

SUC/M/25/5

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

Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council
held on 23 October 2025, in The Cube, One Elmwood.

Present:

Abisha Rufina	Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS))
Adhamh Sterio	Student Associations (Irish Language Students' Association Chairperson)
Aditi Singh	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Postgraduate))
Amy Smith	Student Officer (Students' Union President)
Annuj Nadarajah	Undergraduate School Representative (School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (SCHEM))
Arran Ashfield	Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative (Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS))
Callum Smith	Postgraduate Research School Rep (School of EE Engineering & Computer Science (SEECs))
Cameron Worbey	Student Associations (Disabled Students' Association Chairperson)
Chloe Beattie	Student Associations (Trans Students' Association Chairperson)
Claudia Liu	Student Associations (International Students' Association Chairperson)
David Bingham	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Eli McBriarty	Student Officer (Student Officer Undergraduate Education)
Eliza Monaghan	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Emile Dowling	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Emma Edgar	Postgraduate Taught School Rep (School of Law (SLAW))
Emma Yeaman	Students' Union Council (Sporting Clubs Representative)
Eoghan Fitzpatrick-Harkin	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Erin Barnes	Student Associations (Student Parents' and Carers' Students' Association Chairperson)
Ewan McClelland	Student Associations (LGBT+ Students' Association Chairperson)
Georgia Miles	Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS))
Holly Dougan	Student Associations (Women Students' Association Chairperson)
Jack Lydon	Student Officer (Student Officer Welfare and Community)
Jay Basra	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Jodi Williamson	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Kenji Nagano	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Kwame Le Blanc	Postgraduate Taught School Rep (School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences (SMED))
Lee Walker	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Luke Teggart	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate))
Maithín O'Hagan	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Mál Farrell	Student Associations (Mature and Part-Time Students' Association Chairperson)
Matthew McCallion	Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative (Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS))
Megha Elsa Thomas	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Mórrigan McEvoy	Student Officer (Student Officer Accessible Education)
Muhammad Abdul Rehman	Student Associations (Ethnically Diverse Students' Association Chairperson)
Muskan Gujrati	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Postgraduate))
Nadine Curtis	Student Officer (Student Officer Postgraduate Education)
Nesochi Okezie-Enyioma	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)
Oliver Boyce	Postgraduate Taught Faculty Representative (Engineering and Physical Sciences (EPS))
Peter Campbell	Students' Union Council (Sporting Clubs Representative)
Róisín Costelloe	Student Officer (Student Officer Activities and Engagement)
Sajid Khan	Students' Union Council (Student Councillor (Undergraduate, Union Speaker))
Shauna Murray	Postgraduate Research School Rep (School of Pharmacy (SPMY))
Zachary Savage	Students' Union Council (Student Societies Representative)

In Attendance:

DAMIEN CORRIDAN (CLERK OF COUNCIL)
BARRY CRUICKSHANK (STUDENT ENGAGEMENT CO-ORDINATOR)
ANNA LEAHY (STUDENT PARTNERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR)
EMMA GOREY (STUDENT VOICE ASSISTANT)
EOIN KELLHER (STUDENT VOICE ASSISTANT)

The Speaker of Council welcomed all attendees to the First Statutory Meeting of the 2025-26 session of the Students' Union Council.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received for the following Councillors:

Beth Elder	Student Associations (Environmental Action Students' Association Chairperson)
Anna Hutchinson	Students' Union Council (Sporting Clubs Representative)
Arshad Shanavas	Postgraduate Taught School Rep (School of Arts, English and Languages (SAEL))
Sreekutty Sathesesan	Postgraduate Taught School Rep (School of Chemistry & Chemical Engineering (SCHEM))
Sophie Rusk	Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative (Medicine, Health and Life Sciences (MHLS))
Thomas King	Undergraduate School Representative (School of Law (SLAW))
Liam Magill	Postgraduate Research School Rep (School of Natural and Built Environment (SNBE))

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting (Annual Business Meeting) of 6 May 2025 SUC/M/25/5

It was agreed that the minutes of the Statutory Meeting (Annual Business Meeting) of 6 May 2025 (SUC/M/25/5) were a true and accurate record of proceedings.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3.1 Policy Updates

There were none.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

4.1 Condolences

There were none.

4.2 Introduction to QSU and Student Council

The Clerk of Council gave an introduction to QSU, Student Council and the procedures for Student Councillors.

The Clerk of Council gave a presentation on the overview of the procedures for the Student Council and encouraged members of Council to contact the Student Voice Team with any queries.

