

**UUSU Student Executive Report**

**Report of the President**

**TITLE PAGE**

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## Introduction

These reports contain an overview of the work conducted from the beginning of my post on the 1st of July 2025, for day-to-day regular updates and for informal vlogs as well as our officer social media accounts please visit [www.uusu.org](http://www.uusu.org/). I welcome comments and/or feedback from members and can be contacted through [Insert Email Here]. For any further queries, please contact the Student Executive Secretariat, Mark @[m.francos@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:m.francos@ulster.ac.uk?subject=Student%20Executive%20Query).

### Manifesto Goals

* Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Charter and Campaign
* Irish Language Strategy
* SHAG
* Improving Academic and Social Campus Balance
* Student Finance and Bursary Increases
* More than Just a Degree, 2.0
* Lead and Represent You

### My Working Groups / Committees

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name of Working Group / Committee | Reason for UUSU Representation (Complete June 2026) |
| Trustee Board |  |
| Student Executive |  |
| Management Committee |  |
| Senior Management Team |  |
| Resources Committee |  |
| Sports Management Committee |  |
| Consumer Protection Sub-Committee |  |
| Senate |  |
| University Council |  |
| Student Council |  |
| Magee Taskforce |  |
| Complaints |  |
| Private Sector Working Group |  |
| RSC Sub-Committee |  |
| Honorary Degree Committee |  |
| Higher Education Funding Review |  |
| Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Tertiary Group |  |
| IMAR Working Group |  |

### My Policies / Portfolio Assignments

**List of Policies**

* UU/UUSU Partnership Agreement
* Good Relations
* Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in NI Charter
* Mental Health Charter
* Irish Language Strategy
* Irish Language Policy / Beartas na Gaelige
* Trilingual Policy
* Trilingual Campus

**Your Portfolio**

Emily's role as President includes overall leadership, coordinating the work of the SU on a day-to-day basis, acting as the principal spokesperson, improving and monitoring SU services, coordinating overall campaigns, and representing you on numerous committees within the University

## Monthly Updates

### July 2025

**Officer Update**

Over the past period, my work has been focused on a combination of strategic planning, campaign development, organisational induction, and collaborative projects with both internal teams and external partners.

I have been heavily involved in the induction period, ensuring new staff and officers are supported and integrated effectively. This has included working closely with SMT on the recruitment and onboarding of our new Membership and Engagement Director, contributing to her induction programme and supporting her smooth transition into the role.

In preparation for the 2025/26 academic year, I have been reviewing and developing our policy direction. This work has drawn on UUSU data, NSS results, and a range of research gathered across the organisation, ensuring our strategic priorities are rooted in robust evidence. Alongside this, I have been progressing my assigned campaigns, building their foundations for launch and delivery over the coming months.

I attended SUT, which provided valuable professional insights that will help strengthen both my own practice and the support I provide to the team. I have also been exploring the implementation of the TVAWG Student Movement Charter, working with Student Wellbeing and the PSNI to establish improved protection measures for incoming Freshers, with plans to involve campus VPs as this work develops.

On the Irish Language front, I met with the VC and received confirmation that Estates will retain all Irish language signage in UUSU spaces. Following this, I have begun discussions with Clodagh and David to secure funding for related projects. Additionally, I have started collaborating with Rosie and Charlotte on a research piece to be undertaken during Freshers, which will feed into the creation of our Irish Language Strategy.

While much of this period has been filled with exciting and forward-looking initiatives, I have also been busy with day-to-day responsibilities, including managing complaints and supporting various introductions across the organisation.

And on a personal note, outside of the busy work schedule - I also got married, which has certainly made this period a memorable but surely busy one.

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**Portfolio Report**

A key area of focus within my portfolio has been advancing work on the implementation of the TVAWG Student Movement Charter. This is a significant commitment that aims to strengthen our organisational stance and actions against gender-based violence. In recent weeks, I have been working closely with Student Wellbeing and the PSNI to explore and establish enhanced protection measures ahead of the upcoming Freshers period. The objective is to create a safer and more responsive environment for all students, particularly those at greater risk during high-traffic social periods. This collaboration is also intended to ensure our approach is coordinated, preventative, and clearly communicated. In the next stage, I will be bringing our campus Vice Presidents into this process, ensuring that safety measures are tailored to the needs of each campus and that our messaging is consistent across UUSU. This work will lay the groundwork for sustained cultural change and improved safeguarding.

