

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

**MINUTES**

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council  
held on Thursday 27 April 2015 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union

**Present:**

Adam Sage	School Rep, Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Ben Whittaker	School Rep, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
Breanainn Lyness	Open First Year
Brendan Corr	Open
Bryony Ford	MHLS
Chloe Patterson	EMC
Ciaran Gallagher	EMC
Colin Stevenson	EMC
Collette McAllister	AHSS
Connor Malone	PG
Derek Crosby	PG
Diane Murdock	School Rep, EEECS
Ellie Drake	AHSS
Fahad Alawsi	MHLS
Fergal McFerran	Open
Hannah Niblock	EMC
James Camblin	EPS
James Rodgers	School Rep, GAP
Jan Sen Yu	AHSS
Jessica Simonds	School Rep, PISP
Jonathan Irwin	AHSS
Kathryn Waller	AHSS
Katie Perry	AHSS
Kirk Dennison	School Rep, Psychology
Loren McIntyre	School Rep, Nursing and Midwifery
Mark Benson	PG
Matthew Lowe	PG
Matthew McCallion	School Rep, Law
Michael Quigley	PG
Molly Harrison	PG
Neil Anderson	EPS
Niall McKenna	EMC
Niall Robb	AHSS
Nyemahame Okwu	MHLS
Oisin Hassan	PG
Patrick Sally	EMC
Rachel Hill	Open
Rachel Ireland	School Rep, English
Raymond Dillon	EPS
Robert Stewart	School Rep, Biological Sciences
Ruth Maxwell	Open
Sarah Wright	Open
Sean Fearon	AHSS
Sophie Stratfull	AHSS
Stephen McCrystall	AHSS
Timothy McLean	Open

**In Attendance:**

Damien Corridan (Deputy Clerk of Council)  
Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)  
Niamh McGovern (The Gown)  
Orlaigh McIntyre (Marketing Manager)  
Kristina Mulholland (Marketing Assistant)  
Kylie Noble (The Gown)  
Paul Wyatt (The Scoop QUB – Queen's Radio)

Fergal McFerran (Union Deputy, in the Chair) welcomed all attendees to this Statutory Meeting.

## 985. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Annalisa Misra	EPS
Anthony McKee	AHSS
Caoimhe McNeill	EMC
Courtenay Mercer	School Rep, History and Anthropology
Helen Monaghan	MHLS
Jack Patterson	AHSS
Molly Devlin	School Rep, Pharmacy
Sammy Wade	AHSS
Tiarnan McKeown	AHSS

## 986. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF 19 MARCH 2015

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 19 March 2015 (SUC/M/15/3) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

## 987. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

## 988. COMMUNICATIONS

The Council noted the following communications:

## 988.1 Recent Deaths

The Council noted, with regret, the recent passing of:

- John Cousins (Permanent Secretary, Queen's Students' Union 1987-2000) who passed away on 17 April 2015.
- Karen Buckley, a student from Cork who was studying in Glasgow whose body was found on 16 April 2015.

The Council stood and observed a moment's silence in memory of the deceased.

## 988.2 Transport Strike

The Council noted that a public transport strike is scheduled to take place on the day of the Annual Business Meeting of Council and a number of Councillors have, in a personal capacity, offered to provide transport home from Council to any Councillors who many require it.

## 988.3 Student Safety Summit

The Vice President Community invited Councillors to attend a Student Safety Summit on in Enterprise SU on Tuesday 5 May 2015 at 6.30pm.

Belfast City Council in conjunction with T13 over the past month or so have been conducting research across QUB and UU into student safety within the community, they have now compiled this research and would like to present it to students, as the key stakeholders.

## 988.4 Union Policy Lapse

Councillors noted that the deadline for submitting objections to lapse of any Union policy is 11.00pm on Wednesday 29 April 2015.

## 988.5 QUBSU Education Awards

The Vice President Education reported that the deadline for submitting nominations for the Union's Education Awards is 5.00pm on Tuesday 5 May 2015.

989. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

990. ELECTIONS

There were none.

991. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

991.1 **Removal of Constitutional Requirement for a Candidate / Student Officer to be in Good Academic Standing at the Time of Election and throughout their Period of Student Office:**

**Remove the following (Clause 14.2 of Chapter One of the Students' Union Constitution):**

"They shall be registered students of the University who are in good academic standing at the time of their election and shall be registered by the University as full-time students for the academic year of their sabbatical office."

**Replace this with the following:**

"They shall be registered by the University as full-time students for the academic year of their sabbatical office."

**In addition, remove the following (Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 3.2):**

"A Student Officer shall remain in good academic standing throughout his / her term of office."

**And renumber the current Clause 3.3 accordingly**

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)  
Seconder: Seán Fearon (40079053)

Sarah Wright (Open), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment would hopefully be finally approved at this meeting, that there were no negative consequences from it the rule not being applied in the recent elections to the Executive Management Committee, that all students should be free to stand and that the University should not have a veto on who stands for election to the Students' Union Executive Management Committee.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), supporting the amendment, stated that everyone should have the opportunity to stand for election and the Union should not discriminate against those who may have had to defer an examination for reasons outside their control.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Ms Wright waived her right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 42 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

991.2 **Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2 to Increase the Period of Time between the Close of Nominations for the Student Officer Elections and the Opening of Polling for same:**

**Rule 2, Clause 9.12**

**Replace** “the eighth day before” **with** “the twelfth day before”.

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)  
 Seconder: Brendan Corr (40107847)

Sarah Wright (Open), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment was being proposed simply to allow Union staff more time to produce election materials and to promote the elections, and urged Councillors to support the motion.

