

CAL GIRVAN
MATTHEW MCCALLION
NIAMH SCULLION

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2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Statutory Meeting of 15 November 2016

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting of 15 November 2016 (SUC/M/16/6) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3. BUSINESS ARISING

There was none.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Ann Collins (MBE), former director of Shopmobility

Ann Collins, the former Director of Shopmobility and known for being an energetic campaigner for disabled rights, received an MBE in 2008 in recognition of her work.

She spoke to the Council on the need to Disable the Label and disability awareness.

4.2 Connie Craig (Manager of Advice SU)

Connie Craig, Manager of Advice SU, addressed the Council and detailed the services Advice SU provides.

4.3 National Students' Unions – Updates

The Union President provided Council with an overview of recent national union activities.

4.4 Part-Time Student Carers' Officer Bye-Election – Update

It was noted that the Part-time Carers Officer position had closed.

4.5 National Conference Delegate Elections 2016-17 – Update

It was noted that:

7 people had applied for the 6 vacancies for NUS conference
9 people had applied for the 7 vacancies for USI conference
3 people had applied for the 9 vacancies for NUS-USI conference

The Council endorsed the decision of the Returning Officer to postpone polling in these elections until a suitable date can be identified and agreed with Information Services.

4.6 QUB Student Action for Refugees (STAR) Society – Constitutional Amendments

The Council noted that the above named Society has made amendments to its constitution with the effect of aligning removing formal links to the national Student Action for Refugees organisation.

4.7 Council Membership – Update

It was noted that Jade Leckey had resigned their seat on Council.

4.8 Management Board Vacancy – Update

It was noted that the vacant lay position on Management Board has been advertised in the local print media. The deadline for applications was 4.00pm on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

Councillors were advised that further information is available from the Union President.

4.9 Queen's Students' Union Volunteering Policy

The Council approved an updated Students' Union Volunteering Policy. (SUC/P/16/54)

5. BYE-ELECTIONS

The Returning Officer reported on the results of the following elections:

5.1 Education and Welfare Committee (11 vacancies)

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Chris Leneghan, Andrew Fletcher Jason Bunting and Nicholas James Salt.

5.2 Campaigns and Communications Committee (9 vacancies)

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Jamie Woods, Rioghnach Kavanagh, Ciaran Cunningham and Daniel Callaghan.

5.3 Community, Equality and Diversity Committee (10 vacancies)

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Chris Leneghan, Jamie Woods, Rioghnach Kavanagh, Cal Girvan, Ashley Jones, Faisal Sayed Amin Kadiri, James Verner and Kang Zheng Tao (Jason Kang).

5.4 Student Activities Committee (10 vacancies)

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Andrew Fletcher, Cal Girvan, Reece Price, Robert Stewart, Matthew McCallion, Cameron Neil Macintyre, Conor Lee, and Eugene Tinnelly.

5.5 Environmental and Ethical Committee (10 vacancies)

The membership of the Committee is as follows: Matthew McCallion.

6. ELECTIONS

There were none.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS / RULES AMENDMENTS

7.2 **An amendment implement the recommendations of a review of Management Board, as approved at the April 2016 Statutory Meeting of Council.**

Remove the following (Constitution – Annex 3):

The membership of the Management Board will be:

- President of the Students' Union
- Sabbatical Officers
- Three members of the Students' Union Council
- Director of the Students' Union

- One University representative
- Three non-student appointees (to be appointed for a three-year term of office in an advisory capacity)

In attendance: Other University representatives, as appropriate

Replace with the following:

The membership of the Management Board will be:

- President of the Students' Union
- Four Sabbatical Officers
- One Non-Sabbatical Officer (to be elected by the Non-Sabbatical Officers, by secret ballot in accordance with the Rules)
- Three members of the Students' Union Council (to be elected at the Inaugural Meeting of Council by secret ballot)
- Director of the Students' Union
- One University representative
- Three non-student appointees (to be appointed for a three-year term of office). Appointees may serve a maximum of two three-year terms of office.

In attendance: Other University representatives, as appropriate

Non-student appointees shall require formal ratification by the Students' Union Council.

