

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT COUNCIL
Minutes of meeting held on 2nd November 2016 in Coleraine.

PRESENT STUDENT COUNCILLORS:- Diarmaid Dixon, Shannon Maher, David O'Hale, Ariyan Saadat, Lisa McKenna, Victoria Lutton, Rebekah McBride, Richard McIlwaine, Katie Murray, Oliver McKee, Deborah Ferry, Megan McDonagh, Nicole Kelly, Stuart Canning, Peter Higgins, Sheila MacAuley, Danielle Roberts, Stephen Ruddy, William Smith, Simana Ale, Tihana Vlasisavjevic, Fiona Nicholson, Robert Millar, Brendan Clarke, Charlotte Lau, Chloe Glibson, Stephanie Bruce, Matthew Bell, Carol Rhonda Burns, Mark Francos, Kelly Thompson, Benedict Dadebo, Eoghan Breen, Richard Bullick, Samuel Holmes, Gary Spedding, Jennifer Ofodile, Ross Magee

PRESENT STUDENT OFFICERS:- Colum Mackey (President), Hannah Rooney (Vice-President Academic Student Affairs Jordanstown), Conan Meehan (Vice-President Academic Student Affairs Belfast) and Kevin McStravock (Vice-President Academic Student Affairs Coleraine)

IN ATTENDANCE:- Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager), Emmett Mullally (General Manager) and Stuart Cannell (Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator)

APPOLGIES:- Aaron Goldring, Elliot Lyness, Shanon Woulahan, Robert Banham, Emma Bonner, Aaron Spiers, Nicole Clinton, Jack Morgan, Anne Sheridan, Xiaoshi Guo, James White, Meghan Downey, Rebecca Starkey, Claire Brammeld, Eoin Woods, Brian Doherty, Tom Logue, Eimear Blaney, Jay Burbank, Karolina Seivyte, Odhran Ruilseil, Ben Johnson (Vice-President Academic Student Affairs Magee), Micky Quigg (Vice-President Campaigns and Communications) and James O'Mullan (Sports President)

1. STUDENT UNION ACCOUNTS

The Student Engagement Manager gave a general introduction to Student Council and gave a general overview of the amendment process. This was provided to the Student Councillors on the back of their voting cards.

The General Manager gave a summary of the Student Union accounts from the previous financial year. Further detail was given in relation to the Trustee Board and the General Manager acknowledged that the Trustee Board has already approved the accounts. Further information was given that the Students' Union uses an independent auditor to audit the accounts.

It was stated that the majority of the money that the Students' Union receive comes from the University through a block grant. Second to this was the income generated from commercial services. It was further stated how each commercial activity works on each campus and that there has been a decline over the past several years with certain facilities closing, such as the Student Union Shop on the Jordanstown Campus.

The income from Freshers Fayre was around £21,000, which was equally split between the Students' Union and the Sports Union.

Further information was given in relation to the current pension deficit which is a large draw on the Students' Union finances. It was acknowledged that the Students' Union has no power or control over this deficit, however, is responsible for paying the ongoing costs.

The General Manager outlined that all finances that goes through the Sports Union is ring-fenced and can not be used for Student Union activities.

The Students' Union recently conducted market research, in which 2,600 students completed. This was conducted through an independent agency, Red Brick Research, and cost £10,000.

The overall surplus this financial year was £40,868, which was an increase in which the previous year the Students' Union had a deficit of £47,292. This was primarily to do with three staff being made redundant.

The current reserves that the Student Union have is £131,716.

2. MINUTES

The President welcomed all Student Councillors to the first meeting of this current academic year. Further to this the President informed Student Council that he will be acting as an interim Chairperson for the first meeting and that an election will take place later in the meeting to establish who the Chair and Deputy Chair will be for the rest of the academic year.

The President gave a brief description of the minutes from the previous meeting and informed Student Council that all minutes will be uploaded onto the Students' Union website for inspection.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There are no matters arising.

