

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION
MINUTES

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 29 February 2024 in The Cube, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.

Present:

Adam Wilson	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Amitha Simon	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Arran Ashfield	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ben Friel	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Benjamin Pepperrell	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative
Beth Elder	Student Officer - Union President
Bisma Arshad	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Caroline Kirwin	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Psychology (SBS)
Daniel Abayomi Odeyemi	Students' Union Council - International Student Representative (including INTO)
Daniel McCormack	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (SCHEM)
Deivydas Sakys	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Devrath Singh Rathore	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Ethan McBriarty	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Grace Duffy	Student Officer Education
Jack Lydon	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Jack Powell	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering (SMAE)
Jamie-Lukas Campbell	Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS) Postgraduate Research Representative
Jess Hindley	Student Officer Welfare
Joel Hartley	Students' Union Council - MHLS Representative (Undergraduate)
Joel Sheridan	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Karnika Behl	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Arts, English and Languages (SAEL)
Kieran Minto	Student Officer Postgraduate
Lia Obiyan	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Matthew McCallion	Union Speaker - Postgraduate School Rep - School of Law (SLAW)
Megan D'Arcy	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Mathematics & Physics (SMP)
Mischa Gerrard	Student Association Chairperson - Disabled Students' Association
Niall O'Hare	Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Niamh Bone	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative
Niamh Mallaghan	Postgraduate School Rep - School of Mathematics & Physics (SMP)
Prithish Roy	Postgraduate School Rep - School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics (SHAPP)
Raja Ahmed Ali	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Rheannon Platman	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Róisín Costelloe	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Rubina Maani	Students' Union Council - MHLS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ryan Rogan	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Sajid Khan	Student Officer Equality & Diversity
Salim Usman	Student Association Chairperson - International Students' Association
Sinead Hosain	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Thomas McCormack	Students' Union Council - Postgraduate Representative
Tiarnan Smyth	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Tim Chan	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Electronics, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science (SEECs)
Venkataharish Rayi	Postgraduate School Rep - Queen's Management School (SMGT)

In Attendance:

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (CLERK OF COUNCIL)
CIARAN HIGGINS (STUDENTS' UNION DIRECTOR)
ANNA LEAHY (REPRESENTATION SUPPORT OFFICER)
BARRY CRUICKSHANK (REPRESENTATION SUPPORT OFFICER)

The Union Speaker welcomed all attendees to the fifth Statutory Meeting of the 2023-24 session of the Students' Union Council.

Council noted that a number of papers had not been available within the perceived time period and agreed to consider these papers at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Cameron Shaw	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Emily Burke	Students' Union Council - AHSS Representative (Undergraduate)
Ethan Crawford	Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS) Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative
Kelly Razey	Postgraduate School Rep - Social Sciences, Education and Social Work (SSESW)
Leo Davies	Student Association Chairperson - Environmental Action Students' Association
Maria Murray	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Pharmacy (SPMY)
Oliver Cunningham	Students' Union Council - EPS Representative (Undergraduate)
Patrina Loughran	Undergraduate School Representative - School of Nursing & Midwifery (SNAM)

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting of Monday 22 January 2024 SUC/M/24/1

It was agreed that the minutes of the Meeting of Monday 22 January 2024 (SUC/M/24/1) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Policy Updates

3.1.1 Decolonise, Demilitarise and Democratise Queen's university Belfast

Beth Elder, Students' Union President, updated Council that dialogue was continuing with the University regarding the outcomes of the Referendum, with the Union President expressing confidence that substantial progress can be achieved in regarding additional student representation on core University committees, ethical financial investment by the University and the process for appointment of the Chancellor of the University.

COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Condolences

The Council noted at the passing of Sir Peter Gregson, Vice Chancellor of the University from 2024-2013, who during his time in office was a supporter of Students' Union and of many student groups on campus.

The Council extended its condolences to the family of the former Vice Chancellor.

4.2 National Students' Union Updates

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

4.3 Students' Union Elections 2023-24 Update

Council noted that, at the close of nominations, a record number of forty nominations were received for the Full-Time Student Officer posts, and a record 125 nominations were received across all positions.

