

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

MINUTES

Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 6 May 2015 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union

Present:

| | |
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| Adam Sage | School Rep, Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences |
| Anna-Leigh Hunter | School Rep, Modern Languages |
| Aoibhin McNeill | EPS |
| Ben Whittaker | School Rep, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering |
| Caoimhe McNeill | EMC |
| Christopher Gallagher | School Rep, SPACE |
| Ciaran Gallagher | EMC |
| Collette McAllister | AHSS |
| Connor Malone | PG |
| Conor Fearon | PG |
| Courtenay Mercer | School Rep, History and Anthropology |
| Declan Frith | AHSS |
| Derek Crosby | PG |
| Diane Murdock | School Rep, EEECS |
| Ellie Drake | AHSS |
| Fergal McFerran | Open |
| Gerard McGuigan | AHSS |
| Hannah Niblock | EMC |
| Hayley Baird | MHLS |
| Helen Monaghan | MHLS |
| James Rodgers | School Rep, GAP |
| Jan Sen Yu | AHSS |
| Jessica Simonds | School Rep, PISP |
| Jordan McMullen | Open First Year |
| Kathryn Waller | AHSS |
| Mark Benson | PG |
| Matthew McCallion | School Rep, Law |
| Michael Quigley | PG |
| Molly Harrison | PG |
| Niall McKenna | EMC |
| Niall Robb | AHSS |
| Nyemahame Okwu | MHLS |
| Oisin Hassan | PG |
| Olivia Moore | School Rep, Theology |
| Patrick Sally | EMC |
| Paul Loughran | EPS |
| Rachel Hill | Open |
| Raymond Dillon | EPS |
| Robert Stewart | School Rep, Biological Sciences |
| Ruth Maxwell | Open |
| Sammy Wade | AHSS |
| Sarah Wright | Open |
| Sean Fearon | AHSS |
| Sky Aughey | AHSS |
| Stephen McCrystall | AHSS |
| Thomas Thompson | MHLS |
| Tiarnan McKeown | AHSS |
| Timothy McLean | Open |
| Vicky-Leigh Young | School Rep, Chemistry and Chemical Engineering |

In Attendance:

Damien Corridan (Deputy Clerk of Council)
 Dominic Doherty (Clerk of Council)
 Niamh McGovern (The Gown)
 Orlaigh McIntyre (Marketing Manager)
 Kristina Mulholland (Marketing Assistant)
 Kylie Noble (The Gown)
 Paul Wyatt (The Scoop QUB – Queen's Radio)

Fergal McFerran (Union Speaker, in the Chair) welcomed all attendees to this Annual Business Meeting.

1000. APOLOGIES.

Apologies were received from the following Councillors:

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|-------------------|---------------------|
| Annalisa Misra | EPS |
| Colin Stevenson | EMC |
| Jack Patterson | AHSS |
| Rachel Ireland | School Rep, English |
| Rioghach Kavanagh | AHSS |
| Rudaina Farouki | MHLS |

1001. MINUTES OF THE STATUTORY MEETING OF 27 April 2015

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 27 April 2015 (SUC/M/15/4) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

1002. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

1003. COMMUNICATIONS

There were none.

1004. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

1005. ELECTIONS

There were none.

1006. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

1006.1 Proposed Recognition of New Clubs and Societies

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

Queen's University Belfast Bootcamp Team

Proposer: Andrew Warwick (40081140)
Seconder: Noel Bradley-Johnston (40057751)

Recognition of the Queen's University Belfast Bootcamp Team was approved following appropriate discussion and some minor clarifications by a representative of this group.

1006.2 **Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2 to Increase the Period of Time between the Close of Nominations for the Student Officer Elections and the Opening of Polling for same:**

Rule 2, Clause 9.12

Replace "the eighth day before" **with** "the twelfth day before".

Proposer: Sarah Wright (40002922)
Seconder: Brendan Corr (40107847)

Sarah Wright (Open), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment would give the Students' Union sufficient time to process and produce election materials for candidates and to effectively promote the elections to members.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), supporting the amendment, stated that the amendment would allow the Union to focus on student engagement with the elections.

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

A display of voting cards indicated that 43 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

The following amendments were proposed by the given proposers and debated collectively. A clear card vote was taken on each amendment.

1006.3 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 1, Clause 6.5.4 (Page 4):

Replace the term 'Sabbatical Officers' with 'Student Officers'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moving the initial amendments, provided an overview of the deliberations and recommendations of the Officer Review Group, noting that the group had given consideration to the needs of the Students' Union and the current impact on financial cuts to the Union's budget and that the current proposal to reduce the size of the student officer team to five officers will meet the needs of students in the current financial climate.

Mark Benson (PG), speaking on the amendments, stated that the Students' Union has, in recent years, lost its campaign issues and had spent time considering issues that belong in the past and that it was important that any new officer team structure prioritised campaigning on issues of relevance to students.

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), supporting the amendments, stated that these amendment were the culmination of discussions over many years and were not purely motivated by budgetary considerations.

Sarah Wright (Open), supporting the amendments, stated that it was not clear that the Union needed seven student officers and it was important to get back to focusing on the priorities of the Union and on improving life for students.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and Mr Gallagher waived his right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.4 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 1, Clause 12.2.3 (Page 7):

Replace the term 'Election Rules Committee' with 'Standing Committee'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment will remove a typographical error from the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.5 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 1, Clause 14 (Page 8):

Retitle this Clause 'Student Officers' (as opposed to the current title of 'Sabbatical Officers')

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.6 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 3, Clause 1.3 (Page 8):

Replace the word 'is' with 'if'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment will remove a typographical error from the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.7 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 5, Clause 1.2 (Page 9):

Replace the term 'Sabbatical Officer' with 'Student Officer' (in line one)

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.8 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 5, Clause 1.2 (Page 9):

Replace the term 'Sabbatical Officer Protocol' with 'Student Officer Protocol' (in line three)

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.9 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Chapter 5, Clause 1.4 (Page 9):

Replace the term 'Non-Sabbatical Officer Protocol' with 'Student Officer Protocol'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.10 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Annex 2 (Page 13):

Within the definition of the term 'Sabbatical Officers', **amend** the insert 'means the Officers of the Union specified in Chapter 1 Part 9 of the Constitution' to instead read 'means the Full-Time Officers of the Union'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.11 Amendment of the Students' Union Constitution, Annex 2 (Page 13):

Add a definition of the term 'Non-Sabbatical Officers', to read 'means the Part-Time Officers of the Union'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.12 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 1.4.1 regarding the appointment of a Returning Officer for the Election of Full-Time Officers to the Executive Management Committee:

Amend the first line of this Clause to read as follows:

'At the beginning of each academic year, the Director of the Students' Union shall appoint a separate Returning Officer, to oversee the Elections for full-time officers to serve on the Executive Management Committee.'

(The key change here is the inclusion of the term 'full-time' and the remaining text of this Clause remains unaltered)

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.13 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 1.4 regarding the appointment of a Returning Officer for the Election of Part-Time Officers to the Executive Management Committee:

Add the following:

1.4.2 'At the beginning of each academic year, the Director of the Students' Union shall appoint a Returning Officer, to oversee the Elections for part-time officers to serve on the Executive Management Committee. This shall normally be the Clerk of Council (or their nominee).'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.14 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.1 regarding the list of full-time posts on the Executive Management Committee to be elected:

Remove the following:

9.1 'The Executive Management Committee posts of President, Vice President Campaigns and Communications, Vice President Clubs and Societies, Vice President Education, Vice President Welfare, Vice President Equality and Diversity and Vice President Community shall be elected in the second semester by a cross campus ballot as in Council Elections.'

Replace with the following:

9.1 'The Executive Management Committee posts of Union President, Vice President Education, Vice President Welfare, Vice President Equality and Diversity and Vice President Student Activities shall be elected in the second semester by a cross campus ballot as in Council Elections.'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.15 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 2 to update the remit of the Union President:

Remove the existing remit and replace with the following, renumbering the remainder of this Constitutional Rule accordingly:

THE UNION PRESIDENT

They:

Shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Students' Union and its principal spokesperson, representing the interests of Students to the University, the media and the general public. Shall be responsible for communication with all affiliated bodies.

Shall seek to foster and develop a sense of community amongst the student membership.

Shall chair all meetings of the Executive Management Committee and shall be responsible for the administration and functioning of all meetings of the Executive Management Committee.

Shall be responsible for convening the Inaugural Meeting of all Students' Union Council Committees within two weeks of the Inaugural Meeting of the Council.

Shall assume responsibility for chairing the Council in the absence of the Union Speaker or Deputy Union Speaker (if appointed).

