

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION
MINUTES

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on Tuesday 22 October 2024, in Elmwood Hall.

Present:

Aastha Nimeshkumar Shah	Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS)
Amy Smith	Student Officer Postgraduate Education
Anna McDermott	Postgraduate School Rep School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (SHAPP)
Ash Caufield	Chairperson Trans Students' Association
Ashish Kandel	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ayyan Nomani	EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Callum Smith	Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)
Chun Tim Chan	Postgraduate School Rep School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECS)
Durgadas Bindhu Rajendran	Postgraduate Representative
Eli McBriarty	Student Officer Undergraduate Education
Elizabeth Hartley	Chairperson Disabled Students' Association
Emily Burke	Chairperson Women Students' Association
Gokul Menon	Postgraduate School Rep Queen's Business School (SMGT)
Harshini Abburi	EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Harshitha Das Vasimalla	Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)
Himanshu Betude	Undergraduate School Representative School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (SMAE)
Himanshu Ranjit Jain	Postgraduate School Rep School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Jack Lydon	Chairperson LGBT+ Students' Association
Jay Basra	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Joel Sheridan	Undergraduate School Representative School of Natural and Built Environment (SNBE)
Kieran Minto	Students' Union President
Lewis Robinson	Undergraduate School Representative School of Law (SLAW)
Maria Murray	Undergraduate School Representative School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Matthew McCallion	Postgraduate Representative (Union Speaker)
Michael E. Loughran	Undergraduate Faculty Representative Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS)
Muhammad Abdullah Adnan	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Muhammad Haris	Postgraduate Representative
Nadine Curtis	Undergraduate Faculty Representative Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS)
Narayanan Ambur Raghavendran	Postgraduate Representative
Phyu Sin Win Win Han	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Princia Annie Dsouza	Chairperson International Students' Association
Robbie Mitchell	Undergraduate School Representative School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (SCHEM)
Rory Brolly	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Sajid Khan	Student Officer Campaign and Engagement
Souhardya Datta	Postgraduate Representative
Suyi Yang	Student Officer Equality and Diversity
Swati Joshi	Undergraduate School Representative School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (SMED)
Taha Tajamul	International Student Representative (including INTO)
Tan Jia Jun	AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tom Bloomer	UG School Representative School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECS)
Whitney Vale-Hagan	Postgraduate School Rep School of Biological Sciences (SBIO)

In Attendance:

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (CLERK OF COUNCIL)
BARRY CRUICKSHANK (REPRESENTATION SUPPORT OFFICER)
ANNA LEAHY (ACADEMIC REPRESENTATION ASSISTANT)

The Speaker of Council welcomed all attendees to the First Statutory Meeting of the 2024-25 session of the Students' Union Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the following Councillors:

Connor Darragh	Undergraduate School Representative School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (SHAPP)
Hamza Shah	Chairperson Ethnically Diverse Students' Association
Jamie Lukas Campbell	Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS)
Jess Hindley	Student Officer Welfare
Kannan Sachdeva	MHLS Representative (Undergraduate)
Kelly Razey	Chairperson Student Parents' and Carers' Students' Association
Maria Teixeira	Undergraduate School Representative School of Nursing & Midwifery (SNAM)
Mariam Abuelsaoud	Postgraduate Representative
Oliver Boyce	Undergraduate School Representative School of Mathematics & Physics (SMP)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting (Annual Business Meeting) of 8 April 2024 SUC/M/24/4

Consideration of this matter was deferred to the next Statutory Meeting of the Council.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were none.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Condolences

There were none.

4.2 Introduction to Student Council and the Procedures for Student Council

The Clerk of Council gave an introduction to Student Council and the procedures for Student Councillors.

The Clerk of Council gave a presentation on the overview of the procedures for the Student Council and encouraged members of Council to contact the Student Voice Team with any queries.

Councillors were advised that they are required to send apologies to the Deputy Clerk of Council if they are unable to attend a meeting of Council. It was noted that any member of Council who misses three consecutive meetings of Council shall have been deemed to have resigned their seat.

