

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Sajid Khan

Period: November

Introduction:

As Equality & Diversity Officer, my role is divided between making sure that internally, students are receiving a quality education regardless of any protected characteristics in equality legislation (e.g. age, race, gender etc.), and that externally students feel safe, welcome, and included in their communities no matter their identity.

November:

Activity	Description
Comhairle Náisiúnta (National Council of USI)	Attended CN alongside the C&E Officer and Postgraduate Officer. This CN was hosted by TU Dublin, and took place over 2 days, with a series of working groups followed by council. A number of motions were proposed inc. Trans Harm Reduction Support, Gaeilge re-branding of USI, boycott University Ranking etc. and were put back to working groups to be shaped up more, with the view to becoming full fledged policy. The motion against the use of exam monitoring software Proctorio was passed.
Commercial Services Forum	Both the Bar and Shop brought more comprehensive financial figures, than had done previously, this was greatly appreciated. Some day to day issues were discussed. SO C&E urged the shop to consider stocking some Palestinian goods, such as Olive Oil. Shop manager followed up after meeting to confirm having found a supplier
UCU Catch-up	First meeting of the year to catch up with UCU representatives, after the MAB. Things seem to be in a good place with the interim agreement now. Discussed collaboration to fund projects (potentially Parents and Carer Fund). Discussed the potential for Referendum to be passed in the subsequent council, and actions that could follow.
Consent Campaign	SO Welfare and I, met with the University consent ambassadors to discuss progressing the consent campaign. Over a series of meetings we assessed the possibility of releasing a survey

	<p>to consult students, though realised the time frame for release would need to be shifted to the second semester in order to ensure it is as comprehensive as possible.</p>
EMpower	<p>Assisted USI with sourcing speakers for EMpower in NCI Dublin – an event meant to inspire Ethnic Minority students to take up positions of power in clubs, socs, SU’s and wider society. I also took part in the event as a panel member to discuss the obstacles to reaching leadership as a person of colour and what day to day life is like in a position of leadership.</p> <p>Turn-out was not great, but the engagement was high amongst those who did attend. I impressed upon USI the value in hosting the next EMpower event with QSU, as I believe we would be able to get higher numbers attending and it would be of great value to our EM communities at Queen’s.</p>
Pink Training	<p>Pink Training is the largest LGBT conference in all of Europe. Over the past few months I have been liaising with the Pride Society to build our delegation. Pink Training was held in Galway University, and I led the QSU delegation. There were a number of great speakers and talks such as: Gender Anarchy, Chem Sex, Queer Activism and many more.</p> <p>Overall a very fun and engaging time, well worth the very long journey</p>
Student Assembly: Planetary Crisis	<p>Over the past few months the Officer team has been coordinating with People and Planet, as well as key Uni academics, to host an assembly of both staff and students to discuss what Queen’s could be doing to address the climate crisis.</p> <p>Some important takeaways were the need for Queen’s to divest from BlackRock, to include a sustainable climate module in every course and to protect the rights of student protesters.</p>
Met with Cllr John Gormley	<p>Met with Councillor John Gormley of the Botanic Area to discuss the Gaeilge street signage campaign and where he as a council representative of the area could fit in. We discussed potentially taking the Holylands area as one block, as was done for previous Gaeltacht areas such as the Falls. This would overcome a number of obstacles the campaign</p>

	could potentially face and help overcome blockage in the council bureaucracy. Further meeting will be had to discuss the viability of this tactic.
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