Shall devise a 'Campaigns Strategy and Calendar', in close consultation with the Executive Management Committee, identifying priority issues and responding to the concerns of the student membership, and shall coordinate the campaigns of the Students' Union in association with the Executive Management Committee.

Shall seek to engender a campaigning spirit within the student membership and shall be the first point of contact for advice, support and direction in relation to campaigns.

Shall, subject to the approval of the Executive Management Committee, allocate duties to the Executive Management Committee Officers and shall represent the views of the Students as expressed through the General Union Membership, the Students' Union Council, the Management Board or the Executive Management Committee to the University Authorities.

Shall seek to ensure that individual Executive Management Committee officers carry out their duties with diligence, and may raise the matter with the Executive Management Committee where he/she believes that the Committee should consider whether there are sufficient grounds to recommend to Council the removal of the officer from post as provided for in Chapter Five of the Constitution.

Shall be responsible for supervising the commercial activities of the Students' Union on behalf of the Student Members.

Shall be responsible for the delivery of the overall Union message to its students and the general public (in conjunction with the Marketing Manager of the Students' Union). Shall liaise with those Students' Union staff members responsible for marketing in order to ensure that the Union is promoted in a positive manner.

Shall ensure good community cohesion and shall maintain good community relations, insofar as it is possible, with Residents' Groups and Associations in the South Belfast area. Shall act as the Students' Union's primary point of contact for such Groups and Associations and shall be responsible for ensuring that the Union is represented at all meetings to which an invitation has been received.

Shall ensure delivery of an effective student-focussed website, in association with the Executive Management Committee and the Marketing Manager of the Students' Union.

Shall attend all meetings of key University Committees or shall appoint a nominee to attend such meetings in their place.

Shall, in conjunction with the Management Board, be responsible for determining the strategic framework of the Students' Union.

Shall develop and foster key partnerships within the University in particular and within the community in general.

Shall, on behalf of the Students' Union, liaise with the National Union of Students (NUS), the Union of Students in Ireland (USI) and the Aldwych Group.

Shall liaise with Students' Union staff members to ensure that appropriate training and support are made available to student members of the Executive Management Committee.

Shall not act as Secretary or Treasurer of any Sporting Club or Non-Sporting Society.

Shall have overall responsibility for the production of the PTQ publication, liaising with the Editor of PTQ and the Executive Management Committee as appropriate.

Shall, with the Director of Student Plus, be responsible for reviewing the performance of the Director of the Students' Union.

Shall effectively act as line manager for all other Student Members of the Executive Management Committee, regulating and overseeing arrangements for holidays, sickness absence and performance management.

Proposed: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)
Seconded: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.16 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Vice President Student Activities:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT ACTIVITIES

They:

Shall be responsible for providing a diverse programme of events in the social spaces within the Union premises, in order to ensure the development of a vibrant and inclusive student community.

Shall work across the entire University campus in order to create a sense of community, working in particular with the Schools of the University.

Shall, in partnership with Students' Union staff, prepare reports and submissions on the development of enterprise, employability and entrepreneur activities within the Students' Union.

Shall develop and maintain contacts with local charitable and community organisations, and shall seek to engage students with regard to the volunteering opportunities that exist within such groups.

Shall work in association with the Rag organisation in order to assist with the execution of this body's duties. Shall act as Treasurer of the Rag organisation,

subject to any recommendations arising from future reviews of the administration of this body.

Shall be responsible for ensuring that all Clubs and Societies operate according to the provisions of Rule 8.

Shall be responsible for advising Societies with regard to the presentation of an Annual Report and associated documents, as stipulated within Rule 8.

Shall be a member of the University Blues Committee and all other relevant committees and groups.

Shall prepare reports and submissions on the development of sporting and leisure facilities at the University and on all matters relating to sport as necessary.

Shall be responsible for ensuring the availability, insofar as it is possible, of appropriate accommodation and facilities for use by Societies.

Shall, in conjunction with appropriate Students' Union staff, be responsible for the management of the Freshers' Fair, the Refreshers' Fair and similar events.

Shall be responsible for the organisation and delivery of training events for Sporting and Non-Sporting Clubs and Societies.

Shall be responsible, insofar as it is possible, for ensuring that, as stipulated within Rule 8, public statements by a Society have the approval of the Union President and are not contrary to the terms and spirit of the Constitution.

Shall be responsible for the compilation of the Clubs and Societies section of Students' Union publications, in all formats, where relevant.

Proposed: Chloe Patterson (Vice President Community)
Seconded: Niall McKenna (Vice President Clubs and Societies)

Chloe Patterson (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.17 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to remove reference to the Vice President Campaigns and Communications, the Vice President Clubs and Societies and the Vice President Community, renumbering the remainder of this Constitutional Rule accordingly:

Remove the existing remits and references to the above posts.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.18 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE BLACK, ASIAN AND MINORITY ETHNIC STUDENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall self-define as being from an Ethnic Minority background.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Students from an Ethnic Minority background. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to these Students.

Shall represent the interests of Students from an Ethnic Minority background to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of these Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Students from an Ethnic Minority background in Union affairs.

Shall draw attention to instances of racism and discrimination within the Union and the University whenever these occur.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Oisín Hassan (PG), moving the amendment, stated that the introduction of part-time posts will give a voice to those students that are not heard.

Jan Sen Yu, supporting the amendment, stated that BAME students need a voice in the Union.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.19 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Disabled Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE DISABLED STUDENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall self-define as a Disabled Student.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Disabled Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Disabled Students.

Shall represent the interests of Disabled Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of Disabled Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Disabled Students in Union affairs.

Shall draw attention to instances of discrimination within the Union and the University whenever these occur.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Matthew McCallion (40134313)
Seconded: Sarah Wright (40002922)

Mathew McCallion (AHSS), moving the amendment, stated that this role will give disabled students a voice at EMC.

Sarah Wright (Open), supporting the amendment, stated that this role will increase awareness and access to the services and support that disabled student deserve.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 46 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.20 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for an Environmental and Ethical Trading Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ETHICAL TRADING OFFICER

They:

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to the Environment and Ethical Trading. They shall also be responsible for liaison with relevant organisations, both external and internal to the University.

Shall have primary responsibility for providing representation on issues pertaining to the Environment and Ethical Trading, both to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on associated matters.

Shall be a member of all Union committees and forums relating to Fairtrade and similar initiatives. Shall work in partnership with the Union's Premises Management and Commercial Teams.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Students in issues pertaining to the Environment and Ethical Trading.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Connor Malone (40044484)
Seconded: Seán Fearon (40079053)

Connor Malone (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this role give specific responsibility for environmental and ethical activities to a student officer.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.21 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for an International Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall be an International Student, as defined by the University.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to International Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to International Students.

Shall represent the interests of International Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities. They shall also encourage greater involvement of International Students in Union affairs.

Shall be responsible for developing an interest among the Student Membership on matters that are important to International Students, and shall campaign on associated issues. They shall also draw attention to instances of racism and discrimination within the Union and the University whenever these occur.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Aoibhin McNeill (40080590)
Seconded: Anna-Leigh Hunter (40058591)

Aoibhín McNeill (EPS), moving the amendment, stated that from her experience as an international student in America, she has concluded that it is vital that international students have representation at the highest level in the Students' Union.

Nyemahame Okwu (MHLS), supporting the amendment stated that it was vital that international students have a voice at EMC.

Molly Harrison (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that this would complement the activities of the BAME post.

Jan Sen Yu, supporting the amendment, this post would be of particular benefit to students who come from a culture where student representation is not fostered.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.22 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for an LGBT+ Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE LGBT+ OFFICER

They:

Shall self-define as a member of the LGBT+ Student Community.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to LGBT+ Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to these Students.

Shall represent the interests of LGBT+ Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that

impact upon the student experience of these Students. They shall also draw attention to instances of discriminatory behaviour within the Union and the University whenever these occur.

Shall encourage greater involvement of LGBT+ Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Oisín Hassan (40058773)
Seconded: Sarah Wright (40002922)

Oisín Hassan (PG), moving the amendment, stated that the introduction of an LGBT+ post will act as a voice for all LGBT+ students who face challenges during their time in Queen's and it was an important step to improve the representation of a group who have experienced systematic discrimination.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.23 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Mature Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE MATURE STUDENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall be a Mature Student, as defined by the University.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Mature Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Mature Students.

Shall represent the interests of Mature Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of Mature Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Mature Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this post will improve the representation of mature students.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 46 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.24 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Part-Time Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE PART-TIME STUDENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall be a Part-Time Student, as defined by the University.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Part-Time Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Part-Time Students.

