**A picture containing text

Description automatically generated**

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

**Name:** Daniel Sanusi

**Role:** Vice-President Equality & Belonging

**Month:** February 2025

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

**Manifesto Aims**

|  |
| --- |
| Inclusive Learning Platforms.  Improved Sense of Belonging.  Students With Additional Needs Network (SWANN).  Student Arm of the BAME+ Network.  Flexible Payment Plan for International Students’ Tuition. |

**Campaigns**

|  |
| --- |
| International Students and Students of Colour.  Students with Additional Needs.  Language Rights. |

**Policy work**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Policy Name | Update | Actions |
| International Student Tuition Fees. | The months between instalments have been increased from 3 to 4. | Ongoing discussions to secure a more flexible payment plan. |
| Anti-Hate | Currently under review due to its sensitivity. | To be presented to the council after review. |
| Adoption of Translation and Accessibility software as an Academic Resource on Blackboard and the University Portals. | The Blackboard paper has been updated with data and made accessible. | Updated paper to be presented to the LTC for approval. |
| Instalment of Bidet Showers and Accessible Bathrooms | Advised to escalate to the Head of Estate through the UUSU SMT. | Informed the SMT for further escalation to the Head of Estate. |
| Gender Neutral Bathrooms | Advised to escalate to the Head of Estate through the UUSU SMT. | Informed the SMT for further escalation to the Head of Estate. |
| Identity Policy | Ongoing collaboration with the Pronoun Working Group. |  |
| Ensuring accessible campus | Some issues raised have been resolved, while pending issues are on-going resolution. | Awaiting a progress report from the Estate team. |
| Students With Additional Needs Network (SWANN) | Local committee across the 3 campuses are working hand in hand, and a logo has been created for SWANN. | Overarching committee to be set up and made operational. |
| Support for breastfeeding students | Estates has completed the renovation of the breastfeeding and baby-changing room in the BC block. |  |

**Membership Outreach**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Method of engagement | Theme | Summary of feedback & actions if needed |
| January 28 & 29, 2025 | In-person Celebration, across the 3 campuses | Chinese New Year Celebration | Collaboration with external organisations to make it bigger and better next year. |
| December 2 – 4, 2024 | In-person Celebration, across the 3 campuses | Festive Cheers |  |
| February 3 – 7, 2025 | In-person Celebration, across the 3 campuses | Rag Week |  |

**Advocacy & Representation**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Meeting Attended | Overview | Actions if needed |
| Launch of the NeuroNetwork | Official launch of Ulster University’s NeuroNetwork. Presented SWANN to the invited delegates and attendees. | Collaboration between NeuroNetwork and SWANN on events relating to neurodiversity. |
| International Student Forum T&F Group | Initiated the planning process for the 2025 International Student Forum. Successfully onboarded volunteering planning committee members. | Nil |
| Winter Graduation | Participated in the Winter graduation at ICC Belfast. | Nil |
| REC ISAT | Self-assessment test to evaluate the university's efforts in embracing racial diversity as part of the preparation for the Athena Swan Bronze Award on Race application. Ongoing analysis of survey report. | Nil |
| Meeting with the Dean of the EDI unit | Discussed EDI@UUSU and requested feedback from SLT on escalated issues. | Previously escalated issues to be redirected through the SMT. |
| EDI in Curriculum Planning Meeting | Continued conversation on making curriculum more inclusive. | Nil |
| Extenuating Circumstances Process | Finalised discussion on the current EC process and concluded on it not been fit for purpose. | Recommendation to be forwarded to PVC AQ&SE. |
| International Inclusivity Conference WG meeting | Joined the local organizing committee (as an ally of UUSU) to plan for the International Inclusivity Conference Belfast on July 2 – 4, 2025. | Continued planning. |
| Course Design Workshop Teaching Int Students T&F group | Collaborated with the Task and Finish Group on developing a course for staff, focusing on foundational principles for teaching international students. | Nil |
| Regulations Sub-Committee Meeting | Contributed to the development and implementation of regulations for short-cycle, undergraduate, integrated masters, and postgraduate taught programs. | Nil |
| Student Council Meeting | Conducted run-throughs of upcoming policies, debates, and plans for work delivery. | Nil |
| Officers Role…the Future | Revamped the officers’ role to be fit for purpose. | Nil |
| Meeting with Mayor of Derry | Strategised and discussed the planned Afrobeat Party to raise fund for Bud Club, the Mayor’s Chosen Charity. | Nil |
| Successfully Handling Difficult Conversations Training | Trained alongside other staff of UUSU on how to manage difficult conversations. | Nil |
| Childcare Working Group | Reviewed the Childcare Survey report and pushed for further analysis of the report to focus on affordability, and proximity. | Nil |
| Be Part of the Future of UUBS | Joined the strategy table with the PVC UUBS, to discuss the future of UUBS, accreditation, partnership, to deliver a sustainable future for all. | Nil |
| Understanding And Supporting Neurodiverse Students in Higher Education | Joined the workshop on supporting neurodiverse students in higher education. | Nil |
| Developing Student Network | Reviewed the current structure of networks, bye laws and terms of reference. | Nil |
| Trustee Board Meeting | Reviewed UUSU's governance progress year-to-date for the AY. | Nil |
| Reclaim the Night | Participated in a march to spotlight violence against women and girls, amplifying awareness and advocacy efforts. | Nil |
| USI Constitutional Assembly | Joined the USI Constitutional Assembly to review and discuss USI policies and actions. | Continued review. |
| Researcher Network Launch | Attended the launch of the new Researcher Network and started a conversation around students being included in the network. | Nil |
| Ulster’s Got Talent: Cultural Music Festival (PG) | A planning group was set up to facilitate a cultural music festival to celebrate cultural diversity through the Ulster’s Got Talent program. | Continued planning. |
| NUS-USI Membership Meeting | Updated on the activities of NUS-USI. | Nil |
| Safeguarding Committee Training | Safeguarding Level 3 training delivered by Bill Woodside to enhance our understanding of the legal framework and established safeguarding processes. | Nil |
| UUSU Trustee Board Meeting | Discussion around UUSU as a charity organisation, and her activities. | Nil |
| Age-Friendly Events Discussion | Reviewed the events of UUSU that could be regarded at age-friendly focusing on the 50+ age bracket, in a bid to renew UU’s membership to the AFGUN. | Nil |
| Chinese New Year Celebration (QUSCS) | Attended the Chinese New Year Celebration at Queens’ University. | Possible collaboration towards next year’s celebration. |

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

* Organised the Chinese New Year celebration, promoting cultural awareness and community engagement.
* The breastfeeding/baby-changing room in BC Block renovation was completed within 3 months.