



UUSU Student Executive

Meeting Date: Wednesday 1st February 2023

Time: 10:30am – 12:30pm

Location: MS Teams

In attendance: President, VP Education (VPE), VP Equality and Belonging (VPEB), VP Sport and Wellbeing (VPS&W), VP Coleraine (VPC), VP Magee (VPM) VP Belfast (VPB)

Mark Francos (GPC), Mandy Mullholland (SVM) Gavin Boyd (DMC)

Apologies:

- 1. Minutes from previous meeting, 24th January 2022**
 - **Minutes approved**

- 2. Chair's Communications**
 - **Today begins 18 days of UCU strike action. As an executive our job is to ensure students are not at a point of being at a detriment in comparison to their peers.**

- 3. Student Impact**

President opened the floor to Exec to outline ideas as to how best to support students during this strike period.

- **QUBSU/Solidarity Action Network is lobbying for a refund of classes missed. Potential is here for the same in form of disruption payment but we may face more challenges due to the nature of the VC and UCEA/UUK relationship. Currently staff strike pay is reallocated into the student hardship fund / cost of living mitigations. Quantification of students affected by the strike would be hard to calculate here in UU, however a contractual agreement does exist between students and the university for those affected.**
- **Question around academic integrity and how those courses that are affected do receive a rounded education, simply not assessing on lost content may not be enough.**

Summary

- **SVM and VPE to have conversations with university around academic integrity.**
- **To look at group litigation measures and reimbursement.**
- **Direct students to our FAQ's.**
- **Utilise Impact survey to gather student feedback that can be provided to university working group and senior management.**

- **Utilise rep structure to accurately determine affected numbers and direct areas affected.**
- **Finalise survey style and questioning for rollout to our membership. Preface, highlighting why we are doing it, what good it will do and context.**
- **Rollout to commence with main initial in person drive 2nd Feb (Coleraine, 3rd Feb (Magee), 6th Feb (Belfast). Utilise website as well as QR links via posters etc.**

Executive agreed to proceed to AOB.

AOB item approved.

DMC and VPM leave for prior engagement.

4. UUSU Response

- Where practical we will move meetings to allow freedom of choice for UCU strike action. Response to follow as prior outlined in meeting and in prior conversations.
- Engage with UCU, ensure our message is clear and work on issues that fall into the common ground. Seek to build relationships.

5. National Voice

- Working with NUS-USI on strategy, lost learning and academic integrity that affects students across NI. To be rounded as part of communications with cost of living. NUS-USI policy is in support of UCU strike action, but it is clear that its entire memberships views must be reflected and meetings have been had that makes that clear.

6. UU Engagement with students around strike action

- UU FAQ's are updated. Communicate with VC office to ensure UU lobbying efforts are reflected in communications with students.

7. FAQ's Update

- **FAQ's are updated on the website.**

8. Allocation of Strike Funds

- Lobby that any money allocated to cost of living measures is above current allocated funding and not to fund existing projects or straight into the hardship fund.

9. Any Other Business

- **EBSS Scheme – VPM outlined importance of students being able to receive the money they rightly deserve that has been provided by government. Attached paper was discussed and approved. In person engagement will be critical for this to get best traction.**

10. Date of Next Meeting

- **Tuesday 21st February 2023 (Online)**