Shall represent the interests of Part-Time Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of Part-Time Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Part-Time Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this post will improve the representation of part-time students.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.25 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Postgraduate Research Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OFFICER

They:

Shall be a Postgraduate Research Student, as defined by the University.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Postgraduate Research Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Postgraduate Research Students.

Shall represent the interests of Postgraduate Research Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of Postgraduate Research Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Postgraduate Research Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Hannah Niblock (Vice President Education)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this post will improve the representation of postgraduate research students – a group with distinct needs to those of postgraduate taught students.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.26 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Postgraduate Taught Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT OFFICER

They:

Shall be a Postgraduate Taught Student, as defined by the University.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Postgraduate Taught Students. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Postgraduate Taught Students.

Shall represent the interests of Postgraduate Taught Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of Postgraduate Taught Students.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Postgraduate Taught Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Ruth Maxwell (40009309)
Seconded: Connor Malone (40044484)

Ruth Maxwell (Open), moving the amendment, stated that postgraduate taught issue were often not brought to the fore as they had limited representation in the Union.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.27 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Student Carers' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE STUDENT CARERS' OFFICER

They:

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Student Carers. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Student Carers.

Shall represent the interests of Student Carers to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of these Students.

Shall, where possible, encourage greater involvement of Student Carers in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this post will improve the representation of student carers.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 42 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.28 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Student Parents' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE STUDENT PARENTS' OFFICER

They:

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Student Parents. They shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to Student Parents.

Shall represent the interests of Student Parents to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of these Students.

Shall, where possible, encourage greater involvement of Student Parents in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this post will improve the representation of student parents.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 42 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.29 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4 to include provision for a Women Students' Officer:

Insert the following and renumber accordingly:

THE WOMEN STUDENTS' OFFICER

She:

Shall self-define as a Woman Student.

Shall be concerned with general issues relating to Women Students. She shall also be responsible for liaison with organisations, both external and internal to the University, which are relevant to these Students.

Shall represent the interests of Women Students to the Executive Management Committee and to the University Authorities, and shall campaign on issues that impact upon the student experience of these Students. She shall also draw attention to instances of sexism and discriminatory behaviour within the Union and the University whenever these occur.

Shall encourage greater involvement of Women Students in Union affairs.

Shall be a voting member of the Students' Union Council and the Executive Management Committee.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Ellie Drake (40076883)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that, despite decades of progress, women still faced systematic discrimination in society, from under-representation to equal pay, and the creation of this post will ensure that women are still at the fore of the Union's equality campaigning.

Ellie Drake (AHSS), supporting the amendment, stated that this post will ensure that women's campaigning is organised in the Union and that women's voices are heard.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.30 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 8.2 regarding the maximum number of Students' Union Council members:

Remove the following sentence:

'The total membership of the Council shall be 102'

Replace with:

'The total membership of the Council shall be <INSERT NEW TOTAL BASED ON THE NUMBER OF POSITIONS WITHIN THE NEWLY REALIGNED EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE>.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.31 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9 regarding the list of part-time posts on the Executive Management Committee to be elected:

Insert the following:

- 9.3 'The Executive Management Committee non-sabbatical posts of <INSERT THE LIST OF PART-TIME OFFICER POSITIONS FOR WHICH ALL STUDENTS MAY STAND AS CANDIDATES AND MAY VOTE FOR, THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING AND ARE TO BE ELECTED BY MEANS OF A STANDARD CROSS CAMPUS BALLOT> shall be elected in the first semester by a cross campus ballot, as in Council Elections.'
- 9.4 'The Executive Management Committee non-sabbatical posts of <INSERT THE LIST OF PART-TIME OFFICER POSITIONS FOR WHICH ALL CANDIDATES AND VOTERS MUST BE AS DEFINED BY THE RELEVANT UNIVERSITY STUDENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (WHERE POSSIBLE), THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING AND ARE TO BE ELECTED BY MEANS OF A STANDARD CROSS CAMPUS BALLOT OF THE QUALIFYING ELECTORATE> shall be elected in the first semester by a cross campus ballot, as in Council Elections.'
- 9.5 'The Executive Management Committee non-sabbatical posts of <INSERT THE LIST OF PART-TIME OFFICER POSITIONS FOR WHICH ALL CANDIDATES AND VOTERS MUST BE SELF-DEFINED FOR ANY OR ALL OF THE POSTS IN QUESTION, THAT HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING AND ARE TO BE ELECTED AT AN ELECTION MEETING CALLED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER FOR THIS PURPOSE DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER>.' The mechanisms for notifying and conducting such elections shall normally be as in Council Elections.

Renumber the remainder of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9 accordingly

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.32 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9 regarding the staging of hustings ('question time' event) for elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Remove the following:

- 9.3 'The Returning Officer shall organise hustings for an Executive Management Committee Election between the close of nominations and the time of the election. At such hustings all duly nominated candidates may attend. Written questions, tabled with the Returning Officer for this purpose before the hustings, shall be put to the candidates in alphabetical order; the second question shall then be put firstly to the person who is second in alphabetical order, and the person who answered the opening question first shall answer this question last; and so on.'

Replace with:

- 9.3 'The Returning Officer shall organise a 'question time' event for an Executive Management Committee Election for each full-time position between the

close of nominations and the time of the election. At such an event, all duly nominated candidates may attend. Written questions, tabled with the Returning Officer for this purpose before the event, shall be put to the candidates in alphabetical order; the second question shall then be put firstly to the person who is second in alphabetical order, and the person who answered the opening question first shall answer this question last; and so on.'

Renumber this Clause accordingly, if required

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 42 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.33 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9 regarding the staging of hustings ('question time' event) for elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Remove the following:

9.4 At hustings for an Executive Management Committee Election, each duly nominated candidate may speak on his / her own behalf for a maximum of two minutes before questions are answered. The Returning Officer may, at his / her discretion, permit the proposer or seconder of a candidate to speak on behalf of a candidate who is unable to attend the meeting.

Replace with:

9.4 At the 'question time' event for an Executive Management Committee Election for each full-time position to be elected, each duly nominated candidate may speak on their own behalf for a maximum of two minutes before questions are answered. The Returning Officer may, at their discretion, permit the proposer or seconder of a candidate to speak on behalf of a candidate who is unable to attend the meeting.

Renumber this Clause accordingly, if required

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.34 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.6.2 regarding the submission of nomination forms for elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.35 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.7 regarding withdrawals from elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.36 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.9 regarding arrangements for elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'he / she' with 'they' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.37 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.14 regarding withdrawals from elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
 Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.38 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.29 regarding the use of Students' Union equipment during elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
 Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.39 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.32 regarding the determinations of the Returning Officer during elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'he / she' with 'they'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
 Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.40 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.36 regarding exemptions from regulations during elections to the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'he / she' with 'they'

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.41 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 9.37 to correct typo:

Replace the term 'Paragraph 8.22 – 8.36' with 'Paragraphs 9.22 – 9.36'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment will remove a typographical error from the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.42 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 2, Clause 11.5.4 regarding the Election Court:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.43 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.1.1 regarding the list of Sabbatical Officer posts:

Amend / update this list on the basis of any decisions taken at this Meeting

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.44 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.1.1 regarding the list of Non-Sabbatical Officer posts:

Amend / update this list on the basis of any decisions taken at this Meeting

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.45 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.2 regarding meetings of the Executive Management Committee:

Remove the introductory phrase: 'Each Sabbatical Officer and the Non-Sabbatical Officer shall:'

Replace this with: 'Each Sabbatical Officer and Non-Sabbatical Officer shall:'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stated that this amendment will remove a typographical error from the Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.46 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.4 regarding meetings of the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.47 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.4 regarding meetings of the Executive Management Committee:

Add the following at the end of this Clause:

'Any vote taken at such a meeting shall only be deemed to be passed if it secures a majority of those votes cast by the Sabbatical Officers present and voting, and a majority of those votes cast by the Non-Sabbatical Officers present and voting.'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, stating that this amendment will enable double majority voting at EMC, ensuring that all voting decisions will require the support of a majority of part-time and a majority of full-time officers.

Ciarán Gallagher, supporting the motion, stated that this amendment will encourage part-time and full-time officers to work together.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 39 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.

1006.48 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.7 regarding Sabbatical Officers taking post:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.49 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.12 regarding Sabbatical Officers and the presenting of reports:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.50 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.20 regarding designated cheque signatories:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their' everywhere that it appears in this Clause.

