

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION**

**MINUTES**

Inaugural Meeting of the Students' Union Council  
held on 6 November 2014 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union

**Present:**

Fahad Alwasi (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences, MHLS)  
Sky Aughey (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, AHSS)  
Hayley Baird (MHLS)  
Mark Benson (Postgraduate, PG)  
Cathy Corbett (PG)  
Brendan Corr (Open)  
Derek Crosby (PG)  
Raymond Dillon (Engineering and Physical Sciences, EPS)  
Conor Donnelly (AHSS)  
Ellie Drake (AHSS)  
Rudaina Farouki (MHLS)  
Conor Fearon (PG)  
Sean Fearon (AHSS)  
Conor Flanagan (EPS)  
Bryony Ford (MHLS)  
Ciaran Gallagher (Executive Management Committee, EMC, in the Chair)  
Lorcan Gallagher (EPS)  
Catherine Guy (AHSS)  
Molly Harrison (PG)  
Oisin Hassan (PG)  
Rachel Hill (Open)  
Rachel Ireland (School Representative – English)  
Jonathan Irwin (AHSS)  
Riognach Kavanagh (AHSS)  
Paul Loughran (EPS)  
Breanainn Lyness (Open First Year)  
Connor Malone (PG)  
Ruth Maxwell (Open)  
Collette McAllister (AHSS)  
Samantha McCabe (MHLS)  
Matthew McCallion (School Representative – Law)  
Sophie-Anna McClintock (Open)  
Stephen McCrystall (AHSS)  
Fergal McFerran (Open)  
Niall McKenna (EMC)  
Tiarnan McKeown (AHSS)  
Timothy McLean (Open)  
Jordan McMullen (Open First Year)  
Aaron McMurray (School Representative – Maths and Physics)  
Caoimhe McNeill (EMC)  
Courtenay Mercer (School Representative – History and Anthropology)  
Helen Monaghan (MHLS)  
Kyle Moutray (Open First Year)  
Diane Murdock (School Representative – Electronics, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science)  
Hannah Niblock (EMC)  
Nyemahame Okwu (MHLS)  
Saoirse O'Neill (Open)  
Harry Parker (Open First Year)  
Chloe Patterson (EMC)  
Jack Patterson (AHSS)  
Michael Quigley (PG)  
Niall Robb (AHSS)  
Adam Sage (School Representative – Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences)  
Patrick Sally (EMC)  
Aisha Sobey (AHSS)  
Gareth Somerville (EPS)  
Jack Steenson (School Representative – Management)  
Colin Stevenson (EMC)  
Robert Stewart (School Representative – Biological Sciences)  
Sophie Stratfull (AHSS)  
Sammy Wade (AHSS)  
Kathryn Waller (AHSS)  
Sarah Wright (Open)  
Jan Sen Yu (AHSS)

**In Attendance:**

Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)

Ciaran Gallagher (Union President) welcomed all attendees to the Inaugural Meeting of the 2014-15 session of the Students' Union Council.

900. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

Erin Early (School Representative – Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work)  
Christopher Gallagher (School Representative – Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering)  
Peter Hunt (EPS)  
Anna-Leigh Hunter (School Representative – Modern Languages)  
Gerard McGuigan (AHSS)  
James Quinn (EPS)  
Jessica Salter (School Representative – Politics, International Studies and Philosophy)

901. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

901.1 Statutory Meeting of 20 March 2014

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 20 March 2014 (SUC/M/14/2) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

901.2 Annual Business Meeting of 7 May 2014

It was noted that the minutes of the Annual Business Meeting of 7 May 2014 (SUC/M/14/3) would be considered at the Statutory Meeting of 18 November 2014.

902. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

903. COMMUNICATIONS

903.1 Counselling Services for Students

Sarah Wright (Open) reported that she had been intending to table an emergency motion in relation to this matter but that, within the past few days, the University's Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs (DASA) had been in contact with her. Council noted that the average number of counselling sessions attended by individual students is 3.8 but additional sessions are available upon request.

904. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

905. ELECTIONS

Nominations were invited for the following positions:

905.1 Union Speaker (1 vacancy)

Connor Malone and Fergal McFerran were duly proposed. This election also featured Re-Open Nominations. Following the tallying of votes cast (Malone 11, McFerran 40, Re-Open Nominations 2 and Spoilt Votes 5), Mr McFerran was declared elected and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

905.2 Education and Welfare Committee (15 vacancies)

Sky Aughey, Brendan Corr, Conor Donnelly, Rachel Hill, Rachel Ireland, Jonathan Irwin, Rioghnach Kavanagh, Ruth Maxwell, Stephen McCrystal, Tiernan McKeown, Jordan McMullen and Saoirse O'Neill were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Committee would take place on Thursday 20 November 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.3 Campaigns and Communications Committee (10 vacancies)

Derek Crosby, Sean Fearon, Breanainn Lyness, Collette McAllister, Sophie-Anna McClintock, Gareth Somerville and Jack Steenson were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Committee would take place on Monday 24 November 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.4 Community, Equality and Diversity Committee (14 vacancies)

Cathy Corbett, Conor Donnelly, Declan Frith, Lorcan Gallagher, Oisin Hassan, Rachel Ireland, Rioghnach Kavanagh, Matthew McCallion, Michael Quigley, Aisha Sobey, Sophie Stratfull, Sammy Wade, Kathryn Waller and Jan Sen Yu were duly proposed.

