



## UUSU Student Executive

**Meeting Date: Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 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, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

- Minutes approved

**2. Matters Arising**

<b>Matter Arising</b>	<b>Latest Update</b>	<b>Matter Resolved?</b>	<b>Initially Raised</b>
Mental Health Action Plan into Policy	Action plan is being finalised, foreword currently being written. Going to check with Charlie on whether it should be on policy book direct.	Matter Ongoing	16.12.22
Equipment/ Book Swap	No current update. To be brought forward at end of the academic term.	Matter Ongoing	
Gaeilge in UUSU	Being brought forward as paper in this meeting. Working Group formed.	Matter Resolved	16.12.22
Health Sciences Student Feedback Next Steps	Been in communication with students around eligibility concerns. Continuing work with SV Team.	Matter Ongoing	16.12.22
Policy for NUS-USI Conference	Move forward as an AOB item within Meeting.	Matter Resolved	16.12.22
Free Breakfasts		Matter Ongoing	16.12.22
Engagement Strategy	Going forward with updates in Monday debriefs led by VPC, brew Mondays is good for engagement in Magee, looking to other best practice in other universities before formulating ideas.	Matter Ongoing	16.12.22

### **3. Chair's Communications**

Resourcing Committee – Expected rise in Tuition Rise fees for all students. We are not in support and are mandated against this, we recognise that this will provide additional pressure on our already stretched students, especially in the midst of a CoL crisis. Increasing fees will also not help with our current focus on Widening Access, it may push more and more students out of university.

Health Sciences – Statement has gone out, very major win, thanks to Gavin on his support on getting the message out.

Bar Spaces – Significant investment coming in for our bar spaces, design brief underway for design of Belfast spaces to be finished by end of the month.

Conferences – As lead delegate I will be in attendance. We will be operating a preference system for nominations, so all officers will have opportunity to attend at least one conference but not all three to allow students to also attend.

### **4. Officer Updates**

**VPB** – Paper taken as read –

- Stress Less Campaign was underway in early stages of the semester and during exam season.
- Exam feedback has come in outlining that there was significant confusion with rooms allocated for exams.

**VPE** - Paper taken as read –

- Issues raised around exam entry methods over boxes on pages, regulations were confused and up to module coordinators and differed within each exam. To be brought to PVC.
- Update provided on engagement with PhD researchers, challenges faced and potential for further engagement with reps and the Doctoral College.

**VPC** – Paper taken as read –

- Additional information -Fridges will be installed in Belfast and Coleraine Breastfeeding spaces (Magee already has provision) with secure access being granted to these spaces as well.

**VPS&W** – Report taken as read

- Brew Mondays have been a great success so far! Great strategy to engage with students and especially hard to reach courses like Nursing!
- University Mental Health day is upcoming on Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> March, IWD on 8<sup>th</sup> March.

#### **VPE&B – Report taken as read**

- Fantastic to be involved in graduations and other significant university events at the end of last semester and beginning of this semester post Christmas.
- Provided an update on a scam involving an international student and work to get the issue resolved. Resolution involved fee waiver from the faculty involved.

#### **VPM – Report taken as read**

- Update given on marketing position on Magee Campus.

### **5. Campaign Updates**

#### **Cost of Living Campaign – Updates contained with Officer Updates**

- Campaign planning group will be meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb in person in Coleraine to develop further ideas and strategise for the remainder of the semester. Additional push required on cost of living payment to the university.

#### **Mental Health Campaign – Updates contained with Officer Updates**

- Caile have been organised on each campuses, further updates will be incoming. Trad Soc are playing at each event.
- Briefing pack has been developed for all student led campaigns and how to get involved.
- U belong has been officially announced and is now live.

### **6. Officer Social Media Update**

- The President outlined the expectation of regular updates and to share widely ongoing activities.

### **7. SHAG Week**

- To run in March (Give a Dam day) – Dental Dam's promoting safe sex. Sex Toy Bingo to be run on each campus potentially to be run and hosted by Drag Queens.
- Spend to be allocated. Provisional approval granted for concept!

### **8. Mental Health Purchases (Badgemaker)**

- Badgemaker to be purchased for use for all campaigns on a cross campus model. Additional quotes to be gathered before making final decision. For use as part of craftivism as part of sexual health awareness week.
- Decision to be made on two or three depending on cost.
- Provisional approval granted.

## **9. Gaeilge in UUSU**

- Set out current scenario with potential challenges and pitfalls of implementation.
- Looking to set up a working group consisting of
- Dónall outlined the paper objectives in further detail.
- Approval of paper establishing working group granted.

## **10. Instalment of Bidet Showers in Accessible Bathrooms**

- Thanked GPC for help in development of policy. VP E&B outlined background of policy.
- Policy approved for circulation for student signatures.

## **11. Bann View Renovations**

- Estates have confirmed plans for overhaul of SU space in Coleraine, with new furniture, vinyl wrapping, some cosmetic room design changes. Aim to improve student experience of the space.
- Currently seeking student feedback on proposals.

VP Belfast leaves for external commitment.

## **12. Subsidised Student Sport**

- Outlined proposal for free sports provision and separation of this from free gym provision that is part of a sports services proposal.

## **13. Legacy Wall**

- Outlined idea of having a legacy within UUSU with a history of previous officers in plaque form.
- Costing required and concept designs created, consider online formatting as well on website.

VP E&B leaves for external commitment

## **14. Any Other Business**

- **Strategic plan consultative process** – DMC outlined concept and idea of getting students to inform the future direction of our union through mass on the ground engagement. As well as digitally through dedicated section of the website.

- **NUS-USI Policy Submission** – GPC outlined procedure of submission to NUS-USI of potential policy. DMC outlines measures taken by Goldsmiths in London in regard to guarantorship of international students.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

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