It was noted that Councillors shall be provided with an online resource detailing all core procedures for Council.

4.3 Introduction to the Students' Union Executive 2024-25

Kieran, the Student Union President introduced Councillors to elected members of the 2024-25 Executive Management Committee:

Kieran Minto	Students' Union President
Sajid Khan	Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement
Suyi Yang	Student Officer Equality & Diversity
Amy Smith	Student Officer Postgraduate Education

Eli McBriarty
Jess Hindley

Student Officer Undergraduate Education
Student Officer Welfare

4.4 Autumn Elections 2024 – Update

The Council noted that elections took place for Course Representatives positions, and for the following constituencies of Council:

- Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
- Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences
- Faculty of Medicine, Health and Life Sciences
- Postgraduate
- All Students
- All First Year Students
- International Students
- Queen’s Accommodation
- Postgraduate School Representatives

The Council further noted that elections took place for the following Student Association Chair positions:

- Ethnically Diverse Students’ Association Chair (Bye-Election)
- International Students’ Association Chair (Bye-Election)
- Mature and Part-Time Students’ Association Chairperson (Bye-Election)

4.5 Students’ Union Council – Schedule of Meetings and Submission Deadlines

The Clerk of Council explained to Council that the Students’ Union Council normally meets six times per academic year. The schedule of Statutory (ordinary) meetings for 2024-25 is as follows:

Meeting Date / Time	Agenda Submission Deadline	Constitutional Amendments Submission Deadline
Tue 22 Oct 24 - 5.15pm (Elmwood Hall, Elmwood Avenue)	Thu 17 Oct 24 - 12.00 noon	Mon 7 Oct 24 - 9.00am
Mon 11 Nov 24 - 5.00pm (The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood)	Mon 4 Nov 24 - 9.00am	Mon 28 Oct 24 - 9.00am
Tue 03 Dec 24 - 5.00pm (The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood)	Wed 27 Nov 24 - 9.00am	Mon 18 Nov 24 - 9.00am
Wed 22 Jan 25 - 5.00pm (Elmwood Hall, Elmwood Avenue)	Wed 15 Jan 25 - 9.00am	Mon 6 Jan 25 - 9.00am
Thu 13 Feb 25 - 5.00pm (The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood)	Wed 5 Feb 25 - 9.00am	Wed 29 Jan 25 – 9.00am

Mon 24 Mar 25 - 5.00pm (The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood)	Thu 13 Mar 25 - 9.00am	Mon 24 Feb 25 - 9.00am
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All agenda items must be submitted the Student Voice team by the specified deadlines. This includes policy motions, reports from Committees and any proposals to amend the Constitution.

4.6 National Conference Delegate Elections 2024-25 – Proposed Schedule

The Clerk of Council reported that elections to delegations for national conference will take place in semester one of the 2024-25 academic year.

The Clerk of Council further updated Council that we're a member of three national unions and we work with them to make the changes on a local and national level that really matter to constituents:

- The National Union of Students of the United Kingdom (NUS)
- The Union of Students' in Ireland (USI)
- The National Union of Students – Union of Students in Ireland (NUS-USI)

The Clerk of Council explained that similar to QSU, they have councils and elected student officers who decide on the issues that they work on. Their councils are made up of all the member colleges' student officers and regular students who put themselves forward to work on student issues on a national level.

4.7 Student Leader Elections 2024-25 – Proposed Schedule

The Committee noted that nominations for the Student Leader Elections 2024-25 would open on the last day of term 2024. Elections would be 4 days and will take place in the first week of March 2024.

4.8 National Students' Unions – Introduction and Update

Ben Friel, the NUS-USI President gave Council an overview and update on NUS-USI, what they do, and what they are currently working on.

NUS-USI is your national union representing all university and college students in Northern Ireland. It's unique. It's one of the first organisations in Northern Ireland that was set up to work on both an all - Ireland and all – UK basis.

