

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Sajid Khan

Period: September

Introduction: As Campaigns and Engagement Student Officer, my role is divided between assisting the development of Union campaign strategies and coordinating student development in Clubs and Societies, Volunteering, Enterprise and RAG. As all officers do, I represent and advocate for students in their academic life.

Activity	Description
Battle of the Bands	This has been an ongoing project across the summer, and one that was promised in my manifesto. The objective being to showcase and promote the wealth of talent we have in Queen's and to fully utilise the great facilities we have in the building. SU Marketing Staff and I met with the bar manager to discuss ideas, as they would have lots of experience running similar events such as "Levels", they gave us lots of advice on recruitment, timing, stage management and promotion. I reached out to the "Oh Yeah!" Centre, who put us in touch with a production company who could facilitate the prize – a studio session with production, mixing and mastering. Promotion will begin early October, with some early promo being spotlighted in the Sound of Belfast.
Conduct Appeals	Sat on the panels of 2 conduct appeals
Media Training	SO Equality and Diversity, SO Postgraduate Education, SO Undergraduate Education and I went to do media training. This was a half day session in which we were trained on how to conduct ourselves in an interview for both on screen and Radio. It was a very productive session; all the new officers were very professional and knew how to maintain focus on the issues they came to present.
Strategic Campaigning Programme	This is a continuation of work; it has been renamed from Activist Training to Strategic Campaigning Programme to better reflect nature and breadth of the work we intend to cover in the programme. With emphasis being placed on messaging, lobbying and strategic targeting and thinking. This name may also provide more usefulness to students who are seeking careers in this pathway, as this name better reflects the job market.

<p>Induction Talks /Welcome Day</p>	<p>Welcome Day on Monday 16th is a pilot project following on from last years discussions with the University on the lack of a centralised welcome, and the inequity of experience across the different schools. The original aim was to have all schools centralise elements of their welcome, to create a stronger sense of university identity and help to build belonging and community across schools – something we’ve identified that students want through various surveys and focus groups. This pilot was successful, though did have some logistical issues that can be worked on for the full roll out. The 5 pilot schools brought their students to the Mandela Hall to receive a talk from the PVC education Judy Williams and from the SO President, with prizes randomly distributed and merch for all students, followed by tours of the University services and the SU building.</p> <p>Aside from this welcome day we continued on with our standard induction presentations in all 1st year UG and PG courses.</p>
<p>Freshers Fair</p>	<p>SOs attended all 3 days of the Freshers Fair. I spent the first day primarily promoting the RAG Y2K night, and the following 2 days recruiting reps. This was the most successful Freshers to date, with aprox. 14k people in the building each day, whereas in previous years we would expect that across the 3 days. Great atmosphere, great vibes, great freebies</p>
<p>Freshers Events</p>	<p>Compared to previous years we have sought to scale back on the number of events planned for the Freshers period and focus on making our core events work to the best they can. This made the planning period across the Summer much less taxing, particularly for new officers and allowed us to tinker and work on the existing programme. The line up this year was the Big Brunch, RAG Y2K (replacing the pub crawl from previous years) and the Big Night In (will take place on October 8th) and the creative night, which has been pushed to coincide with Halloween week for theming purposes.</p> <p>Overall, this approach made this Freshers operate a lot more seamlessly and allowed us to work within our capacity rather than stretching our resources.</p>