

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Student Officer Equality and Diversity

Name: Suyi Yang

Period: April

Introduction:

As the Equality and Diversity Student Officer at the Students' Union, my role is to advocate for an inclusive and supportive environment where all students, regardless of background or identity, feel represented and valued. I work closely with various teams across the Queen's and Queen's Students' Union to make sure students' voice is heard. Through campaigns, events, and initiatives, I aim to foster a campus culture that celebrates equality and empowers students from all walks of life.

Activity	Description
SU Awards - assessment session	I participated in the SU Award assessment session to help shortlist clubs and societies for the SU Award in one of the categories. The winners and runners-up were selected at the conclusion of the session.
Special Meeting of Council	I attended a special meeting of the Student Council prior to the final meeting. During this meeting, the officer and I presented the 2025-2030 draft strategic plan to the student councillors, which was subsequently approved by them. The next stage will involve presenting the plan to the University Management Board.
Appeal Complaints Panel	I served on the Stage 3 Student Appeal Complaints Panel, where we heard from students, made decisions to resolve their complaints, and provided recommendations for better supporting students.
Ascertainment Understanding Alcohol workshop	I attended an alcohol awareness workshop hosted by ASCERT. During this workshop, I gained valuable data on alcohol consumption in Northern Ireland across different age ranges, as well as the laws governing alcohol use in the UK and Ireland. The workshop provided insightful guidance on managing alcohol consumption throughout the day and calculating alcohol units. I also learned about effective support strategies for individuals struggling with alcohol addiction.
Fairtrade Steering Group	In the Fairtrade Group meeting, we discussed event options for Fairtrade Awareness Week

	and World Fairtrade Day. A collaboration between the Students' Union, the university, and Student Accommodation was suggested, with additional options explored to further raise student awareness on these important issues.
Sanctuary Appraisal Call	The C&E Student Officer and I participated in the University of Sanctuary appraisal call, where we gave a short presentation on how the Students' Union supports students at Queen's from the perspective of the University of Sanctuary. We also highlighted the active engagement of students in campaigning for the rights of individuals seeking sanctuary.
FTP Panel Meeting	I attended the Fitness to Practice Panel Meeting, where we discussed concerns regarding students' fitness to practice. I shared several points from the Students' Union perspective, which the panelists considered when making their final decision.
REC: Self-Assessment Team	I participated in the Race Equity Charter at Queen's Self-Assessment meeting. As the Race Equity Charter is preparing to submit an application for the Bronze award by the end of July, the meeting reviewed the timeline and application process. Any necessary changes will be addressed in the next meeting.
Queen's University Staff Sustainability Summit	I participated in the Sustainability Summit panel discussion, where I presented ideas from the Students' Union and student perspectives. I introduced the strategies the Students' Union employs for sustainability, such as student-led societies and campaigns. Additionally, I discussed how students perceive the university's sustainability policies and shared feedback regarding their alignment with student needs and concerns.
Gift City ED&I Task and Finish Group	I attended a meeting to discuss potential Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) concerns regarding the new campus at Gift City. In this meeting, we identified several points of concern and discussed them with other members. Further concerns will be addressed and structured in the next meeting.
NUS-USI Conference	I attended the NUS-USI conference alongside the officer team and other student unions from across Northern Ireland. During this conference, we discussed the priorities we

	<p>should focus on to support students and marginalized groups, as well as the main priorities NUS-USI should pursue in the coming years. We also reviewed the paper NUS-USI used for their meeting with the Economic Minister and provided feedback and suggestions for improvement.</p>
UG Offer Holder Day	<p>I participated in the Undergraduate (UG) Offer Holder Day with other student officers and staff from the Students' Union. We staffed the stall, introducing the services we offer to prospective students and answering their questions.</p>
SU Management Board	<p>I attended the Students' Union Management Board meeting, where we provided updates on student officers' activities and the general operations of the Students' Union. In this meeting, the officer team presented the second draft of the SU Strategic Plan to the Management Board members.</p>
UMB / Students' Union Consultative Committee	<p>I attended the University Management Board Students' Union Committee Meeting. During this meeting, the President presented the new Students' Union Strategic Plan for 2025–2030 to the university management staff, and the officer team answered questions from the management board.</p>
USI Conference	<p>I attended the USI Annual Conference with the officer team. We participated in the USI elections for 2025–2026 and took part in the council to approve the USI manifesto for 2025. It was a great experience, allowing us to network with student union officers from other unions, share our end-of-year experiences as student officers, and discuss our successes.</p>