The President stated for the sake of transparency that he will give an update on all policies passed in the last academic year at the next Student Council meeting.

ACTION: The President will update Student Councillors on all policies passed in the previous academic year during the next Student Council meeting on Tuesday 29th November.

4. PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

The President stated that he will gave a general overview of what the Students' Union has been doing within Student Officer Reports. It was further stated that elections for national conference for USI, NUS and NUS-USI will be open in the coming weeks and that we will email all Student Councillors further details as they arise.

ACTION: For the Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator to email all Student Councillors information in relation to the upcoming elections for national conferences.

5. CO-OPT MEMBERS

There were no members to be op-opted at this time.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR

The President gave a summary of the duties that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will face, and also informed Student Council that the Chair will be invited to attend all Student Executive meetings within the Students' Union.

It was noted that the election of these posts would be conducted later in the meeting and if Student Councillors who are interested could nominate themselves and let it be known to the Student Engagement Manager.

7. ELECTION OF GREEN SUB-COMMITTEE, GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AND SENATE

The President gave a summary of what the goals of the Green Sub-Committee are and that the Students' Union is looking for several students to be part of this committee to provide oversight in environmental issues for the Students' Union and Student Council.

The President gave a summary of what the goals of the Governance Oversight Committee will be and that it will assist in provide oversight for the Students' Union in ensuring that the governance arrangements are as effective and efficient as possible.

The President gave a summary of what the purpose of Senate is and that it is the highest committee within the University that deals with academic issues. There is a position for one Student Councillor to also sit on Senate to ensure transparency within the discussions and also relay information back to Student Council.

It was noted that the election of these posts would be conducted later in the meeting and if Student Councillors who are interested could nominate themselves and let it be known to the Student Engagement Manager.

8. SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

Airsoft Society (Magee)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and what their aims and objectives are. Primarily, this would bring students together who have an interest in airsoft.

Danielle Roberts challenged if this was potentially a sport and it could potentially receive funding from the Sports' Union. The Student Engagement Manager explained that this society is not planning to compete professionally. This was a key distinction that is made when a society could possibly be seen as a sport.

Oliver McKee questioned why there was no specified budget written on the cover sheet of the paper. The Student Engagement Manager explained that this was as they hadn't asked for money yet, which is normal for a new society. The Students' Union would work with a new society in understanding how much they could apply for and where this would be best spent.

The motion to affiliate the Airsoft Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Debating Society (Magee)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and what their aims and objectives are. It was noted that they would bring together students on a weekly basis on that it will be work alongside other societies and their counterparts at Queen University.

A Student Councillor questioned what the exact breakdown of the £160 would be spent on.

Katy Murray further questioned why there was an additional £10 in the budget as a society is capped at receiving £150 per semester.

The Student Engagement Manger explained to Student Council that this was a preliminary budget submitted before working with the Students' Union, so the specifics on what the money would be spent on would be likely to change. Further to this it was stated that societies are capped at £150 per semester and that although they have asked for £160, they would receive £150 unless agreed by Student Executive.

The motion to affiliate the Debating Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

ACTION: For all future Student Council meetings, when society papers are presented for consideration there will be a full financial breakdown on what the society has asked for.

Design and Creative Arts Society (Magee)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives. This was coming to Student Council due to a name change and was already previously established.

The motion to affiliate the Design and Creative Arts Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Law Society (Magee)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives. This was coming to Student Council due amalgamated with another society and was previously established.

The motion to affiliate the Law Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Stratified Medicine Society (Magee)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives.

The motion to affiliate the Stratified Medicine Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

BLW Society (Coleraine)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and that it was a faith based group. There are currently a number of BLW societies developing with universities with two very successful societies in the Republic of Ireland.

Matthew Bell stated that this should not be affiliated as this group is linked to a Christian church and so by approving this society would conflict with the entire purpose of the establishment and affiliation with the Christian Union. It was stated that the Christian Union is active and successful because it celebrates diversity amongst different denominations and different approaches to Christian theologies. Furthermore, there is also criticism that the leader of the parent movement claims to be able to heal HIV/AIDS through faith. This claim resulted in one woman refraining from taking medication and subsequently dying. This received support from another Student Councillor.

