

**ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT EXECUTIVE  
Minutes of meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017 through video  
conference.**

**PRESENT:-**

Colum Mackey (President), Micky Quigg (VP Campaigns and Communication), Conán Meehan (VP Belfast), Ben Johnston (VP Magee), Kevin McStravock (VP Coleraine).

**IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Stuart Cannell (Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator), Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Andrew McAnallen (Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs, Coleraine Elect), Gary Spedding

**APOLOGIES:-**

Karen McKilllop (Marketing Manager), Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager), James O'Mullan (Sports President), Hannah Rooney (VP Jordanstown).

**1. BECOMING A CHARITABLE COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARENTEE**

Gary Spedding discuss with the General Manager potential issues that may relate to becoming a charity, such as UUSU objectives not aligning as smoothly as a charity as initially perceived. An example that was given included UUSU campaigning for marriage equality might jar with the Charity Commission as this could effectively include the lobbying of political bodies and organisations.

The General Manager noted that, although the supplied clause read extremely well, there may be a practical issue involved reaffirming the Articles of Association. It was noted that this could be explored moving forwards and reviewed by the General Manager to potentially incorporate within the Articles of Association in the future.

Gary Spedding stated that this could have implications surrounding around a wide range of issues that UUSU could be involved within.

The General Manager stated that this is something that the National Union of Students (NUS) would definitely need to explore as the implications are huge for all Students' Unions, as the general move is that Students' Unions are becoming registered charities.

The President asked Gary Spedding to talk around the other points he wished to raise.

**2. HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ACT**

Gary Spedding spoke about the Higher Education and Research Act and the important amendments that have been included within the Act.

It was stated that Mark Durkan would be happy to visit UUSU to talk about the Higher Education and Research Act and this could be arranged. It was noted that inflation this year was around 2.9% and fees would rise in accordance with this.

The President noted this was for undergraduate students. The President would be happy to arrange a meeting with Mark Durkan and students and other Student Officers could attend to discuss these points. An invite would be sent out to other candidates who are not in the General Election to ensure an element of impartiality could be secured.

It was noted that Gary Spedding wrote to Mark Durkan before the General Election was called.

### **3. NUS NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2017**

Gary Spedding discuss issues relating to the NUS Conference 2017. There was dissatisfaction across many different students and not just from Gary. It was noted that the NUS-USI President did present and discuss motions were appropriate, including the welfare motion were the NUS Scotland President spoke on behalf of NUS-USI without consulting relevant members.

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communications stated that he too was not impressed by a lot of different aspects. This mainly revolved around the conduct of the conference and that NUS-USI was overlooked. It was noted that if this was to continue next year that the Vice-President Campaigns and Communications would have very little confidence in sending any delegate.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) stated that he found the format of the conference was very poor and there was too much emphasis on election and not enough on motions and policy. It might be advisable to have NUS-USI write a letter, on behalf of all Northern Irish students, to NUS to highlight the dissatisfaction.

The President noted that the format of the conference does not lend itself well to get through motions and this should be looked at closely. It was stated this should be looked at during Regional Council at NUS-USI. It was noted that it is unclear how best to resolve the regional based issues as these are meant to be discussed at Regional Council and within NUS-USI. If members of NUS-USI wish to have more items discussed within the NUS Conference, then potentially more motions and policies should be submitted.

Gary Spedding stated that a lot of motions get waved to election candidates to give them more stage time to influence their election campaign and be the focus of conference for that time. It was noted

that the motion in relation to abortion rights and campaigns was not waved to delegates from Northern Ireland.

The President noted that we should wait to see how the next NUS Conference is organised before making any decisions. It was stated that as paying members of NUS, being involved within the conference is important.

Gary Spedding stated that he did not disagree with the President, however, there is a major breakdown in communication within NUS and NUS-USI, which directly effects students within Northern Ireland. It was further stated that UUSU should be on record with the dissatisfaction of the NUS Conference.

The President stated that this conversation should continue on the Regional Executive at NUS-USI.

#### **4. NUS-USI REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Gary Spedding stated that the Regional Council is due to meet on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 for NUS-USI. It is prudent that UUSU Student Executive give their consent to the letter that was written to trigger Article 9 of the NUS-USI Constitution. This ensures that the NUS-USI will have a Regional Council around a specific point. The President stated that one can not call for an emergency meeting when a meeting has already taken place. Support has already been provided from NWRC, NRC and Belfast Metropolitan College. Other relevant points that need discussed include how many Student Officers that NUS-USI have that relates to the funding that NUS-USI receives from NUS.

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communications clarified that UUSU would only be putting their name to call for an emergency Regional Council and not any specific issues.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Magee) stated that there is no need for this to occur at this point as this might not need to be invoked. If this is to occur, it should have after the upcoming Regional Council meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017.

The Vice-President Academic and Students Affairs (Coleraine) stated that an email should be sent to NUS-USI to highlight a list of agenda points that should be highlighted.

These agenda points will include, but not limited to, the tri-lateral agreement and NUS Conference. It was noted that only NUS and USI have the power to amend the tri-lateral agreement, so the motion will only end in a resolves that acts as a suggestion.

**ACTION:** It was agreed that UUSU would not give support to the e-mail at this time to involve Article 9 and that an email would be sent to ensure that specific agenda points are highlighted and discussed first.

**5. MINUTES**

The minutes were approved by the Student Executive.

The meeting was adjured at this point and was scheduled to reconvene on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**6. MATTERS ARISING**

Information about nut allergy

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

NUS Awards

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Ice-breaker Sessions on the Magee Campus

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Traffic Light for Policies Update

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

Transition Activities Update

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**7. PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS**

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**8. EXAM STRESS**

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**9. TEAM TRANSITION**

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Will be discussed on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

**11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May and will meet at 10:00.

## ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### Action Sheet

<b>Minute</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>Follow Up</b>
4	It was agreed that UUSU would not give support to the e-mail at this time to involve Article 9 and that an email would be sent to ensure that specific agenda points are highlighted and discussed first.	President	Student Executive