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.51 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 1.22 regarding staff members of the Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.52 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clauses 5 onwards regarding the officer posts within the Executive Management Committee:

Replace throughout the term 'he / she' with 'they'

Replace throughout the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.53 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Clause 8.4 regarding partnership work by the Vice President Equality and Diversity:

Replace the term 'Vice President Community' with 'Vice President Student Activities'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.54 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Preamble regarding definition of the term 'Student Officer':

Replace the phrase 'a Sabbatical Officer or the Union Speaker' with 'a Sabbatical Officer or a Non-Sabbatical Officer'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.55 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 2 regarding the term of office of the Student Officers:

Replace the phrase 'With the exception of the Union Speaker' with 'With the exception of the Non-Sabbatical Officers'

Replace the phrase 'he / she is' with 'they are'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.56 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 2 regarding the term of office of the Non-Sabbatical Student Officers:

Insert the following:

A Non-Sabbatical Student Officer shall hold their post from the first working day following their election, until the day of the election of their successor. If, for whatever reason, a postholder ceases to be a Student of the University during their term of office, they will be deemed to have resigned and a Bye-Election shall be staged at the earliest opportunity in order to elect a successor.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.57 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 7.2 regarding the hours of work of the Student Officers:

Replace the phrase ‘A Student Officer shall work such hours’ with ‘A Sabbatical Officer shall work such hours’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.58 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 7.3 regarding the hours of work of the Student Officers:

Replace the phrase ‘A Student Officer is expected to work’ with ‘A Sabbatical Officer is expected to work’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.59 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 13.5 regarding attendance at Management Board:

Replace the term ‘his / her’ with ‘their’

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.60 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 14.4 regarding attendance at Executive Management Committee:

Replace the term ‘A Student Officer’ with ‘A Sabbatical Student Officer’

Replace the term ‘his / her’ with ‘their’

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.61 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 18 regarding the rejection of Reports to the Council:

Replace throughout the term 'Student Officer' and 'Student Officers' with 'Sabbatical Student Officer' and 'Sabbatical Student Officers' respectively

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 48 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.62 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 4, Appendix 1, Clause 19.4 regarding breaches of discipline:

Replace the term 'him / her' with 'them'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.63 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, regarding the membership of Committees of the Council:

Amend throughout the list of those Student Officers to be in attendance at each individual Committee of the Council, to include those new Part-Time Officer posts that have been approved by this Statutory Meeting of the Council.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.64 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, regarding Committees of the Council:

Replace throughout the term 'Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee' with 'Student Activities Committee'

Within Rule 5, Clause 7.2, replace the term 'Vice President Clubs and Societies' with 'Vice President Student Activities'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
 Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.65 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, Clause 1.2, regarding Committees of the Council:

Replace throughout the term ‘sabbatical officers’ with ‘Student Officers’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
 Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.66 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, Clause 1.14, regarding Committees of the Council:

Insert at the beginning of this Clause the term ‘Where possible, [clerical staff resources...’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
 Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.67 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, Clause 3.1, regarding the remit of the Standing Committee:

Insert the following:

3.1.3 ‘To receive reports from the Election Working Group.’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
 Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.68 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 5, Clause 5.2, regarding the remit of the Campaigns and Communications Committee:

Replace the term ‘Vice President Campaigns and Communications’ with ‘Union President’

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
 Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.69 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 6, Clause 1.1 regarding bye-laws of the Council:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.70 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 7, Clause 1.8.4 regarding Committee conduct:

Replace the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.71 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 7, regarding Committee conduct:

Insert the following:

1.8.5 Tabled questions may only be put to Non-Sabbatical Student Officers by Student Members of the constituency that is represented by the postholder in question. The same arrangements shall apply to any questions that are put in relation to any written or verbal report that is provided by a Non-Sabbatical Student Officer to any Meeting of the Council.

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Derek Crosby (PG), moving the amendment, outlined the text of the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 41 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.72 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8, regarding Societies:

Replace throughout the term 'Vice President Clubs and Societies' with 'Vice President Student Activities'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.73 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8, regarding Societies:

Replace throughout the term 'Clubs, Societies and Student Development Committee' with 'Student Activities Committee'

Proposed: Derek Crosby (Chair, Officer Review Group)
Seconded: Ciaran Gallagher (Union President)

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), moved the amendment.

A display of voting cards indicated that 45 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.74 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8, Clause 5 regarding Society Annual General Meetings and Elections:

Replace throughout the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Replace throughout the term 'he / she' with 'they'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1006.75 Amendment of Constitutional Rule 8, Clause 6 regarding Society Election Courts:

Replace throughout the term 'his / her' with 'their'

Replace throughout the term 'he / she' with 'they'

Proposed: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)
Seconded: Oisín Hassan (40058773)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the amendment, stated that it was appropriate to remove all singular personal pronouns from the text of the Constitution.

Oisín Hassan (PG), supporting the amendment, stated that the Union should recognise non-binary gender identity in its Constitution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the mover waived their right to summarise.

A display of voting cards indicated that 40 Councillors were in favour; this proposed amendment to the Constitutional Rules was therefore accepted.

1007. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Reports were considered by the Council:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Annual Report of the Union President | SUC/P/15/25 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications | SUC/P/15/26 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies | SUC/P/15/27 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Education | SUC/P/15/28 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity | SUC/P/15/29 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Welfare | SUC/P/15/30 |
| Annual Report of the Vice President Community | SUC/P/15/31 |

The elected student officer team expressed their gratitude to the Councillors, students and Union staff who had contributed to the work of the Union over the past year.

1007.1 The Annual Report of the Union President was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Union President (SUC/P/15/25) was accepted.

1007.2 The Annual Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications (SUC/P/15/26) was accepted.

1007.3 The Annual Report of the Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Clubs and Societies (SUC/P/15/27) was accepted.

1007.4 The Annual Report of the Vice President Education was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice Education (SUC/P/15/28) was accepted.

1007.5 The Annual Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity (SUC/P/15/29) was accepted.

1007.6 The Annual Report of the Vice President Welfare was taken as read.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Welfare (SUC/P/15/30) was accepted.

1007.7 The Annual Report of the Vice President Community was taken as read.

Mark Benson (PG), stated that the incoming Vice President Welfare should ensure that the Union campaigned on issues of reproductive rights and that the Union should organise sexual health campaigns, as this activity has, in recent years, been left to MHLS students.

Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Community (SUC/P/15/31) was accepted.

1008. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

1008.1 Annual Report of the Education and Welfare Committee

There was none.

1008.2 Annual Report of the Campaigns and Communications Committee

There was none.

1008.3 Annual Report of the Community, Equality and Diversity Committee

There was none.

1008.4 Annual Report of the Clubs Societies and Student Development Committee

There was none.

1008.5 Annual Report of the Environmental and Ethical Committee

There was none.

1008.6 Report of the Officer Review Group

There was none.

1008.7 Report of the Students' Union Charity Forum

There was none.

1008.8 Report of the Fair Trade Steering Group

There was none.

1009. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.

There were none.

1010. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.

There were none.

1011. QUESTIONS.

There were none.

1012. OBJECTIONS TO POLCY LAPSE

1012.1 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 1.01)

Council further resolves that students should be given access to draft timetables far earlier and be consulted with in conjunction with the Students' Union and the University staff in order to allow changes to be suggested in an adequate timeframe.

Council notes with concern that upon publication of the 2013 second semester examination timetable a number of students across campus appear to have examinations with unacceptably short time between them.

Council firmly believes that Students must be given appropriate decompression time (breathing room) between examinations as students can become stressed if there is an inadequate time for different sets of revision to commence.

Council further believes that an adequate time period between examinations must be a minimum of 48 hours for all students.

Council resolves that the Executive Management Committee be instructed to lobby the university as a matter of urgency to have examination timetables adequately reflect the needs of students on campus who require a space of at least 48 hours between examination sittings.

1012.2 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 1.05)

This Council notes that:

1. In most modules, lecturers expect students to buy the required textbooks and that these can come to quite some considerable cost (averaging around £200 per semester for certain courses).
2. That in some Schools, such as Law, there are often only one or two copies of required readings available in the Library, especially journals.

Council believes that:

1. The Library should contain sufficient numbers of copies of required and recommended reading for all courses, so that all students may access them.
2. Reporting a lack of books should be easier.

Council resolves:

To instruct the Sabbatical Officers to work with both the Library and Module Conveners from across all Schools in order to ensure that there are a sufficient amount of copies of texts available to all students from the Library free of charge, whether online or in print.

1012.3 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 1.07)

As per Section 12C of the Procedures Manual, Directorate of Academic and Student Affairs 'The students of each School shall elect a 'School Representative', who shall act as the student chair or co-chair of their SSCC.'

Additionally, Section 12D states that 'The School Representative shall normally serve as the chair or co-chair of the SSCC. In Schools with more than one SSCC, the student chair or co-chair shall be appointed at the first meeting each year; the student chair (or nominee) will also sit on the corresponding Education Committee within the School.'