Gary Spedding stated that the BLW movement have many links to dangerous organisations that Student Council should investigate before that it is affiliated.

A Student Councillor asked if this could be amalgamated with the Christian Union or exist within the Christian Union. Matthew Bell, a representative of Christian Union and a Student Councillor, stated that the Christian Union is a non-denominational body. Having the BLW Society affiliated would clearly distinguish this group and create segregation within the overall Christian faith.

Carol Rhonda Burns stated that having a denominational group of Christian faith should not stop a group coming forward in being created and affiliated as a society within the Students' Union.

A Student Councillor asked why religious societies are allowed to be funded through the Students' Union. The President and Student Engagement Manager confirmed that they receive funding like any other society and we do not prevent this from happening.

The President put forward a procedural motion to defer this vote to the next Student Council meeting and to invite the Chairperson of BLW to discuss their aims and objectives with Student Council. This vote was clearly passed.

ACTION: To invite the Chairperson of the BLW Society to the next Student Council meeting.

English and Poetry Society (Coleraine)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives. This was coming to Student Council due to a name change and was already previously established. Additionally, it has a new Poetry Sub-Committee.

The motion to affiliate the English and Poetry Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Geography and Environmental Society (Coleraine)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives. This was coming to Student Council due to a name change and was already previously established. This was confirmed as the Chairperson of the society was also present.

The motion to affiliate the Geography and Environmental Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Socialist Society (Coleraine)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a brief summary of the society and outlined their aims and objectives. It was stated that although they have asked for £10 within the budget, as they are a political society they can not receive any money from the Students' Union.

Several Student Councillors stated that the wording of the aims and objectives did not make a huge amount of sense and felt they were not in line with what a Socialist Society would be stating. Furthermore, it was stated that the references to LGBT appeared that it was directly referenced as a Socialist issue rather than a wider equality issue.

Oliver McKee put forward the procedural motion that this should be deferred to the next Student Council meeting as a representative of the Socialist Society was not present. This vote clearly passed.

ACTION: To invite the Chairperson of the Socialist Society to present at the following Student Council meeting to explain the aims and objectives.

Occupational Therapy Society (Jordanstown)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives.

The motion to affiliate the Occupational Therapy Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

Ulster University Snow Sports (Jordanstown)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives. It was noted, as previously mentioned, that this is not a sports club as they are not competing in any professional competitions.

Mark Francos asked what the aims and objectives of the society really are and if they are aspiring to be like the Newcastle Snow Sports Society. Gary Spedding gave Student Council a summary of what he has experienced whilst being a student at Northumbria University in relation to Newcastle Snow Sports Society. There was a general concern that if this society was

created, and was in line with Newcastle Snow Sport Society, that it would bring the University and the Students' Union into disrepute.

A number of other Student Councillors stated that we should not base what this society will do with Ulster University on the basis of a completely different group.

Lisa McKenna asked why they have asked for £400, however, the Student Engagement Manager stated that is what they asked for before speaking to the Students' Union. All requested budgets are subject to our internal procedures and processes and will need to be signed off by Student Executive before being approved.

A Student Councillor asked why there are only two committee members. The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) informed Student Council that there is a third committee member in the works, however, this has not been formally presented to the Students' Union.

The Student Engagement Manager informed Student Council that they are very eager to get set up as a formal society and start promoting themselves to students on all four campuses.

Carol Rhonda Burns asked who will monitor the change if this society will eventually become a sports club. The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) stated that the Students' Union will have an on-going monitoring process through formal and informal means. This will include working with our Societies Development Coordinators.

Ross Magee asked if they were to go on a trip as an affiliated society what would happen in regards to insurance and reputation. The Student Engagement Manager stated that if any society were to be affiliated they would have to complete our required risk assessment prior to booking and attending any event. This includes smaller events as well as field trips.