Council further noted that polling will take place from Monday 4 March 2024, 10.00 a.m. until Thursday 7 March 2024, 3.00 p.m.

4.4 Council Membership

The Clerk of Council noted that the membership Council is currently 73 members of Council.

4.5 Membership of the Executive Management Committee

4.5.1 The Council noted that Aidan Moran, Full-Time Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement, was no longer in post.

The Council further noted that nominations were open in the Students' Union Elections 2024 and the successful candidate in the election for the post of Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement may take up the vacant post.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

5.1 Deliberative democracy process in the Students' Union SUC/P/24/7

The Union Speaker declared an interest in the agenda item under consideration. In the absence of the Deputy Speaker, and the participation of the Union President in moving this agenda item, the Council elected Councillor Niamh Bone as acting Union Speaker for this agenda item.

The Council considered a number of amendments to the Constitution and Rules to introduce deliberative democracy processes and increased participation opportunities for Student Members in policy development and approval in the Students' Union as detailed in paper SUC/P/24/7.

Some Councillors expressed a view that Councillors should be given additional time to review the proposals in their totality. It was noted that considerable discussion of the proposals had been undertaken at recent prior meetings of the Council.

Council agreed to proceed with consideration of the proposals as tabled, noting that Council can agree at any stage to defer a formal vote on proposals to future meeting of the Council.

The Union Speaker received a Point of Order regarding quorum. The Clerk of Council undertook a quorum count, and the Union Speaker declared the meeting to be quorate.

The proposed motions were debated and amended by means of friendly amendment.

The revised proposals, including all friendly amendments are detailed in paper SUC/P/24/8.

A proposal to arrange a Special Meeting of Council to give further consideration to the proposals did not receive sufficient support to be carried.

The Council agreed to put the revised proposals to an online vote of Council members present, to be scheduled by the Clerk of Council no earlier than Monday 11 March 2024.

The online vote took place from Thursday 14 March 2024, 2.00 p.m. to Wednesday 20 March 2024, 2.00 p.m. and the result was:

- 22 For
- 0 Against
- 0 Abstention

The constitutional amendment was carried.

The Council approved an enabling motion to authorise the Clerk of Council to composite the amendments approved at the meeting such that invalid references were removed from the text of the Constitution and to provide the text to the Returning Officer for a referendum.

Councillor Matthew McCallion resumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

- 5.2 Clubs and Societies Committee of Council SUC/P/24/7

This matter was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

There was none.

7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion

The Union President provided an update to the Council on some on-going Cost of Living initiatives:

- Efforts to secure additional funding for the Students' Union Pantry for 2024-25.
- Free breakfasts delivered to approximately 3,000 students in the Students' Union on 21, 22, 27 & 28 February.
- Giveaways of items such as hot water bottles and blankets.
- Continued engagement with the University, highlighting the cost-of-living challenges faced by students on a daily basis.

7.2 2023-24 Academic Year – Emerging Issues / Concerns

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

7.4 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Update

There was none.

7.5 University Comms and Student Engagement with Mental Health and Wellbeing – Discussion

This item was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

8. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

9. ELECTIONS

9. There were none.

10. MOTIONS

There were none.

11. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Report of the Management Board

Beth Elder, the Students' Union President gave a verbal report of Management Board, noting discussions held at Management Board on developing a new Students' Union Strategic Plan, budget updates, and the Mental Health and Wellbeing activity of the Students' Union.

This report was accepted.

12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Consideration of Reports from the Executive Management Committee was deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were none.

14. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

There were none.

15. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

There were none.

16. QUESTIONS (TO ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES)

There were none.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING OF THE STUDENTS' UNION COUNCIL

The Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2023-24 will take place on Monday 8 April 2024, 5.00 p.m., in The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood.

Agenda Items Deadline: Tuesday 19 March 2024, 9.00 a.m.

Constitutional Amendments Deadline: Tuesday 12 March 2024, 9.00 a.m.