Niall Robb (AHSS), opposing the amendment, stated that the Council voted to extend the nomination period in the previous year and that further lengthening the campaign could discourage involvement in the student officer elections.

In response to a point of information from Derek Crosby (PG), Niall Robb stated that whilst the amendment does not increase the voting period, it extends the canvassing period, which is something that students do not want.

Ellie Drake (AHSS), supporting the amendment, stated that is motion was simply allowing for the practical production of election materials.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Ms Wright waived her right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 39 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules could not therefore attract the required number of votes from Council to come into effect.

991.3 **Provision for the filling of casual vacancies on the Students’ Union Council**

**Amend Rule 1, Clause 3 as follows:**

**Insert a new Section 3 after Section 2 and re-number the subsequent Sections accordingly. The new Section 3 shall be worded as follows:**

3. Casual vacancies in the membership of the Students’ Union Council shall be filled in the following manner:
  1. In the case of a multi-member constituency, the next highest-polling candidate who was unsuccessful in the previous general election for the constituency concerned shall (with their prior consent) be co-opted to fill the vacant seat in time for the next meeting of the Council.
  2. In the case of a single-member constituency, or in the case of a multi-member constituency in which there is a lack of consenting candidates available for co-option to fill any vacant seats, a bye-election for the purposes of filling the vacant seats shall be held as soon as is practicable following the seats falling vacant.
  3. In the case of a multi-member constituency where there are consenting candidates available for co-option, but the number of available consenting candidates is less than the number of vacancies to be filled, the available consenting candidates shall be co-opted to fill a number of the vacancies which is equal to the number of available consenting candidates. A bye-election shall then be held as soon as is practicable following the seats falling vacant to fill the remaining vacancies.
  4. If a member of the Council is elected to represent one constituency then subsequently elected to represent another constituency in an election held at a later date, then the member shall be deemed to have resigned from their previous seat and the seat shall be deemed to have fallen vacant.

5. If a member of the Council is elected to represent more than one constituency in elections held on the same date, then the member must select which constituency they wish to represent by the first meeting of the Council following the election. The member shall be deemed to have resigned from the other seat(s) and the seat(s) shall be deemed to have fallen vacant.
6. The Rules regarding nominations for bye-elections shall be the same as those which apply to nominations for the position concerned at a general election for that position.
7. This Paragraph shall not apply in the case of casual vacancies caused by the failure of the outgoing member to attend meetings of the Council, excepting either the conclusion of an unsuccessful appeal regarding the vacancy by the outgoing member concerned or in cases whereby the outgoing member concerned fails to make an appeal regarding the vacancy in accordance with the Rules.
8. In this Paragraph:

*consenting candidate available for co-option* means such a candidate as outlined by sub-paragraph 1 above;

*outgoing member* means a member of the Council who has vacated their seat;

*general election* means an ordinary election held to elect most or all members of the Council near the beginning of the academic year;

*multi-member constituency* means a constituency from which more than one member of the Council is elected to represent, as prescribed by Rule 2.8 (i.e. either the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences constituency, the Engineering and Physical Sciences constituency, the Medicine, Health and Life Sciences constituency, the Postgraduate constituency, the Open First Year constituency and the Open constituency);

*single-member constituency* means a constituency from which only one member of the Council is elected to represent, as prescribed by Rule 2.8 (i.e. one of the seats in the School Representative constituency).

**As well as the above, amend Chapter One of the Constitution as follows:**

- In Clause 9.3, insert the following after “in accordance with the Rules.”: “Casual vacancies in the membership of the Council shall be filled in accordance with the Rules.”

Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Matthew McCallion, moving the amendment, stated that this amendment would allow for the filling of casual vacancies on Council, and would prevent the Council being used merely as a line on a CV for some students who did not have any interest in attending, that this amendment would introduce proper regulation for keeping Councillors accountable and would reward those who are dedicated to the Council.

In response to a number of points of information from the floor, Mr McCallion stated that it was his view that the proposals adequately considered the role of the School Representative on Council.

Derek Crosby (PG), opposing the amendment, stated that these proposal would mean that Council would not be able to transact business such as amendments to the Constitution as the quorum would always remain at the maximum possible.

Brendan Corr (Open), supporting the amendment, stated that the proposals would bring new faces to Council and always ensure that is full of fresh, enriching new voices.

Hannah Niblock (EMC), opposing the amendment, stated that the motivation behind the proposal was valid and that it would solve some problems, but not all, and could, in its current form, introduce more complications.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), supporting the amendment, stated that every proposal can have flaws, but it is important to make a change to improve Council, with further amendments being made in the future if deemed necessary.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

In summation, Councillor McCallion urged Councillor to support his amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 26 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules could not therefore attract the required number of votes from Council to come into effect.

991.4 **Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2 to Amend the Quantity of Election Materials that are Supplied to Election Candidates and to, where appropriate, Provide Childcare Facilities:**

**Remove the current Rule 2, Clause 9.20:**

9.20 Candidates for Sabbatical posts shall normally be entitled to the following printed Election material provided by the Union:

- 9.20.1 3 x A0 Colour Posters
- 9.20.2 400 A3 Posters (one-sided);
- 9.20.3 1500 A4 Manifestos (double-sided, four pages – one A3 sheet folded in half);
- 9.20.4 1500 A5 Flyers (double-sided);
- 9.20.5 5 x Colour T-Shirts with candidate's branding (front and back); and
- 9.20.6 4 x Colour Placards

**Replace this with the following:**

9.20 Candidates for Sabbatical posts shall normally be entitled to the following printed Election material and services provided by the Union:

- 9.20.1 Three x A0 Colour Posters
- 9.20.2 200 A3 Colour Posters (one-sided);
- 9.20.3 500 A4 Manifestos (double-sided, four pages – one A3 sheet folded in half);
- 9.20.4 2500 A5 Flyers (double-sided);
- 9.20.5 Five x Colour T-Shirts with candidate's branding (front and back); and
- 9.20.6 Four x Colour Placards
- 9.20.7 Adequate on-campus childcare between the hours of 9.00am and 5.00pm on the days of polling.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)  
Seconded: Paul Loughran (40044945)

Paul Loughran (EPS), moving the amendment, stated that the purpose of this amendment was to reduce waste and provide election candidates with the materials and support that they needed when running for election.

