

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION

To: Members of the Students' Union Council

Dear Councillor,

Please attend the Annual Business Meeting of the 2024-25 Students' Union Council, to be held on Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 5.00pm in The Cube, Level 1, One Elmwood.

Yours sincerely,

DAMIEN CORRIDAN

Clerk to the Students' Union Council

AGENDA

FIRST CIRCULATION

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
 - 2.1 Minutes of Statutory Meeting of 11 February 2025 SUC/M/25/2
 - 2.2 Minutes of Special Meeting of 1 April 2025 SUC/M/25/3
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 3.1 Policy Updates
 - 3.1.1 Appointment of Northern Ireland Veterans Commissioner

Council is asked to note that the Union President has written to the newly appointed Veterans Commissioner and is awaiting a response.
 - 3.2 Process for Selecting Delegates to National Union Conferences

Council is asked to note that a constitutional amendment is proposed for consideration by Council, which authorises Council to determine the process for selection of delegates to national students' union conferences.
 - 3.3 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2025-30

Following approval by of the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2025-30 by the Students' Union Council at the Special Meeting of 11 February 2025, the Plan was considered and approved by the Students' Union Management Board. It was subsequently presented to the University Management Board (comprising the senior managerial leadership of the University) at which it received a positive reception. The Union President and Director of the Students' Union are in

discussions with the University regarding the approval of a financial package to support delivery of the Strategic Plan.

3.4 Policy Scheduled to Lapse

Council is asked delegate to the Executive Management Committee a review of the Union's policies set to expire at the end of the 2024-25 academic year, focusing on policy duplication, relevance, and accessibility of language. The Committee shall report back with recommendations for amendments to policy, which will be considered by first Statutory Meeting of Council in 2025-26 for final decision on which policies to update, repeal, or allow to lapse, subject to the Committee's recommendations being limited to format and administrative changes.

3.5 QUB Review of the Academic Year Structure – Update

3.6 QUB Video Enhanced Learning – Update

3.7 Amendments to the University Charter and Statutes - Impact on SU Constitution SUC/P/25/24

Council is asked to note that Annex 1 of the Constitution will be replaced with the relevant excerpts from the University Charter and Statutes, as detailed in paper SUC-P-25-24.

4. Communications

4.1 Condolences

4.2 Council Membership – Update

4.3 National Students' Union Conferences 2025 – Verbal Report

4.4 National Students' Union Updates

4.5 SU Elections 2025 – Update

4.6 Course Representative Recruitment – Spring 2025

4.7 Club & Society Constitution Amendments (for note)

This item has been deferred to the next meeting of the Council.

5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments

Enabling Motion (Constitutional Consistency)

Enabling motion to rename, reorder and renumber Constitutional clauses, and remove invalid references, as appropriate, to reflect the amendments approved by Council.

This motion shall be deemed to have been moved and approved if any Constitutional amendment at this meeting is moved and carried.

Constitutional Amendment Motion:

“This Council empowers the Clerk of Council to rename, reorder and renumber Constitutional clauses, and remove invalid references, as appropriate, to reflect the amendments approved by the Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council, held on 6 May 2025.

Any such composited amendments shall be deemed to be the consolidated amendments approved at the meetings for the purposes of conducting a referendum and for any other required approvals.”

Enabling Motion (Referendum)

Enabling motion to conduct a Referendum on to ratify Constitutional amendments approved at the Statutory Meeting of Council.

This motion shall be deemed to have been moved and approved if any Constitutional amendment at this meeting is moved and carried.

Referendum Motion:

“A Referendum shall take place, via by a secret ballot of all student members on q-su.org, by end of the 2024-25 academic year, at a date and time to be determined by the Returning Officer.

The purpose of this Referendum shall be to ratify those amendments to the Students’ Union Constitution and its Rules that have been approved by the Students’ Union Council during 2024-25 Statutory Meetings of the Students’ Union Council.”

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

SUC/P/25/26

- 5.1 An amendment to require the text of constitutional amendments to be available to Councillors ten days in advance of a meeting.
- 5.2 An amendment to the Election Rules to authorise Council to determine processes for recruitment of delegates to national students’ union conferences.
- 5.3 An amendment to replace the current PG School Representative role in each School with a PGT School Representative role and a PGR School Representative role.
- 5.4 An amendment to enable the election of an additional member of Council to the Senate of Queen’s University Belfast.
- 5.5 An amendment to enable meeting hybrid meetings of Council.
- 5.6 An amendment to the operational arrangements of Council, including scheduling of meetings, reporting arrangements and the composition of Council.
- 5.7 An amendment to allow the Returning Officer to require all candidates for a particular election to submit a photograph and manifesto text when submitting a nomination.
- 5.8 An amendment to require a Re-Open Nominations candidate in all Elections to the Council.
- 5.9 An amendment to change the number and composition of Committees of Council, the administration arrangements for Committees of Council.
- 5.10 An amendment to update the text of the Constitution to reflect changes to the University Charter and Statues.
6. Business for Consideration
There is none.
7. Business for Discussion

Councillors are invited to raise any relevant issues for discussion under agenda items 7.1 – 7.3.