A general discussion was had if Student Council was concerned that there were only two formally appointed committee members, however, decided that there was enough evidence to suggest that a third committee member would be in place in good time.

The motion to affiliate the Ulster Snow Sports Club in its current form was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

UUSU Connected (Jordanstown)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives.

The motion to affiliate the UUSU Connected Society was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

The Disaster Club (Jordanstown)

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) gave a brief summary of the society and their aims and objectives, stating this was a

course based society for a new course within the Jordanstown Campus. Additionally, there was no constitution submitted.

A Student Councillor questioned why there wasn't 15 members signed up to the society and whether this is in breach with the Students' Union procedures to affiliate a society with less than 15 members.

The Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator confirmed that we advertise that we wish a society to have 15 members to show enough support, however, constitutionally we request 10 members for the society to be affiliated.

There was a general discussion around the need for a constitution and the fact that this society have not submitted one. Student Council came to the overall agreement that a constitution would need to be submitted to give Student Council a full picture of what the society will do.

The motion to defer the affiliation of The Disaster Club was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

ACTION: To work with The Disaster Club to help them develop their constitution, which will then be brought to the following Student Council meeting.

9. STUDENT EXECUTIVE REPORTS

The President gave a presentation to Student Council in relation to an overview of what the Students' Union has done to date this year.

It was stated during the Summer the Student Officers participated in Graduation and training from USI. Further to this, the team attended a Pride event within Belfast and marched with NUS-USI. The Students' Union also released guidance on how to rent effectively to students.

The President further stated that the Students' Union supported the launch of a sexual health clinic which is now being promoted through the University. This is the second time an initiative like this has happened. This assisted in bringing the services that the students may need onto campus and will run one day a week on the Coleraine and Jordanstown campus. The reason why this is not being organised on the Belfast and Magee Campus is that there are near by local sexual health clinics that students can attend if they so desire.

The President stated that he, along with other relevant stakeholders, recently attended the launch of an all-party student group at Stormont. The President asked if any Student Councillors wanted to raise an issue with this group to let their Student Officers know.

Additionally, the President recently attended a day event within the European Parliament buildings in relation to Brexit and how it might affect students going forwards.

Mark Francos asked if the University and the Students' Union have an official policy on Brexit. The President stated that there is currently no formal policy in relation to Brexit, however, a policy could be brought forward to solidify the Students' Union position if so desired.

There was further discussion around Fresher's Fayre on each campus and what new initiatives that the Students' Union have done. The creation of a dog/puppy room received a lot of support from Student Council, with some Student Councillors exclaiming for the sake of equality there should also be a cat/kitten room.

The President stated that the Students' Union have now trained the majority of Course Representatives across all four campuses with further support in place if they require any advice or guidance.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) has recently worked with Student Support to create an EDGE accredited programme in relation to mental health awareness. This included potentially attending PIPS suicide awareness training. This was welcomed by Student Council.

The President and Vice-President Campaigns and Communications meet with Conor Murphy and Stephen Aiken on two separate occasions to speak about Higher Education funding. Recently, Stormont have published a second draft programme of government. The President stated that he will keep Student Council informed on what the Students' Union is doing in relation to this going forwards.

Matthew Bell asked what the current stance on Higher Education fees is, especially as Brexit has recently occurred. The President stated that the Students' Union currently has a Free Education Policy in which it states that Higher Education should be state-funded and free at the point of delivery. Furthermore, the Students' Union will work to ensure that we get the best outcome for our students, whether Article 50 is triggered or not.

The President stated that Londonderry/Derry is applying for European Youth Capital of the year and that the Students' Union is supporting them in every possible way. If successful, this may bring additional funding and events to the city, which will ultimately benefit students on the Magee Campus.

The President introduced all present Student Officers and informed Student Councillors that all reports are uploaded to the website every two weeks and they are most welcome to read the reports and send any questions to them throughout the year or table a question within Student Council meetings.

