throughout the year and if so, how do you feel this affects your ability to carry out your constitutional responsibilities as set out in Rule 4.8 of the constitution?

Proposer: Anonymous

Secunder: Anonymous

The Vice President Equality and Diversity stated that.

- She did not send any such email.
- That the accusation was without foundation.
- She has a good working relationship with the Committee of the LGBT Society and its President.
- Assisted them whenever requested and shall continue to do so.

To the Vice President Community

744.4 By explicit reference to the costs involved in organising, running, promoting and hosting the QUB Apprentice event as a comparison to the actual number of students who engage with the programme, do you believe that this event is the best use of Union resources and funding?

Proposer: Anonymous
Seconder: Anonymous

The Vice President stated that the QUB Apprentice:

- Is not funded by the Union's core funding, but by external funds supported by the Research and Enterprise Directorate.
- Prizes are provided by the University and an external sponsor (Deloitte).
- The competition benefits not only the eight individuals that participate, but also promote the Union's employability initiatives to a wider audience
- Had videos which have received approximately 20,000 views on Youtube.
- Was a source of positive media coverage on national television and in national newspapers
- Is a unique employability experience for those that participate, not just the final eight participants.

To the Vice President Welfare

744.5 In September a young woman was raped in the student area of Stranmillis. In light of this and previous sexual attacks on women in the University area over the past couple of years, have you any plans to run a campaign to highlight the issue, and if not, do you not feel that it is your constitutional responsibility to address such issues?

Proposer: Anonymous
Seconder: Anonymous

Due to the absence of the Vice President from this section of the meeting due to Union business, Council noted that the Vice President is required to submit an answer to the question, for posting on an official noticeboard of the Union, not later than five clear days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) after the Council meeting.

745. MOTIONS.

745.1 This Council condemns the sexist, degrading and offensive events organised and promoted by a number of Clubs and Societies at Queen's which occur contrary to the Constitution and its aims to support equality, diversity and women's rights.

Council notes, with disappointment, that an event by a University Club was allowed to take place in the Students' Union with the original title 'Yoga Hoes and Exercise Bros' on 8 November 2012, which was not changed until a student highlighted the issue.

Council urges the Executive Management Committee to provide all Clubs and Societies with guidelines on event names or themes which may be deemed inappropriate and the reasons behind this as soon as possible.

Council also urges the Executive Management Committee to prohibit all sexist events and to consider implementing a strict approval process for events in order to ensure that this does not happen in future.

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)
Seconder: Tyler McNally (40038987)

Mr McNally (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that the motion was self-explanatory and that the Union should not accept the holding of events such as “CEOs and Hoes” nights in the Union and that a vote against this motion was a vote for sexism and the objectification of women.

Mr McGarrity (AHSS), opposing the motion, stated that his opposition to the motion was not based on sexism, but rather on the practicalities of implementing a process that would ‘prohibit all sexist events’, noting that Clubs and Societies should have the independence to organise events as they wish without having to seek approval from a third party.

The Union President, speaking on the motion, stated that all official Union events already go through an approval process.

Aisling Gallagher, supporting the motion, stated that it was not unreasonable to review the currently existing process.

A friendly amendment by Cathy Corbett (EPS) was accepted by the mover, amending the final paragraph of the motion to read as follows:

“Council also urges the Executive Management Committee to prohibit all sexist events.”

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed and the proposer of the motion waived the right to summarise. Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

745.2 Council recognises that some of the abortion propaganda used by anti-choice campaigners is widely perceived as both disturbing and inappropriate across society and, furthermore, that this sort of imagery and content creates an unpleasant and oppressive atmosphere across the campus.

Council notes with concern that the women who have suffered rape, miscarriages or terminated pregnancies may be unduly affected by this imagery as it reawakens the memories of a traumatic event.

Council respects that Queen’s has students of varying viewpoints and, furthermore, that students should have the freedom to express their views in a way which is respectful to others.

Council is reminded that the University is publicly accessible and is located next to schools and day care centres, and that the University has a responsibility to protect the physical and mental health of its students.

Council believes that imagery which could be seen to cause undue mental distress to students should be prohibited from University grounds, including Freshers / Refreshers Fairs, as it does not promote any cause in a compassionate manner.

Council resolves to prohibit such propaganda from being displayed at all times.

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)
Seconder: Aisling Gallagher (40055120)

Council noted that the proposer of this motion had requested that this motion be withdrawn and not be considered by Council.

- 745.3 Council notes with regret that, due to the current University academic standing guidelines, candidates running for election to student officer positions who have been absent or deferred exams, due to illness, are not permitted to run for election.

Council believes that placing these students in the same category as those who are failing deems them unsuitable candidates and is inappropriate, offensive and unfair.

