

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

MINUTES

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 20 March 2013 in The Space, Level 2, Students' Union

Present:

Aaron McGuinness (School Rep, Nursing and Midwifery)
Aidan Hughes (Executive Management Committee, EMC)
Aidan McGrinder (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, MHLS)
Aisling Gallagher (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, AHSS)
Amy Keegan (AHSS)
Aoibhin McNeill (Engineering and Physical Sciences, EPS)
Asen Yordanov (School Rep, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering)
Bobby Kane (Open)
Brendan Reid (School Rep, Maths and Physics)
Caoimhe McNeill (AHSS)
Cathy Corbett (EPS)
Chloe Minish (Postgraduate, PG)
Christopher Gault (MHLS)
Christopher Smyth (EPS)
Ciaran McKinley (PG)
Connor Daly (EMC)
Daniel Hogan (EPS)
Eoin McGarrity (AHSS)
Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe (Open)
Frank Taggart (School Rep, Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)
Gary Spedding (MHLS)
Gerard McGuigan (AHSS)
James Mills (PG)
Jason O'Neill (EMC)
Jessica Kirk (EMC)
Joanne O'Neill (EMC)
Joshua Eves (MHLS)
Kerrie McConnell (MHLS)
Kirsten McConnell (AHSS)
Laura Graham (MHLS)
Lauren Brown (Open)
Leo Hacking (MHLS)
Matthew Hunt (School Rep, Law)
Matthew O'Connor (AHSS)
Neale Watson (School Rep, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering)
Niall Bole (EPS)
Niall McShane (EMC)
Nicole McShane (School Rep, Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology)
Orry Robinson (EPS)
Paul Fletcher (MHLS)
Paul Walsh (EPS)
Peter Agnew (EPS)
Rebecca Hall (School Rep, History and Anthropology)
Sarah Lynn (School Rep, Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences)
Sarah-Louise Baird (AHSS)
Sky Aughey (Open First Year)
Tara Pouryahya (MHLS)
Tony Houston (AHSS)
Tyler McNally (AHSS)

In Attendance:

Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)
Damien Corridan (Deputy Clerk of Council)

763. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Aaron Cooney (Open)
Catherine Madden (School Rep, Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work)
Eoin Deeney (PG)

Gilbert Rice (MHLS)
Jason Sime (AHSS)
Josh Duddy (EPS)
Khor Ching Vei [Luke] (EPS)
Meghan Rafferty (Open)
Meghann Ward (Psychology)
Shannon O'Neill (Pharmacy)
Thomas Thompson (MHLS)
Tiernan McAteer (AHSS)

764. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF 7 FEBRUARY 2013

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of Thursday 7 February 2013 (SUC/M/13/1) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

765. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

766. COMMUNICATIONS

766.1 Council noted that a Students' Union staff member was present to provide live updates of the proceedings of Council via Twitter and a new Students' Union blog.

766.2 Council noted that the members of Queen's University Belfast Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) have changed their Society's name to Queen's University Belfast Enactus.

766.3 Council noted that Victoria Boyd (School Representative, School of Education) is deemed to have resigned her seat due to non-attendance.

766.4 Council noted that Aoife Boyle (Postgraduate) was deemed to have resigned her seat on the Campaigns and Communications Committee having failed to attend a meeting of the Committee without submitting apologies.

767. BYE-ELECTIONS

The Chair invited nominations to the following positions:

767.1 Campaigns and Communications Committee (1 vacancy)

Bobby Kane was duly proposed and declared elected.

768. ELECTIONS

768.1 The Council noted that:

- The 2012-13 Students' Union Executive Management Committee Elections took place in March of this year.
- By the close of nominations, on 28 February 2013, 17 nominations had received, as follows:
 - Union President (3)
 - Vice President Community (2)
 - Vice President Clubs and Societies (2)
 - Vice President Campaigns and Communications (3)

- Vice President Welfare (3)
 - Vice President Education (2)
 - Vice President Equality and Diversity (2)
- Polling took place from 7.00 am on Tuesday 5 March 2013 to 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 8 March 2013. Polling took place on Queen's Online and voting was open to all students.
 - The election results were announced at 8.00 p.m. on Thursday 8 March 2013.
 - The following candidates were deemed elected:
 - Union President – Niall McShane
 - Vice President Community – Sarah-Louise Baird
 - Vice President Clubs and Societies – Martin Lilly
 - Vice President Campaigns and Communications – Connor Daly
 - Vice President Welfare – Tiernan McAteer
 - Vice President Education – Eoin Deeney
 - Vice President Equality and Diversity – Caoimhe McNeill

The Council expressed its congratulations to the successful candidates, who take up their posts on 1 July 2013.