Sarah Wright (Open), supporting the amendment, stated that would produce sensible levels of materials for candidates and also provide childcare support to those who require it.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr Loughran waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

**991.5 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to make Additions to the List of Student Groups that the Vice President Equality and Diversity has Responsibility for Representing the Interests of:**

**Remove the current Rule 4, Clause 8.3:**

Shall be responsible for representing the interests of particular student groups, which shall include but are not limited to the following: (i) Disabled Students; (ii) Mature Students; (iii) Postgraduate Students; (iv) Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Students; (v) International Students; and (vi) Students of all Faith Groups.

**Replace this with the following:**

Shall be responsible for representing the interests of particular student groups, which shall include but are not limited to the following: (i) Students with Disabilities; (ii) Mature Students; (iii) Postgraduate Students; (iv) LGBT+ Students; (v) International Students; (vi) Students of all Faith Groups; (vii) Part Time Students; (viii) Student Carers; (ix) Care Leavers; (x) Student Parents; and (xi) Women Students.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)  
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Oisín Hassan (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this proposal is designed to broaden the of the role of Vice President Equality and Diversity to include remits that are not currently represented by the role.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr Hassan waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 42 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

**991.6 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 7 to amend the Mechanism whereby a 'Motion To Vote' can be put:**

**Remove the current Rule 7, Clause 1.9.1:**

The motion "now be put"

Any Member of the Council may move that the motion now be put. Such a motion must be seconded. The Chairperson shall immediately put the motion and, if it is carried, the substantive motion or amendment then under discussion shall be put without further debate other than the Proposer's right to reply.

**Replace this with the following:**

The motion "now be put"

Any Member of the Council may move that the motion now be put after a minimum of two rounds of debate have been called by the Chairperson. Such a motion must be seconded. The Chairperson shall immediately put the motion and, if it is carried, the substantive motion or amendment then under discussion shall be put without further debate other than the Proposer's right to reply.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)  
Seconded: Seán Fearon (40079053)

Seán Fearon (AHSS), moving the amendment, stated that this proposal will embed the relevant Union policy into the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr Fearon waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

991.7 **Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8 to allow Clubs and Societies to choose whether to use the ‘First Past The Post’ system or the ‘Single Transferable Vote’ system to elect its Committee:**

**Within Rule 8, Section 5, Paragraph 2:**

7.7.1 After ‘secret ballot using’, insert the word ‘either’.

7.7.2 After ‘the ‘first past the post’ relative majority system’, insert ‘or the single transferable vote system. The voting system to be used shall be determined by the Constitution of the Society.’

**If the above is approved, the amended Paragraph should now read as follows:**

All Society elections shall be carried out by secret ballot using *either* the ‘first past the post’ relative majority system *or the single transferable vote system. The voting system to be used shall be determined by the Constitution of the Society.*

Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconded: Jess Simonds (40078082)

Matthew McCallion, moving the amendment, stated that this proposal would provide choice to Clubs and Societies in how they conduct their election.

Jessica Simonds (School Rep), supporting the amendment, stated that this amendment would extend the amount of democracy in Clubs and Societies.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr McCallion waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

991.8 **Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8 to insert a Requirement that RON (Reopen Nominations) be included as a Candidate in Society Committee Elections:**

**Within Rule 8, Section 5, Paragraph 5**

Insert the following, after ‘being proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Society’:

7.8.1 ‘Elections to each Committee position in which at least one valid nomination has been received shall include on the ballot the option to Reopen Nominations (RON).’

**If the above is approved, the amended Paragraph should now read as follows:**

Nominations for Committee positions shall normally be received at the AGM, with each candidate being proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Society. *Elections to each Committee position in which at least one valid nomination has been received shall include on the ballot the option to Reopen Nominations (RON).*



Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
 Seconded: Jess Simonds (40078082)

Matthew McCallion, moving the amendment, stated that this proposal would provide choice to Clubs and Societies members and give full expression to their voice, especially if they did not wish to vote for any candidates in an election.

Mark Benson (PG), opposing the amendment, stated that Council should not be imposing extra restrictions on how Clubs and Societies conduct their internal affairs.

In response to a point of information from Chloe Patterson (EMC), Councillor Benson agreed that Council had a role in oversight of Clubs and Societies but they should be given the maximum freedom possible.

Jessica Simonds (School Rep), supporting the amendment, stated that Council should play a role in governing Clubs and Societies and that this amendment would ensure that Clubs and Societies are run by the best person.

Brendan Corr (Open), opposing the amendment, stated that Clubs and Societies themselves should decide.

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), supporting the amendment, stated members should have the option of voting for RON if they don't like any of the candidates.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr McCallion waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 31 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules could not therefore attract the required number of votes from Council to come into effect.

## 992. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Reports were considered by the Council:

Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications	SUC/P/15/16
Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies	SUC/P/15/17
Report of the Vice President Education	SUC/P/15/18
Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity	SUC/P/15/19
Report of the Vice President Welfare	SUC/P/15/20
Report of the Vice President Community	SUC/P/15/21

992.1 The report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (SUC/P/15/16) was accepted.

992.2 The report of the Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (SUC/P/15/17) was accepted.

992.3 The report of the Report of the Vice President Education was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice Education (SUC/P/15/18) was accepted.

