



UUSU Student Council

Date: 28/11/2017

Location: Jordanstown: 08H09;

Belfast: BA_02_012;

Magee: MD008A;

Coleraine: H113A

Time: 5:30PM

Minutes

Present: Cllrs Wobbe, Cinnamon, Fu, Ale, Robinson, O'Neill, McCarthy, Watson (in the Chair), Francos, Richardson, Hanna, Sharkey, Breaw, Boyle, Marshall, Roderick, Clarke, Bell, Magill, Horner, Roberts, Waring, Nelson, Rygasiewicz, Flores, Doyle, Negash, Mansell, Dabkowski and Welsh-Rush.

In attendance: Interim Chief Executive, Democracy and Campaigns Co-ordinator.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Hancock, Millar, Cullen, McLoone, R Millar, Devine, McKeegan and Maher.

2. Minutes

The minutes for the meeting held on 2/11/2017 were approved. Cllr Dabkowski proposing and Cllr Richardson seconding.

3. Matters Arising

The chair informed members that items deferred from the last meeting were on the agenda.

4. President's Communications

Members received an oral report from the President. He informed members of the work ongoing on Student Voice fora, Pink training in Magee and Coleraine and that he and other executive members had attended the University Council lunch in Coleraine as an opportunity to raise issues of importance to the student body.

Members were updated on the work of the law clinic on the Belfast campus, as well as his meetings with the Vice Chancellor on facilities plans for Magee and Belfast.

He had sat on the recruitment panel for the Director of Campus Life and gave information on the upcoming Christmas Cheer events being run by the Student Engagement team.

5. Committee Reports

Members were informed they would be sent the following committee reports:

Societies Subcommittee minutes 21.11.17

Student Executive minutes 21.11.17

6. Student Officer Reports

Each member of the Student Executive was called to give a report to Council. The Sports President updated members on her work with the Anthony Nolan Trust across three campuses which registered 350 people as potential lifesavers. She had helped deliver PIP training and was working on the development of sports facilities for the new Belfast campus. Students would be surveyed to give their input to the plans. She gave an overview of Women's Empowerment Week.

The VP for Campaigns and Comms informed members of the work involved in the Drug and Alcohol Awareness campaign and women's empowerment week as well as PIPS training and the work ongoing to secure funding for a sexual health campaign. She was currently working on a sexual consent awareness campaign and invited members to suggest ideas for the upcoming mental health campaign.

The VP Academic and Student Affairs Coleraine updated members on his attendance at senior rep training, and his work alongside CASS for their music event. He had dealt with over 70 student enquiries and was prioritizing a PR and marketing strategy for societies, environmental issues on his campus and promoting equality amongst students. Members were informed he is planning to focus on winterfest in the immediate future and on work with foodbanks

The VP Academic and Student Affairs Magee updated members on his work with clubs and societies and working towards securing sponsors for teams. He had secured space for the CORE society and was working alongside the Provost to secure a new societies room. He informed members he had been on BBC Radio Foyle regarding student loans and would continue to focus on the revamp of the SU at Magee.

The VP Academic and Student Affairs Jordanstown informed members that £20k had been secured for the SU bar on campus and that he was establishing focus groups for entertainment and his work on the UUSU mobile app.

The VP Academic and Student Affairs Belfast informed members of her work with the South Belfast community and the wildflower alley artwork. She had established focus groups on ideas for

the use of the level 5 space as well as her and colleagues' meetings with MLAs on student issues. She was continuing to focus on addressing exam stress.

Councillor Bell enquired as to the reform of the Student Executive when the Jordanstown campus closes and the President updated on this as the timescale for closure had been extended. A review of all Executive roles would be taking place closer to that time.

7. Trustee Board Report

Members received an oral report from the Chair of the Trustee Board. The Board had discussed the Belfast development and the next stage of the CEO recruitment process. A tender had been drawn up for a search agent and interviews would take place in February.

8. Student Officer elections

Members received details of the dates of Sabbatical Officer elections and approved the Interim Chief Executive as Returning Officer.

9. Amendments to Bye-Laws

Members received a presentation from the Democracy and Campaigns Co-ordinator on the background to the proposed changes and members approved the Draft Bye Law amendments including the updated Sports Constitution

10. Motions

The chair informed members that due to Cllr Maher being unable to attend, he had agreed to defer her motions until the next meeting.

