

## UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER STUDENTS' UNION

### OVERALL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overall Executive held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014 on the Coleraine Campus.

PRESENT: Mark Bell (Overall President), Declan Sheils (Sports President), Robbie Banham (VP Coleraine), Colum Mackey (VP Jordanstown), Micky Quigg (VP Magee) Sarah Curran (VP Campaigns and Communications)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ciara Cunningham (Communications and Marketing Officer), Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager)

APOLOGIES: Sarah Gordon (VP Belfast)

#### 14.69 MINUTES

Moved to next meeting

#### 14.70 MATTERS ARISING

None arising

#### 14.71 PRESIDENTS COMMUNICATIONS

The President noted that this is the last meeting which Ciara Cunningham will attending before she leaves her post as Marketing and Communications Officer. Mark thanked Ciara for her hard work and positive contribution to UUSU.

#### 14.72 OFFICER REPORTS

The President gave a verbal update, noting that he will be working with University Council to minimise the impact of the HE cuts, which are expected as a result of the failure of the Stormont government to agree the current Welfare Reform package. He expressed his frustration at this current political impasse and the negative knock on effect to key services such as health and education.

The Sports President presented his report.

Noted:

- A handball team will now be accommodated on the Jordanstown campus
- Success of the Freshers Fayres, the space worked particularly well on the Coleraine campus
- There has been good involvement from Clubs with the initial Site Committees and interest in Student Council

The Vice President Campaigns and Communications presented her report.

Noted:

- Has worked in partnership with external agencies to carry out a successful health and wellbeing awareness week, in conjunction with UUSU Sport and the Campus VPs

The VPA&SA, Coleraine presented his report.

Noted:

- Felt freshers week was a success;
- Delivered a number of inductions;
- Participated in PSNI patrols, visiting student areas to raise awareness of being safe and also dangers of a new 'dial-a-drink' service in the area;
- Working with the PSNI and PCSP to deliver the Nexus Campaign which raises awareness of sexual violence.

The VPA&SA, Jordanstown presented his report.

Noted:

- Successful partnership with nightclub Villa during Freshers Week has led to another night to be organised for Halloween.

The VPA&SA, Magee presented his report.

Noted:

- High number of nursing appeals and disciplinary meetings throughout September/beginning of October;
- Highlighted an issue of procedural irregularity with a fitness to practice meeting with the LHS faculty – new evidence was presented by the Board during the meeting;
- Monday nights in the bar started well, however trade has since declined. Thursday nights have not been busy either.

Actions Arising:

- VP Magee to follow up with Dean of LHS in regards to fitness for practice procedures;
- Marketing Officer to produce a leaflet encouraging Clubs/Societies to use the Union bars for fundraisers.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The GM presented his report.

Noted:

- Focus has been placed on the launch of the new Coleraine space. This has went well, however could benefit from increased signage on campus, this will be explored further;
- The University rebrand launches on 20<sup>th</sup> October, new clothing will be available in the Union shops.

#### STUDENT ENGAGEMENT TEAM REPORT

The Student Engagement Manager (SEM) presented the report on behalf of the team.

Noted:

- The SET calendar will be updated to ensure everyone is aware of where the team are, and events taking place;
- Student Council and Trustee elections will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October;
- Officers asked to circulate their thoughts on this years enterprise competition.

#### 14.73 STUDENT SHOUTS

The SEM stressed the importance of holding these weekly, in order to understand student issues, but also to communicate to students what the Union has been working on.

VPs should work closely with the VP C&C to set dates and prepare for these, and also collate the responses.

#### 14.74 OFFICER 360 REVIEWS

The GM gave an overview of this process, which involves Officers receiving a review of their performance since taking up post. This will begin with surveys in November and face to face feedback in early January.

It was noted that action plans following the process are an important part of getting the most out this resource.

AGREED:

- Carry out the 360 Reviews for the Officer team and General Manager

#### 14.75 STUDENT VOICE REPORT

The Committee agreed that a Student Voice Report would be a valuable piece of work, however there were concerns regarding the resources required to complete this.

The SEM and President are to take this forward and keep OE informed. They would also carry out further research on the NUS/QAA project on Annual Quality Reports.

#### 14.76 SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

The following Society affiliations were successful:

- An Cumman Gaelach Belfast Campus
- Animation Society Belfast Campus
- Children in Crossfire Coleraine Campus
- Dance Society Magee Campus
- Beer Appreciation Society Magee Campus
- Engineering Society Magee Campus

#### 14.77 FACEBOOK PAGES OVERVIEW

The Marketing & Communications Officer noted that the campus facebook pages should be updated more regularly, and all messages replied to in a timely and professional manner.

#### 14.78 STUDENT SUPPORT WORKING GROUP

The UUSU Financial Advisor joined the meeting to discuss proposed reforms to the Student Support Hardship funds. The President and the Financial Advisor would be attending a University meeting (the Student Support Finance Subcommittee) to discuss these.

The proposals include:

- Payments from hardship fund to be paid at only one point in the year (as opposed to currently being staggered across the academic year)
- Maximum limits for each student group being substantially cut
- The summer fund being closed

AGREED:

- UUSU representatives would not agree to these changes at the next meeting of the Student Support Finance Subcommittee. Further consultation with students will be required.

#### 14.79 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October via video conference.