The Council thanked the Returning Officer, Keelin McGrogan, for her service during the elections period.

Council noted that the Students' Union is seeking feedback from candidates, Councillors and students regarding the overall elections experience. This information will inform a report on the elections which is scheduled to be submitted to Council for consideration at the Annual Business Meeting of Council on 7 May 2013. Any Councillor with feedback may send it, in confidence to the Deputy Director by 10.00 a.m. on Monday 22 April 2013.

The Council further noted that:

- Two Election Court petitions have been received by the Returning Officer.
- An Election Court has been convened to consider each petition.
- One petition has been dismissed.
- Consideration of the second petition is on-going.

769. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

769.1 Proposed Recognition of New Clubs and Societies

Council was requested to amend Rule 8, Paragraph 820 in order to recognise the following proposed Clubs and Societies:

Queen's University Belfast Tiny Tots Society
 Queen's Alliance
 Queen's University Belfast African and Caribbean Society
 Queen's University Belfast Libertarian Society
 Queen's University Belfast City Leadership Society
 Queen's University Belfast Barnardo's Society
 Queen's University Belfast Zoological Society

Proposer: Niall McShane (Vice President Clubs and Societies)
Seconder: Niall Bole (Chair – Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee)

It was noted that all of the above had provided all of the stipulated documentation, which was available for inspection upon request.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast Tiny Tots Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen’s Alliance was withdrawn as it was noted that a similar society was already recognised by Council.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast African and Caribbean Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast Libertarian Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast City Leadership Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast Barnardo’s Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

Recognition of the Queen’s University Belfast Zoological Society was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

769.2 Proposed Amendment of Rule 5

Amend: Rule 5:

Add at end of 1.1 and also at end of 1.9:

“Environmental and Ethical Committee”

Add:

“8. THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ETHICAL COMMITTEE

8.1 The remit of the Environmental and Ethical Committee, as delegated by the Council, will be:

8.1.1 To address, organise and campaign on environmental and ethical issues, within the Union, University and wider world.

8.1.2 These issues include, but are not limited to, human rights, ethical investment, ethical purchasing and procurement, sustainable development and environmentalism.

8.2 The membership of the Environmental and Ethical Committee shall be ten elected members (including the Chair) with voting rights.”

Proposer: Nicole McShane (40040463)
 Seconder: Jenny Lau (40029033)

Nicole McShane, moving the motion, stated that the proposal had previously been considered by Council and that the purpose of the amendment was to formalise the position of the Environmental Committee in the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Ms McShane waived her right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules could not therefore attract the required number of votes from Council to come into effect.

770. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Report of the Union President (**SUC/P/13/13**)
 Report of the Vice President Welfare (**SUC/P/13/14**)
 Report of the Vice President Education (**SUC/P/13/15**)
 Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (**SUC/P/13/16**)
 Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (**SUC/P/13/17**)
 Report of the Vice President Community (**SUC/P/13/18**)
 Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (**SUC/P/13/19**)

770.1 Report of the Union President (SUC/P/13/13)

The Union Speaker notified Council that the report of the Union President had not been submitted to the Clerk of Council within the timeframe set down in the Standing Orders and was thus considered to be rejected by Council, subject to right of appeal to Council.

The President requested that Council consider his report, apologising for the delay and stating that a wide variety of work commitments had prevented him from submitting his report within the necessary timeframe.

A display of voting cards indicated that Council assented to consider the report of the Union President.

The Union President highlighted a number of matters, including:

- Recently achieved University approval for Student Experience Bursary funds to be permitted for use to pay for subject-related magazines and journals in the SU Shop.
- Funds raised for RAG as a result of participation in a ‘Celebrity Apprentice’ competition.
- The initiation of the Union’s participation in the Investors in People programme.