Unfortunately, there are a number of Schools that do not adhere to these guidelines and refuse to allow School Representatives or, in appropriate cases, another student to chair or co-chair SSCC meetings.

Council Believes:

That Schools should adhere to the guidelines set out by the Directorate of Academic and Students Affairs and should allow students to take up the representational roles they are entitled to.

Council Instructs:

That the VP Education works with the relevant staff in the university to ensure that for the start of the next academic year all SSCC meetings are chaired by School Representatives and where more than one SSCC exists that another student chairs the meeting.

1012.4 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 1.08)

This Council requests that the Vice President Education identifies a resolution to the issue of inequality of provision for postgraduate students based in the David Keir Building.

This Council believes that postgraduate students should be valued by their Schools and that each such student based in the Keir Building should have the right to appropriate equipment and work space to analyse data, write up and complete their thesis.

This Council notes that postgraduate students in the David Keir Building do not have the required computers, desk space or working environment that allows them to be comfortable in their work place.

This Council recognises that working at a laboratory bench in the corner of a busy laboratory is not only unsafe but is not appropriate for the research and writing of a PhD thesis.

This Council recognises that there is a discrepancy in provision of work spaces between those who study in the David Keir Building and those who use the rest of the University.

1012.5 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 1.09)

Council instructs the Education Officer to ensure that these promises are met and that a wider range of students are consulted throughout this decision making process.

In addition, Council is aware that, at Academic Board, the Education Officer recommended that the University Working Group should consult with the School

This Council notes that the University is making amendments to the structure of the academic year and welcomes innovative and positive developments to teaching and learning at Queen's University Belfast.

Council further notes that, up to this point, the only student who has been consulted in this process is the Education Officer, who sits on a University Working Group. With this in mind, she has consulted with the School Representatives at a workshop in order to involve students more fully.

Representatives and other representatives of the student body to ensure that any and all risks are highlighted to decision makers from a student perspective, and that this proposal was agreed.

1012.6 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 1.10)

This Council notes that a recent article by 'QUB The Scoop' revealed that over £1,000,000 printing costs within the McClay Library since 2010. Council also notes that part of this expense arises from many Schools insisting that students submit a printed copy of their assignments as well as submitting a digital copy.

Council believes that this represents an unwarranted expense for students and an environmentally undesirable use of paper, especially when considering that many Schools are able to operate perfectly efficiently by only using digital submission.

This Council therefore calls on the VP Education, in collaboration with SSCCs and the Academic Board, to petition the University and individual Schools to only request the digital submission of assignments.

1012.7 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 2.01)

This Council proposes that this Students' Union should begin to work on a campaign to ensure that the government recognises the importance of affordable Higher Education in Northern Ireland. The Students' Union should also work with NUS-USI to campaign against any increase in tuition fees, to keep the current cap and to ensure that there is appropriate funding available for Higher Education in Northern Ireland.

This Council notes the successful campaign against the increase in tuition fees in Northern Ireland. On 11 September 2011, the government decided to not to increase the tuition fee rate in Northern Ireland and that these would only increase in line with inflation. The tuition fee level in Northern Ireland is still on the agenda as the current decision only runs until the end of the Assembly term in 2015-16.

This Council believes that there should be an increase in the level of funding available for Higher Education in Northern Ireland to ensure that all students can benefit from the highest possible quality of education and student experience. Council also believes that the current tuition fee cap should be maintained to ensure that education is available to all students, regardless of their socio-economic background, and that a third-level education should be accessible for all and, in maintaining fees at current levels, students will continue to have access to high quality education.

1012.8 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 2.02)

This Council notes that, in our Students' Union 2013 Student Experience Survey, students reported that their awareness of Students' Union Services and activities was quite high, but involvement was less so. Key priorities included: personal finance, quality of education and lack of jobs. The data suggests that more of our student members would potentially participate in our Students' Union's activities and services if they knew more about them.

This Council further notes that QUBSU survey feedback has consistently told us that the 'pound in the student pocket' remains the biggest concern for our members.

This Council believes that the Students' Union ought to campaign to make more students aware of advice and support available, and that such a campaign should also aim to educate on money management.

This Council proposes that a Students' Union Campaign should seek to promote the services available at our Advice Centre and other appropriate forms of student support to our members.

This Council instructs the Vice President Welfare and the Vice President Campaigns and Communications to work together to implement a Campaign to promote the

various forms of financial support available. As well as promoting support, this Campaign should educate on money management and living on a budget.

1012.9 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 2.03)

Council urges the Executive Management Committee, and specifically the Vice President Welfare, to demand a change to the fee structure for self-financing students to give them options beyond what is currently offered. These should include a payment option in line with student loan payments (September, January and April) and monthly payments (September to June). This should be implemented and the information distributed by the start of Spring Semester 2014.

Council notes that the current fee structure for self-financing students, including those who have had to repeat due to illness or disability, requires full payment to be made prior to January during the academic year.

Council believes that demanding full payment of fees by direct debit over four months is grossly inaccessible for the majority of students and has an adverse effect on those who have caring responsibilities or cannot work to supplement their loans.

Council recognises the pressure that the current fee structure can place on the Student Support Fund and the reality of such a financial burden on students, including the fear of suspension should they not be able to make payments on time potentially leading to students withdrawing from their course due to such a restrictive practice.

1012.10 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / MARK BENSON (Policy File Reference 3.01)

Council notes there is inconsistent and incomplete information being offered to pregnant QUB students by QUB Schools and Departments.

Female GB students are unaware that signing up with a GP in Northern Ireland removes their right to automatic free NHS services back in GB.

Students may be unaware of legislation regarding abortion in Northern Ireland.

There is considerable confusion within the Students' Union welfare system over what information can be offered to pregnant students under the current policy of neutrality.

Council mandates that specific guidelines to be sent to all schools and staff members on where to direct students seeking advice regarding pregnancy and all the options available to them.

In line with a policy of neutrality, non-directive information, such as that offered by the Family Planning Association (FPA), to be provided by QUBSU, advice centre staff and any agency employed by QUBSU to offer advice to students regarding pregnancy. Such information to include literature on additional funding for student parents, exceptional circumstances forms and counselling services. FPA literature to be available on campus as a source of information.

1012.11 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 4.02)

This Council endorses the measures outlined in paper SUC/P/13/50 and instructs the Executive Management Committee to implement this proposal at the earliest opportunity.

A copy of the paper SUC/P/13/50 may be requested by contacting the Students' Union.

1012.12 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 4.05)

Council notes although there are potentially many factors which could have affected the abysmal number of candidates in this year's Sabbatical Officer Elections, one widely accepted factor is mistrust in our current democratic model. This mistrust not only manifested itself in the low candidate turnout, but also in the record high turnout for Re-Open Nominations (c. 930 in six out of seven elections)

That although the Council has previously attempted to remedy this unfortunate situation, its well-intentioned attempts have met with frustration, thereby maintaining the unfortunate status-quo.

Council believes that unless this situation is remedied, the number and diversity of candidates standing in elections will continue to decline, thus reducing the effective mandate of all elected officers.

Council mandates the Union President to invite the National Union of Students Strategic Support Unit to perform a Democratic Review of the structures surrounding the annual Student Officer elections. This review would be free of charge and would provide feedback on the union's democratic processes based on interviews with students and staff.

Council also mandates that all of the Student Officers should secure, before the end of the semester, the pledge of the relevant figures (the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Chief Executive Officer of the Students' Union) to formally invite the Strategic Support Unit to perform the review.

Council also mandates that the Union President should propose to amend the constitution in any and all ways suggested by the Review.

1012.13 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 6.01)

This Council recognises the important role that the University and our members play within the local community.

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

This Council further notes the importance of community engagement and the role that our members have to play within our city. Positive community relations are an important part of our responsibilities; therefore this council mandates the Students' Union to develop further collaboration with our community as well as encouraging our students to become active citizens in the local area.

This Council instructs the Vice President Community to retain comprehensive volunteering opportunities for our members and to maintain contact with local resident's groups and statutory agencies to ensure that our Students' Union preserve effective community engagement.

1012.14 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT / CAOIMHE McNEILL
(Policy File Reference 8.01)

This Council notes that, since topping the UK Singles Charts in June 2013, Robin Thicke's song "Blurred Lines" has attracted a lot of media attention that has portrayed it in both positive and negative light.

Council further notes that, by November 2013, approximately 20 students' unions across the UK had banned the playing of this song in all of their venues, cafés, events etc based upon the opinion that it is degrading to women and contains 'connotations about rape culture', and that SUBtv, an interactive television channel for students' unions and universities in the United Kingdom, has removed it from their playlist for the same reasons after receiving a lot of pressure from Student Officers in various students' unions.