Gary Spedding raised a query in relation to NUS-USI and Brexit and what the Students' Union stance is on this. The President informed Student Council that as there are no current policies we are working on the premise that we want the best deals for students in relation to research, tuition fees etc. Further to this we do not want a hard border with the Republic. Student Councillors are welcome to bring forward policy in relation to this. Gary Spedding asked if the President could write to the University to make it clear what their policy is or what they are doing since Brexit has occurred, particularly around Visa. The President informed Student Council that the Home Office are getting stricter in relation to Tier 4 visa. There is particular concern in relation to students from the EU who will be starting their studies, however, graduate once the United Kingdom has left Europe.

ACTION: For the President to write to the University to ask what their stance

in relation to the intake of European Students since Brexit and what measures are they taking to give them an equitable Student Experience.

Katy Murray asked about the Campus Nurse Policy in Coleraine and what progress has been made. The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) stated that more work needed to be done. Katy Murray further stated that not having an on campus nurse is not a viable option as it is extremely hard to be registered as a temporary student in any local surgery's around Coleraine. The President informed that if we were to have a surgery we would have to go through a tender process. This is something that is still being looked at, however, is still unresolved.

A Student Councillor stated that they have heard from fellow students, who are only at Ulster University for a short amount of time, that GP Surgery's do not see them. There are specific issues in relation to students from North America.

A Student Councillor asked about sexual health clinics, especially on the Magee Campus. The President stated that as there is a close-by sexual health clinic, the trust most likely will not support this. The Student Councillor stated that the main issue is awareness and more work needs to be done.

ACTION: For the President and/or Vice-President Campaigns and Communications to communicate to Student Council the outcomes of the Sexual Health Awareness Campaign on the Magee Campus.

Katy Murray asked about the Hidden Course Costs Policy and what the outcomes have been since it passed. This was due to a compulsory module not being properly advertised at the time of accepting the course that will cost each student at least £360. The President informed Student Council that when you sign up not to a course that all additional course costs have to be explicated stated on the website.

Gary Spedding asked if the Students' Union and the President would forward any documents to Student Council from NUS-USI in relation to Brexit.

ACTION: For the President to forward any future documents from NUS-USI to Student Council in relation to Brexit.

10. STUDENT OFFICER ELECTION DATES

The President informed Student Council of the scheduled Student Officer election dates and that it will co-inside with the Student Officer elections at Queens University Students' Union. This was due to a policy passed at NUS-USI.

11. APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

The President stated that Student Council will need to confirm who will act as the Returning Officer for the Student Officer elections within the second semester. It was noted that in recent history Keelin McGrogan, a representative from NUS-USI, has been the Returning Officer for Ulster University Students' Union.

It was then put to Student Council that Keelin McGrogan act as the Returning Officer for the coming Student Officer elections in March 2017.

Student Council clearly voted for Keelin McGrogan to be the returning officer.

12. LAPSE POLICY DOCUMENT

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) proposed that the Good Relations Policy stay active for another two years.

There was a general discussion that the policy needed further work and further amendments, with a general decision being made that Student Council should vote on keeping the policy active until the next Student Council meeting, in which the amended policy be brought forth.

Oliver McKee questioned to purpose of this policy and what has been done because of it. The President gave a summary of the outcomes that have been achieved due to this policy being created and remaining active, which includes the Good Relations Working Group in partnership with the University.

Having the Good Relations Policy extended until the following Student Council meeting was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) proposed that the Political Expression Framework Policy.

There was a general discussion that the policy needed further work and further amendments, with a general decision being made that Student Council should vote on keeping the policy active until the next Student Council meeting, in which the amended policy be brought forth.

Having the Political Expression Framework Policy extended until the following Student Council meeting was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

13. DRUG AWARENESS AND TESTING POLICY

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs gave a summary of the policy.

Deborah Ferry questioned the use of the drug testing kit and if these were being supplied for free.