Progress on the Irish Language portfolio has been particularly encouraging this period. Following a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor, I secured confirmation that Estates will not remove existing Irish language signage within UUSU spaces. This is a positive and tangible step in maintaining visibility and representation for the language on campus. Building on this, I have initiated discussions with Clodagh and David to identify and allocate funding to expand Irish language provision, particularly around signage and visibility projects.

Alongside this, I have begun collaborative work with Rosie and Charlotte on a dedicated research project that will run during Freshers. This research will gather student perspectives and inform the drafting of UUSU’s Irish Language Strategy. The strategy will outline our long-term vision for promoting and embedding the Irish language within the Union’s culture, services, and physical spaces. The aim is to ensure that Irish language initiatives are not only symbolic but also integrated into the daily life and operations of UUSU.

Both these areas represent sustained, strategic efforts within my portfolio and will remain high priorities as the year progresses.

**Policy Updates**

*Insert list of policies you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Latest Developments** | **Next Steps** |
| **UU/UUSU Partnership Agreement** | **David, VC and I have collectively agreed this must be a priority. We have each began drafting commitments we wish to ask of each other.** | **Get a draft ready for council.** |
| Good Relations  Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in NI Charter   * Mental Health Charter | **I have asked the CEO, David, to review this and bring a revised version to the next Trustee Board.** | **Pending revised version.** |
| **Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in NI Charter** | **I have began discussions with the Sports Team and VP Sport and Wellbeing, about the actioning of Principle 4.** | **I will meet with the Sports Team again, this time bringing more formal asks.** |
| **Mental Health Charter** | **We recognise that this charter hasn’t been actioned as best intended. We know it needs reflection and updated.** | **We must reflect on the charter and publish what we did achieve. I will work closely with Caoimhin to rewrite a new charter.** |
| **Irish Language Policy and Strategy** | **This policy is outdated and needs a full review, we must conduct research to know what direction to take. The strategy was well written, but needs stronger research to action the strategy and begin embedding the Irish language into UUSU culture and daily activity.** | **I will continue working with Rosie, Mark and Charlotte alongside Caoimhin to prepare for research during freshers week.** |

**Campaign Updates**

*Insert list of Campaign you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Campaign Name** | **Campaign Focus Week** | **Associated Policy** | **Latest Developments** |
| **TVAWG NI Charter** | **02/03/26 - 06/03/26** | **Women’s Empowerment/WEN** | **Campaign week is being revised due to Irish language campaign and elections** |
| **Irish Language** | **16/03/26 - 20/03/26** | **Irish Language/Strategy** | **Research and Signage and** |

**Networks Updates**

*Insert list of Networks you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Network Name** | **Date of Meeting** | **Membership Engagement** | **Latest Developments** |
| **DisABILTY Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  |  |
| **Women’s Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  |  |

**Event and Activities Updates**

*Insert list of Events and Activities you attended this month*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event/Activities Name** | **Date of Event** | **Membership Engagement** | **Successes** | **Recommendations** |
| **NA** |  |  |  |  |
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### August 2025

**Officer Update**

August was a month of both strategic engagement and preparatory work as we approached the start of the new academic year. Early in the month, I attended Student Union Training at Queen’s Students’ Union, which provided valuable opportunities to connect with colleagues across the sector, share best practice, and reflect on how UUSU can continue to strengthen its services and campaigns.

I held a follow-up meeting with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, where I raised our increasing need for improved storage space and, more broadly, for better student spaces across all campuses. Our discussion also covered the challenges faced by students from Gaza, the wider experience of international students, and how upcoming changes through the government’s White Paper may affect Ulster University.

Alongside this, I participated in a UUSU Operational Planning meeting to prepare for large-scale events such as Freshers, ensuring that both logistics and student engagement were prioritised. I also supported our Voice Policy Coordinator in delivering a Policy Day, which was an important opportunity to review each officer’s assigned policy and clarify the differences between policies, legislation, charters, and strategies. This exercise helped to ensure officers are better equipped to implement and communicate their responsibilities effectively.

Midway through the month, I took a period of annual leave but continued to engage where necessary. During this time, I maintained communication with the Vice-Chancellor on the need for clearer and more consistent messaging regarding the Gaza 40 campaign, while also offering support to our VP Equality and Belonging on this matter.

Throughout August, I also remained active on the Magee Taskforce, helping to clarify responsibilities and next steps. Additionally, I undertook three complaints panels and hosted a range of 1:1 meetings with officers and staff, which were key in shaping priorities and planning for the semester.

