

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT EXECUTIVE
Minutes of meeting held on 27th January 2017 through video
conference.

PRESENT:-

Colum Mackey (President), Micky Quigg (VP Campaigns and Communication), Kevin McStravock (VP Coleraine), Hannah Rooney (VP Jordanstown), Conán Meehan (VP Belfast), Ben Johnston (VP Magee), James O'Mullan (Sports President)

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Stuart Cannell (Democracy and Campaigns Coordinator), Emmett Mullally (General Manager), Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager), Karen McKillop (Marketing Manager)

APPOLGIES:-

1. MINUTES

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communicates chaired on behalf of the President as there were technical difficulties with the video-conference facilities.

The Student Executive approved and last set of minutes.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Progress of snap-back frames for bathrooms

The General Manager informed Student Executive that conversations are underway with the University to have this implemented. A meeting has been set to confirm the amount of toilets that this may effect and who would be responsible for replacing the posters within the snap-back frames. This meeting was set for Wednesday 1st February.

ACTION: For the General Manager to update Student Executive on the progress of implementing snap-back frames in the bathrooms of the University.

3. PRESIDENT COMMUNICATIONS

There were no additional President Communications that were not covered by the agenda points.

It was noted that the Student Officer elections was now launched.

4. UUSU CHANGE TO INCORPORATION

The General Manager informed Student Executive that this change will hopefully happen before Easter and that a paper will be presented to Student Council outlining the timeline and reasons.

It was envisaged that this would be agreed at a General Meeting, currently scheduled for Thursday 23rd March to give ample time for discussions to take place in the lead up to the meeting.

The Constitution will change to a Memorandum of Agreement and Articles of Association with the Schedules then becoming bye-laws. This document will ultimately go to a solicitor to confirm that everything within the document is legally binding, before it is approved by the members of the Students' Union and by the University.

ACTION: For the General Manager to write a paper that will be presented at Student Council to outline the change to Incorporation.

5. **UUSU SOCIETY NAMING CONVENTIONS**

The Student Engagement Manger informed Student Executive that as the University have always had their own branding policy. The Students' Union have now created guidance for the societies in what is allowed in regards to naming and branding conventions.

There is still room for some potential confusion when there are many different societies across the four campuses that are essentially the same (e.g. Law and Christian Union).

It was put to the Student Executive if it was to be allowed that the UUSU branding and logo was used within the societies logo and branding. The Marketing Manager stated that we could provisionally allow this as it may boost the awareness of the Students' Union, as well as the society, and could potentially be of benefit for all parties.

The document will be sent and agreed by email.

ACTION: For the Student Engagement Manager to circulate this document by email and for Student Officers to agree to the guidance.

6. **SOCIETY FUNDING**

The document will be sent and agreed by email.

ACTION: For Student Officers to agree the funding societies receive through email.

7. **HUSTINGS EVENT**

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) informed Student Executive that he is currently trying to create a single hustings

event for the Student Officer elections. This meeting will take place Friday 3rd February with the appropriate parties on the Coleraine Campus to agree if this is feasible. This event would be held within the television studio on the Coleraine Campus.

Student Executive agreed that this was worth exploring as a potential alternative to what has historically been done for the Student Officer elections.

8. PURPLE TRAINING 2017

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communications informed Student Executive that Purple Training is to take place on the 11th and 12th March, in Maynooth. A group of students were wanting to attend the training event. On average this should cost around £90 per person (in addition to travel). It was agreed that interest in this would be opened up to all students.

Student Executive agreed this was worthwhile and happy to support sending students to this training event. The logistics would be agreed outside Student Executive with the appropriate Students' Union staff.

9. RENT RIGHTS CHECKLIST

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) asked Student Executive to join up with letting agents who would then give this checklist to students. This was to ensure that students were better informed about what to look out for when renting a house/apartment whilst at University.

It was thought that if these checklists were being given out by Brand Ambassadors that it would not have the same impact.

It was agreed that more detail surrounding this would be sent and agreed by email.

10. MIND YOUR MOOD CAMPAIGN

This agenda point will be covered within the Campaigns planning sessions later in the day.

11. RATES TO HALLS

The President stated that there was a current exemption on University halls for students to pay rates. There is currently a proposal that would remove this exemption, causing the price of that students pay for their accommodation to increase roughly 10%.

The President stated that he will draft a response to this proposal and send it around the rest of the Student Officers to ensure they are happy with the response.

ACTION: For the President to write a response and circulate it around the other Student Officers.

12. **NSS BOYCOTT**

The President stated that although we are not actively prompting the boycott of the NSS that we should release a statement outlining our position of the Students' Union.

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communications stated that we should not actively support the boycott as our relationship with the University has been progressed in a positive direction and it would be a shame to have the boycott potentially regress the work that has already been achieved.

ACTION: For the President to write a statement or blog post that will outline the position of the Students' Union in relation to the NSS boycott.

13. **ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

The President informed Student Executive that the Students' Union is hoping to host, in conjunction with the University, candidates standing as MLA's onto the Belfast Campus for an election event. It was asked that all Student Officers get in touch with the appropriate members of staff to discover if this is happening on other campuses.

ACTION: For Vice-President's Academic and Student Affairs (all) to explore if any Assembly election activity is planning on their campus.

The President also stated that voting registration will be discussed at the campaigns planning sessions later on in the day.

14. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The President left the meeting at this stage to attend other relevant business.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Coleraine) stated that he is bringing forward a policy to Student Council that will create part-time Student Officers who will spearhead specific areas that may be underrepresented within the Student body.

It was put to the Student Executive would this best be achieved through an election or an interview.

The Vice-President Campaigns and Communications stated that through interviewing for these positions we could dictate the direction of these roles and how they are developed.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Magee) stated that he would worry about the turnout surrounding these elections as the general turnout for Student Council elections was low in comparison to Student Officer elections.

The Student Engagement Manager stated that the idea of part-time Student Officers has been discussed within the Students' Union before and implemented for one year, however, this unfortunately did not continue.

The Student Engagement Manager stated that research has been done through NUS and found out that the word 'election' and the general terminology surrounding this usually puts students off.

A discussion was held around on advantages and disadvantages of having an election or an interview for these positions. It was generally agreed that having elections would be more beneficial and would be in the spirit what a Students' Union supports.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Belfast) asked Student Officers that an event will be held on Friday 3rd February, which everyone is welcome to attend. This event will begin at 10:00 and run throughout the day.

The Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (Belfast) stated that he would prefer that Student Executive met face-to-face as there has been issues in hosting video-conferences in recent history.

15. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Friday 17th February, with the time and location to be agreed.

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Action Sheet

Minute	Action	By Whom	Follow Up
2	For the General Manager to update Student Executive on the progress of implementing snap-back frames in the bathrooms of the University.	General Manager	Student Executive
4	For the General Manager to write a paper that will be presented at Student Council to outline the change to Incorporation.	General Manager	Student Council
5	For the Student Engagement Manager to circulate this document by email and for Student Officers to agree to the guidance.	Student Engagement Manager	N/A
6	For Student Officers to agree the funding societies receive through email.	All Student Officers	N/A
11	For the President to write a response and circulate it around the other Student Officers.	President	N/A
12	For the President to write a statement or blog post that will outline the position of the Students' Union in relation to the NSS boycott.	President	N/A
13	For Vice-President's Academic and Student Affairs (all) to explore if any Assembly election activity is planning on their campus.	Vice-President Academic and Student Affairs (all)	Student Executive