Megan McDonagh questioned what the legal implications are for the Students' Union would be and what would happen if a student was to bring a drug onto campus. The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) ensured that drugs would not be brought onto campus and the drugs testing kits would be given to the students to take away. Although with the kit they would receive appropriate information from various charities.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) supported the policy and stated that it would be an overall benefit to students.

Mark Francos questioned if the Students' union would have the moral obligation to pass along the details of the student who would come and collect the drug testing kit.

Oliver McKee supported the policy and informed that within Northern Ireland there is statistically more drug addicts than anywhere else than the UK. The importance of the policy could not be overstated and the movement from moving from abstinence to save use is definitely the approach to take.

A Student Councillor further questioned what would happen if a student was to die from taking a drug after it had been cleared on the drug testing kit.

Carol Rhonda Burns was unsure that if this policy was passed would it appear as if the Students' Union was condoning the use of drugs. There was a further discussion around the language within the policy to ensure that it was transparent enough to ensure that the Students' Union did not condone the use of drugs.

Two amendments were presented to the Chair.

The first amendment was to add a sentence to ensure that the Students' Union would continue to promote the non-harm element to the Campaign.

This was accepted by the Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown).

The second amendment was to add that the Students' Union would follow the University's drugs policy in relation to a zero tolerance approach.

Danielle Roberts spoke against the amendment as it would completely counteract the spirit of the policy as it would further alienate students who are using drugs.

Brendan Clarke supported the policy, however, did not support the amendment.

The second amendment was put to Student Council, who clearly voted against absorbing this amendment into the policy.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Jordanstown) summarised the policy once more. It was further stated that within the policy the language is used to explicitly indicate that the Students' Union does not condone the use of drugs.

The amended Drugs Awareness and Testing Policy was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

14. ELECTIONS RESULTS

The Student Engagement Manager announced that all Student Councillors who put themselves forwards to sit on the Green Sub-Committee and Governance Sub-Committee elected.

The following Student Councillors were elected to the Green Sub-Committee: Brendan Clarke; Deborah Ferry; Katie Murray; Robert Millar; Fiona Nicholson; Tihana Vlajevic; Matthew Bell; Rebekah McBride and Elliot Lyness.

The following Student Councillors were elected to the Governance Committee: Mark Francos; Danielle Roberts and Charlotte Lau

Three Student Councillors nominated themselves to sit on Senate: Carol Rhona Burns; Charlotte Lau and Megan McDonagh. Each nominee spoke for up to one minute on why they should be elected.

Three Student Councillors nominated themselves to act as Chair for the remaining Student Council meetings this academic year: Megan McDonagh; Oliver McKee and Samuel Holmes. Each nominee spoke for up to one minute on why they should be elected.

Voting will occur through secret ballot during the break and announced later in the meeting.

Danielle Roberts put a procedural motion forwards, which was seconded by Vikki Lutton, on moving the Decriminalisation of Abortion Policy forwards. This vote was put to Student Council and clearly passed.

15. DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION POLICY

Danielle Roberts gave an introduction to the policy and why it was being brought forward. Since writing the policy another woman has been criminally charged for having an abortion.

Carol Rhonda Burns stated that she was in favour of the policy, however, questioned if it was possible of putting the rights of the father into the policy as an amendment.

Megan McDonagh stated that she was in favour and that just because it was decriminalised does not mean that it is deregulated. By passing this policy this would put us in line with NUS-USI and would assist in making a unified voice within Northern Ireland.

A Student Councillor stated that in these types of cases, such as rape or foetal abnormality, that this would be appropriate. It was further stated that there was worry that this could be used as an out for woman who got pregnant and didn't feel it was the right time.

Katy Murray stated that she was in favour of the policy and as Student Councillors we should look at how this would effect students. There are a higher amount of abortions surrounding a University campus. This is directly relevant for Student Council to consider and pass.

A Student Councillor stated that a father should have a say in the abortion and wouldn't want a policy to be passed that made abortion overall more flexible within the consideration of the father's rights.