992.4 The Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (SUC/P/15/19) was accepted.

992.5 The Report of the Vice President Welfare was taken as read.

In response to a query regarding developments on the Union policy on introducing a food bank, the Vice President Welfare reported that a meeting has been held with interested and available Councillors and that work is underway on arranging an agreement with Storehouse Belfast such that the Union will act as a referral agent to the food bank. It was further reported that the Union would, in a reciprocal gesture, encourage students to volunteer at the food bank and also provide fundraising opportunities for Storehouse Belfast.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Welfare (SUC/P/15/20) was accepted.

992.6 The Report of the Vice President Community was taken as read.

In response to a query from the floor regarding the Union's role in sanctioning students involved in alleged anti-social behaviour during the St. Patrick's Day period, the Vice President Community stated that the Union did not support the arbitrary changes to the discipline procedures introduced by the University.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Community (SUC/P/15/21) was accepted.

992.7 The Council noted the decision of the previous meeting (SUEMC/M/15/3/977.1) to consider the previous Report of the Union President at this meeting.

The Union Speaker notified Council that it was understood the Report of the Union President (SUC/P/15/24), due for this meeting, 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.

A display of voting cards indicated that Council agreed to consider the Report of the Union President to the next meeting of the Council.

The Union President presented a summary of key activities detailed in both reports, including:

- The NUS Diagnostic Review
- The creation of part-time officer posts in the Union
- The Students' Union Strategic Plan 2015-20
- The HE Funding Campaign
- Opposition to the reduction in, and removal of student bursaries

Following a show of voting cards, the two reports of the Union President were accepted.

993. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

993.1 Report of the Education and Welfare Committee

There was none.

993.2 Report of the Campaigns and Communications Committee

There was none.

993.3 Report of the Community, Equality and Diversity Committee

There was none.

993.4 Report of the Clubs Societies and Student Development Committee

A verbal report was presented by Niall McKenna, Vice President Clubs and Societies, detailing a recommendation to amend Rule 8, Paragraph 820 of the Constitution in order to give Conditional approval to the following proposed Clubs and Societies:

Queen's University Belfast Biological Sciences Society  
Queen's University Belfast Economics Society  
Queen's University Belfast Nutrition Society

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

Recognition each of the above named Societies was approved.

993.5 Report of the Environmental and Ethical Committee

There was none.

993.6 Officer Review Group

There was none.

993.7 Report of the Students' Union Charity Forum

The Council noted a report (SUC/P/15/22), presented by the Vice President Community, detailing the recent activities of the Students' Union Charity Forum.

993.8 Report of the Fair Trade Steering Group

The Vice President Campaigns and Communications presented a verbal report, outlining the recent reestablishment of the Fair Trade Steering Group.

994. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

There were none.

995. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

*To the Union Speaker*

995.1 Constitutional Rule 2, Paragraph 9.37 states, in its entirety, the following: "Paragraphs 8.22 – 8.36 also apply to Council Elections and other Elections held under this Constitution, including Referenda as appropriate."

It should be noted that Section 8 of Constitutional Rule 2, to which the text of this Paragraph would normally be deemed to refer to, consists of only 20 paragraphs.

Could this Council be provided with clarification regarding the mention of "Paragraphs 8.22 – 8.36" in Constitutional Rule 2, Paragraph 9.37 and, if required, could recommendations be made to this Council regarding the further clarification of the Paragraph in question?

Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconded: Sarah Wright (40002922)

The Union Speaker provided the following response:

The text "8.22-8.36" should refer to "9.22 – 9.36". A previous Council approved changes to the Constitution with an incorrect numbering scheme. In Council Elections and other Elections and Referenda held under this Constitution, the Returning Officer interprets the Election Rules, taking into account the renumbering issue.

- 11.2 It should be noted that Constitutional Rule 8, Section 5 requires the membership of a Club / Society to elect a Committee to run its affairs.

It has been common practice for certain Clubs and Societies to carry out their Committee elections using email, setting a close of nominations prior to the election and to stage these elections over a time period before the holding of the AGM, as a logistical issue due to their large membership.

With this in mind, could this Council be provided with information on whether:

- i. the use of emails by Clubs and Societies as a medium for voting in Committee elections is constitutional?
- ii. the use of Online Voting by Clubs and Societies would be constitutional and, if so, would it be feasible?
- iii. Returning Officers have been present for all AGMs?
- iv. all AGMs have been held within the time period set forth by the Rules?
- v. setting a date for the close of nominations for Committee elections prior to the AGM is constitutional?

Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconded: Sarah Wright (40002922)

The Union Speaker provided the following responses:

*Whether the use of emails by Clubs and Societies as a medium for voting in Committee elections is constitutional?*

Rule 8, 5.1 states that "Each Society shall hold an annual general meeting (AGM) at which the officers of the Society shall be elected".

Additionally Rule 8, 5.2, states that "all Society election shall be carried out by secret ballot using the 'first past the post' relative majority system."

Voting by email is inconsistent with these provisions of the Constitution.

*Whether the use of Online Voting by Clubs and Societies would be constitutional and, if so, would it be feasible?*

Online voting, would not be considered to be consistent with the provisions of the Constitution as the election is not taking place at an AGM. It should also be noted that, for the elections to the Executive Management Committee, there are additional provisions in the Constitution to enable online voting. These do not exist for elections to Club and Society Committees.

On the question of whether online voting would be feasible, I don't believe it is the place of the Union Speaker to decide what is or is not feasible, rather that is Council's decision.

