

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Union President

Name: Beth Elder

Period Covered by Report: October 2023

Introduction

Haigh gach duine,

As President of the Students' Union, I co-ordinate the activity and campaigns of the Students' Union and act as chief spokesperson on behalf of the Union. I work to ensure the Union priorities are enacted and chair several Committees of the Students' Union, such as the Executive Management Committee and Standing Committee.

My areas of focus for the year are co-ordinating the Union Priorities (Housing, Cost of Living, Sustainability, Voter Registration/Student Manifesto, Mental Health, and Student Voice), as well as developing Student Community and Democracy, International Student Supports, and Political Lobbying.

Project Progress

Thankfully, October saw the end of the Freshers Festivities with the Big Night In. There were several additional events throughout October including the launch of the University's Net Zero plan, a Convocation event, and the One Young World Summit. Additionally, I engaged heavily in Strategy 2030 conversations, focusing on making staff engagement with students within projects and decisions mandatory. The University also began pulling together membership for a corporate governance review steering committee and working group, and I took a seat on the steering group and secured an additional seat for a student to sit on the working group, to be elected at the next statutory meeting of the Students' Union Council. Along with the Student Officers, I also presented our 'asks and updates for the year to the University Management Board in our bi-annual Consultative Committee. These consisted of Student Voice, Democracy Review, Cost of Living and Sustainability. The SU Volunteering and Wellbeing fair also happened in October, and I held a Halloween themed Create and Chat event where students could come and get snacks and paint various items, including pumpkins and tote bags, for free. I also spend a considerable amount of time planning a Student Assembly for the Planetary Crisis in partnership with some staff and students. I also suffered some sickness in October and was off for a short period.

Key Events / Meetings

Date	Details of Activity (and outcomes for students)
3 rd Oct	Students' Union Management Board
4 th Oct	Executive Management Committee
4 th Oct	Hosted the One Young World Social Evening
5 th Oct	Student Manifesto Session
9 th Oct	Meeting with the head of Sustainability
9 th Oct	Meeting with SU Advice about scams
11 th Oct	One Elmwood Official Opening Working Group
11 th Oct	Meeting with Associate PVC for Sustainability and Strategic Projects
11 th Oct	Meeting with Vice Chancellor
11 th Oct	Convocation networking dinner
12 th Oct	Interview Panel
16 th Oct	Student Engagement with Strategy 2030 Event Planning Session
17 th Oct	SU/UMB Consultative Committee
18 th Oct	Executive Management Committee
19 th Oct	Net Zero Launch Event – Panel Chair
24 th Oct	Strategy 2030 Student Engagement event
25 th Oct	SU Volunteering and Wellbeing Fair
26 th Oct	One Elmwood/SU Official Opening Event
27 th Oct	Student Assembly on the Planetary Crisis Catchup
30 th Oct	Planning and Finance Committee
30 th Oct	Meeting with the Vice Chancellor