- Major capital works to be undertaken in the McClay Library in response to student opinion – which will result in increased study space and breakout space, more water fountains.
- There will be extended opening hours in the McClay Library during the summer examination period.
- The McClay Library shall open during the May bank holiday period.

In response to a query from Gary Spedding regarding the Union Social Media Policy, the President stated that it had not been brought before Council as it was an operational procedural policy, which falls under the competency of the Executive Management Committee or Management Board.

In response to a query from Ciaran McKinley concerning double sided printing, the Union President stated that the reason why there is no major cost reduction in double sided printing is that the majority of the cost is incurred by ink usage rather than paper usage, noting that all income generated from open access suite printing is reinvested back into printing on campus.

In response to a query from Gary Spedding in relation to the Presidents' meeting with SU Lets and reports that landlords are leaving the service, the Union President noted that SU Lets is performing well in its mission to promote the best of student accommodation and protect students' rights. The Union President offered to arrange to meet Mr Spedding to discuss any concerns that he may have.

Paper SUC/P/13/13 approved.

770.2 Report of the Vice President Welfare (SUC/P/13/14)

The Vice President's report was taken as read.

In response to a query from Gary Spedding regarding the Cab Now Pay Later service, the Vice President Welfare stated that provision of the service has recently been re-tendered with a new supplier being successful, though the current supplier will remain in situ for the current academic year.

Paper SUC/P/13/14 approved.

770.3 Report of the Vice President Education (SUC/P/13/15)

In her absence, Council assented to taking The Vice President's report as read.

Paper SUC/P/13/15 approved.

770.4 Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (SUC/P/13/16)

The Vice President's report was taken as read.

In response to a query from Gary Spedding regarding poor attendance at a recent international buddy scheme meeting, the Vice President Equality and Diversity stated that the scheme was still performing successfully and students and buddies were still meeting up, despite that one event not being

as successful as was hoped. The Vice President further stated that it is her intention to host a weekend event in the near future.

Paper SUC/P/13/16 approved.

770.5 Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (SUC/P/13/17)

The Vice President's report was taken as read.

In response to a query from Gary Spedding regarding the lack of coverage on the Union's website of national union conference delegate elections and democracy issues in general, the Vice President Campaigns and Communications stated that a new website will be in place over the next number of months with new democracy content and that there are opportunities for Mr Spedding to discuss this further at the Campaigns and Communications Committee.

In response to a query from Matthew O'Connor concerning a recently approved policy on the installation of ATMs in the Library and the MBC, the Vice President Campaigns and Communications stated that the Estates Directorate is currently awaiting a response from Santander Bank (as the currently authorised supplier of banking services on campus).

In response to a query from Daniel Hogan in relation to the deadline for the next issue of the SU Magazine, the Vice President Campaigns and Communications stated that it is his intent to publish another issue before the end of term.

Paper SUC/P/13/17 approved.

770.6 Report of the Vice President Community (SUC/P/13/18)

The Union Speaker notified Council that the report of the Vice President Community had not been submitted to the Clerk of Council within the timeframe set down in the Standing Orders and was thus considered to be rejected by Council, subject to right of appeal to Council.

The Vice President Community requested that Council consider his report, apologising for the delay and stating that a wide variety of work commitments had prevented him from submitting his report within the necessary timeframe.

A display of voting cards indicated that Council assented to consider the report of the Vice President Community.

Council, noting that the Vice President had temporarily withdrawn from the meeting on Union business, assented to taking The Vice President's report as read.

Paper SUC/P/13/18 approved.

770.7 Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (SUC/P/13/19)

The Vice President highlighted the following matters:

- That the Students' Union has formally been awarded with a Green Impact Gold award, with a score of 610 points against an average of 450 points across the sector.
- Continued efforts to get water fountains installed in the Students' Union Building and the MBC.
- That the nominations period for the SU Awards is now open.

In response to a query from Matthew O'Connor concerning the new Clubs and Societies Handbook, the Vice President Clubs and Societies stated that: the Handbook will be available in time for Clubs and Societies training; it is envisaged that an online finance system will be available for Clubs and Societies in the next academic year.