Councillors were advised that they are required to send apologies to the Deputy Clerk of Council if they are unable to attend a meeting of Council. It was noted that any member of Council who misses two consecutive meetings of Council shall have been deemed to have resigned their seat.

4.3 Introduction to Student Officers and SU Councillors

Amy Smith, the Student Union President introduced Councillors to the newly elected members of Student Council and confirm the updated Students' Union Officer roles for the 2025-26 term:

A Smith	Students' Union President
R Costelloe	Student Officer Activities and Engagement
M McEvoy	Student Officer Accessible Education
N Curtis	Student Officer Postgraduate Education
E McBriarty	Student Officer Undergraduate Education
J Lydon	Student Officer Welfare & Community

The Union President stated that the Full-Time Student Officers are looking forward to working closely with the newly elected Council members as they begin their roles and start representing the student body in the year ahead.

4.4 SU Voice Updates

The Clerk of Council updated that 51 councillors have been elected to Student Council for the current year. Although the total number of seats filled is 60, this is due to several councillors representing multiple constituencies. The current membership therefore stands at 51. It was also noted that this sits alongside the ongoing review of Council, which aims to strengthen structures and the overall student representation framework.

The Clerk highlighted that the Students' Union is introducing a refreshed approach to Council this year, designed to make it more impactful, prestigious, and meaningful for Councillors, with a focus on four key priorities:

- Quality of experience
- Visibility
- Recognition
- Value

Key updates and proposed developments were outlined as follows:

- An informal Council Social will take place immediately after Meeting One, featuring cakes, wine, and cheese, giving councillors an opportunity to meet, network and introduce the start of the new Council year.
- A revised meeting structure will be introduced, featuring four meetings per year (two per semester), with a focus on themed discussions, high-quality agendas, and enhanced opportunities for collaboration.
- Improved meeting times: Semester 1 meetings will run from 4:00–6:00 p.m. to better accommodate councillor schedules. Meeting times for Semester 2 will be confirmed following feedback from the initial meetings.
- A suite of welcome and onboarding enhancements will be introduced, including:
 - Branded welcome packs
 - A personalised welcome from the SU President
 - A formal Council group photo
 - Dedicated seating for each councillor, with a name and role place card to create a formal atmosphere, using a horseshoe format
 - A Council pin to support identity and recognition
 - A dedicated online space exclusively for councillors to support communication and collaboration

To further support engagement and community-building, the SU will also events to recognise councillor contributions, accompanied by personalised thank-you letters from the SU President.

5. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS/RULE AMENDMENTS

There were none.

6. BUSINESS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 Appointment of Returning Officer for the Student Officer Elections 2025-26

The Council approved the proposal by the Director of the Students' Union to appoint Peter Robinson (NUS Charity Director) as Returning Officer for the 2025-26 Student Officer elections.

6.2 Student Officer Plan of Work 2025-26

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The Elected Student Officer team presented an overview of their Student Officer Plan of Work 2025-26 to Council.

To be considered at the Monday 17 November Statutory Meeting of Council.

7. BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update

There were none.

7.2 QUB Academic / Support Services Issues – Update

There were none.

7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

There were none.

7.4 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Update

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

7.5 Union President Updates

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

8. BYE-ELECTIONS

There were none.

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 The Clerk noted that the following election was scheduled to take place at this meeting of the Students' Union Council:

Non-Sabbatical Officer of the Students' Union (without voting rights)

Union Speaker

1 vacancy

It was noted that the Union Speaker serves as the Chairperson of the Students' Union Council.

Candidates were each permitted one minute to address Council before voting commenced. Councillors were reminded that they could also vote for Re-open Nominations (RON).

Nominations closed during the meeting and voting then took place for the position of Union Speaker. The successful candidate would assume the role of Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting.

David Bingham, Callum Smith and Sajid Khan were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined were elected.

In accordance with convention, Council agreed that David Bingham and Callum Smith were appointed Deputy Speaker and Second Deputy Speaker respectively.

- 9.2 The Clerk of Council informed members that, for all other elections, online nominations opened at the meeting. It was noted that nominations, including the submission of manifesto information, would close on Monday 27 October at 8:00 a.m. Voting was scheduled to take place on Monday 27 October from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., with election counts to be conducted on Tuesday 28 October 2025. Results would be published upon completion of the counts.

