

## UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER STUDENTS' UNION

### OVERALL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overall Executive held on 29<sup>th</sup> August 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)

APOLOGIES: Sarah Gordon (VP Belfast), Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager)

#### 14.52 MINUTES

Minutes from **31/07/14** were accepted.

#### 14.53 MATTERS ARISING

None arising.

#### 14.54 PRESIDENTS COMMUNICATIONS

Mark met with **Saxton Bampfylde** to discuss the new VC position. He wanted to highlight the importance of the student experience for this role of expertise. Mark highlighted the recent NSS results and enthused that communication needs to be more coordinated going forward. He is putting a response together on the 30<sup>th</sup> September at forum with Avril and Emmett and will be looking for contributions for an action plan.

#### 14.54 Lean On Me Presentation

Claire from Lean on me presented to OE about the service she is willing to offer to University of ulster students to help them cope with stress. Claire also highlighted the issues of suicide with students and wants to gain funding to take training throughout the campuses to volunteers.

#### 14.55 OFFICER REPORTS

Declan chaired his first sports meeting for the sports management committee. There have been 12 applicants on the INSPIRE programme, with one left to interview. Declan met with Helen Bingham about the open days to promote sports art each campus.

Declan provided more details about the Sports union rebrand to UUSU Sport. The OE group was happy with the decision and agreed that it was best to push forward with this and to ensure that sport is seen as a vital part of the students union. Declan is keen to get more participation in sport in Jordanstown campus especially, as Coleraine has is a smaller campus but still has more participation. He emphasised the importance of the sport raffle which is used to raise funds for the clubs. He also said they need club officers and want students to get involved in the organisation part of clubs, they

are trying to get courses involved so that students see that the skills gain will make them more employable for the future.

Sarah Curran attended the USI subcommittee and PIPS mid year meeting. Milne Rowntree is meeting with Sarah regularly to discuss the plans for a student newspaper. She also met with Emmett to discuss plans on going for the silver green Impact award and for her plans for campaigns for first semester and about adopting a social media format for a number of these. There are a total of ten campaigns for this semester, so the focus will be on highlighting five main campaigns: U run UUSU, Ulster is the world, Healthy Eating, Green Impact and Employability and pushing the remainder online. The Snapchat account is ready to go for the new term.

Robbie has been working with Mandy on the class rep system.

Micky is working with Sarah on the campaigns and looking at opportunities for student shouts, he was thinking of doing this through anonymous feedback cards. Micky is looking to push the SU bar and events on campus. He is keen to get employability talks that will be of use to students and create more awareness of the VP roles and what they can do for students.

Colum stressed the importance of facilitating an active and effective Student Council. He noted he would be sitting on the Board of Trustees Governance Sub-group. He is planning activities and events for the year and is trying to effect changes to ensure greater awareness of the Union and himself as VP on campus.

#### **14.56 Student Charter**

Mark is submitting a formal policy to NUS and is looking at other multi campus universities. Sheffield university union took a student charter to speak to students to look at retention. He will be looking to see if University of Ulster can do something similar as this will require more input at a higher level.

Action: Mark is looking at a proposal for these

#### **14.57 Student Newspaper**

VP campaigns Sarah Curran wants to pilot the SU newspaper on the Coleraine campus. She has been in contact with the editor of the Gown newspaper at Queens to see how they run theirs. It can be used to make students more aware of the students Union and highlight other issues and stories through the campuses. Sarah thinks it would be a great way for students to know about the policies and get their opinions. Milne Rowntree and Maggie Swarbrick are keen to help with the progress and take part in meetings with students. She wants to highlight to students the importance of getting involved, the positive impact this will have on their CV.

Actions: OE were in favour of the student Newspaper

#### **14.58 Fresher's Fayres**

Declan posed his concern about the mixed messages with Fresher's Fayres and SET fayres. He appreciates the need for the SET fayres and wants more students to get engaged with the students

union, however having two fayres called fresher's meant students could miss out on sports opportunities if they aren't aware of the main fayre.

Mark noted that there is not enough time at fresher's for engagement for the SET team, but thought the timing was a concerning and thought about pushing the SET fayres for the second week of term. However if the SET fayres were branded a different way, not as fresher's fayres this might not be an issue.

Actions: to go back to SET team t discuss timing and branding

#### **14.59 RAG text service**

Micky is keen to create a text service for RAG so that students can donate by a simple text.

Actions: OE are in favour of the idea, Micky will propose the idea to Jodie (Societies Coordinator) and Claire (Volunteering Coordinator)and discuss with finance manager Clodagh.

Date of next meeting agreed: 19<sup>th</sup> September at 10am