As the number of candidates proposed was equal to the number of available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Committee would take place on Thursday 27 November 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.5 Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee (10 vacancies)

Jonathan Crawford, Conor Flanagan, Catherine Guy, Collette McAllister, Ronan McLaughlin, Timothy McLean, Helen Monaghan, Kyle Moutray and Jack Patterson were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Committee would take place on Tuesday 25 November 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.6 Students' Union Management Board (3 vacancies)

Brendan Corr, Derek Crosby, Raymond Dillon, Niall Robb and Sarah Wright were duly proposed. The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Management Board would take place on Wednesday 19 November 2014 at 5.00 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.7 Students' Union Environmental and Ethical Committee (10 vacancies)

Sean Fearon, Sophie-Anna McClintock, Saoirse O'Neill and Harry Parker were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Committee would take place on Wednesday 26 November 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.8 Students' Union Officer Review Group (6 vacancies)

Hayley Baird, Ruth Maxwell, Ronan McLaughlin, Jack Patterson and Kathryn Waller were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

The Council noted that Cathy Corbett, Derek Crosby and Connor Malone had been previously elected by Council to serve on the Officer Review Group and would continue to be members of this Group during the 2014-15 session of the Council.

It was noted that the Inaugural Meeting of this Review Group would take place on Monday 1 December 2014 at 5.15 pm in the Anne Maguire Room, Level 2, Students' Union.

905.9 University Senate (1 vacancy)

Mark Benson, Cathy Corbett and Connor Malone were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected.

905.10 Academic Council (1 vacancy)

Sarah Wright was duly proposed and was deemed to be elected.

905.11 Academic Board (4 vacancies)

Cathy Corbett, Raymond Dillon, Oisin Hassan and Stephen McCrystall were duly proposed.

As the number of candidates proposed was equal to the number of available vacancies, all of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

905.12 Postgraduate Forum (5 vacancies)

Mark Benson and Molly Harrison were duly proposed.

As there were fewer candidates than available vacancies, both of the above Councillors were deemed to be elected.

906. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

There were none.

907. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

It was noted that this would be presented at the November 2014 Statutory Meeting.

908. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

There were none.

## 909. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

It was noted that these would be presented at the November 2014 Statutory Meeting.

## 910. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

There were none.

## 911. QUESTIONS.

There were none.

## 912. MOTIONS.

912.1 ***Emergency Motion – Funding of Further and Higher Education***

This Council notes the draft budget that was agreed by the Stormont Executive on 30 October 2014 and, in particular, the proposed 10.8% cut to the Department for Education and Learning (DEL) budget.

Council believes that the proposed cut to the DEL budget will seriously damage Further and Higher Education within Northern Ireland and that the Local Assembly should therefore seek further public investment in Education.

Council instructs the Student Officer Team to prioritise the engagement of students and allies in order to make clear the Students' Union's strong opposition to the draft budget, with the purpose of dissuading the government from imposing such drastic cuts to the sector.

Proposer: Colin Stevenson (40040325)  
 Seconder: Ciarán Gallagher (40007379)

Colin Stevenson (Executive Management Committee), proposing the motion, stated that he was keen for student officers to have policy backing from the Council to underpin an effective campaign in this area.

Jack Patterson (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences), opposing the motion, believed that whilst the proposed funding cutbacks would create a difficult situation, the motion did not acknowledge the wider financial reality facing the Local Assembly and the community. He stated that the public spending environment was constrained significantly compared with 2010 and that devolution had been in serious jeopardy as the budget deadline of 31 October 2014 approached. He added that a public consultation exercise was currently underway and everyone would be entitled to submit a response, outlining their views on the draft budget.

Derek Crosby (Postgraduate), speaking on the motion, reminded Councillors that they were present to best represent the needs of students and should vote with that in mind, rather than any party political or other external considerations.

A special motion to proceed to the vote was proposed and carried – the Proposed waived his write to summarise and, following a display of voting cards, the motion was clearly carried.

912.2 ***Emergency Motion – Tuition Fees***

Council believes that the University may be considering increasing tuition fees to fill the funding gap, which will have a devastating impact on marginalised students and those from deprived backgrounds.

Council instructs the Student Officer Team, alongside NUS-USI, to oppose all increases in tuition fees for NI students, GB students and international students for the next five years and to advocate for additional funding to be sought from the public sector.

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)  
Seconder: Paul Loughran (40044945)

Sarah Wright (Open), proposing the motion, noted that students from England and Wales were currently paying £9,000 tuition fees annually and she stated that the recent statements from the Queen's Vice-Chancellor in the media, intimating that fees levels may have to be revisited, were extremely concerning.

A special motion to proceed to the vote was proposed and carried – the Proposed waived her write to summarise and, following a display of voting cards, the motion was clearly carried.

913. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

914. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Mr McFerran announced that the next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council would take place at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 18 November 2014 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union.

DOMINIC DOHERTY (Clerk, Students' Union Council)