

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Sajid Khan

Period: November

Introduction: As Campaigns and Engagement Student Officer, my role is divided between assisting the development of Union campaign strategies and coordinating student development in Clubs and Societies, Volunteering, Enterprise and RAG. As all officers do, I represent and advocate for students in their academic life.

Activity	Description
UMB Consultative Committee	The Officer team and I, presented to the University Management board about our new strategic plan for the next 5 years. We outlined our success with the previous 5 year strategic plan. I oversaw the Clubs and Societies sections of the presentation, demonstrating the breadth of work covered by the union and some of the challenges faced as we continue to grow. We made a strong case for an uplift in the SU subvention to match the ongoing work, and to support growth of the union in a financially sustainable way.
Swap Shop	With the Opening of the Swap Shop, the student officers and I, supported the first shifts to ensure that the intended model for shop operations was being communicated well to students. There was great interest in the concepts and anecdotally I can say that students are taking to the idea very well. We will continue to monitor and review the Swap Shop to see what is working and what isn't.
Clubs and Societies Committee	The committee heard proposals from multiple societies. Committee members scrutinised the applications and asked relevant questions to the societies. Well done to all committee members for doing their job well and professionally, a credit to the union. All proposals we heard from have been recommended for approval by council.
Accommodation Toilets consultation	I was consulted by accommodation on the expectation from international students for bidet or similar water based washing facilities in the toilets. It is common practice in the eastern world to wash in this way, and Residential life was interested in how this can be best accommodated given issues of jerry-rigging arising. There are certain legal restrictions on what can be done regarding water flow and plumbing to avoid cross contamination, and so a design that is built into the toilet seat was considered the most sensible option.

Battle of the Bands	The event was a great success, with approx. 400 people in attendance and £1.7k raised for RAG charities. All the bands said that it was the largest crowd they had performed in front of, which speaks well to our intended goal of platforming Queen's student bands in need of recognition. The winners, Running out the clock have been put in contact with the recording studio to collect their prize of studio time for mastering, mixing and recording of their music. Credit to all 5 bands involved, they all put on a great show, and I'm sure made many new fans that night. It is my view that this opens the door for further platforming of the arts within the SU and my hope that this is not the last Battle of the Bands hosted by the SU.
NUS Liberation Collective	The NUS UK team came over to visit our campus, it was great to link in with the team and discuss future plans and options for national lobbying strategy. During this trip they also had the first meeting of the Liberation Collective, a network of student social justice advocates across the UK. We had students from both Queen's and Ulster present to have the first meeting and give an indication of the direction we felt the collective should travel, as well as promoting the collective.
Protest Response	During the Global Innovation Summit, a number of activists from different groups protested the summit due to attendance of Hillary Clinton. These protesters were met with an excessive use of force from the PSNI, and their actions only served to escalate the situation. The right to protest is a fundamental right in both society and on campus; it is a right the SU will continue to protect. In the time since, we have issued a statement and have liaised with the Palestinian Assembly, University, and the solicitor for the charged students. The University has committed to investigating the incident, and we await the outcome of this investigation and will update accordingly.
Civic Activism Programme	The SU Voice team delivered the civic activism programme, which consisted of 3 sessions covering the Theory of Change, Stakeholder influence and building momentum. The students who attended all 3 and have evidenced work within their workbooks will have their hours logged towards the Future Ready Award. Credit to Emma Gorey for development and delivery of the programme. The hope is for this to become a resource that continues to be developed in the coming years and is a course we continue to deliver in the same vein as Rep training.
Digitisation of Academic Appeals	This is a continuation of work from months previous on the process to creating a digital portal for students to submit academic appeals. The new system is I believe, better than the old analogue forms, and should be simpler for both staff and students to track queries and make student appeals stronger.

	<p>We have pushed for inclusion of SU advice within the system. There are challenges to this, as there is a need for independence in regard to what data is collected and the GDPR of the student has to be considered. A suitable compromise has been found in which the student will be able to download their appeal before submission in order to share with SU advice and will be able to mark consent for SU advice to receive notification of an outcome (though without any details on the decision itself). This compromise maintains data independence and upholds the principle of revocable consent for the student. With this addition it should aid in closing the feedback loop for SU advice.</p>
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