Council noted that Students' Union representatives were required for the following Students' Union Committees, in line with Rule 5 of the Constitutional Rules. Councillors were invited to self-nominate for:

Students' Union Management Board	5 vacancies
Standing Committee	8 vacancies
Proposal Support Committee	8 vacancies
Clubs and Societies Committee	8 vacancies

Council also noted that representatives were required for the following University Committees, and Councillors were invited by the Union Speaker to self-nominate for:

University Senate	1 vacancy (two-year term)
University Senate (Bye-Election)	1 vacancy (one-year term)
Academic Council	1 vacancy (one-year term)

The following Committees of Council have automatic (ex-officio) memberships and do not require elections:

- Undergraduate Academic Representative Committee
- Postgraduate Taught Academic Representative Committee
- Postgraduate Research Academic Representative Committee
- Student Associations Committee

- 9.3 Students' Union Management Board (5 vacancies)

Arshad Shanavas, Arran Ashfield, Anna Hutchinson, Callum Smith, Luke Teggart, David Bingham and Abisha Rufina were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

- 9.4 Standing Committee (8 vacancies)

Abisha Rufina, Jay Basra, Jack Lydon, Matthew McCallion, Arshad Shanavas, Zachary Savage, Nadine Curtis and Luke Teggart were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

- 9.5 Proposal Support Committee (8 vacancies)

Muhammad Abdul Rehman, Kwame Le Blanc, Nadine Curtis, Jay Basra, Sajid Khan and Jack Lydon were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.6 Clubs and Societies Committee (8 Vacancies)

Eliza Monaghan, Kenji Nagano, Megha Elsa Thomas, Zachary Savage, Eoghan Fitzpatrick-Harkin, Aditi Singh, Arshad Shanavas, Ewan McClelland, David Bingham, Jack Lydon, Matthew McCallion, Arran Ashfield, Liam Magill and Anna Hutchinson were duly proposed.

The candidates whose names are underlined were elected.

9.7 University Senate (1 vacancy – two-year term)

Callum Smith, Luke Teggart, Róisín Costelloe, Jack Lydon, Nadine Curtis, Arran Ashfield, Adhamh Sterio, Claudia Liu and Liam Magill were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected.

9.8 University Senate [Bye-Election] (1 vacancy one-year term)

Jack Lydon, Abisha Rufina, Róisín Costelloe, Claudia Liu, Luke Teggart, Kwame Le Blanc, Sophie Rusk, Callum Smith, Ewan McClelland, Nadine Curtis and Maithín O'Hagan were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected.

9.9 Academic Council (1 vacancy)

Abisha Rufina, Sophie Rusk, Callum Smith, Kwame LeBlanc, Claudia Liu and Mál Farrell were duly proposed.

The candidate whose name is underlined was elected.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 **A Welcome Inclusive Union Bar**

Council Notes:

1. The Union Bar is a social space for students and should not display symbols that cause others to feel unwelcome.
2. There is a mural on the wall of The Union Bar which displays decorative symbols and references that are deliberately provocative to those of the Christian faith, such as a "666" and other symbols.
3. There are many Christian students who would be opposed to the presence of such imagery when attending The Union Bar which may make them feel unwelcome. Images that are not needed in such an environment.

Council Believes:

The Students' Union building and its facilities should be an inclusive space for all students regardless of background and faith.

Council Directs:

The Executive Management Committee to seek the removal of such imagery from The Union Bar.

Proposer: David Bingham (Councillor – Undergraduate)

Seconder: Jay Basra (Councillor – Undergraduate)

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

11. REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT BOARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 Report of the Management Board

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.2 Report of the Union President (Oct 2025) SUC/P/25/48

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.3 Report of the Student Officer Activities and Engagement (Oct 2025) SUC/P/25/49

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.4 Report of the Student Officer Accessible Education (Oct 2025) SUC/P/25/50

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.5 Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (Oct 2024) SUC/P/25/51

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.6 Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (Oct 2025) SUC/P/25/52

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

12.7 Report of the Student Officer Welfare and Community (Oct 2025) SUC/P/25/53

This item was deferred to the next meeting of Council on Monday 17 November.

13. REPORTS FROM OTHER UNION COMMITTEES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There were none.

14. REPORTS FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

There were none.

15. CONSTITUTIONAL QUESTIONS

There were none.

16. QUESTIONS (TO ELECTED STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES)

There were none.

17. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

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

The Second Meeting of the Students' Union Council 2025-26 will take place on 17 November 2025, In the Cube, in the Students' Union Building.