

SUC/A/25/6

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

To: Members of the Students' Union Council

Dear Councillor,

Please attend the second Statutory Meeting of the 2025-26 Students' Union Council, to be held on Monday 17 November 2025 at 4.00pm in The Cube, Level One, 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 23 October 2025
3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There is none.
4. Communications
 - 4.1 Condolences
 - 4.2 SU Voice – Updates
 - 4.3 SOS-UK Drugs and Alcohol Programme
 - 4.4 Student Councillor Support and Priority Issues
 - 4.5 Creating SU Policy – Overview
5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments

There are none.
6. Business for Consideration
 - 6.1 Clubs and Societies Committee – Recommendations

SUC/M/25/4

The Clubs and Societies Committee at its meetings of Thursday 30 October and Thursday 6 November 2025, 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 Diversity in Law Society (Academic Society)
- 6.1.2 QUB Korean Society (Cultural Society)
- 6.1.3 QUB Quantum Machine Learning Society (Academic Society)
- 6.1.4 QUB Bar Society (Academic Society)
- 6.1.5 QUB Nephrology Society (Academic Society)
- 6.1.6 QUB Connolly Youth Society (Campaigning Society)
- 6.1.7 QUB Medical Humanities Society (Academic Society)

6.2 Student Officer Plan of Work 2025-26

SUC/P/25/45

Council is asked to consider and approve the Student Officer Plan of Work 2025-26 as detailed in paper SUC/P/24/45.

6.3 Standing Committee – Recommendations

6.3.1 Students' Union Policy Review

Background

The Students' Union Council is required to review all SU advocacy policies on an annual basis. It is proposed that Council delegate responsibility for coordinating this activity to the Standing Committee of Council who shall review policies on behalf of Council and then report to Council with recommendations on whether specific policies should remain as SU policies or be allowed to lapse.

Recommendation

The Standing Committee to lead on oversight of a review of the QSU policy file to:

- Examine all current policies for relevance, accuracy and timeliness.
- Provide reports to Council detailing progress on QSU policies.
- Recommend to Council, whether Council should object to the lapse of any specific policies.
- Recommend to Council, where deemed appropriate, a redrafting of existing policies to reflect the current policy landscape, maintaining broadly similar policy principles and outcomes as current policies.
- Ask Council to consider referring these revised policies to the Proposal Support Committee for consideration under the Student Ideas Submission process.
- Review the structure and format of the QSU policy file to enhance accessibility for general students.

Any policies scheduled to lapse at the end of a current academic year - which have not been examined in a current academic year – shall be subject to a recommendation that Council should object to the lapse of any specific policies.

The Standing Committee shall not make any determination or recommendation on the substantive matters of a policy that may materially alter or negate established policy.

The Standing Committee may liaise directly with the Proposal Support Committee to minimise duplication of efforts when reviewing existing policies.

The Clerk of Council and the SU Voice team shall be available to provide support for the process, focusing Committee efforts on key areas of consideration.

7. Business for Discussion

Councillors are invited to raise any relevant issues for discussion under agenda items 7.1 – 7.3.

7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update

7.2 QUB Academic / Support Services Issues – Update

7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update

7.4 QUB Raise and Give (QUB RAG) Review – Discussion

7.5 Northern Ireland Student Mental Health and Wellbeing Principles – Discussion

7.6 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Overview

SUC/P/25/46

Councillors will receive an overview of the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2025-26 and Annual Action Plan for 2025-26.

7.7 Union President Updates

Updates on areas of on-going or emerging focus.

8. Bye-Elections

There are none.

9. Elections

There are none.

Results of elections conducted at the Inaugural Meeting of Council (Thursday 23 October 2025) are detailed in the minutes of that meeting.

10. Motions

These agenda items will be preceded by a presentation providing an overview of the procedures for discussion / debate of motions.

10.1 **A Welcome Inclusive Union Bar**

Council Notes:

1. The Union Bar is a social space for students and should not display symbols that cause others to feel unwelcome.
2. There is a mural on the wall of The Union Bar which displays decorative symbols and references that are deliberately provocative to those of the Christian faith, such as a "666" and other symbols.
3. There are many Christian students who would be opposed to the presence of such imagery when attending The Union Bar which may make them feel unwelcome. Images that are not needed in such an environment.

Council Believes:

The Students' Union building and its facilities should be an inclusive space for all students regardless of background and faith.

Council Directs:

The Executive Management Committee to seek the removal of such imagery from The Union Bar.

Proposer: David Bingham (Councillor – Undergraduate)

Seconded: Jay Basra (Councillor – Undergraduate)

10.2 **QSU Partnership with University Colleges**

Context

QUB, St. Mary's University College (Belfast) [SMUC] and Stranmillis University College (Belfast) (SUC) are three higher education institutions with a shared history of collaboration.

The three institutions are legally independent organisations, with separate arrangements for funding from government, separate student support services, and separate financial decision-making powers, and separate students' unions.

The two colleges are largely academically integrated with the University and deliver higher education programmes through educational collaborative agreements with QUB, with degrees and other programmes accredited and awarded by the University.