Being part of NUS-USI means that students' unions here take part in the democracy of the National Union of Students UK (NUS) and the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), as well as forming their own authentic voice and campaigns through the Northern Ireland based NUS-USI. NUS-USI recognises something that the student movement has at its core – that we're better off when we work together. Currently 100% of students' unions in Northern Ireland are members of NUS-USI.

Over the last 2 years alone, with students' unions and students working together we had some big wins for students.

Recent wins:

- *Over £40 million in support for students through the #StudentsDeserveBetter campaign. Including £500 Covid Disruption Grants which were paid directly to all full-time undergraduate students.*

- *In our push for the payment to be extended to all students we gained over 3500 petition signatures and secured a debate in the NI Assembly debate, winning the House's support.*
- *£2000 payments were made to Health & Social Care students, securing one of the asks of the Student Healthcare Heroes campaign which we run alongside QUBSU and UUSU.*
- *We secured the inclusion of support for students in the 10 year Mental Health Strategy, with commitment to annual funding.*
- *We secured Period Poverty pilots schemes at universities and colleges.*
- *By working with USI we secured access to Erasmus for NI students through the Irish government.*
- *We hosted a protest at Stormont on student housing crisis as part of the USI 'No Keys No Degrees campaign' drawing support from across the political spectrum.*

Current NUS-USI campaigns:

- *Student Housing Crisis*
- *Cost of Survival*
- *Poor living conditions mean poor grades*
- *It's time to give 16-year-olds the vote!*
- *Free Transport for students*

5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

There were none.

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Appointment of Returning Officer for the Student Officer Elections 2024-25

The Council approved the proposal by the Director of the Students' Union to appoint Peter Robinson (NUS Charity Director) as Returning Officer for the 2024-25 Student Officer elections.

6.2 Student Officer Plan of Work 2024-25 SUC/P/24/22

The Elected Student Officer team presented an overview of their Student Officer Plan of Work 2024-25 to Council.

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion

Suyi Yang, Student Officer Equality and Diversity update Council that the Mental Health and Wellbeing Team will be running the *Warm Up With Us* initiative in partnership with Queen's, where they will be giving out 9,000 free meals to students this year.

Suyi further updated that this is part of our larger campaign to help students with the cost-of-living crisis.

Free lunch will be given out in the Students' Union Foyer on the following days:

- Tues 12 Nov: Warming stew with a crusty roll and yummy biscuits
- Wed 13 Nov: Soup with a crusty roll, fruit and cheese
- Thurs 14 Nov: Tasty meal deal (wrap/sandwich, crisps, fruit, treat) and carton of juice
- Tues 19 Nov: Delicious chicken curry with rice and naan bread, and chocolate truffles

- Wed 20 Nov: Soup with a crusty roll, fruit and cheese
- Thurs 21 Nov: Tasty meal deal (wrap/sandwich, crisps, fruit, treat) and carton of juice

7.2 2024-25 Academic Year – Emerging Issues / Concerns

No issues raised by Councillors at this time.

7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

Kieran Minto, Students' Union President further updated Council that the Mental Health and Wellbeing team have appointed a Social Prescriber to their team. This is a new, full-time position within the University and Queen's Students' Union is the first unions in the UK and Ireland to appoint a Social Prescriber.

7.4 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Introduction and Update

The Clerk of Council gave Council an introduction, overview and update on the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25. He further updated Council that we are currently on year 4 of the 5 year Strategic Plan, and informed councillors the full plan could be accessed on the QSU website.

7.5 Students' Union Democracy Review – Update

The Clerk of Council reported that all relevant Constitutional amendments considered by Council in 2023-24 had been approved by referendum, by the Union's Management Board and by Senate (as required).

It was further reported that the Student Ideas Submission process for considering Students' Union policy was now in place, with an initial set of ten submissions considered by the Proposal Support Committee and voted on by students from 21-27 October 2024. Council shall be briefed on the outcome of the voting process at the next meeting of the Council.