At least one non-student appointee should have a background in, and prior experience of, the external students' union movement.

The Management Board shall appoint one of the non-student appointees as Chairperson.

In the event of a tied vote of the Board, the President of the Students' Union alone may deliver a casting vote.

Remove the following (Rule 4, Appendix 1, 13.3):

The Management Board shall be comprised of the Union President, the Sabbatical Officers, three members of the Council, the Director of the Students' Union, one University representative and three non-student appointees (to be appointed for a three-year term of office in an advisory capacity).

Replace with the following:

The Management Board ('the Board') shall consist of those members as set out in Annex 3 of the Students' Union Constitution.

Remove the following (Rule 5, 2.1):

2.1 The membership of the Management Board will be:

- President of the Students' Union (Chair)
- Sabbatical Student Officers
- Three members of the Students' Union Council, to be elected at the Inaugural Meeting of Council by secret ballot
- Director of the Students' Union
- One University representative
- Three non-student appointees (to be appointed for a three-year term of office in an advisory capacity)

In attendance: Other University representatives as appropriate

Replace with the following:

- 2.1 The membership of the Management Board will be:
- President of the Students' Union
 - Four Sabbatical Officers
 - One Non-Sabbatical Officer (to be elected by the Non-Sabbatical Officers, by secret ballot in accordance with the Rules)
 - Three members of the Students' Union Council (to be elected at the Inaugural Meeting of Council by secret ballot)
 - Director of the Students' Union
 - One University representative
 - Three non-student appointees (to be appointed for a three-year term of office). Appointees may serve a maximum of two three-year terms of office.

Proposer: Seán Fearon (Union President)

Seconder: Oisín Hassan (Vice President Education)

Seán Fearon, moving the amendment, stated that the proposed changes to Management Board arise from an internal review that had taken place, which recommended that, there be representation from the part-time members of the Executive Management Committee and that there should be more broad representation on Management Board.

Richard Garland, opposing the amendment, stated that the recommendations were essentially electing a 'group from within a group' to Management Board and that the Board did not give adequate representation to minority groups.

Oisín Hassan, supporting the amendment, stated that the changes were a reasonable change arising from the introduction of the part-time student officer positions and that adding a student to the Board, who was still active in their education, would be an additional voice to the Board.

Andy McWilliams, speaking on the amendment, stated that the size, or exact composition of the Board, was not the key issue, with the primary issue being the process that is used to make decisions.

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

A display of voting cards indicated that 43 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.

The amendments below were proposed, but following a request for a quorum count, it was determined that there were an insufficient number of Councillors present to proceed with the approval of the proposal amendment. It was agreed to proceed to the next business on the agenda.

- 7.3 **Amendment to enable the Executive Management Committee to conduct some business electronically, at the discretion of the Committee.**

Insert (into Rule 4, after 1.22) and number accordingly

"The Executive Management Committee may, at its discretion, conduct business electronically."

Proposer: Seán Fearon (Union President)

Seconder: Oisín Hassan (Vice President Education)

- 7.4 **An amendment to allow for self-defined part-time student officer constituency elections to take place either at a meeting or at a specified polling time, as determined by the Returning Officer.**

Remove the following (Rule 2, Clause 9.5):

The Executive Management Committee Non-Sabbatical posts of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer, Disabled Students' Officer, LGBT+ Officer and Women Students' Officer shall 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. Candidates and voters in these elections shall self-define as being members of the constituency or constituencies in which they are standing and / or voting.

Replace with the following:

The Executive Management Committee Non-Sabbatical posts of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer, Disabled Students' Officer, LGBT+ Officer and Women Students' Officer shall be elected at an Election Meeting or Election 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. Candidates and voters in these elections shall self-define as being members of the constituency or constituencies in which they are standing and / or voting.

Proposer: Stephen McCrystall (Vice President Equality & Diversity)
 Secunder: Jessica Elder (Vice President Welfare)

- 7.5 **An amendment to enable for part-time student officer constituency elections to take place in semester two instead of semester one.**

Remove the following from Rule 2, Clause 9.5: "first semester"

Replace with the following: "second semester"

Remove the following (from Rule 4, Appendix 1, Section 2 'Term of Office'):

"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."