Council instructs the Executive Management Committee and calls for the relevant University authorities to review the current Regulation and create a suitable policy amendment to include mitigating circumstances (physical or mental ill health), removing the prejudice against these students and permitting them to run for sabbatical elections with an end goal of removing the 'academic standing' rule altogether so that elections are fully democratic.

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)

Secunder: Tyler McNally (40038987)

Mr McNally, moving the motion, stated that there should not be screening of candidates in an election process if it is to be truly democratic and that periodic illness should not be a barrier to standing for elected office.

A friendly amendment by Cathy Corbett (EPS) was accepted by the mover, amending the final paragraph of the motion to read as follows:

“Council instructs the Executive Management Committee and calls for the relevant University authorities to review the current Regulation and create a suitable policy amendment to include mitigating circumstances (physical or mental ill health), removing the prejudice against these students and permitting them to run for sabbatical elections.”

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed and the proposer of the motion waived the right to summarise. Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

- 745.4 This council notes that Israel is involved in a belligerent military occupation of the Palestinian territories (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sEukvh_Ajv4). The occupation is responsible for widespread and on-going human rights abuses against the local Palestinian population, including destruction of homes, theft of land & water resources, imprisonment without trial, torture of prisoners, and construction of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land.

This is in violation of international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights & the Charter of the United Nations. The settlements have also been declared illegal by the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion and are regarded as illegal by both the government of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

Recently an escalation of violence occurred with Israel launching a new military offensive labelled 'Operation Pillar of Defence' which officially ended on the 21st November 2012 at 19:00 GMT after having cost many civilian lives including 18 children. Hamas rocket fire also killed three innocent Israeli civilians and injured many more in the exchange of corrosive violence.

Condemnation of any and all attacks on Israelis perpetrated by Hamas or any other armed interest is of crucial importance. Rocket attacks on Southern Israel have to be totally repudiated not only because of the death and destruction they bring to Israeli civilians but also because of the disproportionate retaliatory violence which Israel feels it has a 'right' to visit upon the afflicted people of Gaza.

Targeting of civilians is not just morally reprehensible but must also be condemned as criminal regardless of the justifications by either side. Additionally we cannot hide behind superficial even-handedness or call for a two-way ceasefire in terms that suggest that Israel is not to be held to any particular account as this ignores the wider context.

This Council believes that the Palestinian people should not be subject to oppressive Israeli policies that imposes a siege stopping basic supplies getting in to Gaza, a 45 year long brutal occupation & illegal settlement construction all over the West Bank. Settlements are in flagrant violation of international law and we should be in fully opposed to such activities. This Council further believes that Israel should end its occupation of the Palestinian territories and fully lift the siege of Gaza. This council affirms that robust human rights focused approaches to holding all groups that violate human rights accountable is an appropriate way forward especially for students involved in this area of advocacy. The situation in Israel Palestine must be assessed based on the scale, nature and humanitarian impact of the reality for Palestinians and Israelis on the ground.

The Council thus resolves to:-

- Inform our members of the background to the situation in Israel/Palestine by using a human rights and legal approach and to commemorate Palestine Solidarity Days (29th November, 15th May), working with relevant and reputable groups such as but not limited to the Queen's University Belfast Palestine Solidarity Society.
- Lobby our university to divest itself from and terminate any contracts with companies that are complicit in the occupation of the Palestinian territories.
- Share information and analysis from reputable sources via students' union media channels (i.e. Palestinian and Israeli human rights groups) such as B'tselem, Rabbis for Human Rights, +972 Magazine, Adalah and ACRI to name but a few.
- To implement an educated and robust targeted boycott of all companies and goods that are proven to be complicit in the occupation e.g. settlement goods or companies that prop up the settlement enterprise.
- To mandate the student officers to promote justice, accountability and human rights for both Palestinians and Israelis in an effort towards a genuine resolution to the conflict ending in a just peace.

Proposer: Gary Spedding (40046946)
 Seconder: Cormac Kerr (40064716)

Mr Spedding (MHLS), moving the motion, stated that his motion was the result of an in depth consultation process involving Queen's students, people from Israel and Palestine and others within the student movement. Mr Spedding further stated that human rights are an important student issue, as recognised by NUS, and that unless there calls for peace in the Middle East from the moderate majority in society, this ground will be ceded to radical elements.

Mr Bole (EPS), proposed that this motion be suspended indefinitely, stating that he appreciated Mr Spedding's passion with regard to this issue, but that there are issues of greater importance to students at this present time.

Mr Spedding, opposing the proposal, stated that human rights are a relevant student issue built on the principle of collective solidarity.

Following a show of voting cards, the proposal was carried and consideration of the motion was suspended indefinitely.