Paper SUC/P/13/19 approved.

771. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

771.1 Report of the Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee

Niall Bole (EPS) verbally reported the following:

- Progress on the Clubs and Societies Handbook
- Reviewing of the criteria for a reformed grants system
- Consideration of new Societies
- Congratulations to the President-elect and the Vice President Clubs and Societies –Elect

771.2 Report of the Education and Welfare Committee

Chloe Minish stated that due to other commitments, the Committee was unable to meet and she apologised to Council.

771.3 Report of the Campaigns and Communications Committee

Nicole McShane (EPS) verbally reported the following:

- Consideration of election issues
- A campaign by the Palestine Solidarity Society
- Discussions on a new Students' Union website

771.4 Report of the Community, Equality and Diversity Committee

Nicole McShane (EPS) verbally reported the following:

- Development of a campaign on violence against women
- Discussions on the upcoming Volunteering Excellency Awards
- A series of upcoming E&D workshops hosted by Steve Wessler.

772. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

There were none.

773. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

There were none.

774. QUESTIONS.

There were none.

775. MOTIONS.

- 775.1 That this Council believes in a democratic process, where views and opinions of Councillors and students can be voiced in healthy and informative debate; notes with concern the current Constitutional Rules presently allow what has been described by many students as an easy-to-use method of stifling debate with specific reference to current rules surrounding a 'motion to vote'.

Council affirms that, as a democratic body of the Students' Union, we should be encouraging rather than stifling healthy debate so as to have a better informed exchange of views that can help Councillors when it comes to decision making and casting votes.

Council resolves to mandate the Campaigns and Communications Committee to review and submit an agreed Constitutional Amendment that will make instrumental changes to the current rules surrounding a 'motion to vote' at Council. The proposals must include wording that will ensure that at least two rounds of debate commence before a motion to vote is accepted by the Speaker / Chair in order to ultimately prevent the misuse of the motion to vote function / rule.

Proposer: Gary Spedding (40046946)
Secunder: Orry Robinson (40041440)

Gary Spedding, moving the motion, stated that Council is a platform for healthy debate and attempts to complete debate on any matter stifle openness and democracy.

A friendly amendment by Niall Bole was accepted by the proposer, to replace "Campaigns and Communications Committee" with the "Standing Committee".

Leo Hacking, opposing the motion, stated that meetings are already quite long and there was plenty of debate on matters of interest to Council.

Jason O'Neill, speaking on the motion, stated that this could be brought before Council as a straight amendment to the Constitution, rather than as a motion.

Daniel Hogan, supporting the motion, stated that the motion allows for consultation on any proposed amendment and any such amendment would encourage debate.

Connor Daly, opposing the motion, stated that the current rules are inherently democratic and if a majority of Councillors wish to debate a topic, then it is debated.

Aisling Gallagher, supporting the motion, stated that this amendment will prevent minority voices from being ignored, as many of their motions are not given serious consideration.

Cathy Corbett, opposing the motion, stated that it was inappropriate to suggest that Councillors do not take motions seriously and that the proposed motion could result in the majority view of Council being ignored.

Tyler McNally, supporting the motion, stated that just because some people don't want to discuss particular issues, it does not mean that they are not worthy of consideration by Council.

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed.

Gary Spedding, summarising in support, stated that the Students' Union should have a process for ensuring that debate takes place in an unrestricted fashion as it is key to a healthy democracy.

Following a show of voting cards, the motion was deemed to have fallen.

775.2 Council notes:

- That Societies were only informed of their total grant allocation for the 2012-13 academic year in February 2013, nearly six months into the year, and that the full balance grant monies were not deposited into Society accounts until this point.
- Many Societies would have applied for money to run events in the first half of the year, and the late allocation has disrupted these plans, in some cases leaving Societies with more money than can be sensibly spent in the remainder of the academic year.
- Normal practice regarding Students' Union grants is for all monies unspent at the end of the academic year to be reclaimed from Society accounts for re-allocation the following year.

Council moves that:

- Any Society that has made a transaction (lodgement or withdrawal) at the Clubs and Societies Finance Office during the current academic year to date shall be allowed to retain any unspent 2012-13 grant money, having it roll over into the 2013-14 academic year and combine with any grants they may receive then.
- Any Society that has not made a transaction to date shall be assumed to be inactive and have any unspent grant monies reclaimed as normal.

