

Queen's University Belfast Students' Union

Full-Time Student Officer Report

Role: Union President

Name: Amy Smith

Period: July- October 2025

July

- Attended my first Senate meeting as an observer.
- Took part in the Special Committee of Senate to elect the new Pro-Chancellors. This involved pre-interview discussions as well as the interviews and decisions themselves.
- Was part of the panel for the interviews for the new Dean of Education role in the EPS faculty.
- Met with both Stranmillis and St Mary's Students' Unions. The hope here is to create a partnership between the SU's in terms of support and resources for students.
- Attended the NUS Lead and Change Training for Student Officers which took place in Birmingham this year. At this training, officers connected with teams throughout the UK learning about best practices to improve engagement at our unions.
- The Student Officer Team received information sessions from each department of the SU about their functionality etc.

August

- Had a meet up with representatives from Universities UK to discuss the main issues students are facing in the current climate both financially and with their studies.
- Took part in BBC and That's TV interviews that had a focussed on childcare fees and the benefits low childcare costs has for our students.
- The Student Officer Team had a visit to the PEC and met some staff from Queen's Sport. This was a great opportunity for us to connect and share ideas for the future of sport for our Queen's Athletes.
- The Union had a visit from UCL Students' Union again sharing best practise and giving a tour of our building.
- QSU held AMLÉ's SUT+ training here in Belfast. This was greatly received from the Southern Unions, and it was interesting to compare structures and functions here.
- Received a training session for senate to get to know the systems and become comfortable on how to access and discuss information.
- The team met with the Neighbourhood Engagement team at QUB and discussed issues surrounding Student Safety, Anti-Spiking Campaigns and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls.
- Agreed and finalised plans of work both individually and as a team.
- Took part in planning for our Rodeo v Ravers Club Night which proved to be a massive success and a welcoming time for our students.
- The team met with sustainability team discussing plans for the year in terms of events and committees.

- Had a call with Student Co-Op Homes team surrounding our new plans for a Student Co-Operative. They were free and helpful to answer any questions we had in terms of governance and set-up.

September

- Involved in discussions surrounding student communications for the Lecture Recording roll-out and how best to explain the policy to students.
- Took part in the Health and Safety Sub-Group for the new Weaver's Hall student accommodation, again voicing what would be best for our new students moving in.
- Alongside UUSU, QSU Officers attended a HE Funding day workshop with NUS-USI discussing both tuition and maintenance loans as well as hopes for students in future cohorts.
- Was a part of the panel to interview for the new posts within the Students' Union teams.
- Received complaints and appeals training to be able to properly accompany students to meetings as well as sitting on the panels themselves.
- Had several meetings with senior leaders in the University such as Judy Williams (PVC Education and Students) surrounding important university topics such as lecture recordings, AI in learning and Transforming the Student Experience.
- Attended the Fairtrade Steering Group ensuring the university is doing it's part in this action and discussing ways of best practise.
- Gave the SU Welcome presentation at many QUB Flagship Welcome events as well as school specific inductions.
- Attended the first Planning, Finance and Resources Committee, which is a subcommittee of Senate making major decisions within the institution.
- The Officer Team had a stall had freshers fair, informing students of the services we offer in the Students' Union as well as recruiting academic reps and association members.
- Continued work with the strands of Strategy 2030 in terms of Transformative Student Experience where the new Welcome structure was reviewed.
- Took part in the Staff Excellence Awards Judging Panel meet up.

October

- Attended the Stranmillis and St Mary's freshers fair to promote our services to these associate member students.
- Had a catch up with university senior members surrounding the progress of the Student Housing Co-Operative ensuring a steady pace on this project.
- Had the first SU Management Board of the term giving points on the action plan for the strategic plan for the union alongside the other officers.
- Had continued meetings with the Vice Chancellor discussing student facing issues including safety and support.
- Was able to have a visit to the Co-Operative Housing site and work to plan the best living situation for our students.
- The Students' Union ran the Postgraduate Welcome Fair. This was held later in the semester as a lot of PG courses only begin later and a lot of international students only arrive then. Our students were able to meet services and ask any questions they may have.

- Took part in the first Lecture Recording Policy review group discussing the current uptake, as well as staff and student feedback on the system.
- Served as the student representative on Senate, voicing student perspectives on strategic and financial decisions impacting the wider university community. This can include digital learning and the roll-out of the Lecture Recording Policy.
- Attended the Education Committee Quality and Standards committee discussing important information on micro credentials for our students.
- Achieved the Green Dot Bystander Training and became a trainer for this service. This means I will be able to deliver active bystander training to both staff and students within our university to make all members feel that bit safer.
- Presented my Placement Survey findings at a Work-Related Learning Group and was able to get more feedback on improvements for this in the future, whilst also being able to give student feedback to school representatives.
- Attended the Academic Year Implementation Group to discuss implementing the new academic year into 2026/27 and how this is going to impact both staff and students. Discussing what major changes that need to take place specifically to do with welcome and inductions.
- Held a stall in the foyer of the SU for students to sign a fair deals petition as part of an NUS campaign.
- Was a part of a roundtable discussion surrounding student safety around university areas as well as city centre. University leadership and the PSNI were also in attendance.
- The kick off of the AI Strategy meeting took place discussing implementing training into the university curriculum for both staff and students.
- The first Academic Board of the term took place, and it was interesting to meet the new reps to discuss their ideas and plans for the year. The different needs between UG and PG became even more apparent as we discussed the welcome period.