*Whether Returning Officers have been present for all AGMs?*

The person responsible for conducting an election is the Returning Officer. Rule 8, 5.3, states that "The Union President shall appoint a Returning Officer for each Society election." In practice, the Union President has only appointed a Returning Officer in instances where the Union President has deemed it necessary to do so, and does not regularly act as Returning Officer or appoint a nominee to act as Returning Officer for the 230 or so Clubs and Societies in Queen's.

*Whether all AGMs have been held within the time period set forth by the Rules?*

All AGMs have not been held within the time period set forth by the Rules, as approved by Council, which specify that all AGMs must be held no later than 1 April in each academic year.

*Whether setting a date for the close of nominations for Committee elections prior to the AGM is constitutional?*

Rule 8, 5.5, states that "nominations for Committee positions shall normally be received at the AGM, with each candidate being proposed and seconded by Full Members of the Society."

It can be deemed consistent with the Constitution of the Students' Union, if a Club or Society has provisions in their Constitution enabling the submission of nominations for Committee elections prior to the AGM and this requirement, including any relevant deadlines, are communicated to the membership well in advance.

996. QUESTIONS.

There were none.

997. MOTIONS.

997.1 This Council approves the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2015-20 (tabled as SUC/P/15/23).

Proposer: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)  
 Seconder: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moving the motion, provided an overview of the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2015-20.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Ciarán Gallagher waived his right to summarise.

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

The Council noted that the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2015-20 will now go forward for consideration by the membership on 14 May 2015 as agreed by Council at the Statutory Meeting of Council held on 19 March 2015. (SUC/P/15/3/982.3)

997.2 This Council calls upon Queen's University Belfast to publically disclose information concerning the details of the investments made using QUB's endowment funds. In particular, we call for the public disclosure of:

- (i) A list of the companies which Queen's is currently invested in;
- (ii) The amount currently invested in each company; and
- (iii) The annual returns being made on each investment.

Proposer: Seán Fearon (40079053)  
 Seconder: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Seán Fearon (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that it is known that that the University has investments in corporations such as HSBC and British American and that students and the tax paying public deserve to know where this money is being invested by Queen's University Belfast.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Seán Fearon waived his right to summarise.

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

997.3 This Council demands that Queen's University Belfast immediately freeze any new investments and commits to the complete withdrawal of any existing investments, in:

- (i) Companies whose main business is the extraction and / or production of fossil fuels; and
- (ii) Any co-mingled or mutual funds that contain fossil fuel holdings.

Proposer: Seán Fearon (40079053)  
 Seconder: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Seán Fearon (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that the UK average investment by a university in oil, coal and gas is approximately two thousand pounds and that students and the tax paying public deserve to know where this money is being invested by Queen's University Belfast and that public bodies should invest money ethically.

Jan Sen Yu (AHSS), opposing the motion, stated that the Council should not be dictating where the University is investing its money at this time when we are campaigning against University cuts and DEL cuts.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the motion, stated that it is always appropriate to ensure that Queen's acts in an ethical and sustainable manner, and that the Council should not stand by while the University contributes to destroying the planet.

Mark Benson (PG), opposing the motion, stated that if the Union's work in this area is to be effective, it the motion and direction needs to be much more prescriptive and researched, which would enable Council to make a more informed decision.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Seán Fearon waived his right to summarise.

Following a show of voting cards, there were equal numbers in favour and opposed to the motion. Following a second show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

997.4 This Council recognises that, in the past months, there have been a significant amount of Councillors absent from Meetings. Council also recognises that this has caused some proposed Constitutional and Rule Amendments to fall, and also means that not all students are being fully represented as their Councillors may not be present. Finally, Council is aware that the only main notification to Councillors of meetings is via email.

Council therefore instructs the current Campaigns and Communications Officer to begin research into other, potentially more interactive ways, to notify all Councillors of Meetings, to ensure that all Councillors are aware of these and to encourage higher attendance. If one, or more, of these could be available for use before the Annual Business Meeting of the 2014-15 Council, we ask that this be implemented.

Council also instructs the Campaigns and Communications Officer Elect to continue this following the changeover, and to hold a review process over the summer to ensure that these changes can be implemented for the 2015-16 session of Council.

As this is over the summer months, Council recognises that this may be difficult to carry out, but also notes that this research could be carried out via online surveys if appropriate. Council also ask that some of this research target those Councillors who have not been in attendance if possible, to learn why Councillors are not in attendance and to determine if any of these can plausibly be changed.

Proposer: Sophie Stratfull (40088931)  
 Seconder: Kathryn Waller (40077853)

Sophie Stratfull (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that recent attendance at Council had been disappointing and that the Union should make a greater attempt to increase turnout.

Colin Stephenson (EMC), opposing the motion, stated that notification of Council was given via social media, the Union website, at Council training events as well as by numerous emails during the year and that Councillors need to take responsibility for their own non-attendance. It was further stated that Councillors have many other course-related and extra-curricular commitments and all Councillors deemed to have resigned have been asked for feedback on their experience of Council.

Sarah Wright (Open), speaking on the motion, stated that is recent attendance has been disappointing, but we all know the reasons why students don't engage with Council, primarily as it is inaccessible to ordinary students.

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that we should look into the reasons behind low turnout.

Adam Sage (School Rep), opposing the motion, stated that there was always sufficient communication to Councillors regarding the meetings, with the long meetings and other commitments being obvious reasons as to the recent reduced attendance.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Sophie Stratfull waived her right to summarise.

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

- 997.5 This Council believes that stress is a major problem amongst the student community, especially around examinations time and believes that this a problem that we should continue to work to combat.

Council acknowledges the great work done each year by the VP Welfare and the Students' Union to help combat stress and other health issues through the 'Are Ye Well' campaign.

