Meeting Minutes

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| Student Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: 28.10.25 | | | Meeting Time: 5-7:30pm | Meeting Location: Belfast (BD-02-009) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair | | Emily Roberts (President) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clerk | | Mark Francos (Staff) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attendees  (Student Councillors + Student Officers) | | Favour Okpohs, Rebekah Robinson, Lee Doran, Chris Murray, Caoimhín Heaney,Umar Abdulmalik, Olaitan Kamal Babalola, Gerard Boyle, Laura Collins, Daniella Ezenwa, Katie Hagan, Ruth Ilesanmi, Kei Wing Kwong, Laragh Leonard, Meabh McConalogue, Muhammad Hasham Nadeem, Senan Nugent, Alex Pittam, Anneli Power, Mahnoor Rao  , Michael Samama | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attendees (Student Members and Staff) | | Mandy Mulholland (Staff), Sophie Smith (Staff) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apologies | | Catherine Mailey | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Rollcall and Quorum | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * The Clerk of Council recorded the attendees who were attending in person to reflect in the attendees boxes above. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Apologies | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * The Clerk of Council recorded the attendees that have submitted apologies and are reflected in the apologies box above. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * Proposed by: Caitlin Lowry * Seconded by: Lee Doran * The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Matters Arising | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * No matters are arising. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1. President’s Communications | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * Received President’s Report * Provided a brief update on what has been happening in relation to student engagement and on our ongoing strategic direction. * I have been working actively on redeveloping our policy direction as well as how we engage students through work with our Student Voice Team. * Irish Language developments have been incredibly positive. * Engagement throughout freshers has been incredibly positive and reached heights not seen since before the Covid Pandemic period. * We have been actively working on the UU-UUSU Partnership agreement across various areas that will affect the student experience. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Student Officer Reports | | | | | | | | Presenter: All SE Officers | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | * Received oral report from all SE officers in attendance. Written reports were also available in the papers for the meeting. Highlights included: * VP Coleraine (Deputy President) * Introduced himself to Council, and his key focuses on student safety in the Coleraine area, working with local stakeholders including the Police. * A new housing co-op development project has been underway with our friends in QUBSU and other local stakeholders. * VP Belfast * I have been focused on sustainability and student safety as the main project on campus. We have been working on extending safety measures including the safe zone app further beyond the initial university buildings walls. * I have been working alongside other officers on our housing approach, supporting students with issues that have affected them including issues with landlords and guarantor issues. * VP Magee * I have been focused on developing relationships across Magee. * Major focuses have been on student safety and partnerships with local businesses. * We have been focused on the ground on working on support for students struggling with housing, I have fed issues to the Magee Expansion Taskforce and have been gathering feedback which can be used to lobby and inform our discussions with the taskforce. * VP Education   I have really enjoyed my start to life in UUSU and being part of the SV Team, we have seen major increases in vote tallies in both SC and CR elections of 29 and 26% respectfully.  Have recently had a really productive meeting on SEATS and Timetabling procedures within the university environment.  I have been working on various social justice based campaigns, including work on Black History Month.   * VP Sport and Wellbeing * I have been deeply focused on our funding model within Sport and we are delighted to confirm a more comprehensive supportive fund for sports clubs. * We have secured partner bars for UU Sports clubs to support our sports fundraising initiatives. * I have been actively working on various wellbeing campaigns including our everyday engagement throughout the upcoming November month for Movember. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
| * Question to VPC – How much support are you looking for to get feeling on the need for change on the Coleraine campus? * (A) No Current target is set, with a targeted approach being taken working with Engagement leads in UUSU and other officers. * Question to VPE – Could written confirmation be provided to students that visas will not be affected by SEATS issues. * (A) We will actively raise this with the appropriate staff in the university. * Question to VPSW – How does the funding model work for Sports clubs from our membership fees? * (A) £50 is currently allocated to organisational issues and £30 directly to the sports club for their fundraising account. * Question to VPB – What partnerships does the safezone app link into and is there any opportunity to join the working group? * (A) I will approach the group to see if it possible for you to join. | | | | | | | | |  | | |  | | | |