This Council believes that:

- There are no 'Blurred Lines' when it comes to consent.
- A students' union should be a safe place for all students.
- The language used in "Blurred Lines" can be interpreted as rape apologetics and some of the phrases can be triggers for victims of sexual abuse.
- The playing of the song is dangerous and compromises the safety of our students.

This Council proposed that this Students' Union bans the playing of the song "Blurred Lines" throughout the building, including all bar / club venues, Queen's Radio, cafés, Clubs and Societies' events, external events and within commercial outlets.

This Council further proposes that, where an external radio station is being played and "Blurred Lines" is on their playlist the station is changed immediately

This Council calls for this motion to take immediate effect.

1012.15 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 8.03)

This Council notes that some individuals are using the tagline QUB on Facebook. This Council further notes that this is probably done in an attempt to make such Facebook pages appear as if they are run officially by the University.

Council believes that students are much more likely to trust a Facebook page if they believe it is run by the University and therefore the 'admins' of such pages are given a unique position of trust – trust that has the potential to be abused.

This Council does not agree with individuals using taglines such as qub, qubsu or any other abbreviation which attempts to emulate the Queen's identity without prior consent by the university.

This Council therefore instructs the Union President to pursue the relevant authorities and put in place measures that will prevent students from QUB using aforementioned Facebook pages and that suitable punishments are put in place for those they do. The relevant authorities are also to be requested to pursue courses of action that may lead to the closing down of said Facebook pages as soon as is practicable.

1012.16 OBJECTION BY SARAH WRIGHT (Policy File Reference 8.05)

This Council notes that, as stated in the Report of the Vice President Campaigns and Communications to the Council in December 2013, the provision of ATMs is not viable in the McClay Library and the Medical Biology Centre (MBC). Council further notes that those students with no cash on-hand, who are studying overnight during twenty-four hour opening of the McClay Library, will be required to leave the Library in order to get cash to use in vending machines. It is clear that this raises concerns for student safety.

This Council believes that the vending machines around campus, specifically within the McClay Library, should be replaced with alternatives that can accept credit from student cards as payment. It would be desirable if these machines took both cash and student card credit, so that non-students using the McClay Library could still make use of vending options.

This Council believes that such a system would mean that a student studying overnight could top-up their card online and make purchases without needing to leave the Library. While not achieving everything that ATMs in the MBC and McClay Library hoped to accomplish, this is a suitable and worthy alternative.

This Council instructs the Executive Management Committee to lobby in order to have vending machines across campus and specifically in the McClay Library replaced with alternatives that can accept student card credit as payment for goods. Council would like to see these measures to be in place prior to the reintroduction of 24 hour opening in the McClay Library on 23 April 2014.

1012.17 OBJECTION BY CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 2.04)

Council notes that Westminster's proposals to sell off the student loan book to a private company are exceptionally worrying.

Council notes that the government's plans to privatise the student loan book are short term in their thinking and will negatively affect not only current students but also many graduates. The government has already begun the process having sold off mortgage style loans taken out pre-1998 in November.

Council notes that there is much cause for concern as if the loan book is sold to make it attractive to a private buyer, sweeteners will be offered. The most drastic of which the Guardian revealed through acquiring a confidential report being lifting the cap on interest between loans taken out between 1998 and 2012.

Council notes that this will likely result in students paying back much more, for much longer – potentially paying back student debt until the end of their lives.

Council opposes the selloff of our student loans and mandates the student officers for the academic year 2014-15 to play an active part in opposing the selloff. Council mandates that the team will look into the legality of the selloff regards if it is under the full control of Westminster, or if Stormont has power to resist. Council mandates student officers to lobby the relevant elected representatives and to carry out at least one day of activism a term to raise awareness within the student body, taking the form of protest and petition signing.

1012.18 OBJECTION BY CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 7.02)

This Council notes that, in a bid to reduce net migration from hundreds of thousands to tens of thousands, via the Immigration Bill proposed by the government of the day, international students could potentially pay a tax of £200 to access ~~SUN/14/15~~ ~~SUN/14/15~~. Considering that international students make up 75% of those subject to visa controls, it will be this group that will be affected the most.

This Council notes the detrimental impact that this Bill may have on the health and wellbeing of international students. Council further notes the very real impact that this Bill could have on every single student seeking accommodation in Northern Ireland, and that it could lead to racial profiling, as some landlords may seek to avoid a lengthy bureaucratic process.

This Council believes that the Immigration Bill is discriminatory, divisive, expensive and unworkable. This Council also believes that the UK cannot expect to boast a first-class, globally competitive Higher Education system, when the government persists on shutting the door on international students and raising barriers to affordable healthcare.

This Council proposes that this Students' Union opposes this bill.

This Council instructs the Vice President Campaigns and Communications and the Vice President Equality and Diversity to work together to stand up for international students, by investigating the Immigration Bill and campaigning alongside other students' unions and NUS-USI in opposition to the Bill.

1012.19 OBJECTION BY CAOIMHE McNEILL (Policy File Reference 8.02)

This Council notes that the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill published by the Government, is currently before Government.

Council further notes that:

- The Bill provides for a much broader definition of regulated activity – including all activities seen to be carried out 'for election purposes'.
- These new definitions, as well as the proposed lower spending limits, will have a huge impact on campaigning by students' unions.
- The Electoral Commission has noted that small organisations with a local or regional focus that are not currently affected will face significant regulatory burdens.

This Council believes that the proposals included within this bill would damage the work of this Students' Union and other Trade Unions in the work that they deliver for their members.

Council further believes that:

- The Bill will serve to stifle campaigning by individuals and organisations, including students' unions in the year before an election.

This Council proposes that the Students' Union at Queen's campaigns against the introduction of this proposed Bill and works with NUS-USI and NUS to oppose it in its current format.

The Speaker ruled that policy objections 2012.3 – 1012-6 were not valid business as these policies were not scheduled to lapse.

A proposal that all of the remaining policies, for which an objection has been lodged, should be considered as a bloc was passed by Council.

Following a display of voting cards, all of the policies that were scheduled to lapse were clearly carried. These policies shall now be scheduled to lapse at the Annual Business Meeting in May 2016.

1013. MOTIONS.

- 1013.1 This Council believes that education should be free and that the failed tuition fees scheme introduced by Labour should be scrapped.

Council welcomes the vote in favour of free education at NUS conference for the second year in a row.

Council believes that there should also be a national demonstration in favour of free education, which will be voted on at the NUS' National Executive Council meeting in June.

Council resolves that the Union President and the VP Campaigns and Communications should lobby the NUS-USI representatives on the NUS NEC to vote in favour of Motion 212, in favour of a national demonstration for free education.

Proposer: Niall Robb (40084325)
 Seconder: Kathryn Waller (40077853)

The Union Speaker, stated that he is the current Deputy President of NUS-USI and the incoming President of NUS-USI. The Union Speaker declared an interest in the matter at hand and vacated the Chair. The Deputy Speaker, Connor Malone, assumed the Chair.

Kathryn Waller (AHSS), moving the motion, stated that the behaviour of some delegates at NUS Conference was disgraceful in their attempts to prevent discussion of a free fees protest and this Union should send a strong message to NUS NEC to support the protest action.

Fergal McFerran (Open), speaking on the motion, stated that no one has seen the motion that this Council is being asked to support.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), speaking on the motion, stated that there was merit in the free education motion but that it should be balanced against the best use of resources when campaigning.

A friendly amendment from Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), was accepted by the proposer such that the final paragraph of the motion reads:

Council resolves that the VP Campaigns and Communications should lobby the NUS-USI representatives on the NUS NEC to vote in favour of Motion 212, in favour of a national demonstration for free education.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

In summation, Kathryn Waller stated the Union should support and help organise the proposed demonstration.

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

The Union Speaker resumed the Chair.

- 1013.2 This Council notes the serious lack of representation of women in leadership positions across society and believes that this is something that needs to improve.

Council notes the excellent work that is being done by our three national unions in promoting leadership in underrepresented groups of students.

Council commends the officer boards of NUS-USI, NUS and USI for focusing on promoting Women in Leadership and particularly commends the intersectionality aspect that these campaigns have taken.

Council believes that these campaigns have successfully led to a more diverse range of candidates and officers elected to our national unions.

Council believes that it is important that our sabbatical officer team is reflective of the diverse nature of our student body.

Council instructs the Executive Management Committee to prioritise diversifying the sabbatical elections and work on breaking down the barriers to elections that exists for underrepresented groups, particularly women, lgbt+ students and international students.

Council also instructs the Executive Management Committee to facilitate an environment where these groups can come together to share their experiences and contribute to the discussion of breaking down the barriers to elections.