Council also notes the success of pet therapy projects in Universities in the UK (such as in Nottingham, which partnered with the Guide Dogs charity to provide the service to their students).

Council instructs the Vice President Welfare to investigate the implementation of a 'puppy room' in the Students' Union, and to follow the example of Aberdeen, Manchester, Nottingham and others, by including an aspect of pet therapy within the 'Are Ye Well' campaign. Council resolves that this should be implemented in time for the upcoming examinations period, and that discussions relating to partnership work on the scheme should be initiated with Guide Dogs NI and other animal charities.

Proposer: Kathryn Waller (40077853)  
 Seconder: Niall Robb (40084325)

Niall Robb (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that stress was known factor is poor academic performance by students and that the provision of contact with animals has been provided by other students' unions to successfully decrease stress amongst students.

Robert Stewart (School Rep), speaking on the motion, stated that there is a challenge to provide a suitable area for puppies, but there are local dog groups that can provide support.

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that the presence of puppies and dogs such as guide dogs promote positive mental health.

Patrick Sally (EMC), speaking on the motion, stated that the Union will have to take into account the health and safety and liability issues if it is to implement the motion.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, stated that she would like to have a dog, only for her landlord disallowing it and that spending time with a dog is very positive for mental health.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Kathryn Waller waived her right to summarise.

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

- 997.6 Following a successful proposal to suspend Standing Orders to discuss a motion of extreme urgency, the following motion was tabled for consideration by Council:

Council notes that the Health Minister Jim Wells made disparaging, misinformed and dangerous remarks concerning 'non-stable' homosexual relationships and incidences of child abuse at a hustings event in South Down on the 23rd April 2015. He also criticised the lifestyle choices of a lesbian couple whilst canvassing in Rathfriland which is being investigated by the PSNI.

Council acknowledges that, whilst the Minister has apologised for his remarks after a video was uploaded online, he has nevertheless behaved in a manner utterly unbecoming of an elected representative and is potentially in breach of the Ministerial Code.

Council welcomes the resignation of Jim Wells from his Ministerial post.

Council instructs the President to submit a formal complaint to the Assembly Standards Commission and OFMDFM.

Council further instructs the Vice President Equality and Diversity to launch a student campaign and join with other protests/campaigns calling for Jim Wells' resignation from both his MLA position and his South Down Westminster candidacy.

Council calls for Jim Wells immediate resignation from his MLA position and to withdraw his Westminster candidacy.

Proposer: Sarah Wright 40002922  
Seconder: Collette McAllister 40121572

The Union Speaker declared an interest in the motion under consideration and temporarily vacated the Chair, to be replaced by the Deputy Speaker.

Sarah Wright (Open), moving the motion, stated that the Minister's comments regarding abuse of children by LGBT individuals was dangerous, uninformed and unacceptable, particularly from a holder of elected, ministerial, office, and his



comments to a lesbian couple are under investigation by the PSNI. It was further stated that it was vital that society held those in power to account and that they have to represent all people in Northern Ireland.

Ellie Drake (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that the comments of the Minister were disgraceful and disgusting and that we should support the rights of LGBT students.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Sarah Wright waived her right to summarise.

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

Following a further show of voting cards, the Standing Orders of Council were resumed.

997.7 This Council notes:

1. That 'payday lenders' are predatory organisations that offer high risk, high interest loans to the most vulnerable in our society.
2. The 'pound in your pocket' research undertaken by NUS-USI shows that NI students are among this vulnerable group.
3. That some payday lenders have recently turned to exploiting the student market.

This Council believes:

1. That payday lending is not an appropriate source of finance for students.
2. That our Students' Union should take a firm stance against payday lending and should take responsibility for providing students with sensible and safe financial advice.

This Council resolves:

1. That, in line with the NUS Campaign, this Students' Union will ban all advertising from payday lenders in the Union premises, on the Union website and within any Union publications.
2. To ban all sponsorship from payday lenders for Societies and Sporting Clubs.
3. To lobby the University to commit to the following statement: 'Queen's University Belfast will ban the advertising of payday lenders on the University campus, on the University website or within any University publications'.
4. To instruct the Executive Management Committee to ask that NUS-USI shows leadership and approves a similar policy at its next Regional Council meeting

Proposer: Ruth Maxwell (40009309)  
 Seconder: Sarah Wright (40002992)

Ruth Maxwell (Open), moving the motion, stated that students should not be used as bait by pay-day lenders who charge exploitative rates of interest and the work to date of the Financial Conduct Authority was not enough.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Ruth Maxwell waived her right to summarise.

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

997.8 This Council proposes that the student officers investigate the feasibility of providing first aid training for students, in partnership with the Red Cross or a similar organisation, to take place at the beginning of each academic year.

This Council requests that the Vice President Welfare provides a verbal report on progress at the next meeting of the Council.

Proposer: Nyemahame Okwu (40122024)  
 Seconder: Bryony Ford (40099473)

Nyemahame Okwu (MHLS), moving the motion, stated that students would provide students with the confidence they need to make emergency interventions and to save lives.

Adam Sage (School Rep), speaking on the motion, queried how many students could be accommodated by such training.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, stated that this was an excellent idea that would empower students and save lives.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

In summation, Nyemahame Okwu stated that he belied that a training programme can be flexible to meet student demand, based on resources.

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

- 997.9 This Council notes with concern that the punitive Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territories (West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem) is soon to enter its 48<sup>th</sup> year.

This Council further notes the severe detrimental impact that Israel's military occupation has upon Higher Education in Palestine, resulting in restrictions faced solely by Palestinian students, when attempting to progress onto and access education more generally.

