

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Sajid Khan

Period: March

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
ELECTIONS ELECTION ELECTIONS.	<p>I got elected to the role of Campaigns and Engagement with 3493 votes. K thnx bye.</p> <p>Fr tho, elections took up a lot of energy, both prior and during, so it is very relieving for it to be done. Congratulations to all candidates who ran in ever role, I was very proud to stand in an election with some many worthy people.</p>
Conferences, Conferences, Conferences	<p>Went to NUS-USI conference, with the officer team and some delegates. Over the 2 days many policies were discussed, with all having passed in the votes since. These policies act more like priority setting for the coming year. The policies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Childcare provisions2. Political mobilisation3. Reform of NUS Structures <p>I voted in favour of all, and spoke on the last 2 policies. The final policy was the most contentious, as it is a reform of NUS structures to give more autonomy to the 4 regions and establish an official NUS England. I believe the greater separation of the structures will allow our national union to focus on our specific needs rather than be tied to the UK as a whole for policy decisions. This is not a separation from NUS UK as a whole, but rather a devolving of more power and having a more equitable balance of Student Officers amongst the executive</p>

	<p>teams. This reform still needs to be approved at NUS conference which is upcoming in April.</p> <p>Myself, delegates and members of the team attended USI Comhdháil, which was a week long trip to Sligo that consisted mostly of policy debates during the day and socials at night. It was a very fun and engaging congress, with some very important policies being mandated by Comhdháil, such as taking the position of legalisation for all drugs, supporting and communicating with grassroots activists and greater provisions for the Irish language across the island.</p> <p>I spoke in favour of 3 motions; investigating the potential benefits of the 4 day week, Grassroots activism and communication and finally on Investment Audits of HEIs. All, except the first passed and have become USI policy.</p> <p>Special notice to the Women’s Association Chairperson Roisin Keenan for giving excellent speeches emphasising the inclusion of the North in policies and advocating for the rights of women on policy’s surrounding sex workers and the women’s council.</p>
Seachtain NaGailge	<p>In collaboration with the An Cumman Gaelach we hosted an Irish Language quiz, with prizes at the Parlour. This was well attended and very engaging. We also took some effort to decorate the union and have Irish dancers in the foyer during the week. This really helped to liven up the space, and although I wished we had done more, I feel the energy surrounding Seachtain NaGailge this year was really positive.</p>
Decolonise, Demilitarise and Democratise	<p>After many months of negotiations with University management, lead by the President and consulted with by the officer team, we have signed the principles of agreement by which we will work with the university to progress the important issues laid out in the referendum.</p> <p>The agreement outlines the ways in which we will work towards getting the university to</p>

	<p>divest from the arms and fossil fuel industry, with bi-annual meetings on the subject. As well as being granted an extra seat and voting right on the planning and finance committee, and having the president on the committees that appoint and re-appoint chancellors. This will also coincide reform of the process of selecting chancellors, by getting them to sign principles by which they will undertake the role, to ensure that they best represent the views and thoughts of the students and staff who make up Queens.</p>
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