Overall, August was a period of balancing external engagement, policy development, and internal preparation, all while ensuring that student concerns from campus facilities to international student experiences remain central to our work.

**Portfolio Report**

This month has been a particularly constructive period in advancing both policy and operational priorities within my role as President. A key focus has been the drafting of a new partnership agreement between UU and UUSU, which will formalise and strengthen our collaborative working relationship with the University. This document is intended to create a clearer framework for joint initiatives, ensure accountability, and provide a shared vision for student representation and support.

Alongside this, I finalised the new structure and terms of reference for the Management Committee, ensuring that our governance arrangements are fit for purpose and reflective of the evolving needs of the Union. This work will help streamline decision-making, improve accountability, and provide clarity for both officers and staff engaging with committee processes.

I also prepared and submitted a business proposal for the newly vacant gym space, positioning UUSU to take on this area as a dedicated student-facing space. The proposal outlines how the space could be repurposed to enhance student engagement, community, and service delivery. Securing and developing additional physical space remains a priority to ensure UUSU has the capacity to meet student demand across campuses.

In addition, I worked closely with our Communications Team to shape the social media content plan for August, ensuring consistency of messaging, improved student engagement, and visibility of our campaigns and services during the summer and into the start of semester.

A significant achievement this month was securing a new storage room in Belfast, following extensive discussions with the Deputy Vice-Chancellor. After more than a year of pursuing solutions to UUSU’s ongoing space challenges, this represents an important and tangible win that will directly improve the operational capacity of the Union and its societies.

Taken together, these developments represent progress across both strategic and practical priorities, ensuring that UUSU continues to strengthen its influence, visibility, and effectiveness as we move into the new academic year.

**Policy Updates**

*Insert list of policies you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Latest Developments** | **Next Steps** |
| UU/UUSU Partnership Agreement | David, VC and I have collectively agreed this must be a priority. We have each began drafting commitments we wish to ask of each other. | Get a draft ready for council. |
| Good Relations  Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in NI Charter  Mental Health Charter | I have asked the CEO, David, to review this and bring a revised version to the next Trustee Board. | Pending revised version. |
| Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls in NI Charter | I have began discussions with the Sports Team and VP Sport and Wellbeing, about the actioning of Principle 4. | I will meet with the Sports Team again, this time bringing more formal asks. |
| Mental Health Charter | We recognise that this charter hasn’t been actioned as best intended. We know it needs reflection and updated. | We must reflect on the charter and publish what we did achieve. I will work closely with Caoimhin to rewrite a new charter. |
| Irish Language Policy and Strategy | This policy is outdated and needs a full review, we must conduct research to know what direction to take. The strategy was well written, but needs stronger research to action the strategy and begin embedding the Irish language into UUSU culture and daily activity. | I will continue working with Rosie, Mark and Charlotte alongside Caoimhin to prepare for research during freshers week. |

**Campaign Updates**

*Insert list of Campaign you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Campaign Name** | **Campaign Focus Week** | **Associated Policy** | **Latest Developments** |
| TVAWG NI Charter | 02/03/26 - 06/03/26 | Women’s Empowerment/WEN | Working on social media video to promote safety measures |
| Irish Language | 16/03/26 - 20/03/26 | Irish Language/Strategy | Research and Signage Discussions remain priority |

**Networks Updates**

*Insert list of Networks you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Network Name** | **Date of Meeting** | **Membership Engagement** | **Latest Developments** |
| **DisABILTY Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  |  |
| **Women’s Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  |  |

**Event and Activities Updates**

*Insert list of Events and Activities you attended this month*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event/Activities Name** | **Date of Event** | **Membership Engagement** | **Successes** | **Recommendations** |
| **NA** |  |  |  |  |
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### September 2025

**Officer Update**

September was a busy month with the return of students and a mix of external events, student-facing activity, and planning for the year ahead. Early in the month, I attended a Policy and Governance Conference in London, which gave me the chance to reflect on leadership across the sector and how other Students’ Unions approach similar challenges. I then travelled to Glasgow for the RAISE Conference, which focused on strengthening the student voice, pushing back against the more corporate side of higher education, and improving consumer rights for students. Both conferences provided practical ideas that I will bring into our own work at UUSU.

Back on campus, we delivered Welcome and Freshers Week, which involved long hours, plenty of student engagement, and a wide range of activities to support new and returning students. Alongside this, I began a review of communication channels and committee commitments within the University, looking in particular at where officer time can have the most impact, such as complaints panels and disciplinary processes.

