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

**Name:** Daniel Sanusi

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

**Month:** March 2025

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**Manifesto Aims**

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| 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**

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

**Policy work**

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| 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**

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| 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 |  |
| March 17 – 21, 2025 | In-person Celebration, across the campuses. | SNAG Week |  |
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**Advocacy & Representation**

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| 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. Forum has been postponed till a later date. | 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. Survey analysis has been completed, and it doesnot look good, especially around reporting lines for harassment, abuse and discrimination. | Increase awareness on the channel of report for incidences on abuse, harassment and discrimination. |
| 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. Launching of the EDI in the Curriculum Community of Practice will happen on the 4th of April. | 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, 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. |
| Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Charter Launch. | Attended the launch of the TVAWG charter launch by the VP Education at Ormeau Bath. |  |
| Investigation Skills Training Programme (ISTP) | Participated in the ISTP Module1: Theory -Ulster SAAT Policies, Ordinances and Procedures. |  |

**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 renovation in BC Block was completed within 3 months.
* Represented SWANN on the panel for the Power of Disability 2025 – Breaking Barriers.
* Invited to be part of the NorthWest Diversity, Culture and Enterprise Conference panel at Mount Eriggal.
* Awarded with Young Leader and Advancing Racial Justice and Fairness Awards.