**A picture containing text

Description automatically generated**

**UUSU Student Officer Monthly Report 24/25**

**Name: Emily Roberts**

**Role: Vice President for Education**

**Month: January**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Manifesto Aims**

|  |
| --- |
| * **Career Exploration Days** * **Improve course inductions** * **Support Academic Societies** * **Support the collective student voice** * **Liberation Spaces** * **Enhance the Academic Experience at Ulster University** * **Tackling Misogyny and Violence Against Women and Girls** |

**Campaigns**

|  |
| --- |
| **Education Campaign**   * **Feedback, it’s Your Education: Each month so far this semester has been brilliant, student engagement and participation has been overwhelming. The focus month of Feedback was facilitated through the Student Voice Forums, where we gathered great feedback on Keeping Wednesday Afternoons Free, Timetabling and Attendance Monitoring.** * **Thriving not just Surviving with UUSU: This was a campaign solely facilitated on social media, it reached a good number of students as I have had students approach me regarding my videos. I think there is room for this to be bigger and better, it was organised within a week, so better prep could make this a very useful campaign for students regarding the cost-of-living crisis.** * **University Life: The Ups and Downs, this is a campaign I am running throughout the year on my social media, to remind students of the reality of being a student, that any negative experience they may encounter, they are more than likely not alone, reminding them how to avail of support. Additionally, highlighting and showcasing the joys of student life.**   **EDI – Language Rights | Tacking Gender Based Violence and Misogyny in Northern Ireland** |

**Policy work**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Policy Name | Update | Actions |
| Support for Breastfeeding Students | Pending council approval | New breastfeeding space being created in Belfast |
| Compulsory Reading Weeks | Gathering research from academic reps to see the demand for these mid-term breaks, additionally, trying to source university protocol and procedure on mid-term breaks |  |
| Empowering Women | Policy has been amended to create a demand for the Women’s Empowerment Network | The Women’s Empowerment Network is fully established and has had two committee meetings. |
| Re-enrolment Fees | This policy was lapsed |  |
| Timetabling | This policy needs further research in semester two to understand where the direction is going with UUSU involvement |  |
| Childcare Facilities | Working in partnership with Daniel on this policy |  |
| Inclusive Protection and Sexual Health | Recent amendments were approved by council |  |

**Membership Outreach**

|  |
| --- |
| * Student Voice Forums * Thriving Not Just Surviving With UUSU * Brew Days * Festive Cheer * Student Panel * Visiting Student Accommodation * Re-Freshers * SHAG Week * RAG Week * Election Promotion |

**Advocacy & Representation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Meeting Attended | Overview | Actions if needed |
| Student Managed Fund Meeting | I met with a group of students studying finance, who were interested in establishing a SMF at UU. From this I met with the CEO of the SMF at Queen’s to discuss the logistics of how to set one up. They require a minimum of 80,000 pounds sponsorship investment, therefore Jason Smyth invited UU to attend the Queen’s SMF conference which took place on Friday 14th February. | Follow up with students post conference and establish meetings with Fin Tru, Davy and the Dean of the Business School. |
| SEAtS Messaging | I met with a large team, who have been hired to oversee SEAtS, where I got the opportunity to view the Comms ahead of being emailed to students. I was able to advise from a student perspective and make suggestions for chance where I believed necessary. This led to me working with the Deputy Vice Chancellor on a video explaining the steps to follow when SEAtS fail to work accordingly. | I will keep a close eye on SEAtS, after being assured that significant changes and improvements have been made – it is essential that we don’t let this fall to the wasteside. |
| Personalised Medicine Revalidation | Representing the student cohort of personalised medicine, to ensure that the changes being requested reflected the needs of the student cohort and were a genuine reflection. | NA |
| Officer Roles Review | As a Student Executive Team, we underwent a role review – discussing each role title, it’s description and workload. This is an annual task ahead of elections, to ensure the roles remain fit for purpose and benefit our membership. | Work at Articles Review to ensure this is all reflected back through our articles and by laws. |
| Assessment Sub Committee | As a member of this committee, I am working with individuals across the university to review and evaluate the current forms of assessment, their importance and their rationale. UU has a strong belief that assessment must be justified, it is crucial we have UUSU officer representation here so that the collective voice is heard. | I will be running a few brew tables in March to establish what students’ favourite way to be assessed. |
| Network Meetings | I am delighted to share that SWANN and WEN are now live on the website! After months of collaborative work, we have made great progress in bringing equality networks and communities back to UUSU! | Continue working on the networks and their growth. |
| AROW Meetings | AROW – At Risk of Withdrawal – is a working group which is reviewing the process to where a student can be removed from UU. They are looking to make this process much clearer, provide greater options and review the steps before a student would ever reach the AROW process. | My task is to review the comms sent to students in the AROW process, I am doing this with Tony, our Advice Bureau Manager. |
| Successfully Handling Difficult Conversations | This was an organisation training event, we all got to learn a bit more on how to approach difficult conversations and how to digest a difficult conversation. As officers, we can experience and hear information which can be heavy, likewise, we can find ourselves in meetings where we have to stand up and say something that goes against the grain to ensure we are representing the collective student voice. This training will support us through those conversations. | Action my training! |
| IMAR | In Module Assignment Recovery – a project I am very excited to be part of. This is where students will be given the opportunity to re-submit work in order to pass, someone who has gotten a 38 will be given the chance to redo the work and resubmit it... if worthy they will be given a 40. This will not count as a second submission. It is much easier to talk about this project than write about it – I am happy to take questions on this! | Talk with Tony about current policy in place and resit costs. |
| Sport Catch Up | I met with Ciaran Chambers and Connor to discuss the current sport situation, Connor is very much leading this, I was there so I could learn more about the ongoing sport situation. | Follow up with Ciaran in two weeks. |
| Be Part of the Future of UUBS | I met with the business school and their Dean to learn about their new upcoming strategy and plans for the future, they were happy to take suggestions and feedback. Delighted with the conversation and the beginning talks around bringing a swap shop to UU. | Work with Favour, VP Belfast on the Swap Shop. Favour will lead this project as she covers all things sustainability and has a clear passion for this area. |
| DC/UUSU | Met with the Doctoral College to work on how we can better support DC Researchers at UU. |  |
| Neurodiversity Conference | This event was truly eye opening, I shared further information on it via my LinkedIn and Instagram Page. I hope to embed and action these events teachings into my daily work life. | Request this training for UUSU staff. |
| Trustee Board | At this meeting, the main membership representation was discussing the newly implemented ticketing policy for society events. This discussion was positive, and we have begun looking at alternatives. | Follow up with Colin and Laura ahead of the next Management Board. |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

**You said... we did – wins for students (bullet points)**

* TVAWG Charter
* Student Finance Increase
* Breastfeeding space has opened for use in Belfast, Coleraine talks are now underway
* Targeted focus on growing fear and concerns about VAWG in Coleraine.
* Began work on the project to simplify the EC1 process
* Renters Rights Bill Amendments
* Exam Board Moved for a group of International Students
* Explorance Launch, a new feedback system