7.6 University Governance Review and Student Representation – Update

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

7.7 Student Housing – Issues Facing Students

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

7.8 QUB Welcome and Induction Experience – September 2024 Improvements

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

7.9 Student Officer Roles – Discussion of Current Roles

Sajid Khan, Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement briefed Council that over the past two years, there have been a number of changes to the composition of the Executive Management Committee; including the removal of Part-Time Student Officer roles – replaced with Student Associations – and minor changes relating to the roles of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education and Student Officer Postgraduate Education.

He further briefed that due to the ever-changing landscape of Student Officer duties there will be further discussions as to whether the current roles and titles are still suitable, and whether they should be modified to reflect the needs of students and the Students' Union; there will be an internal scoping exercise undertaken which will report to Councillors.

Councillors were encouraged to join Student Officer Role Review Working Group to participate in the review of Student Officer roles.

8. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 Union Speaker (1 vacancy)

Abdullah Adnan, Durgadas Bindhu Rajendran and Matthew McCallion were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected

9.2 Students' Union Management Board (5 vacancies)

Asatha Shah, Durgadas Bindhu Rajendran, Elizabeth Hartley, Harshini Abbrui, Jack Lydon, Muhammad Abdullah Adnan, and Whitney Vale-Hagen were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.3 Standing Committee (15 vacancies)

Elizabeth Hartley, Gokul Menon, Harshitha Das Vasimalla, Jay Basra, and Tan Jia Jun were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.4 Environmental and Ethical Committee (10 vacancies)

Durgadas Bindhu Rajendran, Elizabeth Hartley, Emily Burke, Gokul Menon, and Jeol Sheridan were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.5 Student Campaigns Committee (10 Vacancies)

Ayyan Nomani, Elizabeth Hartley, Emily Burke, Jack Lydon, Joel Sheridan, and Muhammad Abdullah Adnan duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.6 Clubs and Societies Committee (10 Vacancies)

Ayyan Nomani, Elizabeth Hartley, Harshini Abburi, Joel Sheridan, Matthew McCallion, Muhammad Abdullah Adnan and Tom Bloomer were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.7 Scrutiny Committee (9 vacancies)

Jay Basra, Tan Jia Jun, and Whitney Vale-Hagen were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.8 University Senate (1 vacancy)

Ashish Kandel, Callum Smith, Sajid Khan, and Rory Brolly were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.9 Academic Council (1 vacancy)

Abdullah Adnan, Anna McDermott, Astha Shah, Callum Smith, and Michael E. Loughran were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected

9.10 Proposal Support Committee (10 vacancies)

Elizabeth Hartley, Gokul Menon, Harshitha Das Vasimalla, Harshini Abburi, and Joel Sheridan were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

10. MOTIONS

There were none.

11. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Report of the Management Board

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.2 Report of the Union President (July 2024) SUC/P/24/33

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.3 Report of the Union President (August 2024) SUC/P/24/34

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.4 Report of the Union President (September 2024) SUC/P/24/35

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.5 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (July 2024) SUC/P/24/36

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.6 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (Aug 2024) SUC/P/24/37

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.7 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (Sep 2024) SUC/P/24/38

To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

12.8 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (July 2024) SUC/P/24/39

- To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.9 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (August 2024) SUC/P/24/40
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.10 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (September 2024) SUC/P/24/41
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.11 Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (July 2024) SUC/P/24/42
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.12 Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (August 2024) SUC/P/24/43
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.13 Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (September 2024) SUC/P/24/44
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.14 Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (July 2024) SUC/P/24/45
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.15 Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (August 2024) SUC/P/24/46
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.16 Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (September 2024) SUC/P/24/47
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.17 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (July 2024) SUC/P/24/48
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.18 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (August 2024) SUC/P/24/49
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
- 12.19 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (September 2024) SUC/P/24/50
To be considered at the Monday 11 November Statutory Meeting of Council.
13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS
There were none.
14. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES
There were none.
15. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS
There were none.
16. QUESTIONS (TO ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES)

There were none.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

18. DATE OF SECOND MEETING OF THE STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

The Second Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2024-25 will take place on Monday 11 November 2024, In The Cube, Level One, in the Students' Union Building.