

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Sajid Khan

Period: February

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.

Activity	Description
LGBT History Month	<p>In collaboration with the Pride Soc we hosted 3 events during the month.</p> <p>Firstly, there was Queer History Lectures. We had Tom Hulme giving a really engaging lecture on the Queer history of Belfast, exploring an analysing history with a Queer lens to look past the 'they were just roommates' trope.</p> <p>We had intended to have Trans Pride Dublin organiser Jenny Maguire in to give a talk on 'How to weaponise your annoyingness for good' but unfortunately this had to be cancelled.</p> <p>Secondly, there was the 'Pride is Right' event in Parlour, which was a satirical gay spin on Price is Right, with £300 in prizes to be won by students who attended. This event was great fun and highly engaged.</p> <p>Finally, we had a showing of the movie 'Pride' at the QFT which was at near full seating capacity. A great end to the month, with a film that stresses how solidarity in times of struggle can unite disparate communities, and how union's can champion social justice causes. We had originally intended to have a speaker from LGSM but unfortunately had trouble getting in contact.</p>
EMpower 2.0	EMpower was hosted in mid February, we had 3 members of the USI Coiste Gnó come

	<p>to assist with the event. The event was mostly a series of speakers and workshops, with food and social events after.</p> <p>The first day was kicked off with an interactive talk with Hasan Patel on strategic communications and his experience in NUS in the early 2000s to his current career in brand communications.</p> <p>The second day had speakers such as J.L Campbell Tedx speaker and former VP Postgraduate education, giving a fantastic and inspiring talk on 'Taking up Space'. Followed by an educational talk on 'Decolonising the Curriculum' by Dr Eiman Abdel Meguid and Dr Gift Softonye, which was highly informative on the ways in which education is dominated by Western biases and the ways in which students and academics can work to broaden their academic vision. There was then a student officer panel in which current and former officers were able to talk candidly about their experiences, struggles and triumphs in office. The day was rounded off with a talk by Zaid Al Bargoughthi the USI VP Campaigns on 'Activism and Campaigning'.</p> <p>Overall, the event was a success, we had a good turn-out on the first day which unfortunately didn't follow onto the second day. Nevertheless, the attendees who were there, were engaged with the content and the speakers all delivered excellent material. The format of EMpower may need to be rethought for future delivery, but the content itself I think holds up. Had the event been delivered at a different time of year, I can see this event being very well attended. These lessons will be carried into next year should we bring EMpower back to QSU.</p>
Health and Safety Committee	<p>Attended Health and Safety Committee in place of the President. There was discussion of the role of University Senior managements position on the committee and whether or not it should be delegated to a chosen nominee. I took the position that it is important that senior management attend these meetings, as for many unions it is the only statutorily obligated meeting and is an</p>

	important touch point with management who have the authority to take action on issues.
ECSE	I attended ECSE (education committee student experience) alongside SO UG education and SO PG education. A meta-analysis of student outcomes was presented to the committee. Notably, students from quintiles 1 and 2 of the MDM (the most deprived students on a variety of measures), had slightly poorer student outcomes, meaning they aren't in graduate employment or employment. This highlights the need for greater funding needed for WP measures.