Meeting Minutes

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| Student Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: 30.10.24 | | | Meeting Time: 5-7:30pm | Meeting Location: Coleraine (H102) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair | | Ethan Davies (President) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clerk | | Mark Francos (GPC) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attendees  (Student Councillors) | | Callum Crummey, Rajesh Deekonda, Kevin Franklin James, Lok-Hung Lui, Ewan McComb, Eniola Daniel, Allanah O’Connor, Piyush Bairagi, Thea Magill, Catherine Malley, Meredith Underhill, Sarah O’Keefe, Julian Kikkers, Augusteena Augustine, Mohammad Rahman, Rose Alichi, Samuel McGregor, Caitlin-Rose Lowry, Ronan McConnellogue, Niamh Irwin, Ethan Davies, Emily Roberts, Connor O’Hagan, Chris Murray, Daniel Sanusi | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apologies | | Josh McKeag, Rachel Hasson, Shea Wilson, Catriona Doyle, Orla Corrigan, Anna Kane, Jasmine Ytis, Jack Gilmurray, Qing Yu, Lauren Clarke, Favour Okpors, Reece Armstrong | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 box 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: Meredith Underhill * Seconded by: Sarah O’Keefe * 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 * Took post on the 1st July, induction period followed, handover process is something that we have determined requires work and will be included as part of the review process of articles and governance that are taking place over this year. Staff will be involved in this process further. * Attended SUT and SUT+ Training with the team. Hosted SUT+ in Coleraine. * Officers are spread across campuses this year with a strong regional balance of 2 in Magee, 2 in Coleraine and 3 in Belfast. * Magee Taskforce has been underway and significant work has been taken forward on this. * Have met with Justice Minister – Standalone legislation on spiking to register spiking as an independent crime, not based off 1861 law. * Been delivering a campaign to support this work and lobbying for an NI Based rape crisis centre. * The President also provided an update on their plan of work. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. NUS-USI Update | | | | | | | | Presenter: NUS-USI President | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | * Received oral report from Ben Friel (NUS-USI President) focusssing on priorities that have taken place over the last 100 days, what is upcoming and how students in UUSU can get involved in the national movement and contribute ideas. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 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.  NUS-USI Referendum Briefing / Rules  Returning Officer – David Longstaff (CEO)  Deputy Returning Officer(s) - Mark Francos and Mandy Mulholland  Leadership Elections 2025 Rules  Returning Officer – Peter Robertson (NUS Charity Director)  Deputy Returning Officer(s) Mandy Mulholland and Mark Francos  The Chair took a proposer and a seconder to approve the elections together.  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 / GPC | | | | | | | |
| 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 2 mins to speak.  Candidates for Chair of Council:  Caitlin Lowry  Piyush Vinod Bairagi  Samuel McGregor  Candidates for Clerk of Council (C):  Piyush Vinod Bairagi  Candidates for Clerk of Council (M):  Samuel McGregor  Caitlin Lowry  Candidates for Senate Representative (I):  Meredith Underhill  Piyush Bairagi  Kevin Franklin James Raj Kumar  Zaheer Ahmad Gondal  Candidates for Senate Representative (PT/DL):  Catriona Doyle  Candidates for Senate Representative (PG/PGR):  Lauren Clarke  Mohammad Rahman  Ewan McComb  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. Student Officer Plans of Work | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair / Student Executive | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | The Chair introduced the plan of works which have been prepared as a mechanism for Councillors to see the planned work for the year ahead. The Chair invited each student officer present to present their Plan of Work for the year ahead and answer any questions.  VP Belfast and VP Magee are not in attendance to answer questions but indicated in advance that they would be willing to answer questions over email or at a future Council meeting.  VP Equality and Belonging  Highlighted the pleasure of working with the officer team and sharing the load.  Focusing on a flexible payment plan for International Student Tuition.  Working on an Inclusive Learning platform approach, originally focused purely on translation, but devolved into working on broader accessible challenges. To be implemented via Blackboard Ultra and aim for broader tools in place across other platforms including UUSU and UU website.  Improved Sense of Belonging – Plans to survey students.  SWANN Network – Largescale project which launched with first meeting taking place after a huge developmental time period as of today. Colloboration plans with EDI unit and Student Wellbeing teams within the university.  BAME Network – Plan to launch as dedicated student network on 17th Nov, separate to University network to be student centric.  Plans to present policy on International Student Tuition Fees, with broader payment periods.  VPEB provided overview of assigned policies and gave an insight into upcoming policies to be presented to Council.  Provided an insight into the Campaigns that have been delivered including Black History Month as well as upcoming campaigns and events.  Provided an overview of wins – Including the major win of securing free accommodation for affected students during the horrendous riots that took place in the Belfast area in the summer.  VP Coleraine  Due to time constraints we asked remaining officers to provide a super quick overview.  VP Coleraine gave a update surrounding his manifesto. This was applauded by Councillors.  