Queen's quality assurance regulations and academic and student regulations apply to these programmes and to students undertaking these programmes. They are known as "Colleges of Queen's University Belfast".

In practical terms, most students of the two colleges are treated as Queen's students – studying through the college – which gives them access to many QUB services and facilities.

This includes access to some Queen's Students' Union opportunities facilities. However, there are also restrictions, reflecting the reality that students in SMUC and SUC are members of their own respective students' unions and not members of Queen's Students' Union.

Formally the relationship between QUB, SUMC and SUC are governed by a set of multi-year partnership agreements which are reviewed and approved by the governing bodies of the institutions. The partnerships were most recently reviewed and renewed in the 2024-25 academic year.

In these new agreements, Queen's committed to encourage formal cooperation and engagement between the three Students' Unions of the respective institutions and between the University and SMUC and SUC students' unions.

The respective formal agreements state:

- *"The St Mary's Students' Union president will have ex-officio representation on the Student Councils of the University and Stranmillis University College."*
- *"The Stranmillis Students' Union President will have ex-officio representation on the respective Student Councils."*

This approach is supported by the elected officers in all three students' unions, recognising that there is mutual benefit to collaboration in areas of shared interest and priority. There is also significant potential to empower the students' unions of the two colleges by utilising Queen's Students' Union's representative role in the University to influence Queen's decisions which impact students in SUMC and SUC, who are studying Queen's programmes.

The QSU Constitution and Rules state:

“Persons who are enrolled on a course of study at St Mary’s University College, Stranmillis University College and any and all other bodies with which the University has a collaborative agreement, shall, although not members of the Union, be entitled, subject to the Rules, to enter the Union premises and make use of Union facilities as designated by the Union from time to time. Such persons shall not, however, be entitled to access any of the advisory or support services provided by the Union.”

The student officers from the three students’ unions are currently engaging in discussions on how to develop greater partnership working between the three unions on areas of mutual benefit and interest. Any formal outworkings of these discussions will be presented to Council at a future date.

The proposal detailed below is to give effect to the provision of the formal agreement between QUB and SMUC and SUC relating to representation on the QSU Council, by including the text in the QSU Council Orders which are a set of operational procedures for Council.

Amendments to the Council Orders require the support of two-thirds of those present and voting at a meeting of the Council.

Proposal

Insert the following into new section into Council Orders and renumber all existing sections and clauses accordingly:

EX-OFFICIO ATTENDANCE AT COUNCIL

The elected president of St. Mary’s University College Students’ Union may attend any meeting of the Council and have full speaking rights.

The elected president of Stranmillis University College Students’ Union may attend any meeting of the Council and have full speaking rights.

Proposer: Amy Smith (Union President)
 Seconder: Eli McBriarty (Student Officer Undergraduate Education)

10.3 The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

That this Council recognises and affirms the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) as the legitimate and lawful policing authority for Northern Ireland, and rejects any rhetoric or behaviour which seeks to delegitimise or threaten those serving to uphold the rule of law.

Proposer: Jay Basra (Councillor – Undergraduate)
 Seconder: Lee Walker (Councillor – Societies)

11. Report of the Management Board and Recommendations

The following report shall be noted:

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| 11.1 | Report of the Management Board | SUC/P/25/54 |
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12. Report of the Executive Management Committee and Recommendations

The following reports shall be noted:

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| 12.1 | Report of the Executive Management Committee (October 2025) | SUC/P/25/47 |
| 12.2 | Report of the Executive Management Committee (November 2025) | SUC/P/25/55 |

The following papers shall be taken 'as read'. Councillors shall be invited to ask questions to each officer on matters related to the reports. The Council shall be asked to vote collectively on each report, unless a request is received from a Councillor to exclude a specific report from the collective vote.

12.3	Report of the Union President (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/48
12.4	Report of the Union President (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/56
12.5	Report of the Student Officer Activities and Engagement (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/49
12.6	Report of the Student Officer Activities and Engagement (Nov 2025)	SUC/P/25/57
12.7	Report of the Student Officer Accessible Education (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/50
12.8	Report of the Student Officer Accessible Education (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/58
12.9	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/51
12.10	Report of the Student Officer Postgraduate Education (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/59
12.11	Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/52
12.12	Report of the Student Officer Undergraduate Education (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/60
12.13	Report of the Student Officer Welfare and Community (October 2025)	SUC/P/25/53
12.14	Report of the Student Officer Welfare and Community (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/61

13. Reports from other Union Committees and Recommendations

The following reports shall be noted:

13.1	Report of the Standing Committee (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/62
13.2	Report of the Proposal Support Committee (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/63
13.3	Report of the Clubs and Societies Committee (November 2025)	SUC/P/25/64

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

Tuesday 26 January 2026 at 4.00 p.m. in The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood.

Deadline for agenda submission of agenda items: Monday 12 January 2026, 9.00 a.m.

Deadline for submission of Constitutional amendments: Monday 15 December, 9.00 a.m.