



**UUSU Student Council**

**Date:** 8/2/2018

**Location: Coleraine: H113A**

**Belfast: BA\_02\_012**

**Time:** 5:30PM

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## **Minutes**

Present:

In attendance

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes for the meeting held on 28/11/2017 were approved. Proposed by N Richardson, seconded by Matthew Bell.

### **2. Matters Arising**

Council approved the co-option of Catherine Stewart onto Council.

### **3. President's Communications**

Members received an oral report from the President on his work since the last meeting.

### **4. Committee Reports**

Members received: Societies Subcommittee minutes 24.1.18  
Student Executive minutes 24.1.18 in hard copy

### **5. Student Officer Reports**

Officers gave the following reports to Council;

James Colgan: Members were briefed on the proposed Magee revamp as well as events planned to be held no campus including charity events that James is helping to manage.

Andrew McAnallen: Members were briefed on Andrew's meetings regarding creche facilities on the Coleraine campus and the introduction of Meat Free Mondays as mandated by Council.

Andrew also informed members of his work on encouraging the university to engage with UUSU on divestment.

Meghan Downey: Members were briefed on the work ongoing in forming the new level 5 space on the Belfast campus. Meghan attended the Four Corners festival and is continuing to work on implementing a quiet room on campus.

Oisin Kinsella: Oisin updated members of the rollout of the UUSU app. Jordanstown campus SU space has recently been given a facelift and he is currently working on a breastfeeding space within the SU also.

Emma Bonner: Emma recently attended the Sports Forum and undertook international orientations as well as working on the sports offering in the greater Belfast development. UUSU Sports are also working in conjunction with Manchester United on a mentoring scheme and the annual colour events are upcoming.

Hannah Rooney: Hannah had been working on mental health week plans and the green impact subcommittee to assess the SU's status under the NUS scheme. Consent workshops were planned for the coming weeks as part of love week.

## **6. Trustee Board Report**

Members received an oral report from the Chair of the Trustee Board on the discussions regarding the Greater Belfast Development, the new UUSU Operational Plan and the search for a new Chief Executive for the Union.

## **7. Conference Delegates**

Council approved the elected delegates and co-opted the following members as delegates to the NUS-USI conference:

Oisin Craig

Louis Welsh-Rush

John Magill

Filling of the vacant female seat was deferred.

## **8. Amendments to Bye-Laws**

Members received a report from the Democracy and Campaigns Co-ordinator regarding proposed changes to Bye Laws and these were approved by Council. 1 Abstention.

## **9. Motions**

Student parent policy: Shannen Maher proposed the motion and addressed members on the need for the University to be more considerate of student parents especially when decisions are made about classes at short notice. Andrew McAnallen spoke for the motion and stressed he

was working on creche facilities at the Coleraine campus. Emma Bonner endorsed the motion and offered her assistance. The motion was **passed** with one abstention.

Summer Support Fund: Shannen Maher proposed the motion which sought to address the time differential in applications and payments from the fund. Kevin McStravock proposed an amendment to the motion mandating the Executive to lobby for quicker processing of payments and this was accepted by the proposer. The amended motion was **passed** with two abstentions.

Consistency across Modules: Shannen Maher proposed the motion which was aimed at consistency across module with regard to word count requirements. Emma Bonner added that this should also be raised at SSCC. Jordan Maxwell spoke against the motion and added that the differential actually benefits in some courses. Council voted to **pass** the motion with one against and 5 abstentions.

Net Neutrality: Oisín Kinsella proposed the motion, the seconder was amended to Matt Bell. Oisín gave an overview of the impact of the decision in the US and Danielle Roberts agreed but also wished to highlight the impact of the decision in the US on the restriction of information. The motion was **passed** with one abstention.

Examination timetable: Caitriona Breaw proposed the motion on timetabling completion for exams which can affect childcare, student workers and particularly international students. Martin McLoone seconded the motion outlining the vague timetabling processes in place. Kevin McStravock proposed an amendment to clarify that the motion was mandating the Student Executive to work on the issue, this was seconded by D Roberts and accepted by the proposer. The amended motion was **passed** with one abstention.

UUSU Support of UCU Industrial Action: Kevin McStravock proposed the motion on behalf of the Executive. Mark Francos who relinquished the chair in favour of Emmet Doyle for this motion. Kevin outlined the obligation UUSU had to support trade unions and the impact of pension changes on lecturing staff. Danielle Roberts commented as a student teacher who said it was difficult to support the strike but that UUSU should support other unions.

Questions came from members about crossing picket lines and Kevin agreed to get further information. Matt Bell proposed an amendment that reflected that students should respond to the UCU strike by seeking amendments and the Student Executive did not support the amendment, which was then removed prior to a vote. Mark Francos spoke against the motion saying he had every sympathy for the strikers but that UUSU represented students and this would affect final year students in particular. Kevin McStravock summed the motion up and Council voted to **pass** the motion, 26 voted in favour, four against and 3 abstentions.

Statement on removal of Professor Emeritus title: Danielle Roberts proposed the motion outlining the views of the emeritus professor involved and that this motion was not the first attempt to remove the title as a result of the professors controversial views. The Student

Executive discussed in private an amendment to the motion which would not fundamentally change its content and this was approved by the proposer.

Oisin Kinsella clarified his stance in bringing the amendment forward, in that he very much agreed with the spirit of the motion and disagreed strongly with the views of the professor named.

Tim Hancock spoke against the motion and sought clarification on the wording and exhaustive list. He expressed concern at some of the text but did not want to propose an amendment. The motion was **passed** with two abstentions.

Feedback policy: Catriona Doyle proposed the motion outlining the need for the University to follow its own guidelines with regard to offering feedback to students. Emma outlined that she supported the motion but felt that this was best addressed at SSCC. This view was echoed by a number of other members. The motion was put to Council and **fell**.

Adobe Creative Suite costs: Grace Boyle proposed the motion and the seconder was amended to Naomi Marshall. Grace outlined the excessive hidden cost of the software that was essential to many arts students and the hardship it brought. Kevin McStravock proposed an amendment to ensure the Student Executive was mandated to act directly on the motion and this was agreed with the proposer.

Robert Millar spoke against the motion outlining that many courses have required purchases that are not initially outlined. The motion was then **passed** by council with one against and one abstention.

## **10. Tabled Questions**

There were not tabled questions.

## **11. Any other business**

## **12. Date and time of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018.