Ross Magee stated that he was in favour of the policy and that a woman should have the right of their own body. There are thousands of children currently being put up for adoption that are unable to receive care.

Samuel Holmes stated that he was for this policy and it is not helpful to criminalise anyone. He summarised a newspaper article that he read relating to a woman went to England to receive an abortion and when she came back home she was ashamed and her family avoided her. It is not right to say a woman is a criminal when she has an abortion.

An amendment was put forth in relation to everyone being entitled to their own opinion and that the Students' Union supporting this campaign would also allow students to be able to express their views.

Danielle Roberts accepted the amendment.

Danielle Roberts summaries the policy and stated there is no such thing as safe sex, only safer sex.

The amended Decriminalisation of Abortion Policy was then put to a vote and Student Council clearly voted in favour of the amended policy.

16. HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS POLICY

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) summarised the policy and the work that the Students' Union have currently done over the Summer in relation to the creation of this campaign.

It was then put to Student Council on whether they should decide to support a single charity or split the money between the two charities mentioned within the policy.

Student Council clearly voted to split the money between the two charities.

17. UNI-LINK POLICY

Student Council proposed that this policy be put to a vote without discussion. This procedural motion was put to a vote and was clearly passed by Student Council.

The Uni-Link Policy was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

18. ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS

Carol Rhona Burns was elected to sit on Senate.

Megan McDonagh was elected to act as Chair and Oliver McKee was elected to act as Deputy Chair.

19. PHD EXTENSION FEES POLICY

Danielle Roberts summarised the policy.

The PhD Extension Fees Policy was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

20. GRADUATION POLICY

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) gave a summary of the Graduation Policy.

Carol Rhonda Burns proposed that Student Council add an amendment in relation to the availability of tickets at graduation.

This amendment was accepted by the Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) and therefore absorbed into the policy.

The amended Graduation Policy was then put to a vote and Student Council clearly voted in favour of the amended policy.

21. ERASMUS POLICY

Student Council proposed that this policy be put to a vote without discussion. This procedural motion was put to a vote and was clearly passed by Student Council.

The Erasmus Policy was then put to Student Council and was clearly passed.

22. TABLED QUESTIONS

There were no formal tabled questions.

23. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The election for the Student Councillor who would sit on Senate was announced and the successful candidate was Carol Rhonda Burns.

The election for the Student Councillor who would be the Chairperson for the rest of the academic year was announced and the successful candidate was Megan McDonagh.

The election for the Student Councillor who would be the Deputy Chairperson for the rest of the academic year was announced and the successful candidate was Oliver McKee.

24. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be on Tuesday 29th November and the location will be the Belfast Campus. The meeting will most likely begin at 17:00, however, this the time will be confirmed closer to the meeting.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT COUNCIL

Action Sheet

Minute	Action	By Whom	Follow Up
2	The President will update Student Councillors on all policies passed in the previous academic year during the next Student Council meeting on Tuesday 29 th November.	President	Student Council
3	For the Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator to email all Student Councillors information in relation to the upcoming elections for national conferences.	Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator	N/A
8	For all future Student Council meetings, when society papers are presented for consideration there will be a full financial breakdown on what the society has asked for.	N/A	N/A
8	To invite the Chairperson of the BLW Society to the next Student Council meeting.	Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator	N/A
8	To invite the Chairperson of the Socialist Society to present at the following Student Council meeting to explain the aims and objectives.	Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator	N/A
8	To work with The Disaster Club to help them develop their constitution, which will then be brought to the following Student Council meeting.	Students' Union	Student Council
9	For the President to write to the University to ask what their stance in relation to the intake of European Students since Brexit and what measures are they taking to give them an equitable Student Experience.	President	Student Council
9	For the President and/or Vice-President Campaigns and Communications to communicate to Student Council the outcomes of the Sexual Health Awareness Campaign on the Magee Campus.	The President / Vice-President Campaigns and Communications	Student Council

9	For the President to forward any future documents from NUS-USI to Student Council in relation to Brexit.	President	N/A
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