Provided an overview of campaigns that I’m focusing on including delivery of mental health work around Movember and the continuation and further development of the Brew Days an existing policy.  Highlighted social media work and engagement opportunities.  Highlighted redevelopment of the bar space and the new use of the space and the constant engagement of students.  Work is ongoing to look at development of a student pantry across all three campuses.  VP Sport and Wellbeing  Focused on the growth of recreational and social sport, aiming to keep students active.  Magee Campus facilities are not fit for purpose, ongoing work with sports services around redevelopment of the Dome.  Working alongside Foyle Search and Rescue  KWAF is a major policy focus, to keep Wednesday afternoons free for students.  Major wins around fundraising from events such as the GAA 7’s, soccer 5 a side tournaments, Coleraine Hockey Club fundraising.  VP Education  Focused on broad manifesto aims when elected.  Career Exploration Days  Supporting Academic Societies  Student Voice Forums will be taking place in 2 weeks time.  LTA Nominations – We are aiming high for 1000 nominations this year for its 10th year.  Support for Breastfeeding Students – New policy to come forward at next council meeting.  New Women’s Empowerment Network is launching  Provided a brief overview of the policies allocated to VP Education  President  Sexual Health Clinic – Permanent location is currently being sought for Magee  GP Clinics to be brought onto campus, real priority to support international students especially.  Bang for their Buck on student accommodation – focus on a rent cap.  Accessibility across campus – getting around campuses is horrendous.  Gailige for All – Irish included in social media alongside Ulster Scots – logos and other material to be provided by the union for societies by December.  Free Irish language lessons on campus.  Independence Referendum – Ensuring that UUSU remains independent from the University  Focus on Student Transport – Free transport for students.  President provided an overview of the substantial organisation brief and highlighted the lack of automatic processes in place as an organisation.  Focus on lobbying for expansion of block grant to support the expansion of students on campus.  President provided an overview of policy and campaigning objectives. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
| * Asked question to President around how to get involved?   President: Get in touch, speak to dedicated officer on topic, if unsure please pop into office. | | | | | | | | | | Meredeith Underhill | | |  | |
| 1. Motions | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * Chair briefly outlined the time commitment of item and asked Council to defer to the next meeting with the understanding that policy due to lapse would remain in place. * Council votes to move item to next council meeting and retain existing policy on the basis outlined by the Chair by a substantial majority. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | | |
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| 1. Magee Expansion Sub Committee | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Clerk invited the President to provide an update on the work on the Magee Expansion Taskforce.  The President outlined that he had sat on the group since taking office in July, highlighted major challenges that group must overcome such as on housing within the Derry-Londonderry area, he outlined that due to time constraints the next meeting would have a full agenda item dedicated to the Magee Expansion.  Before subsequently launching the call for involvement from Student Councillors to support the work of the President. Interested Councillors were invited to email the Clerk. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. UUSU Reform (Article Review Group) | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | * Update to be provided at the subsequent meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Charity of the Year | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair outlined the precedent that each year Student Council ordinarily decides which charity we focus on fundraising for during the remainder of the academic year following suggestions from the Student Executive.  Council was instructed to vote via the QR code displayed on screen. The result was in support of:  Women’s Aid | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Bye-Law Amendments | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| 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 three documents of changes.  Student Council voted to approve the changes by a substantial majority. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Reappointment of Trustees | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair outlined that on occasion Student Council is required to ratify the approval of a trustee to serve on the organisations Trustee Board. Trustees who sit on Trustee Board are the overseeing body for the organisation, ensuring that we are fulfilling our strategic, financial and organisational commitments and objectives. Three of the Trustees were seeking reapproval within their roles and a statement had been provided by each that Councillors were referred to. Council was invited to approve the retention of the Trustees as one.  Proposer Caitlin Lowry  Seconder Lee Doran  Student Council approves | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Tabled Questions | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | We have received no tabled questions for this meeting. | | | | | | | | | | | |
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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: Caitlin Lowry  Deputy Chair: Samuel McGregor  Deputy Clerk (C): Piyush Vinod Bairagi  Deputy Clerk (M): Niamh Irwin  Senate Representative (I): Meredith Underhill  Senate Representative (PT/DL): Catriona Doyle  Senate Representative (PGT / PGR): Ewan McComb | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. | | | | | | | | | | | |