

Policy name: **Disabled Students' Network**

Date Presented: **21/03/23**

Lapse Date: **May 2024**

"That students with additional needs at Ulster University have the right to be given the support and foundations that they can use to create a fabulous experience during their time in higher education."

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTES:

- The Student Council finds that students within Ulster University experience barriers to their participation that disables them from learning & socialising both on and off campus.
- The successes of the Equality Networks across Ulster University for example the BAME+ Network and the recent development around the equality forums & networks have been big wins for the student population across the board. There is also the establishment of the Neurodivergent Group at a university level to show that there is progress being made. This while being great, does not go far enough in providing support for students with physical and invisible disabilities.
- There is a need across the board for a network that can provide support for students with additional needs in and outside of the lecture theatre. The DSN (Disabled Student's Network) can provide this support, by being a place where students can raise issues & suggestions within the university, meet likeminded people and share experiences and ideas for their peers.

STUDENT COUNCIL BELIEVES:

- That the student population of Ulster University has lacked a body that can properly represent its students with additional needs cohort. According to Student Wellbeing, in Ulster there are 2,666 registered additional needs students, a huge proportion of which struggle to engage and point out areas of improvement within the university.
- That the students with additional needs of Ulster University have the right to be given the support and foundations that they can use to create a fabulous experience during their time in higher education.

STUDENT COUNCIL RESOLVES:

- Student Council mandates UUSU to look at standardising the bye-laws regarding the Networks within UUSU specifically Bye-Law 1, section 3.15 and the Equality Networks.
- That there be the creation of a Network tailored to students who may have additional needs be it physical, visible or invisible.
- That the organisation, governance and running of this Network be done by Ulster University Student's Union.
- That the VP for E&B and the Chairperson at the start of each Academic Semester are to engage the student body to encourage students to join the Network via global student emails and making their presence known during freshers & re-freshers.

Name of Proposer: *Student Executive*

Name of Seconder: *Ethan Twaddle*