Council condemns the constant human rights violations meted out against the Palestinian people by the State of Israel, particularly the restriction upon freedom of movement resulting from a Kafkaesque permit regime that stipulates where Palestinians can live, study, work and travel and the series of physical barriers; checkpoints, illegally constructed wall and military bases that help to impose said permit regime above and beyond any reasonable or legitimate security needs on Israel's part.

Council believes that the idea that any student must obtain a permit from an occupying military force in order to study at home or abroad to be wrong in both practice and principle. The permit regime imposed by Israel is deliberately inaccessible and made highly complex so as to ensure total exacerbation and bewilderment for Palestinians, in particular those who openly express their opposition to Israel's policies.

Council expresses outrage that, as recently as February 2015, Palestinian students in Gaza have been denied exit permits in order to pursue their studies and that, in 2012, Israel prevented a young Palestinian from travelling from Gaza to the West Bank in order to study Law.

Council further notes another incident in 2012 that saw Israeli forces attempt to raid a Palestinian school in East Jerusalem, shutting it down afterwards and that freedom of expression at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem is non-existent for Palestinian student protestors.

Council believes that this Students' Union and its members should do their utmost to support the education of Palestinian students, whose responsibility it will be to rebuild Palestine once a just resolution to the Israel–Palestine conflict is found.

Council therefore resolves to;

- Formally twin Queen's University Belfast Students' Union with the Bethlehem University Student Senate.
- Lobby the University to foster links with the Bethlehem University and other centres of Higher and Further Education in Palestine.
- Lobby the University to create an annual scholarship programme to be provided for a number of students from Palestine, similar to those provided for other nationalities as can be viewed on the University's website.
- Work with students in Palestine to campaign against the Occupation of the West Bank and the devastating blockade of Gaza.
- Mandate the student officer team to inform, educate and raise the consciousness of our students about the oppression faced by Palestinian students, their teachers and academic institutions under Israeli military occupation using reliable sources, and lobby other students' unions to take similar action.
- Mandate the Vice President Campaigns and Communications, the Vice President Education and the Union President to carry forward these lobbying and awareness efforts and to work to empower students in claiming their human right to education, to overcome the isolation of Palestinian educational institutions and to demand an end to the illegal Israeli occupation.

Proposer: Paul Loughran (40044945)  
 Seconder: Ellie Drake (40076883)

Paul Loughran (EPS), moving the motion, stated that for many years the situation in Palestine was one of oppression, attacks, ambushes, suppression and refugees, which, when looked at from a purely human rights perspective, was horrific.

In response to a point of information from Niall Robb, regarding the existence of the Palestine Solidarity Society on campus, Paul Loughran, stated that he believed that the society does exist on campus as he has spoken to a number of members of the Society.

Craig Miller (Student), opposing the motion, stated that the motion presented a skewed reality of the situation in the Middle East and did not recognise the negative role that some Palestinian leaders, political organisations and armed groups played in the perpetuating the suffering of their people and other innocent bystanders.

Connor Malone (PG), speaking on the motion, stated that this issues was, in Northern Ireland, always viewed as another area of division between the traditional communities in Northern Ireland and that there were many more areas, aside from Palestine, where there are human rights abuses.

Ellie Drake (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that she was pro-Palestine that the requirement for exit permits and the lack of right to transport prevented students from the area being able to travel to further their education, with Israeli embargos on building materials preventing the rebuilding of universities that have been destroyed – meaning that there was a moral obligation on students to help Palestinians in their hour of need.

James Camlin (EPS), proposing that the matter be postponed indefinitely, stated that there was hypocrisy amongst elements of Council who were willing to discuss this controversial motion on Palestine, but were recently unwilling to discuss a controversial motion regarding the naming of a play park in Newry after a person convicted of violent activities.

Sarah Wright (Open), opposing the special motion, stated that there is nothing that the Council should be afraid of discussing that two wrongs don't make a right and Council should discuss important issues like this as students do not live in a vacuum from the rest of society.

Rachel Hill (Open), supporting the special motion, stated that the level of division and passion expressed in Council this evening was not beneficial for the Council.

Niall Robb (AHSS), opposing the special motion, stated that this Council can take on any issue.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted. Following a show of voting cards, the special motion was deemed to have fallen.

An amendment was proposed by Hannah Niblock (EMC) and seconded by Chloe Patterson (EMC), to delete the following text from the final paragraph of the motion: “, the Vice President Education”.

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the amendment, stated the role of Vice President Education will require enormous focus on delivering the Students' Union participation in the QAA Higher Education Review, which only occurs once every six years.

Seán Fearon (AHSS), opposing the amendment, stated that it was the responsibility of all of the officer team to ensure that the Union's response is effective and prioritised.

Racheal Ireland (School Rep) supporting the amendment, stated that the HE Review is important and the Vice President Education should be given the space required to deliver on the project.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted. Following a show of voting cards, the amendment was carried.

The final paragraph of the amended motion new read as follows:

- Mandate the Vice President Campaigns and Communications and the Union President to carry forward these lobbying and awareness efforts and to work to empower students in claiming their human right to education, to overcome the isolation of Palestinian educational institutions and to demand an end to the illegal Israeli occupation.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

In summation, Ellie Drake stated that goals of this motion were the broadening of minds, the improvement of links with Palestinian students and the realisation that education is a driver for change in the world.

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

- 997.10 This Council recognises the challenges facing many of our students who have caring responsibilities. Council also notes that such students often struggle to incorporate their caring responsibilities alongside their academic timetable.

This Council reaffirms its commitment to helping students with caring responsibilities and therefore instructs the Vice President Education:

- To lobby the University to encourage them to offer a wider range of lecture and tutorial times in order to make it easier for student carers to create a timetable that will best accommodate their life commitments.
- To lobby the University to consider developing a strategy that would allow student carers to have prior access to QGIS module selection in order to maximise their chance of creating a timetable that will best accommodate their life commitments.

