

OVERALL EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overall Executive held on 30th January on the Jordanstown Campus.

PRESENT:

Mark Bell (Overall President), Jane Murphy (Sports President), Robbie Banham (VP Coleraine), Malachy McCrudden (VP Belfast), Chris Murray (VP Jordanstown), Jemma Dolan (VP Campaigns and Communications)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager)

APOLOGIES:

Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Ciara Cunningham (Communications and Marketing Officer)

13.116 MINUTES

Minutes from 16th December will be considered at the next meeting of Overall Executive.

13.117 MATTERS ARISING

Cover at the Magee Campus

Two previous sabbaticals have indicated that they would be willing to cover, however this would be dependent on compatibility with their full time jobs. Mark will follow this up and circulate.

Good Relations Working Group & Political Protocol

Mark reported that this working group was progressing well and the new policy will be completed before the end of semester 2.

The group has suggested that the Political Protocol should be developed into a 'Good Relations Charter' which will contain principles which all students and organisations which will be asked to adhere to.

Belfast Office Move

The move of the office from the ground floor to C Floor, beside Student Support has been progressing following meetings with key personnel.

Malachy noted that there still needs to be a plan agreed as to where the SU will be during the period of redevelopment from 2015-18. This has been discussed, but no firm agreement has been communicated from the University.

Malachy is using his Campus Officers to promote the current Union Space and ensure it is utilised in general and in particular during RAG Week.

PRESIDENTS COMMUNICATIONS

Mark has been working to push his core manifesto pledge of improving the employability of students at Ulster. He has met with the Head of Cultural Development to explore the possibility of holding networking events for students, with noted alumni. He is also having continued meetings with the alumni office to take this forward.

Mark informed the committee that there would be a photoshoot of himself, and the Vice Chancellor in the new Coleraine development site.

Mark urged the Officers to engage with the upcoming National Voter Registration Day on 5th February. He noted that the next elections would see the MLA's returned who would be involved in the next review of HE spending in the Province, so it is extremely important that students are registered and influence the vote.

Mark commended William, Participation and Campaigns Coordinator, for the Campus Officer Training Day in Coleraine.

OFFICER REPORTS

Jemma has been continuing to use the online system, and Robbie's report was submitted via email prior to the meeting.

Malachy provided a verbal update:

- He has been involved in the review of the PACT meeting, which is the community group in south Belfast.
- He has organised for several activities in Refreshers week on the Belfast campus.
- He is working with his Campus Officer Team to provide events for RAG week, he would like to have the bar opened during the day to provide a café style place to sell food for charity.
- He has been working with the Provost to ensure there is an agreed space for the SU throughout the Belfast development phases.
- He has been working with Belfast City Council on two different awareness campaigns aimed at students: their social media awareness campaign, and also the one-punch can kill awareness raising in partnership with the PSNI
- BCC have agreed to provide three, currently vacant, buildings around Belfast for artists to use as studios.

Chris provided a verbal update:

- He has been working with reprographics within the University to rebrand the new printing system and ensure students have information on how it works
- Work has been ongoing with residential assistants to hold events in the SU space.
- Promotion of national conferences to get students from all levels involved.

Jemma provided a verbal update, as her online one had not been shared:

- Organised events on each campus for National Voter Registration Day

- SHAG Week events being organised – speed dating in Magee, and movie nights on each campus as well as information stalls each day
- Meetings with Brook Advisory clinic to partner with during SHAG week
- Condoms will be branded with ‘UUSU has you covered’
- Reminded everyone that the newsletter deadline is 4pm every Thursday
- Student Shout timetable will be available from Week 3
- Attending 3 Magee open days, and one on Coleraine with Anthony specifically for potential business students

Robbie then gave his update:

- He has been working with students to organise events for RAG week
- Campus Officer team meeting planned for the coming week – plans to assign specific tasks to each member to keep them motivated
- Tea and coffee planned for refreshers day

Jane provided her verbal report:

- Open campus meetings will be held on each campus following refreshers fayres
- Working with the disability sub group in Magee
- Has been working to push student involvement with the Sport 4 U activities on a Wednesday afternoon – these are now all free of charge
- Colours Awards nomination opening soon
- Intervarsity season is now beginning
- Sport Relief takes place from 21st – 23rd March and Jane has been working with Sports Services to deliver events
- Jane informed the committee that she is resigning the SU President from being the Vice Chair of Student Sport Ireland.

Avril gave a brief overview of the Student Engagement Team activities. It was agreed that once a month the full OE and SET would have a joint meeting. Jane also requested that the Sports Development Assistants were also asked to attend. This would begin on Friday 14th February.

PIPS TRAINING

Jemma asked the VPs for advice on when they thought the best time would be to hold the ‘Mind Your Mate’ sessions, being held by PIPS. It was agreed that during Student Volunteer Week would be a good time to promote it, with the sessions possibly being held the week after.

EMAIL AND CALENDAR MANAGEMENT

Mark asked if Officers would find it useful for the secretaries to act in a PA role and help them keep on top of emails and calendar appointments. It was felt that this would be useful for the overall positions, however some Vice Presidents did like to keep their own. Mark will continue to work on this with management to find out if it is possible and to progress.

UUSU GOVERNANCE

The tabled Student Forum paper was discussed.

The Officers agreed the principles of the plan and welcomed the opportunity to be held to account by students.

It was AGREED to remove references to Campus Forums, and that nominations would be taken from each Student Forum, to go to an Overall Forum: which would include the OE students from all campuses, as well as nominees from Senior Reps, Societies Forums and also Sports Site Committees.

AGREED: at Student Forums, student cards would be checked on the way in, and those eligible would be given voting cards.

This committee would have the final say on whether a proposal became an Overall Policy, any issue with less than 75%, but more than 25% support – would go to a referendum.

OFFICER REPORTING METHODS

Officers were asked to agree a way forward for reporting to the committee in a timely fashion.

AGREED Jemma and Avril would agree a word format in advance of the next meeting, which would still encompass meeting feedback.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 17th February