

NAME: Minutes of Student Council

DATE: 28/10/14

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Minutes of the Student Council meeting on 28th October 2014

14.01 IN ATTENDANCE:

Mark Bell (Chair)	Gillian Bell	Ryan McGavigan
Andrew Kullas	James McCaffrey	Sarah Gordon
Andrew McAnallan	Jennifer Hillman	Avril Honan
Aoife Garvey	Joshua Catterson	Stephen Aitken
Colum Mackey	Jude Doherty	Emmett Mullally
Darren Crooks	Kevin McStravock	Sophia Heikinin
Declan Shiels	Micky Quigg	Yasmin McElhinney
Eamonn McCudden	Nathan Mount	
Euan Cantley	Noel Flood	

Apologies

Chris Shannon	Ethan McNicholl	Sarah Curran
Christine Campbell	Laura Quinn	Vikki Lutton.
Arthur Caulfield	Liam Mulvenna	
Craig Stafford	Robbie Banham	

MINUTES OF MEETING

14.02 CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

Chair informed Council of issues raised during the summer about the Union and its rules of Governance. The chair highlighted the steps that have been taken to look at this issue, mentioning the creation of a governance working group made up of elected officers, trustees and staff from the union along with staff from the University. The chair also notified the council of an intention to create a consultancy group with its membership coming from the student membership. This was opened to the council and they were notified they could contact UUSU Democracy Coordinator for more information.

The Chair outlined the current situation in regards to budget cuts that are affecting the University presently and also future cuts of up to a possible £12 million if the current political deadlock in Stormont was not resolved. The Council was notified of the recent attendance of the Union President and VP for Jordanstown attendance of the NUS-USI Public Affairs day at Stormont they met with members of the executive to discuss how the current political situation is affecting Universities and how the Ulster University was being affected by the cuts specifically.

The Chair then opened the discussion to Council for any feedback on his comments.

Council members commented upon the situation and enquired around possible external revenue streams, strike action and what affect the cuts could have on places and education. The Chair agreed to update council on all and any developments as they happen.

14.03 2013/2014 AUDITED ACCOUNTS:

The Chair passed the floor to the General Manager of UUSU to present the audited accounts. Council noted that UUSU had a current year to July 2014 operating loss of £7091 down from £28000 from the previous year.

At time of reporting UUSU currently had accumulated reserves of £137,876. The council also noted that that UUSU is also operating with liabilities in relation to the pension deficit. Increases in marketing expenditure were mainly due to the rebranding and also the design and creation of a new website.

Council asked why the increase in NUS affiliation costs and the GM replied that in the 2012/13 financial year the Students' Union had received a reduction in affiliation fees after a successful Hardship claim to NUS.

The GM was asked as to why the income from rent had decreased compared to previous years, this was primarily as a result of a reduction in games room income and also the loss of rental income when the Hairdresser moved out of South Building on the Coleraine campus..

The accounts were put for approval by Council which was passed unanimously.

14.04 EXECUTIVE REPORTS:

The Council noted reports given by the Overall Executive of UUSU. Questions arising from the reports were:

- Council enquired as to the input UUSU would have on the selection of the new Vice Chancellor. The president replied that he aimed to have a meeting with the candidates for the position to discuss their views on the Senior Executive and how it would relate to the Union and also in terms of the Greater Belfast Development continue dialogue around UUSU facilities in this.
- Council enquired about the possibility of a GAA pitch at the Magee Campus. The Sports President informed council he is in talks with Sports Services with an aim of using facilities at the Pavilion and took on board councils comments and would include those into the ongoing discussions.
- Council enquired on how it would be possible to encourage participation in sports, both in terms of playing and administration roles while facing budget constraints.. The Sports President informed council that's budgets were set for the year and varied across each individual sport depending on size and need. It was also mentioned to look towards external funding in terms of fundraising events, scholarships and bursaries that could be available.
- Council enquired as to longer opening times for food in the Union space at Belfast. VP Belfast replied that the space was volunteer run and relied on take up in positions. This was a priority moving forward to increase the number of volunteers.
- Council enquired as to VP Belfast's plans if the union space was to close during the development of the campus. The VP replied that part of the funding received from NUS will go towards feedback activities to generate feedback and student opinion to take to the University in terms of ensuring that the Union would have space in the completed development.

- The Council enquired as to the status of the referendum planned for the Magee campus. VP Magee mentioned that this was an agenda point and would be further discussion then.

14.05 EXTERNAL TRUSTEES:

Council noted the appointment of the two external trustees James Copeland and Aoibheann Fearon and approved this appointment.

14.06 GOOD RELATIONS POLICY.

The Chair outlined this policy and noted that it had been in discussion with the Union and Ulster University and had student feedback in its creation. The Chair then outlined the general principles behind the policy. It was put to Council approval and was passed.

14.07 MAGEE CAMPUS REFERENDUM:

The VP Magee outlined the referendum for Magee and highlighted it was around the proposed name change to City of Derry campus (COD). The referendum was to put to the vote this issue to the student membership at the campus with the Union stance being to retain the current designation. The required petition had been completed and it was to be put to Council for their further backing. This was passed.

14.08 VACANT TRUSTEE AND STUDENT COUNCILLOR POSITIONS AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES:

The Chair outlined the different solutions to filling the vacant positions to the Council and Trustee board. After a vote it was decided that working closely with each individual Campus council and OE that co-opting would be the best solution to filling the vacant positions. The Chair and Democracy Coordinator then mentioned as previously stated the governance issues and current status of review. They stated that they aim to have full student involvement in this process and opened it up to Council stating that any and all feedback from the Council was welcome.

14.09 AUDITORS:

The Council approved that the contract for external auditors be put to tender.

14.10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The Council noted that the next Student Council would be in early semester 2 with a location and time TBC. Before then there would be two Student Councils on each campus.

End of Meeting