Replace with the following:

"A Non-Sabbatical Student Officer shall hold their post from the first working day of July in the year in which they were elected, until the last working day of June in the following year."

Proposer: Stephen McCrystall (Vice President Equality & Diversity)
 Secunder: Jessica Elder (Vice President Welfare)

- 7.6 **An amendment to delegate the final approval and recognition of Clubs and Societies to the Student Activities Committee and to enable Clubs and Societies to receive funding in their first year.**

Remove the following (Rule 8, Clause 2.1.4):

"The Society must have a proposer and a seconder to be submitted to the Student Activities Committee and the subsequent Council meeting for a vote on its recognition."

Replace with the following:

“The Society must have a proposer and a seconder to be submitted to the Student Activities Committee for a vote on its recognition.”

Remove the following (Rule 8, Clause 2.1.5):

“A representative of the Society, who is also a Student Member of the Society, must attend the meeting of the Student Activities Committee of the Council that is scheduled to consider the granting of recognition to that Society, in order to answer any questions that may arise with regard to the application. The Committee will then make a recommendation to the Council regarding whether or not the Society should be recognised and, if so, what type of Society it should be.”

Replace with the following:

“A representative of the Society, who is also a Student Member of the Society, must answer any questions that may arise with regard to the application. The Committee will then make a decision regarding whether or not the society should be recognised.”

Remove the following (Rule 8, Clause 2.1.6.2):

“Conditional Societies shall be Proposed Societies that have been approved by the Council. These Societies shall not receive any financial support from the Students’ Union, but shall be permitted to use its facilities. After a period of not less than twelve months, Conditional Societies may be considered for Recognised Society status. Conditional Societies whose main aims are political, religious, charitable or sporting shall be categorised accordingly.”

Replace with the following:

“Conditional Societies shall be Proposed Societies that have been approved by the Student Activities Committee. After a period of not less than twelve months, Conditional Societies may be considered for Recognised Society status. Conditional Societies whose main aims are political, religious, charitable or sporting shall be categorised accordingly.”

Remove the following (Rule 8, Clause 2.1.8):

“The Student Activities Committee shall not recommend for approval to Council any Society that shares similar aims and objectives with a current Conditional or Recognised Society.”

“The Student Activities Committee shall not approve any Society that shares similar aims and objectives with a current Conditional or Recognised Society.”

Proposer: Paul Loughran (Vice President Student Activities)
Secunder: Seán Fearon (Union President)

8. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following Reports were considered by the Council:

Report of the Union President	SUC/P/15/46
Report of the Vice President Education	SUC/P/15/47

Report of the Vice President Equality and Diversity	SUC/P/15/48
Report of the Vice President Student Activities	SUC/P/15/49
Report of the Vice President Welfare	SUC/P/15/50
Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer	SUC/P/15/51
Part-Time Students' Officer	SUC/P/15/52
Postgraduate Taught Officer	SUC/P/15/53

- 8.1 The Report of the Union President was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Union President (SUC/P/16/46) was accepted.
- 8.2 The Report of the Vice President Education was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice Education (SUC/P/16/47) was accepted.
- 8.3 The 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/16/48) was accepted.
- 8.4 The Report of the Vice President Student Activities was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Vice President Student Activities (SUC/P/16/49) was accepted.
- 8.5 The 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/16/50) was accepted.
- 8.6 The Report of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Students' Officer (SUC/P/16/51) was accepted.
- 8.7 The Report of the Part-Time Students' Officer was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Part-Time Students' Officer (SUC/P/16/52) was accepted.
- 8.8 The Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer was taken as read.
- Following a show of voting cards, the Report of the Postgraduate Taught Officer (SUC/P/16/53) was accepted.
9. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.
- There were none.
10. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES.
- There were none.
11. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS.
- There were none.

12. QUESTIONS.

To the Vice President Equality and Diversity:

- 12.1 Could the VP Equality & Diversity update the Council on any progress on gender-neutral bathroom facilities across campus, and tell us whether there are any plans to implement them in the Speakeasy or McClay Library?