Proposer: Niall Bole (12320056)
 Seconder: Paul Fletcher (40008556)

Niall Bole, moving the motion, stated that, in previous years fifty per cent of a Society's grant was issued per semester, but that this year the second grant payment was not made available until February resulting in a situation whereby grants may be clawed back or not spent by the end of the year, which was not the fault of any Society.

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed and the proposer of the motion waived the right to summarise. Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

775.3 The Council recognises and supports the Falkland Islanders fundamental right to self-determination based on the principle of consent and furthermore rejects any territorial claims that are contrary to this principle.

This Students' Union calls upon the international community to respect the overwhelming majority of Islanders, 99.8%, 1517 Yes to 3 No votes, desire to remain a British overseas territory.

Proposer: James Mills (40006420)
 Seconder: Cathy Corbett (40025334)

James Mills, moving the motion, stated that it was important that self-determination based on the principle of consent was respected by democracies everywhere and Council should support this important principle.

A friendly amendment by Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe was rejected by the proposer, to replace the word "Falkland" with "Malvinas".

Fiachra O'Maolcraoibhe, proposed an amendment to the motion, to replace the word "Falkland" with "Malvinas" stating that this is the name that the indigenous islanders recognise and that it was not appropriate to suggest that support of this motion would lead to Council supporting the result of a boarder poll, if one were to be held in Northern Ireland.

Tony Heuston, opposing the amendment, stated that it was not relevant to the substantive of the motion.

Following a show of voting cards, the amendment was deemed to have fallen.

Matthew O'Connor, opposing the original motion, stated that it would be inappropriate for Council to set a precedent that could be interpreted to be connected to a future border poll.

Niall Bole proposed that consideration of this motion be postponed indefinitely, stating that the motion was irrelevant to students.

Cathy Corbett, opposing the proposal, stated that the matter should be discussed as it is valid business for Council.

Following a show of voting cards, the consideration of the motion was postponed indefinitely.

775.4 Motion Name: False Information unacceptable at QUBSU

Council Notes:

1. That the Students' Union has a Pro-Life Society.
2. That official statistics state that one in three women will have an abortion at some point during their lifetime, a figure which will inevitably include a large number of both student members and Union staff.
3. That 76 per cent of the UK population are pro-choice.
4. That abortion is legal in England, Wales and Scotland and has been since the 1967 Abortion Act.

5. That on Tuesday 12 March 2013, the Queen's University Belfast Pro-Life Society, a Recognised Society of the Students' Union, had a stall booked in the foyer of the Students' Union throughout the day.
6. That it is known the Queen's University Belfast Pro-Life Society is directly affiliated to the Precious Life organisation and that, on 12 March 2013, they had invited this organisation to join them at the stall
7. That a number of complaints were made in regards to the material that these two organisations (the Pro-Life Society and Precious Life) were handing out – in specific, that the material was offensive, inaccurate and potentially traumatising to female members of the Students' Union.

Council Believes:

1. That, whilst any Society is free to hold particular beliefs, the Students' Union, as an organisation, should robustly protect the fact that our Union is a safe space for all students.
2. That the Pro-Life Society has a responsibility, as do all other student Societies, to ensure that promotional material including but not limited to; information leaflets, booklets, posters, images and media are not misleading or untruthful and that all material is not of a traumatising nature.
3. That the Students' Union must provide a safe space for any woman who has had, or is considering having, an abortion.
4. That no student should be made to feel guilty due to any actions of the Students' Union or at any events held in the building.

Council Resolves:

1. That the Students' Union Executive Management Committee, in particular the Vice Presidents of Welfare and Equality and Diversity, be mandated to review all materials used by the Queen's University Belfast Pro-Life Society and that the Equality, Diversity and Community Committee be involved in drawing up guidelines to ensure that material used in the future is accurate and inoffensive to vulnerable women.
2. That the Vice Presidents Welfare and Equality and Diversity will raise awareness of, and promote campaigns against, any activities likely to cause women, in particular the female members of this Students' Union offence when it comes to the debate surrounding reproductive rights.
3. That any material displayed in the Students' Union building should adhere to the principle of 'safe space' which is already a long standing policy at our Union and which explicitly mandates to ensure 'equality of opportunity and a safe and relaxed environment for all members' and to support a range of student Societies in the University and to provide competitively priced entertainments in a safe environment' – with specific emphasis on the words "Safe Environment"

Proposer: Gary Spedding (40046946)
Seconder: Sarah Wright (40002922)

Council noted that the proposer of this motion had requested that this motion be withdrawn and not be considered by Council.

