Meeting Minutes

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| Student Council | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Date: 27.11.24 | | | Meeting Time: 5-7pm | Meeting Location: Coleraine (H113A) Magee (MD008A) Belfast (BA02-012) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Chair | | Ethan Davies (President) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Clerk | | Mark Francos (GPC) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Attendees  (Student Councillors) | | To be noted in due course. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Apologies | | Shea Wilson, Orla Corrigan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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: Ethan Davies * Seconded by: Meredith Underhill * 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 / President | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * Received President’s Report * Magee Taskforce has been underway and significant work has been taken forward on this, met with NI Water around the feasibility of expansion. * Been involved with the Movember campaign and promotion of men’s health on campus. * Been engaging in the Food review process within the University, looking at food provision on campuses. * Engaged in lobbying and activism around ending violence against women and girls in both Derry and Belfast areas. * Met with Prince of Wales and conducted a tour with him, showing what it was like to be a UU student. * Attended and presented to University Council, outlining key priorities of the officers to senior university stakeholders. * Been delivering a campaign to support this work and lobbying for an NI Based rape crisis centre. * Engaged in University Senate, particular highlights included thanks for the contributions of student councillors involved in the meeting. * Engaged in 1-1 with VC around changes to Magee. * Provided an update on the new procedures for updating student council and other bodies going forward. * Been engaging with Resources Committee within the University, approval of funding for Dome Project in relation to Sport within the Magee Campus. * The President also provided an update on their plan of work. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Student Officer Updates | | | | | | | Presenter(s): Chair / Student Executive | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | The Chair welcomed the officers to provide an oral report to each of the student councillors in attendance, unfortunately xyz is unable to be in attendance but has agreed to answer any questions addressed to them by a Councillor over email.  VP Belfast  Outlined early engagement from the start of semester, including move in weekend, freshers and inductions.  Highlighted the major work around Black History Month on campus.  Highlighted the importance of sustainability and work taking place on reusable elements on campus including reusable period products.  Highlighted work within catering review on behalf of Belfast based students.  Working with estate services around accessibility on the Belfast campus.  Been engaging with the university and local stakeholders around parking provision in the Belfast campus vicinity.  Outlined the ongoing work on Pantries.  VP Equality and Belonging  Working with Course Design workshops, to ensure that the curriculum is as inclusive as possible in every classroom, especially in relation to supporting International students.  Been involved in launch of EDI toolkit throughout UU.  Been involved in Equality Matters survey launch and initiative to ensure  Focusing on a flexible payment plan for International Student Tuition, engaging with university financial stakeholders, in relation to new students and 26/27 financial year.  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 recently.  Continuing to work on collaboration plans with EDI unit and Student Wellbeing teams within the university.  Provided an update on policy developments.  Presented to University Council on key plans for the remainder of the year.  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  Expanded on update from VP Belfast on Pantry provision, including new update that proposed pilot will no longer take place and all will launch at the same time across campus. Provided an update and an expectation on the launch of the pantries in semester two. Several councillors had questions around how the pantries will operate.  Further meetings will determine final operations of how they will work in regards to staffing etc.  Provided an update on the new developments including new items within E019, these include a new TV and catering facilities.  Been engaging with the Riverside Theatre around student based events and further involvement with the union and wider student participation.  Provided an update on Movember, including fundraising events and upcoming events that are due to take place in remaining days in November and early December.  Engaged with Director of External Relations within the university around developments in local Coleraine area to support student nightlife and safety.  Been engaging on accessibility matters throughout the Coleraine campus.  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  VP Magee   * Provided some background on handover process and work on developing process to support new members of the team joining the Student Executive. * Took the lead on student inductions with major developments occurring this year in relation to the number of students reached. * Been supporting the VP SW on sports facilities development within the Magee area. * Continuing to work on the development of the Magee bar area as well as the general union areas in Magee. Work is ongoing on the redesign that is due to take place within this academic year, to include changes to the offices, kitchenette and social spaces. * Supported the catering review taking feedback from councillors and magee students around food provision on campus. * Been taking a Magee lead on sexual health clinics and sexual health awareness alongside working with stakeholders to try to tackle the epidemic of violence against women and girls. * Engaged with the MP for Foyle around the above, with linking to the work of the PSNI. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Motions | | | | | | Presenter: Chair | | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | * The Chair introduced the lapsing policy document that outlines the policies that are due to be retained, lapsed and amended in line with the recommendations of the Student Executive. Student Councillors are reminded that they are able to make changes to these recommendations if they wish. * The Chair outlined the sections that Student Councillors would vote on, beginning with policies the Student Executive wished to lapse.   A Councillor raised the issue of Anti-Semetism policy being moved to retain on 14-9 based list.  Student Council votes to lapse the remainder of the lapsed list by clear majority.…  Proposer: Julian Kikkers  Seconder: Augusteen Augusteena  Retained Policies  Proposer: Sam Quinn  Seconder: Meredith Underhill  Student Council votes to retain the retained list by clear majority.…  Policies with amendments  Proposer: Julian Kikkers  Seconder: Sam Quinn  Student Votes to retain policies with amendments by clear majority | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | | |
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| 1. Magee Expansion Report | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / President | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair invited the President to provide an update on the work on the Magee Expansion Taskforce which was complemented by a comprehensive slide deck and subsequently followed by the opportunity for Student Councillors to ask questions.  Areas of note included   * Commitments outlined in New Decade New Approach agreement. * New updated plans and report to be launched within the next month. * Interim Report highlights the major challenges and the new thinking process behind the codesign process of the expansion with the many stakeholders involved in the process including the political sphere, industrial and economic needs as well as the demographic challenges and potential within the North West. * President highlighted the major resources in place including dedicated Department for the Economy civil servants and commitments from political capital and senior stakeholders from multiple sectors involved in the Taskforce. President outlined the entire team and secretariat involved from a economy department perspective and the resources involved. * Highlighted the break in the MAsN cap and political sphere surrounding the breach. * Highlighted the significant financial challenges and requirement for the capital spend for the project. * Student Councillor raised a petition that has been circulating recently in relation to student nurses and support for current students. President outlined that they are lobbying for current students which will only help market the university and support our current students as well. (Ronan Mc * President highlighted work around HMO policy in the Derry area and work that is still required from the Council, and required number of 3600 units by 2032 to support the expansion. * President outlined the pathway that has been outlined by the group and indicative funding proposals and requirements. * Coffee Morning planned with Taskforce that Magee based Councillors will be invited to attend. * VPEB asked question around Council involvement in Magee expansion and how will current target number of student rental units support the number of students in place in the Derry/ Londonderry area. * Cllr Underhill asked question around sustainability and environmental impact and especially to River Foyle. President replied that substantial work is being undertaken by NI Water in particular in relation to likes of storm protection, water provision and sewage provision in support of the expansion project. * Cllr Crummey asked question around current student provision for housing and costings within Belfast. President replied around provision and current exectation that the market will saturate in time but the work that UUSU is doing to lobby on changes to renters rights and provision of housing. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. UUSU Reform (Article Review Group) | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / President / GPC / SVM | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | * Inbetween meeting that was due to take place inbetween council meetings unfortunately did not take place. * Clarification was given around current priorities including changes to officer roles, terms etc. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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. Student Councillors were reminded of their ability to submit written questions upto 24 hours in advance of meetings, with the ability for the Student Executive to provide a more comprehensive response. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Question(s) | | | | | | | | | | | Question from | | | Question to | |
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| 1. Any Other Business | | | | | | | Presenter: Chair / GPC | | | | | | | |
| Key Points | | | The Chair outlined that there was no business brought forward under this agenda item. | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 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 next semester in the immersive suites on each campus. | | | | | | | | | | | |