Meeting Minutes

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| Student Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: 26.11.25 | | | Meeting Time: 5-7:30pm | Meeting Location: Magee Campus / Via Immersive Suites | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair | | Jeb-Jeb Samama | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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) | | Sophie Smith (Staff) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apologies | | Catherine Malley | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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: Julian Kikkers * 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. * As a collective we have been planning for semester two, delivering on work surround the Magee Expansion Taskforce. * We have launched locally alongside NEXUS and the university the 16 days of activism focused on ending violence against women and girls. * We have been seeking to deliver on many of the issues raised at the last the council. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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, we have been actively progressing this, with a plan for an action plan to be presented at our next student council. * Social space developments are ongoing. * Movember has been very successful in Coleraine with a huge amount of engaging in our cycle events as well as a big shout out to the support from women on campuses getting their fake moustaches on! * Our project for cheap meals and tips has been fantastic and got some brilliant traction. * Our Interactive media project is currently on hold that had been previously outlined. * VP Belfast * I have been engaged on the movember campaign which Caoimhin has been leading on, with multiple successful brew Mondays. * Was in attendance alongside other SU’s across NI at NUS-USI Conference setting priorities for the movement across NI. * 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, an upgrade is due to be launched with confirmation given today that this is on the way. * Our networks have launched across the campuses, we are seeking network members for both the Disability and Women’s Empowerment networks. * We have been in ongoing work around accommodation and housing, progressing work on issues with mold and other student accommodation issues as well as continuing to advocate for new Student Housing Co-Ops. * Festive Cheer has been * 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. * Taken on feedback from our last meeting and updated the formatting of the report to make it more user friendly as a magazine. * Major focuses have been on student safety and partnerships with local businesses. * VP Education   I have been working on my campaign for semester two “empower your education”, an evidence based campaign, which will be active in its engagement.  Have recently had further developments on SEATS and Timetabling procedures within the university environment which has revealed that SEATS is working as appropriate, with Publish being an issue causing interconnectivity problems that should be resolved for next semester.  The DVC has reaffirmed and will provide a written guarantee that issues with SEATS / Publish will not be a reason for a removal from a programme. We have requested that all international students are addressed by the DVC reassuring students around the compliance elements and ensuring that students are not as worried about the current situation.  Currently some of the issues that affect Magee students in particular are simply down to WIFI issues on campus which should be getting rectified pre Christmas.  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 that the previously announced sports relief fund has now been launched and is now available for application for any club. The VP is happy to discuss further if required. * I was in attendance representing Student Voice in Sport at a recent awards night, celebrating our many student participants in sport across various levels from Olympic level right down to recreational club sport. * We have delivered a new Bye Law for Sport with a new accompanying structure for student voice in sport. * I have been actively working on various wellbeing campaigns including our everyday engagement through Movember which has been really successful.   All reports are approved. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
| * Katie Hagan – Highlighted that Studiosity was down recently, asked for greater advance warning of this occurring if possible. | | | | | | | | |  | | |  | | | |
| 1. Network Management Committee Election | | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair / Clerk | | | | | | | |
| 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 Networks Management Committee:   * Daniella Ezenwa * Muhammad Nadeem   Both are deemed duly elected! | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Charity of the Year | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair / Clerk of Council | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | Councillors were invited to vote for the Charity of the Year for UUSU in 2026 via the QR code that was displayed on screen in the room.  The UUSU 2026 Charity of the Year is: Cash for Kids | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Leadership Elections 2026 | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Clerk of Council | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | Councillors were briefed by the Clerk of Council on the proposed rules for the 2026 Leadership Elections:  Proposed by: Alex Pittam  Seconded by: Julian Kikkers  Student Council votes to approve the 2026 Leadership Elections Rules. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Committee Updates | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * The Chair invited members of the relevant committees of Council to provide a brief report for the benefit of members. * Networks   Women’s Empowerment in Coleraine and Belfast  Disability Empowerment is active in Belfast.  Currently activity is semi on pause for committees to undertake further activity with more activities expected next semester.  We would love to see SC promoting and supporting our networks.   * Sport   The Sports Management Committee is a joint body with UU Sport, the major updates from the committee recently has been around the successful allocation of funding, all clubs are currently functioning as expected, but councillors are asked to notify the VP Sport and Wellbeing as soon as is physically possible.   * Societies   We have recently approved 5 new societies across our campuses.  Multiple medical societies are currently being considered in Magee with potential mergers being considered. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | | |
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| 1. Bye Law and Article of Association Amendments | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / CEO | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair introduced the item as a continuation of the process begun in the first student council meeting of the year. They invited the CEO of UUSU, David Longstaff to present to Council an overview of the proposed changes.  The CEO provided an overview which was supported by a presentation. Members were invited to ask questions of the CEO.  The Chair noted that the proposals had been endorsed by the Article Review Group, an officer and staff group and by the Student Council Oversight Committee.  Proposer: Daniella Ezenwa  Seconder: Caitlin Rose Lowry  The Student Council voted to endorse the proposed changes to the Bye Laws and Articles of Association. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Motions | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair introduces the next stage of the nights proceedings, the Policy to be debated, notably around the Irish Language and the Cost of Living before handing to the Clerk for a brief refamiliarizing Councillors of the process.  Irish Language Policy  Proposer: Emily Roberts (On Behalf of the Student Executive)  Seconder: Caitlin-Rose Lowry  For: Emily Roberts  On: Caitlin-Rose Lowry  For: 26  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  Cost of Living Policy  Proposer: Chris Murray (On Behalf of the Student Executive)  Seconder: Laura Collins  Proposer (For): Chris Murray  Question: Alex Pittam: Is this required with the hardship fund currently in place for UU Students?  President: This policy seeks to go much further and provide us mechanisms and backing to look further and into broader society and the requirements for lobbying beyond the university.  Question (Chelsea Ryan): Is it possible for this policy able to further look at accommodation?  VP Magee: We are actively working in this space and will be bringing forward future policy on this going forward, this is within my remit and I look forward .  For: Julian Kikkers  On: Ola  For: Adiyta  For: Orsi Feyer  For: 24  Abstain: 1  Against:0 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Tabled Questions | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair outlined that no tabled questions has been received. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Any Other Business | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | Cash for Kids is determined as the Charity of the Year.  President: Reminded Council that we currently have no policy on Industrial Action. Advised Council that an emergency meeting will possibly be required. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 11th February at 5pm at a location to be determined. * The Chair drew the meeting formally to a close while congratulating all elected individuals to their new positions within and externally to Council. | | | | | | | | | | | |