

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION**

To: Members of the Students' Union Council

Dear Councillor,

Please attend the third Statutory Meeting of the 2023-24 Students' Union Council, to be held on Tuesday 5 December 2023 at 5.00pm in the Blue Sky Room, Level 1, Queen's Students' Union.

Yours sincerely,

DAMIEN CORRIDAN

Clerk to the Students' Union Council

**AGENDA**

FIRST CIRCULATION

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - 2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting of 15 November 2023 SUC/M/23/6
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 3.1 Policy Updates
    - 3.1.1 Provisions for Pregnant Students & Parents
4. Communications
  - 4.1 Condolences
  - 4.2 National Students' Union Updates
  - 4.3 National Conference Delegate Elections 2023-24 – Update
  - 4.4 Student Leader Elections 2023-24 – Update
  - 4.5 Referendum - Decolonise, Demilitarise and Democratise Queen's University Belfast – Update
  - 4.6 Council Membership – Update
  - 4.7 Committees of Council Membership – Updates
5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments

There are none.

6. Business for Consideration

6.1 The Clubs and Societies Committee at its meeting of Thursday 30 November 2023, considered whether the following Clubs and Societies meet all Constitutional requirements necessary to recommend them to be considered for recognition by the Council:

6.1.1 QUB Data and AI Society (Society) – Academic Society

6.1.2 QUB Calisthenics Club (Club) – Sporting Club

6.1.3 QUB Oncology Society (Society) – Academic Society

7. Business for Discussion

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update and Discussion

7.2 2023-24 Academic Year – Emerging Issues / Concerns

7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

7.4 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Introduction and Update

7.5 Students' Union Democracy Review – Update

8. Bye-Elections

There are none.

9. Elections

There are none.

10. Motions

10.1 **Consent, Bystander, Handling Disclosure Training for QSU and QUB Staff**

Council Notes:

- There is a significant lack of training for QSU and QUB staff in regard to Consent, Bystander, and Handling Disclosures.

Council Believes That:

- This lack of training is not acceptable. Anyone who has contact with students on such regular basis must have training. This will allow staff to be confident in handling any disclosures appropriately, in intervening in safe and appropriate ways if necessary, and being educated in consent is for the benefit of both staff and student especially as either can be the victims of harassment.
- Also, gender-based violence was noted as an emergency by this Students' Union and as such, this is a necessary and crucial next step for us to take.
- Importantly, this will ensure that topics such as consent are being normalised and implemented throughout our entire University community.

Council Resolves That:

- The SU Council will push for training on Consent to be made 'mandatory with opt out', and then training on Bystander / Handling Disclosure is to be made mandatory for staff. The

latter topics will be mandatory with no opt out as they should be deemed necessary for anyone in a role of responsibility.

- This training will be delivered virtually for accessibility and feasibility reasons. A quiz will be held at the end of any/all online training to ensure active participation. Training will be delivered by a chosen organisation to be agreed upon in the near future.
- Ideally, this training will be rolled out firstly to staff in student facing roles within QSU and QUB, such as professors, tutors, full time Students' Union staff, accommodation RA's, and Students' Union officers. The training would, if possible, then be rolled out to all staff such as part-time and temporary Q-Workers.

Proposer: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

Seconder: Mischa Gerrard (Disabled Students' Association Chairperson)

## 10.2 **Consent, Bystander and Disclosure Training for All Students' Union Positions**

Council Notes:

- There is currently no mandatory consent, bystander or disclosure training for any Students' Union positions.

Council Believes:

- That any Students' Union position involves dealing with other students. As such, being trained in bystander and handling disclosures is incredibly important to minimise potential further harm done to a student in a vulnerable moment if opening up about a situation.
- Furthermore, gender-based violence is an emergency and has declared to be such. Thus, to implement this training, particularly regarding consent, is a natural next step that we must do.
- Council mandates that the SU must implement mandatory consent (with opt-out) training and bystander / handling disclosure training for all Students' Union positions (course representatives, faculty representatives, student association chairs, school representatives, etc.). Following the framework of SU Council meetings, this training will be delivered in-person.
- Although SU representatives will not be required to sit the training twice in the same academic year, this motion will ensure that all SU representatives will receive mandatory (with opt-out) consent training whether from the SU or the University. However, the mandatory bystander and handling disclosure training will remain in place regardless of the university consent training roll out.

Proposer: Evie Cawte (Student)

Seconder: Róisín Keenan (Women Students' Association Chairperson)

## 11. Report of the Management Board and Recommendations

### 11.1 Report of the Management Board

## 12. Report of the Executive Management Committee and Recommendations

### 12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee

### 12.2 Report of the Union President (October 2023)

SUC/P/23/63

### 12.3 Report of the Union President (November 2023)

SUC/P/23/64

12.4	Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (October 2023)	SUC/P/23/65
12.5	Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (November 2023)	SUC/P/23/66
12.6	Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (October 2023)	SUC/P/23/67
12.7	Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (November 2023)	SUC/P/23/68
12.8	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate (October 2023)	SUC/P/23/69
12.9	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate (November 2023)	SUC/P/23/70
12.10	Report of the Student Officer Education (October 2023)	SUC/P/23/71
12.11	Report of the Student Officer Education (November 2023)	SUC/P/23/72
12.12	Report of the Student Officer Welfare (October 2023)	SUC/P/23/73
12.13	Report of the Student Officer Welfare (November 2023)	SUC/P/23/74

13. Reports from other Union Committees and Recommendations

Reports to be circulated.

14. Reports from University Committees

There are none.

15. Constitutional Questions

There are none.

16. Questions (to Elected Student Representatives)

There are none.

17. Any Other Competent Business

18. Date of Next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council

Monday 22 January 2024 at 5.00 p.m. in The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood.

Agenda Items Deadline: Thursday 11 January 2024, 9.00 a.m.

Constitutional Amendments Deadline: Thursday 4 January 2024, 9.00 a.m.