Proposer: Brendan Corr (40107847)  
 Seconder: Aoibhin McNeill (40080590)

Brendan Corr (Open), moving the motion, stated that this motion would provide greater flexibility to those with caring responsibilities.

A friendly amendment was accepted such that the second paragraph now reads:

“This Council reaffirms its commitment to helping students with caring responsibilities and therefore instructs the Vice President Education and Vice President Equality and Diversity:”

Sarah Wright (Open), supporting the amended motion, stated that this motion would be of great support to those with caring responsibilities.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Brandan Corr waived his right to summarise.

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

997.11 This Council notes:

- i. that 2015 is the twentieth anniversary of the enactment of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995;
- ii. that 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 22<sup>nd</sup> December is UK Disability History Month;
- iii. that 3<sup>rd</sup> December is International Day of People with Disabilities; and
- iv. that the Vice President Equality and Diversity has responsibility for representing the interests of particular student groups, including Disabled Students, in accordance with Constitutional Rule 4, Section 8, Paragraph 3(i).

This Council believes that there remain many cases in which people with disabilities face discrimination and hardship in society today.

This Council instructs the Vice President Equality and Diversity, with assistance from the Vice President Community and the Vice President Welfare, to organise a Disability Awareness Campaign of Events to highlight issues of inequality experienced by people with disabilities during the next academic year, preferably during the month of December.

Proposer: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
 Seconder: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Matthew McCallion (School Rep), moving the motion, stated that this motion will highlight issues of inequality experienced by people with disabilities.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Matthew McCallion waived his right to summarise.

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

- 997.12 This Council notes that the Live Policy File on the Students' Union website has not been updated to include the policies agreed to by this Council during the current academic year.

This Council believes that in order to remain representative of the Union membership, Council meetings must remain transparent and, therefore, all policies agreed to by this Council must be made publicly available on the Students' Union website.

This Council instructs the VP Campaigns and Communications to ensure that all policies agreed to by this Council during the 2014-15 academic year thus far are uploaded to the Live Policy File on the Students' Union website as soon as possible.

Proposer: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
 Seconder: Jess Simonds (40078082)

Matthew McCallion (School Rep), moving the motion, stated that the an updated policy file should be placed on the Union website.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Matthew McCallion waived his right to summarise.

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

- 997.13 This Council recognises that, in accordance with Students' Union Constitutional Rule 8, all Clubs and Societies must elect an Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting of its members.

This Council notes that there are certain Clubs and Societies that have such a large membership that these elections are, in some cases, carried out by means of email (i.e. in order to vote, a member would email their voting intentions to the Club / Society – the returning officer(s) would then be given access to these emails for the purposes of counting the votes).

This Council believes that the principle of voting by secret ballot is an essential factor in democratic elections and that the use of email clearly undermines this principle, as it would let the Returning Officers know how certain members have voted.

This Council also believes that, in order to assist in facilitating this for Clubs and Societies, a system should be in place to allow Clubs and Societies to carry out their internal elections using Online Voting via Queen's Online (which would guarantee anonymous secret balloting) rather than using the medium of email.

Therefore, this Council calls on the VP Clubs and Societies to ensure that voting by email is prohibited from use by all Clubs and Societies in future elections.

This Council instructs the VP Clubs and Societies to establish a scheme to allow Clubs and Societies to use Online Voting via Queen's Online for the purposes of their internal elections, which shall take the following form:

- i. The scheme will be voluntary, with each individual Club or Society deciding whether it wishes to take part in the scheme.
- ii. If a Club or Society wishes to officially support a certain number of charities for the year, they may use Online Voting for selecting the charities if they so wish.
- iii. The elections shall appear on Online Voting as 'secondary elections'.

This Council further instructs the VP Clubs and Societies to liaise with the VP Campaigns and Communications in order to put this scheme into action.

Proposer: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconder: Rachel Ireland (40106897)

This motion was withdrawn by the proposer.

997.14 This Council notes, as reported in the 2014 Northern Ireland Pedestrian Fatality Report:

- i. that just under 20% of road deaths in Northern Ireland are pedestrians;
- ii. that 62% of such instances occur on urban roads;
- iii. that 64% of such instances occur at night; and
- iv. that in 55% of such instances, the pedestrian wore dark clothing.

This Council welcomes the reinstatement of the crash barrier on the Malone Road leading towards Elms Village.

This Council believes:

- i. that the safety of students is of the utmost importance; and
- ii. that students living in Elms Village and along the Malone Road in particular are at a great risk whilst walking at night.

This Council instructs:

- i. the VP Community to establish a Road Safety Awareness Campaign aimed at students, including opening a feasibility study into providing students with reflective jackets;
- ii. the VP Community to voice the concerns of this Council to Belfast City Council and to petition Belfast City Council to take appropriate action in relation to making the crossings along the Malone Road safer for pedestrians; and
- iii. the Union President and the VP Campaigns and Communications to petition the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Regional Development to establish a road safety awareness campaign aimed at drivers with a focus on watching out for pedestrians in urban areas whilst driving at night.

Proposer: Matthew McCallion (40134313)  
Seconder: Robert Stewart (40100376)

Matthew McCallion (School Rep), moving the motion, stated that this motion would lead to improved road safety for students.

Chloe Patterson (EMC), speaking on the motion, stated that the Department of the Environment has many similar road safety initiatives underway.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Matthew McCallion waived his right to summarise.

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

998. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

999. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Union Speaker announced that the Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council was scheduled to take place at 6.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6 May 2015 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union.

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (Deputy Clerk, Students' Union Council)