I also took part in my first private sector meeting with the Magee Taskforce and met with the Minister for the Economy to discuss the funding model for higher education. A catch-up with the Vice-Chancellor covered a broad range of issues, including student spaces, the Magee gym, Irish language provision, support for students from Gaza, and on-campus facilities.

This month I also invested in my own development, completing public speaking training to build confidence in high-level meetings. In addition, I did an interview with Belfast Live to share my priorities for the year with a wider audience. After a very full Welcome Week, the end of September became more operational and student-facing, with a particular focus on student safety. Looking ahead, October will be centred on the close of Course Rep nominations, preparations for Council elections, and the roll-out of our first campaigns of the year.

**Portfolio Report**

September has been a month of strong progress in communications and strategic planning, with particular focus on maximising visibility, resource use, and long-term planning across the Union.

Following the departure of our Social Media Coordinator, I have taken on direct responsibility for managing UUSU’s social media output. In just three weeks, we have seen a 265% increase in engagement and gained over 1,000 new followers across our platforms. This demonstrates the impact of a more active, consistent, and responsive approach, and provides an important foundation as we move into the busy start-of-term period.

I have also begun initial work on two key organisational strategies: the Irish Language Strategy and a new Marketing Strategy for UUSU. Both will provide clear direction for how we promote inclusion, visibility, and engagement with our student body, while ensuring that our communications and cultural commitments are embedded across all areas of the Union’s work.

In addition, I have put in place a comprehensive stock-taking plan across all campus offices. This work will allow us to better understand and monitor our resources, identify areas of underuse, and ensure that budgets are spent effectively to maximise impact for students. This forms part of a broader focus on efficiency and sustainability within UUSU operations.

Overall, September has been characterised by both immediate wins in communications and the laying of strong foundations for longer-term organisational strategies, ensuring that UUSU continues to grow its reach, relevance, and effectiveness.

**Policy Updates**

*Insert list of policies you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Latest Developments** | **Next Steps** |
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**Campaign Updates**

*Insert list of Campaign you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Campaign Name** | **Campaign Focus Week** | **Associated Policy** | **Latest Developments** |
| TVAWG NI Charter | 02/03/26 - 06/03/26 | Women’s Empowerment/WEN | Working on finishing the SMART Goals for Rosie, working with Chris, Raise Your Voice and PSNI on recent spiking in Coleraine. Working with Chris and PSNI and David on recent Taxi scandal. Based on the above, officers will begin working on a video for awareness on safety. |
| Irish Language | 16/03/26 - 20/03/26 | Irish Language/Strategy | Research has launched, very positive with its progress. Signage approved and in the next phase of sourcing quotes, pending policy and research completion. |

**Networks Updates**

*Insert list of Networks you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Network Name** | **Date of Meeting** | **Membership Engagement** | **Latest Developments** |
| DisABILTY Empowerment Network | NA |  |  |
| Women’s Empowerment Network | NA |  | Engagement with students to promote the Network, working with Sophie and Paul on website improvements to enhance engagement. |

**Event and Activities Updates**

*Insert list of Events and Activities you attended this month*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Event/Activities Name** | **Date of Event** | **Membership Engagement** | **Successes** | **Recommendations** |
| **NA** |  |  |  |  |
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### **Freshers Week Summary**

Freshers Week 2025 was an incredible success, marking our strongest in-person engagement since before the pandemic. Across all campuses, thousands of students took part in events, stalls, and activities that brought campus life back to full vibrancy. Our social media channels reflected this surge in energy, Instagram engagement alone rose by over 300%, with average post views jumping from the hundreds to around 17,000. The buzz online perfectly mirrored the energy on campus, creating a real sense of community and excitement to start the academic year.

We gave away thousands of pounds worth of prizes, partnered with societies and local businesses to deliver dynamic and inclusive events, and sold hundreds of tickets across the week. “Sex Toy Bingo” stole the show as the most talked-about event, drawing record crowds and incredible energy from students. While officers clocked less than ten hours of sleep across the entire week, the enthusiasm, laughter, and connection we witnessed made every long day worthwhile. Freshers Week set a strong tone for the year ahead... one of engagement, openness, and a thriving student community that’s well and truly back in full swing.

