

OVERALL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overall Executive held on 21st July on the Jordanstown Campus.

PRESENT:

Mark Bell (Overall President), Declan Shiels (Sports President), Sarah Curran (VP Campaigns and Communications), Colum Mackey (VP Academic & Student Affairs, Jordanstown), Micky Quigg, (VP Academic & Student Affairs, Magee), Sarah Gordon (VP Academic & Student Affairs, Belfast)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

APOLOGIES:

Robbie Banham (VP Academic & Student Affairs Coleraine),

14.26 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on May 28th 2014 were accepted.

14.27 PRESIDENTS COMMUNICATIONS

The Chair welcomed the new team to their first meeting as elected sabbaticals, he wished them well for the coming year and expressed his hopes for a busy and productive year.

14.28 MATTERS ARISING

Student Support Review (Min 14.22 refers)

The Chair noted that a position paper on the current Student Support Review, compiled following surveys and focus groups with students, was presented at the June meeting of the University & Students' Union Forum.

Since this meeting another issue has arisen in relation to the availability of Student Support Financial Advisors – due to staff vacancies and then annual leave, there has been a period of no financial support being offered by Student Support. All student queries have been referred to the Students' Union financial advisor, which in some cases has not been appropriate due the nature of the query.

The outcome of the meeting in June was that there would be close collaboration between the SU and Student Support during the period up to the beginning of the Academic Year '14-15. The Overall President is currently working with both the UUSU Financial Advisor and the Head of Student Support to ensure optimum service delivery for Ulster students.

UUSU Summer Residential (Min 14.21 refers)

This has been revised and will now be a one day event on the Jordanstown campus

14.29 FACEBOOK PROTOCOLS

The Marketing and Communications Officer presented a paper in relation to the UUSU presence on the social media site Facebook.

It was noted that:

- UUSU currently have a main 'like' page with around 4000 followers
- Each Officer also has their own page
- Some UUSU accounts have already been closed, such as the UUSU Society Coordinators, the UUSU Enterprise and UUSU Volunteer pages
- Research of other University's and Unions shows that the predominant approach is to have one main page which all students/potential students can easily find

The Marketing and Communications Officer stated that best practice would be for the individual and campus pages to be removed, and to have just one method of communication through the main page.

Discussion followed on the efficacy of this given the nature of the four campuses and the amount of information that would need to be distributed through this one channel. Use of events pages and closed groups were also discussed to alleviate this issue.

It was agreed that Officers would consider this further and a decision would be made at the next meeting of the Overall Executive.

14.30 UUSU 'FRAMES' FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES

The VP Academic & Student Affairs, Magee requested the purchase of a large frame which could be used specifically for Manic Mondays events. This was agreed.

Further he requested that a photographer was employed for Monday nights to assist with promotion. It was noted that this could be a voluntary role, suitable for students at the Magee campus. This was agreed and Micky will progress this.

14.31 SCHOOL – SU ENGAGEMENT SCHEME

The VP Academic & Student Affairs, Magee presented a paper which proposed recruiting current University students as ambassadors for the University and who would explain the system and process in terms that school students would understand.

The Committee agreed in principle with this initiative, with further research. It was noted that the University Marketing Department may already have a similar scheme, and if not they may like to partner with us. The General Manager will forward details of the University Student Marketing Officer.

14.32 STUDENT COMPLAINT

The Chair updated the committee on the complaint with regards to UUSU governance from a student. The individual is also an ex-staff member and several members of the committee have been contacted in regards to this individuals terms of service.

The General Manager explained the circumstances of the former employees resignation to the committee.

In relation to the complaints in regards to the governance of UUSU, the General Manager noted that meetings had been held with the University Secretary to discuss the issues raised. The proposal of a Governance Working Group, which would include University members, would be raised at the next UUSU Trustee Board for approval. Once approved, membership and terms of reference would be established. The Overall President noted that this group would review the current constitution, governance structures and also the new structure developed by the former Participation and Campaigns Coordinator, which had been presented to the Overall Executive at its' May meeting.

14.33 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 31st July