Proposer: Caoimhe McNeill (40022327)
 Seconder: Ellie Drake (40076883)

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), moving the motion, stated that it was more difficult for a woman to run for Union President, that there was a fear of women in leadership and that much more needs to be done at a national and local level to encourage women to stand for election.

Ellie Drake (AHSS), supporting the motion, stated that women in positions of leadership much encourage other women to stand for election.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.3 This Council recognises that, in accordance with Students' Union Constitutional Rule 8, all Clubs and Societies must elect an Executive Committee at an Annual General Meeting of its members.

This Council notes that there are certain Clubs and Societies that have such a large membership that these elections are, in some cases, carried out by means of email (i.e. in order to vote, a member would email their voting intentions to the Club / Society – the returning officer(s) would then be given access to these emails for the purposes of counting the votes).

This Council further notes the ruling made by the Union Speaker in response to a Constitutional Question raised at the Statutory Meeting of 27 April 2015, in which it was held that voting by email is inconsistent with Constitutional Rule 8, Paragraph 5.2 which requires that “all Society elections shall be carried out by secret ballot.”

This Council agrees with the ruling made by the Union Speaker and believes that the principle of voting by secret ballot is an essential factor in democratic elections and that the use of email clearly undermines this principle, as it would let the returning officers know how certain members have voted; despite this, however, this Council also confirms that, in the case of Society elections held prior to this ruling, an argument that the use of email for voting is unconstitutional shall not be used in an Election Court as grounds for nullifying a Society election result.

Therefore, this Council calls on the VP Clubs and Societies to ensure that voting by email is prohibited from use by all Clubs and Societies in future elections.

Proposed: Matthew McCallion 40134313
Seconded: Rachel Ireland 40106897

Matthew McCallion (School Rep, Law), moving the motion, stated that this motion was a follow-on from the proposed constitutional amendment at the previous meeting of the Council.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.4 This Council notes that around a quarter of Councillors have resigned their seats during the past academic year.

This Council believes that, in order to best serve and represent the Union membership, a system must be put in place for casual vacancies on this Council to be filled as efficiently and as quickly as is practicable.

This Council instructs:

- i. the Union President to liaise with the Clerk of the Council and the Officer Review Group to initiate a study into drafting any required amendments of the Students' Union Constitution and Rules in order to facilitate the filling of casual vacancies on the Students' Union Council; and
- ii. the Officer Review Group to present its findings to the Council as soon as is practicable.

Proposed: Matthew McCallion 40134313
Seconded: Ciarán Gallagher 40007379

Matthew McCallion (School Rep, Law), moving the motion, stated that this motion was a follow-on from the proposed constitutional amendment at the previous meeting of the Council and this motion will provide space for a workable solution to be determined.

Aoibhín McNeill (EPS), speaking on the motion, stated that new Councillors would energise Council, but any proposals would have to be viable.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), speaking on the motion, stated that this motion will allow for more thought and discussion on the issue.

Sarah Wright (Open), stated this motion will give people with knowledge and experience an opportunity to work on a solution.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.5 This Council notes that there have been a number of cases in which School Representatives have not been informed by their respective Schools or Institutes of meetings to which they are entitled to attend.

This Council reiterates its belief expressed by Motion 13.9 (adopted at the Statutory Meeting of 18 November 2014), which stated that "Council believes that Schools

should adhere to the guidelines set out by the Directorate of Academic and Students' Affairs".

This Council:

- i. instructs the VP Education to ensure that the Schools and Institutes inform their respective School Representatives of all meetings to which they are entitled to and expected to attend; and
- ii. calls on all Schools and Institutes to follow the guidelines for Staff/Student Consultative Committees (SSCCs).

Proposed: Matthew McCallion 40134313
Seconded: Jack Steenson 40098981

Matthew McCallion (School Rep, Law), moving the motion, stated that it is vital that Schools follow the University regulations in this area.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.6 This Council notes that the University does not have any current policy on feedback provision for assessed work.

This Council believes that there needs to be a minimum standard regarding feedback provisions across all Schools and Institutes of the University.

This Council instructs the VP Education:

- i. to lobby the University to conduct a study on feedback provisions;
- ii. to liaise with the Schools and Institutes in order to establish a minimum standard regarding feedback provisions, including (but not limited to) the following:
 - a. ensuring that all submitted assessments must receive some form of feedback;
 - b. ensuring that all students must receive individual feedback;
 - c. ensuring that feedback must be more than just a mark; and
 - d. bringing an end to inconsistent feedback.

This Council further instructs the Union President and the VP Education to conduct a feasibility study into putting the above into practice.

Proposed: Adam Sage 40076398
Seconded: Courtenay Mercer 40123786

Adam Sage (School Rep), moving the motion, detailed the contents of the motion and stated that this issue has been recurring on a regular bases for many years.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, stated that, in her experience there was some terrible feedback being provided by some academics in Queen's.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.7 That access to postgraduate education, as well as part-time undergraduate education are becoming more critical in a world demanding continuous professional development throughout working life.

That support for part-time undergraduate as well as taught and research postgraduate study is minimal.

Council believes that:

It is not enough to provide a diminishing number of full-time funded PhD places for students in Northern Ireland.

Access to student finance and financial support should be extended to other non-traditional types of study, such as part-time and full-time research and taught postgraduate study, as well as to those undertaking part-time undergraduate study.

Council instructs the Executive Management Committee to campaign for fair access to student finance and student supports for all undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Proposer: Hannah Niblock (40003332)
 Seconder: Ruth Maxwell (40009309)

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the motion, stated that this policy would seek to establish a level playing field for all students in terms of funding and support payments and extend funding to those undertaking non-traditional modes of study.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, highlighted the struggles experienced by postgraduate students in terms of funding.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.8 Council notes:

- Students in Northern Ireland do not have an independent appeals process to adjudicate over issues that arise in higher education.
- In England and Wales, the Office of the Independent Adjudicator provides an independent system for processing student complaints.
- In Scotland, the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO) provides the same service in Scotland.
- The old 'Visitor' system in Northern Ireland is the final external process available to students making a complaint.
- The Visitor system is not independent of the institution.
- The Students' Union is excluded from providing support and representation to students making complaints using the visitors system.
- The introduction of an independent adjudicator for higher education is currently being considered by OFMDFM.

Council Believes that:

- This system is out-dated and does not reflect best practice across higher education.
- Under the current system, the only truly independent appeals system is the courts system, which is inaccessible to the vast majority of students.

- Council instructs the Executive Management Committee to campaign for the introduction of independent adjudicator for higher education in Northern Ireland.

Proposer: Hannah Niblock (40003332)
Seconder: Ruth Maxwell (40009309)

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the motion, stated that this policy would expand the right to external complaints for students in Northern Ireland.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, stated that this motion was required to ensure fair treatment for students in Queen's.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.9 Council Notes:

- The role of Council in scrutinising the work of elected student officers and holding them to account on behalf of students.
- That elected student officers are required to provide regular reports to Council on their activities.
- That Executive Management Committee is required to devise a 'campaigns strategy' and a 'Campaigns Calendar'
- That some previous student officer teams have produced a Plan of Work document for approval at Council detailing the planned activities for their term of office

Council believes that:

- Producing a Plan of Work document for Council improves accountability and allows Council to effectively oversee the work of elected student officers.

Council resolves that:

- The Executive Management Committee shall produce a Plan of Work outlining the campaigns, activities and projects that elected student officer team shall prioritise during their term of office.
- This Plan of Work shall be presented to the Inaugural Meeting of the Council and shall be considered for approval at the first Statutory Meeting of Council.
- Each elected student officer will detail progress against this Plan of Work, in addition to progress on Union policy, in each of their reports to Council.

Proposer: Hannah Niblock (40003332)
Seconder: Adam Sage (40076398)

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the motion, stated that a Plan of Work used to be produced in previous years and that the incoming officer team should re-establish the practice.

Adam Sage (School Rep), supporting the motion, stated that a Plan of Work would make it easier to scrutinise the work of the elected student officers and to hold them to account.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.10 Council notes that:

- There is complexity in appropriately scheduling tens of thousands of individual examinations each year.
- Examinations will continue to be used for assessment even after the introduction of the proposals for a reformed academic year.

- Most Exams are currently timetabled for 9.30am, 2.30pm and 6.30pm
- The process of constructing examination timetables commences in early October for Semester One examinations and early February for Semester Two examinations.
- Students may find themselves having two exams in one day (ie. one scheduled at 9.30am and the next at 6.30pm)

Council believes that:

- This is unacceptable and that this situation can have detrimental effects on both academic performance and students' wellbeing during what is already a stressful time.
- Students are entitled to a reasonable respite period between individual examinations, to rest, recover, reduce stress and promote a healthy approach to examinations.

