

## Kieran Minto President officer report: March

A lot of March was taken up with the elections and making sure that they were successful (they ended up being the second highest turn out of all time), a lot of time was also spent on our five year strategic plan and our housing cooperatives plan.

### Meetings:

- I attended the usual **recurring committees** and meetings with senior staff that is expected of the role, including student debt management, planning and finance, Vice chancellor meetings, senate and academic board.
- The C&E officer and I met with Dr **Andrew Grounds** to discuss **housing co-operatives** and ensure our ideas had a solid academic grounding.
- I met with the head of estates to talk about **operation issues in the SU building**, including cleaning and staff management.
- The C&E officer and I met with staff from accommodation to begin conversations around **accommodation fees** in the next few years.
- I met with the new **deputy VC** for the first time to where I shared our vision and gave some details on the union. We also discussed his ideas going forward. Similarly, I and the other officers met the new **PVC of EPS** to discuss similar topics.
- The C&E officer and I met with the head of university finances Paddy Anderson to talk about **housing co-operatives**. He was very supportive of the project, and he agreed to pay for an **external feasibility study** that we would present at.
- I and the education officers attended an **academic year review debrief and implementation** meeting where we started to look at how the academic year changes, we lobbied for would be implemented and its effects on next year.
- The C&E officer and I attended a meeting around **SU Awards** and made decisions on what the event would look like.

### Internal events:

- The C&E officer and I attended an event celebrating the signing of a **partnership agreement** with Stranmillis university college. This inspired us to write our own ideas around partnership with their union, which we have begun exploring.
- The C&E officer and I attended an event at Elms BT9, handing out free food **promoting the elections**.
- I attended a workshop for **“Enhancing External Affairs Coordination”** alongside most of the senior staff in the university at the PWC Belfast offices.
- NUS-USI hosted training for **Belfast MET SU** in conjunction with us.
- I and the other officers attended the **Staff excellence awards**.

### External events:

- I and the other officers attended a **charter day** organised by the Ulster university education officer, this event focused on the issue of violence against women and girls in Belfast.
- I produced safety videos for the university around **Paddys day**.
- I alongside the NUS-USI president and the Ulster president attended and presented at the **department for communities committee at Stormont**. We spoke about student housing; student issues and I spoke extensively about housing co-operatives. The committee heavily endorsed the housing co-operative model and are eager to hear more.

**Other:**

- **Brighton SU visited** us for two days we offered them tours and some.
- I and all the officers, both those running in **elections** and those not; spent the week of elections doing events and lecture shout-outs.

**Project focus:**

- A lot of time was spent writing and ensuring the **strategic plan** was completed on time on that it represented the vision of the union for the next five years.
- Myself and the C&E officer spent a lot of time writing a proposal document for **housing co-operatives** and meeting with various stakeholders on the ideas.