- 745.5 Council notes with concern that the transgender community is seriously under represented and marginalised within this university. The community suffers significant and disproportionate levels of hate crime and discrimination in a variety of settings.

International figures demonstrate that, between November 2011 and November 2012, 265 transgender related murders were recorded in Europa alone. Since January 2008 over 1050 transphobic murders have occurred in Europe.

Therefore, Council resolves to support our transgendered students, and the transgendered community itself, by recognising Transgender Day of Remembrance which falls on the 20th of November, and by adding it to the official calendar of the Students' Union.

Proposer: Daniel Hogan. 40075047
 Seconder: Aisling Gallagher. 40055120

Mr Hogan (EPS), moving the motion, stated that he motion was self-explanatory, noting that Transgender Day of Remembrance was established in 1999 and now has become a global day, one which the LGBT Society and the Vice President Equality and Diversity worked to promote this year.

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed and the proposer of the motion waived the right to summarise. Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

- 745.6 This Council repeals policy 3.1 on the Policy File.

This Council recognises that the issue of abortion is a highly divisive issue and a matter for each individual's conscience. Being desirous of a unified, inclusive Students' Union this Council mandates to Students' Union to adopt a position of neutrality in regards to abortion.

This Council encourages students with an interest in issues surrounding abortion to express this through the available student societies and external organisations. This Council mandates the Students' Union to provide a neutral venue for discussions and debates regarding abortion and to assist societies with an interest in the matter in a fair and equitable manner.

Proposer – Caoimhe McNeill (40022327)
 Secunder – Jessica Kirk (40021065)

Caoimhe McNeill (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that this motion sought to acknowledge that there are different world views on this matter and that a Union campaigning on this issue cannot possibly represent all students. Ms McNeill further stated that the Union should focus on student issues can that unite members, rather than focusing on divisive issues.

Rebecca Hall (School Rep), opposing the motion, stated that a holding a pro-choice position on abortion is the only true neutral stance, the only one that allows people to make an informed choice. Rebecca Hall further stated a pro-choice position is held by our national unions and that holding a neutral position limits the ability of the Union to give welfare advice to students.

Cathy Corbett (EPS), speaking on the motion, stated that the motion seemed to only consider the policy position of the Union, with regard to advocacy and debate, and did not impinge on the ability of the Union to give appropriate welfare advice.

Aisling Gallagher (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that the Union's Societies can provide a forum for debate of different points of view and the existence of pro-life and pro-choice societies on campus indicate that open debate can be had even if the Union has a pro-choice position. Ms Gallagher further stated that it is a reality that large numbers of women travel to GB for abortions, driven away by stigma, and the Union should be welcoming to all women in a non-judgemental fashion.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

Caoimhe McNeill, summarising in support, stated that it this motion does not deter women from seeking welfare advice from the Students' Union.

Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

- 745.7 This Council recognises the importance of administration and communication for Clubs and Societies. Council believes that the effective communication of Clubs and Societies amongst one another as well as external companies is of benefit to not just the Club or Society but to the Students' Union and the University.

This Council notes the importance of space for email for Clubs and Societies and recognises the inadequate space that is available. Council realises the issue of resources and storage for Clubs and Societies, and how important it is to retain information in email spaces provided; namely large attachments.

This Council instructs the Executive Management Committee increase provisions for email space for all Clubs and Societies as the student mail is migrated to the cloud system freeing space in the older servers.

Proposer: Matthew O'Connor (40040604)
Seconder: Niall McShane (VP Clubs and Societies)

Council noted that the proposer of this motion had requested that this motion be withdrawn and not be considered by Council.

- 745.8 This Council recognises the importance of administration and communication for Clubs and Societies. Council believes that the effective communication of Clubs and Societies amongst one another as well as external companies is of benefit to not just the Club or Society but to the Students' Union and the University. It also takes into account the sometimes difficult task of ensuring all committee members see emails relevant to them.

This Council mandates to allow 'rules' to be allowed for clubs and societies in emails. This allows emails from the Club or Society email to be automatically forwarded to other email inboxes as well as allowing auto-responses to emails. Currently this option is not available but is feasible in the current software.

This would benefit all committee members who deal with different aspects of the day to day running of the Society to ensure they see the emails relevant to them.

Proposer: Matthew O'Connor (40040604)
Seconder: Niall McShane (VP Clubs and Societies)

Council noted that the proposer of this motion had requested that this motion be withdrawn and not be considered by Council.

746. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

747. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Union Speaker announced that the Annual Business Meeting of the 2012-13 session of the Students' Union Council shall take place on Thursday 7 February 2013 at 6.00 p.m. in The Space, Students' Union.

Damien Corridan
Deputy Clerk to Students' Union Council