Council instructs the Union President, VP Education and VP Welfare:

- To seek to establish a formal University policy regarding the minimum time between examinations, with a minimum time between examinations of twenty four hours, and the average time between examinations being no less than forty eight hours.
- To seek to formalise the process by which students can seek modifications to examination timetables in the event that their timetable has inadequate respite periods between examinations.
- In the interim, to appeal to the relevant University bodies in order to eliminate the potential for students to sit two exams in one day in future exam sessions, with the intention of having this in place by January 2016.
- To continue to campaign for on this policy issue, if it is not achieved by January 2016.

Proposer: Aoibhin McNeill (40080590)
Seconder: Brendan Corr (40107847)

Aoibhín McNeill (EPS), moving the motion, outlined the detail of the motion and stated that, from her experience, these changes to the examination policies are necessary.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, urged Councillors to support the motion.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.11 Council notes that Northern Ireland does not have a properly funded higher education system.

Council believes:

- That education is fundamental to the creation of a fairer society.
- That access to education is a right, not a privilege, and should be accessible to all.
- That access to higher education should be based on academic merit and the academic potential of the individual.
- That the ability to pay for tuition should not be a barrier to education.

This Union resolves to:

- Campaign vigorously against any increase in the current tuition fee cap and any cuts to public funding of higher education, in Northern Ireland.
- Make adequate public funding for higher education a key theme in the forthcoming Assembly Elections.
- Promote the benefits to society of a well-funded higher education system.
- Seek commitments from all political parties in Northern Ireland to a minimum spend on higher education and a freeze on tuition fees over the mandate of the next NI Assembly.
- Research and promote discussion on alternative methods of using public funds to support higher education, to provide an alternative to the current discourse where tuition fees are advocated as the only model to fund higher education.

Proposer: Hannah Niblock (40003332)
 Seconder: Diane Murdock (40060153)

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the motion, stated that this motion outlines our values in relation to higher education and mandates the Union to seek a properly funded higher education system.

Ciarán Gallagher (EMC), supporting the motion, stated that there is a real danger to the quality of education provision if there are more sustained cuts to HE and FE funding.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.12 Council notes that:

- Queen's University Belfast is currently undergoing a Higher Education Review audit, which is conducted by the Quality Assurance Agency.
- Universities are audited externally by the QAA approximately once every six years on the quality of the education that they provide.
- This is one of the most important opportunities to have the voice of learners heard
- The Student input into the process is vital and is required by the QAA

- The Students' Union is required to provide an evidence-based written submission to the QAA commenting on the quality of education provision in Queen's.

Council believes that:

- Contributing to the Higher Education Review process is a priority for the Students' Union.
- Elected student representatives from across the University should be involved in this process

Council resolves that:

- A sub-committee of Council be established to provide input into the HE review process and to approve, on behalf of Council, the final version of the student written submission to the QAA over the summer of 2015.
- This HE Review Sub-Committee of Council shall have the following membership: The School Representatives; the Executive Management Committee; the Council representatives on the following Committees: Senate, Academic Council, Postgraduate Forum, Academic Board.
- This Committee may conduct business via email.
- The Union's student written submission will be presented to the first Statutory meeting of Council in the 2015-16 academic year.

Proposer: Hannah Niblock (40003332)
 Seconder: Johnny Irwin (40101330)

Hannah Niblock (EMC), moving the motion, stated that this motion gives Council the power to be involved in the approval of the Union's submission to the QAA HE Review.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

1013.13 This Council notes that, at the present time, there is a lack of extra-curricular courses which would provide valuable insight and quality skills which employers hold in high esteem.

This Council believes that more opportunities should be given to extra-curricular courses which would refresh, give insight and develop the employability skills of a student. Short courses would be given in core subjects which employers look for e.g. short courses which would be given in core subjects that employers look for, i.e. Finance, Information Technology and English.

The Council understands that this is nothing new, as the University has developed an Insight into Business Management course through the Student Guidance Centre.

The Council further notes that along with the valuable employability benefits of this motion, more opportunities are given to students who wish to pursue Degree Plus through Route B.

This Council believes that the spectrum of these courses should be widened.

Therefore, this Council instructs:

- i. The VP Education to take this valuable task on board in regards to furthering employability skills; and

- ii. The VP Campaigns and Communications, to make the student body aware of these valuable opportunities.

Proposer: Olivia Moore (40109564)
Seconder: Matthew McCallion (40134313)

Olivia Moore (School Rep), moving the motion, stated that this motion will mandate the Union to seek more employability skills opportunities for students.

Mark Benson (PG), opposing the motion, stated that this approach only commoditized education, giving it the sole purpose of meeting graduate employers' needs.
Hannah Niblock (EMC), supporting the motion, stated that our members viewed employability skills as a priority and that, while the education is not solely about employment, it is naive to imagine that it is not a major motivator for students.

Ruth Maxwell (Open), supporting the motion, stated that employability skills were absolutely necessary, especially for humanities students.

Sarah Wright (Open), speaking on the motion, stated that skills development should be embedded in the core curriculum.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted.

Hannah Niblock (EMC), in summation, stated that in an ideal world all students should have these resources and skills, but for those that don't additional opportunities are required.

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

- 1014.14 This Council notes that the number of students registered with disability services due to mental health problems is rising every year.

This Council proposes that the student officers look into the feasibility of providing Mental Health First Aid training for students, in partnership with Aware Defeat Depression or a similar organisation.

This Council requests that the Vice President Welfare provides a verbal report on progress at the next Statutory Meeting of Council.

Proposer: Kirk Dennison (40104905)
Seconder: Seán Fearon (40079053)

Seán Fearon (PG), moving the motion, stated that it is vital that students know how to identify mental illness and had the capacity to refer and signpost.

Sarah Wright (Open), supporting the motion, stated that Mental Health First Aid training can save lives.

Hayley Baird (School Rep), supporting the motion, stated that it was really important that RAs and other students are trained to identify the signs of mental illness.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted and the proposer waived their right to summarise.

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

- 1013.15 This Council believes;

- (i) That the agenda structure and standing orders of this Council have not been reviewed or updated for a significant period of time.
- (ii) That meetings of this Council have become increasingly inaccessible in recent years.
- (iii) That in order to ensure our Council can fulfil its representative and accountability functions adequately, we should not be afraid to enhance our structures and processes to ensure they remain fit for purpose.

This Council recommends;

- (i) The establishment of a working group to examine and review the timing, standard content and associated processes of all meetings of the Students' Union Council. This should also include the subcommittee structure of the Students' Union Council.
- (ii) That this working group be established in time to provide a report of preliminary recommendations to the first statutory meeting of Council in the 2015-16 Academic Year.
- (iii) That this working group be Chaired by the (2015-16) Union President with membership of the group to comprise of;
 - a) Members of the Executive Management Committee
 - b) Members of the Students' Union Standing Committee
 - c) Student Councillors currently serving on Management Board
 - d) Others, as deemed appropriate by the Chair
- (iv) That this working group examine equivalent representative bodies within Students' Unions in both Great Britain and Ireland as part of this process.
- (v) That this working group be encouraged to think creatively about the recommendations it may compile, and to ensure adequate consideration is given to acknowledging the broad views of the diverse membership of this Students' Union.

Proposer: Fergal McFerran (Union Speaker)
 Seconder: Caoimhe McNeill (Vice President Equality and Diversity)

The Union Speaker declared an interest in the matter at hand and vacated the Chair. The Deputy Speaker, Connor Malone, assumed the Chair.

Fergal McFerran (Open), moving the motion, stated that the Union should be constantly working to improve democracy, to make it more accessible and relevant to the membership.

Caoimhe McNeill (EMC), stated that Council should do more to hold officers to account, to be more representative of the diversity of the student membership and to change to reflect the needs of members.

A proposal to proceed to the vote was accepted

Fergal McFerran (Open), in summation, stated that he had been on Council for three years and while this has been the best year of all, it was now time for Councillors to examine the structures to make them reflective of the needs of current students.

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

1014. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1014.1 Honorary Life Membership of Queen's Students' Union was, following a show of cards, bestowed on Ciarán Gallagher (Students' Union President).

1014.2 Caoímhe McNeill, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks to the Union Speaker, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk.

1014.3 The Union Speaker formally closed the 2014-15 session of the Council, thanking all for their contributions and wishing everyone the best of wishes for the examinations and the summer vacation period.

1015. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Union Speaker announced that the Inaugural Meeting of the Students' Union Council is scheduled to take place at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 5 November 2015 in The Space, Level 1, Students' Union.

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (Deputy Clerk, Students' Union Council)