

OVERALL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overall Executive held on 28th May on the Jordanstown Campus.

PRESENT:

Mark Bell (Overall President), Jane Murphy (Sports President), Robbie Banham (VP Coleraine), Jemma Dolan (VP Campaigns and Communications)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager), William Methven (Participation and Campaigns Coordinator) 14-15 Officer elect team: Colum Mackey, Sarah Curran, Micky Quigg, Declan Shields

APOLOGIES:

Ciara Cunningham (Communications and Marketing Officer), Chris Murray (VP Jordanstown), Malachy McCrudden (VP Belfast)

14.15 MINUTES

Minutes from 18th February were accepted.

14.16 MATTERS ARISING

None arising.

14.17 PRESIDENTS COMMUNICATIONS

Mark thanked the outgoing officers for their work throughout the year and welcomed the new team to UUSU.

14.18 OFFICER REPORTS

Jemma, Mark and Jane provided written reports which were circulated at the meeting.

Mark asked if there were any questions in relation to his report – Jane asked how the NUS USI communication strategy was progressing, Mark noted that he had met with them several times to provide them with feedback. Jemma asked the outcome from Mark's meeting with the Head of Communications in the University, in relation to all-student emails. Mark replied that they were discussing moving all the information from the emails onto a news feed within the student portal. Jemma noted that this would be much more useful and hoped this did develop.

Jemma tabled her paper which detailed her committee attendances, appeals record and campaigns carried out. She noted that she had also been acting VP for Semester 2, therefore the number of awareness campaigns were lower than usual.

Jane tabled her report which was based upon her 13-14 yearly action plan. She noted that the 'Get Involved' campaign had led to the introduction of the 'Photo of the Month' competition which had helped increase social media activity significantly.

Robbie will circulate a written report by 30th May

Emmett provided a written report to the committee. He highlighted the ongoing work on the Coleraine development.

14.19 SOCIETY AFFILIATIONS

UUSU Radio Society, Coleraine:

This was approved with the following conditions:

- Would not be given access to funding for the broadcast licenses until this committee were satisfied that the group were committed. This would be evidenced through recording podcasts and sharing these with the committee to allow them to review their planned format.
- They should explore the possibility of hosting podcasts as a blog or through Soundcloud – this could save on costs of broadcast licenses
- This would be reviewed again in January 2015

UUSU LGBT Society, Belfast - APPROVED

UUSU Sociology Society, Jordanstown – APPROVED

14.20 FRESHERS WEEK ACTIVITIES SEPTEMBER 2014

Plans for Freshers Week were discussed. It was noted that alcohol-free events should also be provided for students. Also noted that Week 0 has a lot more students on campus than in previous years, it was agreed that an SU presence should be organised during Registration Week in key areas on each campus.

Proposal to have a second freshers fayre which would focus on societies, volunteering and democracy was suggested by the Student Engagement Manager. It was agreed that this would provide a second event for students on campus and would help increase society engagement. The Student Engagement Team would still have a presence at the larger fayre, but would not be involved to the same extent with the distribution of the freshers packs etc.

14.21 SUMMER RESIDENTIAL

The new team were reminded of the dates of the summer residential – 18th and 19th August.

14.22 STUDENT SUPPORT REVIEW

William gave an overview of the process to date of gathering student feedback – through an online survey and Focus Groups in Coleraine, Magee and Jordanstown. The aim of this consultation was to collate student experiences of the current service provided, and also their expectations.

The findings so far indicate that students most common support need is in relation to finance issues, these then escalate into broader mental health issues. The suggestion to prevent this would be to introduce more financial advisors on each campus.

A second preventative measure that had been suggested was to provide tailored pastoral care training to academic staff.

The following points were also noted:

- Students criticised the lack of face to face support now available to students within the new service, further this may have a knock on effect to the SU as more students will be seeking support
- Providing information on support available to students in Freshers Week will be crucial to ensure they are aware of how they can access help if they face issues.

It was agreed that the focus of the report would be:

- Lack of finance support
- The demand for nurses to be retained
- Face to face counselling to be reinstated

William will collate this into a report to be submitted to the Students Union & University Forum on 10th June.

14.23 CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

William presented proposals for the reform of the current UUSU governance structures.

Noted:

- Student Forums would be open to all students on each campus, with a specified quoracy for each
- Student Forums would only be able to pass policy for the campus which it affects – for UUSU wide policy, it would need to go to Student Council
- Student Forums would elect their Chair, Deputy Chair and Secretary at the first meeting
- Student Forums would hold Officers to account – they would be required to submit their yearly plan at the first meeting, and progress reports at subsequent meetings
- Student Forums would also nominate representatives to Student Council and UUSU Trustee Board at their first meeting
- Suggested increase of quoracy for referenda to 10% of the student population

William agreed to circulate this more widely before a decision by the committee is taken at the next OE.

14.24 AOB

Mark thanked Jemma for her hard work and commitment to UUSU and wished her well on her trip to Ethiopia, and beyond.

