



Student council

MINUTES 20.11.18 (SC2-11.2.19)

Date: 20 November 2018

Venue: Coleraine: H113A;

Jordanstown: 08H09;

Belfast: BA_02_012;

Magee: MD008A

Time: 5:30pm

MINUTES

Present: M Francos (in the chair), Cllrs Hunter, McPhilomey, O'Neill, McGlinchey, Baker, Gillespie, Cochrane, Richardson, Armstrong, J Cochrane, Harrison, Gama, Prasad, Li, Torney, Cinnamon, Madine, McCay, Dodge, Sharkey, Millar, Gallagher

Present: Kevin McStravock, Emma Bonner, Owen McCloskey, Andrew McAnallen, Conor Keenan, Meghan Downey, Collette Cassidy, Emmet Doyle

1. Rollcall and quorum

The clerk confirmed that quorum had been met.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Foley and Nelson.

3. Minutes

Members approved the minutes of the meeting held 22.10.18

4. Matters Arising

N/A

5. President's communications

Kevin updated members on campaigns that have been running since the last meeting, such as the Passport Café events with regard to Erasmus which was difficult given the resignation of the Brexit Secretary. Members were briefed on the work around producing a HE funding paper from UUSU and a meeting with key UU staff on this.

A survey had been carried out with student parents and carers which will be presented to the UU-SU Forum on student experiences. Members were informed that those involved in the Diversity networks as LGBTQ+ reps would be offered PINK training in the coming weeks and an update was given on development of student spaces on each campus.

6. Elections

Holly Neill was not present but interest in putting her name forward.

7. Student Officer reports

Emma Bonner gave an overview of the work she has completed as part of her three objectives. Cllr Prahsad queried access to sport and social sport for international students and Emma will follow up with him.

Collette Cassidy gave an overview of the current refurbishment of the Bunker space in Magee

Owen McCloskey gave an assurance to members on the commercial services review that student spaces will not be affected in terms of availability to societies etc. He outlined his plans to meet with the Coleraine provost on quiet rooms as part of his work on mental health awareness. As part of this, a member queried the availability of a counsellor on campus to speak to students in need. Owen is to look into this provision.

Conor Keenan outlined his plans to increase engagement with part-time students and outlined his work on the Jtown refurbishment, he was happy to run through the plans with any members offline.

Meghan Downey updated members on new furniture and fittings in the Belfast Level 5 space

Andrew updated members on his work on access to a system of courses for staff and students which could cost up to £80k, he will update members further at the next meeting.

8. Trustee Board report

Members ratified new Trustee Board members and were informed by the President of the process leading to the commercial services review and answered members' questions on the review.

9. Subcommittee reports

The respective chairs of the Green Impact and Societies committee updated members on their committee's work programme.

10. Referendum results

Members received a briefing from the Returning Officer

11. Bye law amendments

The Membership Director gave a presentation on the UUSU Sports revision and Student Officer role review. Members had queries on the new VP Education role and approved the bye law changes.

12. Lapse Policy update

Discuss: Lapsed policy

Brexit Policy revision was approved with three abstentions

Political Expression Framework revision was approved with one abstention
UUSU Good Relations Policy revision was passed with one abstention

13. Motions

Discuss: Open election policy: This motion was proposed by Cllr Richardson and sought to have more transparency around the outcome of elections throughout UUSU including turnout statistics and votes per candidate. Owen McCloskey speaking on behalf of the Executive opposed the motion as it was felt that making all this data available would perhaps put off students who were not confident and may get low numbers of votes. An amendment was put forward but rejected. The motion was voted on and was rejected.

Student Council VC-vs-Campus meetings: policy proposed by Cllr Millar outlining the need to hold council meetings face to face, or do so in a higher proportion to current processes. Conor Keenan and Ben Sharkey spoke against the motion citing accessibility and members voted to reject the motion

Bi-lingual Signage policy: This was proposed by Cllr Gallagher and sought to address the lack of acknowledgement of the Irish language by ensuring all signage in UUSU spaces and the University were both in English and Irish. Members opposed raised the issue of the potential divisiveness of the motion and enquiring as to what student engagement had been carried out on this motion. A number of amendments seeking to engage the student population on the issue prior to any decision being taken by Council were proposed, but defeated. The original motion passed with 16 in favour and 4 abstentions.

Tracking policy: Proposed by Cllr Armstrong which sought to provide deadlines for policy implementation and enhanced communication on policy implementation. Meghan, speaking on behalf of the Executive, opposed the motion in that the Executive already provide these updates orally to council. Members voted and rejected the motion

Student Complaints Procedure: Proposed by Cllr Dodge outlining that at present, there was a complex system in relation to complaints within UU and from personal experience, it would be beneficial to streamline these processes that would provide a basis for enhanced communication on how complaints were being addressed.

An amendment to the motion was accepted changing the motion to focus on the process of feedback on complaints rather than complaints themselves. A motion was then agreed by the proposer following intervention of the President to clarify the system, changing the wording back to the original motion which was voted on and passed by members.

14. Tabled questions

15. Any other business

16. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 12th Feb 2019

