Policy name: Sexual assault protocol   **Date Presented: 25/04/17**
                                          Lapse date: April 2021

Student Council notes: (Facts)

Discussion around Sexual Consent and Sexual violence is becoming increasingly prominent within Higher Education. Research carried out within Queen's University, Belfast in 2017 found that almost 170 students reported to have been sexually assaulted and an additional 246 students said they had been the victim of attempted sexual assault.

Universities UK has previously urged universities to take a "zero-tolerance approach" to sexual crimes on campus and to improve the support provided to victims of these crimes.

UUSU have recently rolled out consent workshops in conjunction with Student Support to educate students on sexual consent. Despite this, Ulster University currently does not have a specific policy or protocol in place to respond to incidents of sexual assault or sexual misconduct or to support students who have been the victims of such incidents

Student Council believes: (Opinions)

Not having a specific protocol in place to provide guidance to staff and the Students' Union on how to respond to reports of sexual assault greatly reduces the University's ability to appropriately support students who have been the victims of such incidents.

Furthermore, students who experience these crimes are less likely to report it to someone within the University if they do not feel that they are going to be appropriately support or that the incident is going to be adequately handled.

UUSU recognizes that anyone can experience these crimes regardless of gender identity or sexuality.

Student Council resolves that: (Actions)

The UUSU Student Executive should lobby the university to create a protocol for dealing with incidents of sexual assault and sexual misconduct, ensuring that this protocol provides clear guidance on appropriately supporting those who report such incidents.

Proposer Name (and Student Number): UUSU Student Executive

Seconder Name (and Student Number): Danielle Roberts (B00601771)