Proposer: Ashley Jones (Open First Year)
 Seconder: Anthony Flynn (EPS)

The Vice President Equality & Diversity stated that:

- There are four areas of campus where there have been developments; single occupancy toilets in the new School of Law building, the Peter Froggatt Centre and the Administration Building are scheduled to have gender denominative signage removed prior to the Christmas vacation period.
- In conjunction with Estates, a review will take place of other buildings to identify other restrooms that can be easily be adapted as gender neutral.
- Quotations are currently being sought to undertake renovation work on the toilets in the Speakeasy bar.
- The scheduled redevelopment of the David Bates Building to incorporate an expanded McClay Library will hopefully include accommodation for gender neutral toilets and a quote room facility.
- The issue of locked accessible bathrooms in the Speakeasy is under review.

The proposer waived their right to a supplementary question.

13. MOTIONS.

13.1 **Student-Staff Alliance**

This Council notes the major campaign victories achieved recently by students and staff campaigning together on the issues of course closures and other measures of marketisation. This Council believes that the interests of students and staff are invariably aligned, and that a University workforce which is healthy, respected, afforded academic freedom, adequately paid and empowered to have an input in the institutional direction of Queen's University, will provide the highest quality education and student experience to our members. This Council also believes that the rights of students and the student experience will be best protected and enhanced when Queen's Students' Union is supported by staff members at Queen's University and their trade union representatives. Many University staff are also students, and we therefore have a duty to campaign in the interests of our members. This Council, therefore, supports that Queen's Students' Union will enter into a campaign alliance with trade unions representing University staff, and with the wider trade union movement, in order to:

- Campaign for a democratic, public university
- Oppose any increases in tuition fees
- Oppose marketisation of higher education
- Promote trade union membership
- Build links to ensure greater protections of student workers

Proposer: Seán Fearon (Union President)
 Seconder: Paul Loughran (Vice President Student Activities)

The motion was debated and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

13.2 **Student-staff Alliance Referendum**

This Council calls for an all-student referendum to be held on the following proposal:
 “Queen’s Students’ Union should enter into a campaign alliance with trade unions representing Queen’s University staff and the wider trade union movement in order to:

- Campaign for a democratic, public university
- Oppose any increases in tuition fees
- Oppose marketisation of higher education
- Promote trade union membership
- Build links to ensure greater protections of student workers

Do you agree?”

Proposer: Seán Fearon (Union President)
 Seconder: Paul Loughran (Vice President Student Activities)

The motion was debated and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

13.3 Opposition to the Higher Education & Research Bill and TEF 2

This Council notes that huge changes are being forced through in Higher Education in the UK, namely through the HE and Research Bill being put through Parliament currently. These changes will especially manifest themselves through the revised Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF 2). Council further notes that the drive behind these changes is in order to rapidly increase competition in HE and to ultimately open up the sector to widespread private influence and ownership. Council believes that the new TEF metrics, based on Olympic medal style ratings, will not improve teaching, but will instead damage the very fabric of academic freedom and innovation in pedagogy. Council is concerned that, despite such huge changes, the Stormont Executive seems indifferent to the Conservative Government’s agenda of marketization of our Universities. Council believes that such moves will damage not only QUB, but the third-level sector as a whole in this region. Council therefore calls upon Queen’s University Belfast to make strong representations to the Department of the Economy against the inclusion of local Universities in the new TEF regime. Council further instructs the President and VP Education to lobby both Government and the University to act in the best interests of Higher Education here by steering a new path for our Universities, rather than fall into the marketization trap laid by the UK Government agenda.

Proposer: Oisín Hassan (Vice President Education)
 Seconder: Seán Fearon (Union President)

The motion was debated and, following a show of voting cards, the motion was carried.

14. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

There was none.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Ms McAllister announced that the next Statutory Meeting of the Students’ Union Council would take place at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 2 February 2017 in The Space, Level 1, Students’ Union.

KATE NICHOLL (Deputy Clerk, Students’ Union Council)