

Overall Executive 21/11/14

Present

Mark Bell (Chair), Sarah Gordon, Robbie Banham, Micky Quigg (Minutes)

In Attendance

Emmett Mullaly, Karen McKillop

Apologizes

Colum Mackey, Sarah Curran

1. Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

2. No minutes were left arising.

3. President Communications.

Chair mentioned how himself and QUB President has plans to meet Stephen Farry about the public responses over the budget consultation. Chair further noted how he had agreed to draft the letter to Stormont within the next few weeks to alert them to the Students' Union concerns surrounding the budget cuts to all Higher Education Institutions, after discussing it with the other sabbaticals.

4. Office Reports.

i. Chair noted how he met Richard Millar to discussion UUSU's financial standing and support from the University. Chair further explained how he met Janet Alaine and Denise McAllister from the QAA (Quality Assurance Agency) where he outlined the significance of the student contributions to their courses (Course Rep System).

ii. Unable to present

iii. Unable to present

iv. VP Magee outlined a successful Referendum in terms of the Magee to City Of Derry Referendum after class shouts, campaigning on and off campus, discussions on Radio Foyle, constant social media updates and a lot of help from the Democracy Coordinator nearly 1000 votes were cast (800 for Magee, 200 for City of Derry roughly). VP Magee thanked the overall president and general manager for their help and support over the Halloween Ball incident, looks forward to Semester 2 for the Diversity Awareness campaign. VP Magee further noted his work with societies on their one – to – one meetings.

iv. VP Coleraine told about his success with the Old Mill volunteering clean-up project, and the engagement he had from the students. VP Coleraine also noted the successful uptake there was for the Edge Award after previous Edge Week that had a great uptake. The VP further noted his efforts

to get a Road Safety Car Crash simulator about campus to promote the dangers of drink driving amongst young people.

Ivv. VP Belfast noted after a positive Women's Regional Activist Forum she has set up a Campus Women's group and has been doing good work with Ellie Drake NUS USI's Women's Officer. VP Belfast explained she is seeing more and more students in the SU Space, the Bronze.

9. Focus Group Results (Marketing Manager left after this agenda point)

Marketing Manager outlined updates from her focus groups throughout the 4 campuses.

Magee – Young Computing Students had positive review of the Union, used the Union bar, liked the use of the Facebook page. Mature Social work students didn't use or like the Facebook page. Wanted more face to face interactions although felt it was hard to develop a rapport as they are on placement a lot of the time.

Coleriane – Pharmacy students wants more class shout outs, also wanted more posters in their building, they felt very distant from the Union physically. Loved the new SU Space.

Belfast – Students complained about lack of SU facilities on campus, students complaints were more directed at the University than the Union.

Jordanstown - Students liked the visibility of the Union and knew how to get involved, just did not have the time. Although they saw the Students Union as trying to help.

6. Senate Update.

This agenda point echoed VP Jordanstown email about the QAB update. Chair explained Ulster University have 2 'satellite campuses'; one in Birmingham, one in London. These campuses are part of the Queen Anne Business School (QABS). They offer some of the same courses as the Ulster Business School who manage the home campus business courses. QABS have an almost 100% international student population. The university sponsor international students and can continue to do so on the proviso that they meet 3 set criteria.

One of the criteria stipulates that 85% of international students who the university sponsor must finish their course with a pass. There have been historic quality assurance issues with the courses provided by QABS and a high dropout rate. There are students who have registered on courses who should be finishing next year but who have dropped out at some stage. If left unchecked, by next November, the percentage of international students who will finish their course will be 73.2%. This is below the 85% finish rate stipulated by the UK Boarder Agency. If this happens Ulster University will not be allowed to sponsor international students. That means no new international students and the ones currently at the university will have to leave.

The university are attempting to establish where these students went since leaving their course. There are some acceptable reasons for non finishing for example illness or leaving to study at a different institution. They will need to find what happened to the outstanding 11.8% of students and they need to have a legitimate reason.

7. UU & SU Forum

O.E agreed that a paper was going to be completed and sent in about the lack of SU space and facilities in GBD for the next UU and SU Forum, due to take place on 3rd December. Chair noted concerns over lack of space for societies in all 4 campuses, and in turn how this could in the long term cause societies to branch off from the SU. VP Magee noted that societies were relatively okay in terms of space, he has been working well with the gaming society CORE for extra space and they seem content. VP Belfast noted how there were no space for societies on campus. VP Belfast further stated how she felt it was unfair that the doors of the campuses SU Space 'THE BRONZE' should not be made to close, perhaps a paper to Forum would be useful. Vp Coleraine explained the space on campus is very far away from the SU, which causes annoyance to their gaming society, GLITCH.

8. Redbrick Research.

General Manager provided information on Redbrick Research, they work with consumer brands, educators, investors and governments, helping them meet strategic challenges with confidence. They deliver powerful and inspiring insight, backed up with sound strategic advice and supported by business consulting, research, marketing, communications and brand-development services. This is a possibility for the Students' Union moving forward, although nothing definite has been decided. The debate as to whether we use the remainder of the Volunteer Coordinator 6 month contract for something like this moving forward contracted much of debate. This issue on what to use the remainder of the funds for was to be pushed back until we have seen the Students Engagement manager for more advice and guidance on this.

10. Strategic Plan Development

General Manager discussed the strategic plan development and how the governance sub group is possibly looking at a full review of the SU, structurally how we deliver, student council and the roles that staff and sabbaticals entail.

11. Online Society Membership

This agenda point was to be left until Monday

12. Society Affiliations

The Criminology society in Jordanstown was passed.

The Business society in Magee was passed. O.E found that the Business society differed from the Enterprise society, as one was more course based whereas one was more to do with improving entrepreneurial skills for students.