775.5 This Council recognises the important role that the University, and our membership, play within the local community.

This Council further believes that the Executive Management Committee should play a constructive role in working with the University, local residents, and the statutory authorities to ensure that the locality is a safe and peaceful place to live, work and study.

This Council recognises that those who commit criminal acts or are involved in anti-social behaviour should be dealt with by the appropriate statutory body and reprimanded in accordance with the rule of law.

This Council notes that the University's Conduct Regulations can impose draconian penalties on students that often far exceed the action taken by external agencies such as the Police, or the City Council, for the same, or a similar, offence.

This Council believes that student activity that has taken place outside of University property should not be subject to the University's Conduct Regulations, unless the students in question have been representing the University in an official capacity.

Furthermore, Council notes that the Conduct Regulations are currently implemented in an inconsistent manner.

This Council therefore resolves to instruct the Executive Management Committee to lobby for a review of the University's Conduct Regulations to address the issues raised within this motion.

Proposer: Jason O'Neill (Union President)
 Seconder: Paul Walsh (40046150)

Jason O'Neill, moving the motion, stated that are many potential issues concerning double jeopardy with regard to the role the University plays in policing, adjudicating and sanctioning students on matters that should rightly be in the domain of the legal system in Northern Ireland, noting that in many cases the University fines for anti-social behaviour far exceed those on statute, despite there being a much lower burden of proof on cases considered by the University. The Union President further stated that anti-social behaviour should not be tolerated, that the Students' Union and the University have both worked tirelessly in this area, but despite this, it is the due process of the policing and judicial systems that are best placed to deal with this type of behaviour.

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed.

Jason O'Neill, summarising in support, stated that he regularly sees the impact of the current University process whereby large fines are placed on students resulting in them being in hardship, which does not solve the problem of anti-social behaviour that the Union and the University are committed to tackling.

Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

- 775.6 This Council recognises that its representatives on Academic Board require approval from Council to further pursue the possibility of getting an appeals procedure for assignments, similar to the procedure used by CCEA.

This Council approves of such a concept and the actions of its representatives on Academic Board

Proposer: Chris Smyth (40060508)
Seconder: Sky Aughey (40079675)

Chris Smyth, moving the motion, stated that there should be a single independent appeals system in the University resulting in consistency in all Schools and for all students.

A proposal to move to the vote was agreed and the proposer of the motion waived the right to summarise. Following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

- 775.7 This Students' Union recognises International Women's Day and the important contribution that women make to society across the globe.

This Council recognises the horrendous discrimination faced by girls across the world before they are even born. This Students' Union is opposed to any suggestion that a women's life is any less than that of a man.

We recognise the shameful record of statistics that show the sheer scale of this inequality. Infanticide and the aborting of unborn female foetuses should be condemned and are a result of countries failing to protect the most vulnerable in their society. The devastating social effects of gender imbalance are undisputed. In many societies such as China and India, women are perceived as subservient because of their role as carer and homemakers, whilst men are predominately perceived to ensure the family's social and economic stability. Female Infanticide and female foeticide are significant issues in China and India as a result of the patriarchal nature of society.

This Students' Union calls upon the international community and the United Nations to condemn the abortion and infanticide of female children and to take action to educate and change the beliefs of society to appreciate the worth of a female life.

Proposer: Cathy Corbett (40025334)
Seconder: Chris Smyth (40060508)

Council noted that the proposer of this motion had requested that this motion be withdrawn and not be considered by Council.

776. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

777. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Union Speaker announced that the next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council shall take place on Thursday 18 April 2013 at 6.00 p.m. in The Space, Students' Union.

Damien Corridan
Deputy Clerk to Students' Union Council