Access to Mental Health Info: Cllr Roderick introduced the motion and focused on the need to reach out to students and provide support. The President expressed his wholesome support for the motion and supported the idea of amending the student handbook to ensure facilities and services for mental health support were referred to. No members spoke against and the motion was **passed**.

Quiet Room: The VP Academic and Student Affairs Belfast outlined the need for a quiet room on each campus as Coleraine already had one, and the impact it could have for students during stressful times. The VP Academic and Student Affairs Jordanstown expressed his support for the motion.

Cllr Bell outlined that the quiet room in Coleraine was not sufficiently signposted for students, he was informed that the development was quite new. Cllr Roberts sought to clarify that there was one room available at present. No-one spoke against and the motion was **passed**.

Period Policy: Cllr Boyle moved the motion by informing members that the sexual health clinic dispenses contraceptives for males for free, but that vital sanitary items for females were not given the same priority. She called for all UU bathrooms to provide sanitary items for free.

Discussion ensued and Cllr Marshall highlighted that this policy should apply to all bathrooms not just those that were female gendered. The VP Academic and Student Affairs Coleraine supported the motion.

An amendment was accepted by the proposer of the motion following discussion that the policy should apply to both bathrooms on UU and UUSU premises. The motion was **passed**.

Contraceptive Awareness Workshops: Cllr Ale moved the motion and discussion ensued as to the benefits of effective education on contraception. Members were informed that this would form part of the sexual health workshops to be held in February. The motion was **passed**.

Cue Sports facilities: As the mover was not present the motion **fell**.

Library classification systems: Cllr Bell moved the motion as common sense and that the opportunity should be taken to make inter-campus library use as easy as possible. The VP Campaigns and Comms raised the point of information that Coleraine/Magee and Jordanstown/Belfast shared the same classification systems and it was likely there would be an alignment in time. The motion was **passed with two abstentions**.

Meat Free Mondays: The VP Academic and Student Affairs Coleraine moved the motion and outlined that it was not an attempt to convert anyone or eliminate meat from menus across campuses, but to widen the choice of food available to students. He outlined how this could dovetail with the Green Impact strategy as well as having impacts on the health of students and the environment.

Discussion ensued regarding the health benefits of veganism and if other meat options would still be available during Mondays, this was confirmed by the proposer. The President informed members that Mount Charles who provide food services throughout campuses were in favour of this initiative. The motion was **passed**.

Re-usable cups: Cllr Bell moved the motion, informing members that a lot of work had gone into organizing the original reuseable cups initiative, but that recently he was informed a discount would not be available for non-UU branded reuseable cups and that these were only available in Coleraine. The President suggested that there was confusion about the aim of the motion. Members voted and the motion **fell**.

Recycling Policy: Cllr Fu proposed the motion by informing members he wanted to encourage recycling right across UU facilities including halls, that international students are used to having access to effective recycling provision and it should be available in UU also. It would fall in with the green impact strategy and the work of local government on recycling. Members spoke in favour and the motion was **passed**.

A procedural motion was proposed by Cllr Bell and seconded by Cllr Francos that the incumbency policy be the next item to be discussed, this was approved.

Incumbency Policy: Cllr Bell moved the motion and his aim that students be given the opportunity as much as possible to run for election as a sabbatical officer and given support and sought support for the option of candidates working together on a slate platform.

The President argued that SU already does this and the VP Campaigns and Communications spoke against the motion on behalf of the Student Executive stating that the SU is constantly trying to engage with students to enable them to become involved at all levels of the Union.

Members voted and the motion **fell**.

Reading Week Policy: Cllr McCarthy moved the motion, informing members that some courses do not offer a sufficient reading week and they are not compulsory. He wanted to mandate the Executive to lobby to make these weeks compulsory across all courses. This motion attracted widespread support and was **passed**.

11. Tabled Questions

None were submitted.

12. Any other business

The Democracy and Campaigns Co-ordinator informed members he would seek their views on the use of videoconferencing for other meetings going forward.

13. Date and time of next meeting

The chair thanked members and informed them that the next meeting will be held on 8th February 2018 and 15th March 2018.