

**Queen's University Belfast Students' Union**  
**Full-Time Student Officer Report**

Role: Union President

Name: Beth Elder

Period Covered by Report: February 2024

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

February consisted of continuing work on ongoing projects, Student Referendum outcomes, Student Bursary thresholds, and Welcome Week framework.

Negotiations for an agreement between the Students' Union and University management continued, including a one-on-one meeting with the Vice President for Strategic Engagement and External Affairs. I was presented with a 'Responsible Investment Policy'. I spent some time this month combing through this to present comments to the Chief Financial Officer.

I continued meeting with the Director for Students and Corporate Services, and representatives from accommodation and the finance department. I presented an amended option for the bursary tiers after some benchmarking with other Universities similar in size.

Proposed thresholds:

**2 Tier:**

Threshold (£)	Award (£)
Below 25,000	2000
25,001 – 36,000	1000

**3 Tier:**

Threshold (£)	Award (£)
0 – 25,000	1500
25,001 – 30,000	1000
30,001 – 40,000	500

The finance and accommodation team are taking these away and using student incomes from last year to assess affordability.

Myself and some of the other officers continued to meet with University regarding the Welcome and Induction Framework. We brought the topic to Academic Board which consists of all the Undergraduate and Postgraduate School and Faculty Representatives and key staff. This discussion lasted for an hour with recognition of key student groups that are not receiving an equitable Welcome and Induction experience, and the need for reform in this area. An action was taken to begin drafting the paper for Education Committee Student Experience for proposed pilot changes for the Welcome and Induction for academic year 2024/25.

Internally, the Union continued to prepare for elections, including hosting the Candidate Debate in The Wee Bar.

Student Officers from St. Andrews Students' Union visited Queen's Students' Union, and we spent a day with their team discussing growth within our respective Students' Unions.

The entire Student Officer team engaged in a full day of Media Training with Macmillin Media. This consisted of a presentation on media skills and several practical exercises including a mock TV and radio interview.

Finally, I began engaging with several student societies (including Fashion Society, Wine and Cheese Society and many others) to plan a 'Sustainable Fashion Show' for April. I also took some time out to engage in some Volunteering with 'Jump In'. I spent a day volunteering at the RE-Store for Habitat for Humanity – it was 10/10 would volunteer again.

### Key Events / Meetings

<b>Date</b>	<b>Details of Activity (and outcomes for students)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Student Bursaries Meeting
2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	NUS-USI Policy Discussion Workshop
5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Governance Review Reference Group
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Meeting with Fashion Society
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Executive Management Committee
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Catch up with Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Commercial Services Forum
8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	ESS Steering Group for Strategy 2030
9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Macmillin Media – Media Training
12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	St. Andrew's Students' Union Visit
15 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Catch-up with Director of Civic Engagement and Social Responsibility
20 <sup>th</sup> Feb	NUS-USI Membership Meeting
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	QUBWell Management Group
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Executive Management Committee
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Undergraduate and Postgraduate Academic Board
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Safe and Healthy Relationships Initiatives Group
22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Volunteering with Jump In
26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Catchup about Welcome Week
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Meeting with Vice Chancellor
27 <sup>th</sup> Feb	SU Elections Candidate Debates

28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Meeting with Vice President for Strategic Engagement and External Affairs
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Governance Review Interview – Academic Council
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Catch up with Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education and Students
29 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Students' Union Council