

**UUSU Student Executive**

**Date: 25.10.2018**

**Time: 2pm**

**Location: Coleraine: H215; Jtown: 12G02; Magee: MD122; Belfast: BA\_02\_008**

**Minutes**

Present: Kevin McStravock (Chair), Andrew McAnallen, Collette Cassidy, Owen McCloskey, Meghan Downey, Conor Keenan

In Attendance: Mark Francos, Avril Honan

Apologies – Emma Bonner

The Chair welcomed Mark Francos to his first Student Executive meetings in his capacity as Chair of Student Council.

1. **Minutes**

**Minutes were approved pending two amendments:**

Item 3: Collette Cassidy’s leave was approved for Monday 12-19th November.

Lapsed Policy – to clarify, student councillor Danielle Roberts had spoken to the President about the policy about to lapse, but this had not been taken forward by Danielle as yet. The policy in question would lapse, unless a student indicates their wish to renew.

1. **Matters Arising**

There are no matters arising.

1. **Leave Requests**

Kevin - TOIL request – Three Hours on Monday 29th , three hours on 15th November and Annual Leave 9th November

Emma - 23rd Nov 2018

Conor – 1st November

All approved.

1. **Officer Role Review**

AH gave an overview of the timeline so far and work that is ongoing. Noted that focus groups will explore possible role descriptions and focus, rather than the feedback element which the current survey and interviews are focusing on.

1. **Officer Blogs**

AMcA was asked to follow up with officers to look at content that could be included in these. KMcS noted that the Okstoberfest could be reviewed, as well as the upcoming We Are Women Campaign.

KMcS suggested that AMcA could use the Passport Café to profile his year abroad.

1. **Campaigns Catch Up**

MD provided an overview on the We Are Women Campaign, noted there are four events on the four campuses: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and on the Wednesday the Politics Society is helping to set up a panel debate with local politicians.

The campus events will be networking, informal events – at the moment Officers are working on RSVPs and logistics. CC noted that the Magee event may be a little bit more formal with speakers planned to address the attendees. MD noted that she was unsure of numbers so wanted to make sure it was more of a networking event on Belfast and Jordanstown.

The campaign will also have online social media content profiling the stories which are sent through as a part of this.

MD – to liaise with Laura Horner to ensure there are staff members from UUSU to support at the campus events.

Passport Café: a call has been sent out this week for students to come back with their photos and stories of travelling. At the moment the exhibition has been organized for the Belfast campus, it may move around the campuses, but there are currently no plans for this. AMcA would be keen to have this on other campuses, however this would need further development.

Action: AMcA to explore space on other campuses.

KMcS noted he would also lobby during this week in relation to funding for Erasmus programs post 2020. This will involve a postcard to current Erasmus students, and ask students to send this to the Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab. Another aspect will be a social media takeover, there is a possibility to encourage all students and staff to become involved and tweet Dominic Raab with the #WishEUWereHere to broaden the debate to the HE sector, with issues such as research funding. UU PR and Comms are doing a research hour each week, and Kevin has already secured agreement that this will be campaign themed during this week.

The last campaign will be the Student Poverty/Homeless campaign. This will encompass the SOS Bus charity sleep out, staff from the Union and Uni will also be getting involved with this. Student Support have spoken about a charity shoebox appeal this week also, and the SU leads also need plan their plan to destigmatize unseen homelessness campaign, such as those who are ‘sofa-surfing’. Kevin is also working with Campus Life to deliver an internal protocol for emergency housing for students.

Kevin will also look at dates in December for campaigns in Semester 2.

AH noted that Advice Bureau would like to hold a campaign around exam stress/de-stress and to riase awareness of the EC1 and appeals process.

Action: Declan/Laura N to follow up with Andrew to confirm dates for this.

1. **NUS-USI Referendum**

This will take place in November 2018. Campaigning will be open from 8th November, with voting beginning 9am on 13th November until 15th November.

Noted that NUS or NUS-USI would have an advantage due to the size of their organization and if there is a ‘no’ campaign it may seem unfair if there are no spending limits, or funding available from UUSU. The Chair referred these matters to the Democratic Services committee to discuss.

Kevin asked the Student Executive to take a stance as a collective in terms of supporting NUS, or whether to stay neutral.

The first question posed was whether or not the SE would take a stance:

A discussion followed on the merits of both remaining neutral as a group versus taking a stance and leading on the debate for students. The group noted that students may currently misunderstand the

Moved to vote: SE will take a stance

Vote for membership: SE clearly voted in favour of supporting NUS-USI membership.

1. **2034 Sustainability Review**

UU have announced a sustainability strategy review which will be an independent review of the 5&50 strategy and progress towards this in light of the lack of HE policy progress within NI, eg the lack of sign off for the Medical School and also the funding model. This will review where UU is currently and where it might need to scale back some objectives or services. The Director of Strategy and Planning within UU will project manage this, and feed into a broader working group which Kevin will be part of.

Kevin noted that this will take place throughout the rest of this academic year and the findings will be presented to the final University Council, and also government officials where necessary to highlight particular concerns.

1. **Suicide Safer Status – Project Outline – SE3-25.10.18**

The President provided highlights of the proposed PIPS project.

The committee agreed with the principle and outline of the project and agreed to sign off the final application proposal when this has been finalized.

1. **Media Provision Consultation – SE5-25.10.18**

Kevin gave a brief update on ongoing plans for courses within this School. Discussions are ongoing, and Kevin will provide an update on this – at the moment feedback is being sought from staff, students and industry.

The consultation document is currently open for comment, Kevin will circulate this before submitting this on behalf of UUSU. He is also working with Faculty leaders to facilitate a meaningful student consultation with Coleraine students.

1. **Any other business**

**Policy Lapse –**

Brexit Policy: Kevin suggested that this should be developed further and resubmitted to make it more robust. KMcS will progress.

Good Relations Policy: Noted this is in regards to respect on campus. May need to be refined, but there are no significant changes required. MD will progress.

Political Expression Framework: Language may need updated, review required. CC to take forward.

Policy Traffic Light Update

Kevin spoke to this paper and updated the committee where appropriate.

Action: Emmet to upload this to Sharepoint for officers to progress.

Student Roost

Feedback was sought from student officers on the rate for this, the University have suggested that this could be dropped to £105-£113 per week, on a 40-week contract.

Agreed: KMcS to lobby for this to be £100 p/w.

Thales On Campus – UCU Communication

Thales are a French company with a branch responsible for developing and supplying arms and are co-hosting an event with the School of Engineering on campus, involving local schools.

The company are deemed by some as controversial for both weapons manufacturing, and also links with the current Saudi Arabian government. The committee discussed what action, if any, should be taken to note concern at UU association with this company. Noted that UCU are sending a letter to the VC and Provost.

Agreed: The President will speak to the Provost and raise the concerns of the committee.

UCU Strike

UU staff voted in favour of strike action in relation to the recent pay negotiations.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Previously circulated.