| 1. Notice of Elections and Referenda & Approval of Returning Officers | | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | Chair outlined that in line with usual procedure, Student Council would ratify the proposed dates from Student Voice and the Student Executive for upcoming Referenda and elections for the year ahead.  Leadership Elections 2026  Returning Officer – Peter Robertson (NUS Charity Director)  Deputy Returning Officer(s) Mandy Mulholland and Mark Francos  Soft Launch – Mon 2nd December 25  Nominations Open – Mon 26th January 25 9am  Nominations Close – Friday 6th February 4pm  Campaigning Begins – Fri 20th February 6pm  Voting Opens – Tue 3rd March 9am  Voting Closes – Thu 5th March 4pm  Results – Thu 5th March 7pm  Student Council voted to approve the dates and returning officers as outlined by substantial majority. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Elections | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair / Clerk of Council | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | The Chair introduced the roles on offer for election before proceeding to handover to the Clerk of Council to run through the election procedures.  Each candidate was provided 1 mins to speak.  Candidates for Chair of Council:   * Piyush Vinod Bairagi * Olaitan Kamal Babalola * Jeb-Jeb Samama * Alex Pittam * llesanmi Ruth Omolayo * Daniella Ezenwa   Student Council Oversight Committee   * Jeb-Jeb Samama * Laura Collins * Orsi Feher   Candidates for Senate Representative (I):   * Olaitan Kamal Babalola   Candidates for Senate Representative (PT/DL):   * Daniella Ezenwa   Candidates for Senate Representative (PG/PGR):   * Olaitan Kamal Babalola * Orsolya Feher * Daniella Ezenwa   Councillors were invited to vote via the QR code that was displayed on screen in the room.  Election results were announced by the Chair to take place during AOB of the meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Bye Law Amendments | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Clerk of Council | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | The Chair outlined the importance of the bye law review that had taken place over the previous few months and the importance of these to the organisation alongside the ongoing articles review process.  The Chair handed over to the Clerk for a brief overview of changes made to the bye-law by the Student Voice team and the Senior Management Team of UUSU before proceeding to a vote to approve the documents of changes.   * Proposed by: Daniella Ezenwa * Seconded by: Jeb-Jeb Samara   Student Council voted to approve the changes by a substantial majority. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Motions | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * Chair briefly outlined the recommendations of the Student Executive to lapse policy in order to bring forward new policy to the next meeting of Council next month. * Student Council votes by overwhelming majority to lapse policies in the 25-26 lapse file. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | | |
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| 1. Appointment of Trustees | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair invited members to look at the proposed trustees and their statements, before providing a brief overview of the role of the board and it’s service to UUSU.  The Chair sought a proposer and a seconder to approve the appointment of trustees as a bloc.   * Proposed by: Daniella Ezenwa * Seconded by: Laura Collins | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Tabled Questions | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | Question from Councillor Lowry - How can we improve the officer reporting for student councillors. I found it near impossible to get through any of the officer reports properly. This reporting system is definitely worse and less accessible then last years reporting system. How can we improve this for next council, are there any plans to improve it because I just don’t think it will make the accountability role of council effective.  President – Outlined that our reports are comprehensive, and we are looking currently at better ways to deliver reports technically as well as to how further scrutiny and support can be given through the new Oversight Committee of Council. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Any Other Business | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair outlined what business normally constitutes an AOB item and outlined on this occasion the results of the election from earlier in the meeting will be revealed. The Clerk provided the results.  Chair: Jeb-Jeb Samama  Deputy Chair: Daniella Ezenwa  Oversight Committee Member: Laura Collins  Oversight Committee Member: Caitlin-Rose Lowry  Oversight Committee Member: Katie Hagan  Senate Representative (I): Olaitan Kamal Babalola  Senate Representative (PT/DL): Ruth Ilesanmi  Senate Representative (PGT / PGR): Daniella Ezenwa | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Date of Next Meeting | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | * The next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday 27th November at 5pm in the immersive suites on each campus. * The Chair drew the meeting formally to a close while congratulating all elected individuals to their new positions within and externally to Council. | | | | | | | | | | | |