

ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION STUDENT COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held on 7th April 2016 at 5.30pm via video link between the Jordanstown and Coleraine Campuses.

PRESENT:-

Officers:

Colum Mackey President, Gillian Bell Sports President, Elliot Lyness VP Campaigns and Communications, Conan Meehan VP Belfast, Micky Quigg VP Magee

Councillors:

Catriona Doyle, Kevin McStravock, Andrew McFadden (Chair), Johnston Crothers, Stephen Ruddy, Kyle Coolidge, Oisín Craig, Joy Goodall, Jamie Shaw, Danielle Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Avril Honan (Student Engagement Manager)

APOLOGIES:-

Caoimhe Moreland, Eamonn McLaughlin, Jude Doherty, Aodhan Benson, Vikki Lutton, Karl Hagen, Alexandra Colhoun, Becky Brennan, Arthur Caulfield, Ciara Gribben, Oliver McKee, Katie Ramsbottom, Sofia Heikkinen, Hannah Rooney, Christopher McCabe, Amy Hamilton, Daniel Reynolds, Jay Burbank, Dylan Cumbo, Jordan McCullough, Lauren Cosby, James McGrane, Ami Cobane, Esther Twieg, Christine Campbell, Daniel Loughins, Ellen McGuinness, Mark Bell, Jessica Lee, Anne Sheridan, Laura Rogers, Christopher Stewart, Lorna Loughran, Odhran Ruiseil, Deborah Ferry, Eoghan Mullan, Tiffany Agnew, Darren O'Neill, Eimear Blaney, Christopher Stewart, Samuel Monteith, Fearghal O'Hare.

16.24

QUORUM COUNT

The meeting did not have the minimum number of attendees necessary for the meeting to be quorate at the start time.

ALL DISCUSSIONS FOR INFORMATION ONLY AND NO DECISION IS BINDING UPON THE STUDENTS' UNION.

As this was the second attempt to hold this meeting, all business will now move to a meeting of the Student Executive to discuss and decide.

The Chair asked the Officers present to give a brief update on their work to those in attendance.

16.25 OFFICER REPORTS

Colum Mackey, UUSU President

Noted:

- He attended USI Congress along with five other UUSU representatives. As Council had not been quorate at its last meeting, no policy had been set regarding positions on the motions being debated at Congress. Where UUSU policy did not already exist on matters: delegates were given a free vote on issues;
- A new officer team was elected for USI at Congress: led by a new President, Anne Hoey;
- UUSU elections have also taken place – which saw three existing Officers returned, and four newly elected members to the team;
- The crèche in Coleraine, which is run independently from the University but rents buildings and services staff and students, has been served a notice to quit – taking affect this summer. The President is working to minimise the impact of this on students;
- A Voter Registration campaign has been launched on the four campuses to encourage students to register to vote in the assembly elections in May. SO far 420 forms have been collected in Coleraine and Magee – Jordanstown and Belfast are still to be targeted, however tables with the forms and a post box are available within each SU Space;
- NUS Conference will be taking place on 19th April and Colum will be leading a delegation of five Ulster students to the event in Brighton;
- NUS USI Conference will be the week after the NUS event, and there are still places available for this: Councillors were advised to contact Colum if they wished to attend as they will now be filled on a ‘first come, first served’ basis.

Comments:

Councillor Danielle Roberts commended Colum and the UUSU delegation for voting in support of the Sex Workers motion at USI Congress.

Micky Quigg, VP Magee

Noted:

- Also attended USI Congress and spoke in favour of several motions, most notably:
 - A national mental health campaign;
 - The need for a national sexual health campaign aimed at Freshers;
 - The need for a welfare campaign targeted at students on placement;
 - A campaign focussed on the accommodation rights of students;
- He has represented a number of students at disciplinary and fitness for practice panels;
- Since the last meeting of Council he has been elected as UUSU VP Campaigns and Communications for 2016-17.

Elliott Lyness, VP Campaigns & Communications

Noted:

- Attended USI Congress as part of the UUSU delegation;
- Launched the E-pub campaign in partnership with Student Support: this is an online survey which records drinking habits, and flags people at risk of dependency on alcohol;
- Has been working on graphics for the Voter Registration campaign, amongst other things;
- Has been developing a handover for Micky.

Conán Meehan, VP Belfast

Noted:

- He is pleased to have been re-elected to the position of VP Belfast for 2016-17;
- He has been campaigning to have the charge of £10 for student cards reduced, and researching other possible systems – he has met with the Head of Physical Resources to discuss this and it is being taken forward;
- The SU space will move this summer to another temporary home – this time on the 2nd Floor, where the Vice Chancellor's office currently is. He is unsure of the quality of this space, and noted that this had been changed from previous plans;
- He participated in a panel debate in regards to Art in HE – encouraged Councillors to listen to this online;
- That the Change Management Working Group on Transport Culture Change has met several times and he has been part of plans to try and change staff and student attitudes to public transport in advance of the new campus opening in 2018;
- He attended USI Congress, and will also be attending NUS and NUS-USI Conferences.

Gillian Bell, Sports President

Noted:

- There have been varsities for several sports and she has been involved in the preparation for the Colours Awards;
- Has been involved in the initial meetings with the market research company, Red Brick, who will be carrying out research for UUSU over the coming months.

16.26 MOTIONS FOR DEBATE

The Chair noted that as the meeting was not quorate there would not be a full debate on the motions submitted.

However, those present agreed to discuss some of the policies and air their views to the Student Executive.

Councillor Danielle Roberts noted the following points in relation to the motions:

EU Referendum: Felt that UUSU should facilitate debate amongst the student body in relation to this, and hold a referendum – however, it should not dictate how people should vote by taking a stance.

It was noted that the decision could be taken to take this to an open referendum.

Further, Danielle noted that she welcomed the motion on ‘Male Suicide’ which was being submitted to NUS USI Conference – however, asked if this could be changed to ‘Suicide amongst men’ as using ‘male’ could be trans-exclusionary.

The debate moved back to the EU Referendum motion.

Johnston Crothers, the original proposer, believed that the SU could take a stance on these issues – in the same way as it had done on things like the MSM Blood Ban. However, the majority of Council felt that a referendum for students to decide the UUSU position would be favourable. Colum noted that there were national resources that could be drawn upon to inform students as part of this.

Elliot Lyness stated that he felt the Officer Team should remain neutral throughout the campaign.

Councillor Danielle Roberts asked for clarification on the Sports Pitch motion for Magee – asked why only three sports were mentioned? The Proposer, Micky Quigg, noted that this was due to the fact that only a small number of clubs existed in Magee at present.

The Chair closed the meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: 18th April 2016