### October 2025

**Officer Update**

### **Officer Update**

October was a fast-paced and highly operational month, dominated by elections, ongoing project work, and preparation for several key initiatives. The focus across the team was on empowering student voices through our Course Rep and Student Council elections, which saw strong engagement across all campuses. This period is always a busy one for officers, but it’s also incredibly rewarding to see new student representatives stepping forward to shape the direction of UUSU and their University experience.

Alongside elections, I concentrated on strengthening the Irish Language Survey, which concluded with an impressive 341 responses... a huge success that demonstrates growing interest and momentum in this area. The data gathered will directly inform the development of our Irish Language Strategy and guide future visibility projects on campus.

Operationally, much of my time was spent on internal development work. I’ve been supporting Georgia with social media management while we continue the recruitment process for a new Social Media Coordinator, ensuring our channels remain active, engaging, and consistent. I also took a hands-on role in cleaning and reorganising office spaces, improving accessibility and functionality ahead of the busy semester period.

Strategically, I’ve met with Estates to begin planning improvements for Student Union spaces across campuses, an important step toward creating more welcoming and usable areas for students and staff alike. In parallel, I’ve been involved in the final stages of the UUSU Article Review, helping to ensure that our governing documents reflect the evolving needs of the organisation.

This month also included multiple complaints panels and continued support for the realignment of Networks, ensuring structures are clear, purposeful, and accessible to all students. I was also delighted to support the development of The Pink Project, an upcoming initiative planned for November 6th, which will highlight awareness around consent, relationships, and empowerment.

Finally, I took an active role in supporting the Mental Health Campaign team, stepping in to lead and assist with several events to help manage workload and ensure strong delivery.

Overall, October was a month defined by teamwork, reflection, and preparation, consolidating progress across multiple fronts while continuing to build a more connected, visible, and efficient Union.

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**Portfolio Report**

The month of October has been largely focused on policy development, strategic alignment, and campus environment improvements.

A key milestone was the completion of the Irish Language Survey, which gathered 341 student responses, an invaluable data set that will shape the direction of the forthcoming Irish Language Strategy. Early analysis highlights strong support for increased bilingual signage, event promotion, and learning opportunities, confirming that the student body values cultural inclusion and language visibility. I have continued to work with Clodagh, Rosie, and Mark to plan the next stage of implementation, including sourcing quotes for signage projects and drafting recommendations for Estates.

On the policy front, I supported the closing stages of the UUSU Article Review, ensuring updated governance aligns with our operational practice and student priorities. I also continued progressing the UU/UUSU Partnership Agreement, focusing on clarity of commitments and accountability between both organisations.

In the area of student space development, I met with Estates to begin early design and planning conversations aimed at enhancing our Union offices and social areas. This work will continue into the coming months as we look to create student-centred spaces that are both functional and welcoming.

Beyond strategic work, I’ve maintained involvement in the Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (TVAWG) Charter and Mental Health Charter, ensuring alignment with ongoing campaigns. The latter has included direct event support for the Mental Health Campaign team, reinforcing UUSU’s commitment to wellbeing and proactive community care.

October represented a balance of behind-the-scenes groundwork and forward planning, ensuring that our spaces, structures, and policies reflect the values of inclusivity, engagement, and student empowerment that define UUSU.

**Policy Updates**

*Insert list of policies you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Policy** | **Latest Developments** | **Next Steps** |
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**Campaign Updates**

*Insert list of Campaign you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Campaign Name** | **Campaign Focus Week** | **Associated Policy** | **Latest Developments** |
| **TVAWG NI Charter** | **02/03/26 - 06/03/26** | **Women’s Empowerment/WEN** | **Met with Department for Justice on supporting review number 52 in the Gillan Review of identifying facts and myths around rape. I need to complete my SMART Goals for this cmapaign!** |
| **Irish Language** | **16/03/26 - 20/03/26** | **Irish Language/Strategy** | **Survey is complete with 341 responses! We can now proceed with analysing the data, then writing a policy and strategy which reflects such.** |

**Networks Updates**

*Insert list of Networks you are responsible for and outline latest developments*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Network Name** | **Date of Meeting** | **Membership Engagement** | **Latest Developments** |
| **DisABILTY Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  |  |
| **Women’s Empowerment Network** | **NA** |  | **WEN Nominatations are closed, website re-aligned and catch ups have been put in the diary.** |

**Event and Activities Updates**

*Insert list of Events and Activities you attended this month*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
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### November 2025

### December 2025

### January 2026

### February 2026

### March 2026

### April 2026

### May 2026

### June 2026