

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
PESCHA – Pan European Student Co-operative Housing Association	<p>SO Welfare, NUS-USI President and I, went on a trip to Geneva, alongside 2 other student housing co-operatives on the Island. This was a conference held to get co-operatives across Europe together to discuss best practice, common challenges and how best to continue promoting the co-operative movement. We spent the first day exploring the experienced and mature housing co-operatives of Geneva, and learning about the history of how they emerged so prominently in the region. The second day we attended presentations from German, Hungarian, French, Italian and UK co-operatives, to see how the models vary and differ in their respective contexts. The day was finished up with workshops, our group attended the ones discussing starting up and finances as these are our biggest challenges now.</p> <p>A key takeaway from the event is around building for scalability. Many of the Co-operatives had flat governance structures and whilst this can work fairly well and avoids complexity and formality – it does ultimately bottle neck growth, as without structures it can be difficult to self-manage beyond 100 people. Building in governance structures and key principles of participation early can avoid these growth traps and provide the framework for managing interpersonal conflict.</p>
Pathway to Sanctuary Operational Group	<p>This is a group made of the Civic Engagement and Social responsibility team, QUB SARs leads (Scholars At Risk) and the Student's Union. The current priority is to co-ordinate the efforts to support the application to become a University of Sanctuary.</p>

	<p>Updates were brought on the progress and compilation of evidence from around the institution. I brought updates on the promotion of Student Action for Refugees, a key component of the application and which needs students to reengage in the society (if you are reading this and would like to be a part, please get in contact). After the meeting I supplied the team with a History of STAR campaigns, to help the application in the meantime.</p> <p>The current draft of the application is due to submitted early Nov for first consideration and feedback.</p>
Club and Society Advocacy	Met with several Clubs and Societies committees to discuss issues they had brought forward. I progressed issues and took actions where possible to escalate concerns.
Annual Fund Application	I have submitted an application for the C&S digital displays as outlined in manifesto. This will be used for the exclusive promotion of C&S in the Union building – aiming to capture the spirit of a noticeboard and allow C&S to develop their unique brand in a physical advertising space. I reached out to suppliers to get quotes and made my application as robust as possible, with input from the SU C&S and Marketing team, so fingers crossed, we receive full funding for this project and get set up for second semester.
NIPSO	The Officer team met with the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman team. They deal with complaints of maladministration within public services, including Higher Education Institutions. They outlined the sorts of cases they deal with, the extent of their powers and the incoming changes to standard practice that will affect QUB. I asked questions on whether any consumer rights challenges have been made against HEIs, as has been done in the UK with their counterpart the OIA and Office of Students. There has yet to be any, and I can foresee this being a future area SUs will need to turn their attention too as arguments around Fees escalate. It is a fundamental principle of commercial education that simply has been ignored and I believe has the potential to bring down the whole house of cards – for good and for bad.
Wheelchair Sports	Organised by the SU clubs development officer to promote the need for accessible sports, we had the Wheelchair Sports Association in the PEC once a week for the next month and a half to teach attendees how to play and navigate in wheelchairs. It was deadly craic and everyone should come along.
Homework Clubs	Volunteered to assist with the first training session for homework clubs.
Comhairle Naisunta / EVASYS	SO Education, SO E&D and I, went down to Dublin to attend the EVASYS conference to discuss best practice around student

	<p>engagement. We were also there to support SO President as they gave a presentation on Staff-Student Partnership with the PVC for Education and led a fishbowl discussion on engagement. The conference was really useful in terms of seeing how other places have tackled student engagement, and systematised best practice in the sector when it comes to partnership. The key takeaway is that students require a stake and ownership in projects, something we in the SU sector were very aware of. We also attended USI national council.</p>
--	---