- 7.1 Cost of Living Crisis – Update
- 7.2 QUB Academic / Support Services Issues – Update
- 7.3 Students' Union Mental Health Activity – Update
- 7.4 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2020-25 – Update

8. Bye-Elections

There are none.

9. Elections

There are none.

10. Motions

10.1 **Governance Actions for the Executive Management Committee**

The Executive Management Committee shall undertake the following in advance of the inaugural meeting of the 2025-26 session of Council:

- Develop an improved induction and training programme for Councillors
- Produce new guidance to Councillors on the operation of Committees of Council
- Prepare a schedule of briefings and development sessions for Councillors to increase Councillor knowledge and understanding of Union and University activities and key issues affecting students
- Develop a revised set of Council Orders (i.e. procedures for Council) for approval by Council
- Develop recommendations for recognising the contribution of Councillors
- Develop a set of proposals – for approval by Council – for selection or election of delegates to represent Queen's Students' Union at national students' union's annual conferences
- Review the existing policy file, identifying policies which are no longer relevant or timely, and provide a report to Council on recommendations for amendment to the policy file.

Proposer: Sajid Khan (Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement)
 Secunder: Nadine Curtis (MHLS Undergraduate Faculty Representative)

10.2 **Proposal for Honorary Membership (Matthew McCallion, Union Speaker)**

Council Notes:

- That Matthew McCallion has served with distinction as the Union Speaker of Queen's Students' Union for three years and as a member of the Students' Union Council for eight years.
- That the role of Union Speaker is crucial to the smooth and democratic functioning of the Students' Union, ensuring fair, transparent, and inclusive debate and governance.
- That Matthew has consistently upheld the values of student representation, equity, and democracy throughout his tenure.
- That honorary membership is a symbolic honour conferred upon individuals who have demonstrated exceptional and sustained commitment to the Students' Union.

Council Believes:

- That Matthew McCallion's service as Union Speaker has gone above and beyond the expectations of the role.

- That his contributions have materially improved the functioning, accessibility, and credibility of student democracy at Queen’s.
- That Matthew McCallion has effectively promoted equity, inclusion, and compassion in his role as Union Speaker.
- That granting honorary membership would be an appropriate and deserved recognition of his legacy.
- That acknowledging such service encourages future student leaders to engage meaningfully and uphold the Union’s democratic values.

This Council Resolves to:

- Elect Matthew McCallion as an Honorary Member of Queen’s University Belfast Students’ Union for life, having rendered outstanding service as Union Speaker.
- Update Students’ Union records accordingly and present this honour at a suitable Union or Council event.

Proposer: Jamie-Lukas Campbell (AHSS Postgraduate Research Faculty Representative)

Secunder: Kieran Minto (Union President)

11. Report of the Management Board and Recommendations
- 11.1 Report of the Management Board
12. Report of the Executive Management Committee and Recommendations
- 12.1 Report of the Executive Management Committee
- 12.2 Report of the Union President (February 2025) SUC/P/25/27
- 12.3 Report of the Union President (March 2025) SUC/P/25/28
- 12.4 Report of the Union President (April 2025) SUC/P/25/29
- 12.5 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (February 2025) SUC/P/25/30
- 12.6 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (March 2025) SUC/P/25/31
- 12.7 Report of the Student Officer Campaigns and Engagement (April 2025) SUC/P/25/32
- 12.8 Report of the Student Officer UG Education (February 2025) SUC/P/25/33
- 12.9 Report of the Student Officer UG Education (March 2025) SUC/P/25/34
- 12.10 Report of the Student Officer UG Education (April 2025) SUC/P/25/35
- 12.11 Report of the Student Officer PG Education (February 2025) SUC/P/25/36
- 12.12 Report of the Student Officer PG Education (March 2025) SUC/P/25/37
- 12.13 Report of the Student Officer PG Education (April 2025) SUC/P/25/38
- 12.14 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (February 2025) SUC/P/25/39
- 12.15 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (March 2025) SUC/P/25/40
- 12.16 Report of the Student Officer Equality & Diversity (April 2025) SUC/P/25/41
- 12.17 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (February 2025) SUC/P/25/42
- 12.18 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (March 2025) SUC/P/25/43
- 12.19 Report of the Student Officer Welfare (April 2025) SUC/P/25/44
13. Reports from other Union Committees and Recommendations

There are none.

14. Reports from University Committees

There are none.

15. Constitutional Questions

There are none.

16. Questions (to Elected Student Representatives)

There are none.

17. Any Other Competent Business

18. Date of Next Statutory Meeting of the Students' Union Council

The inaugural meeting of the Students' Union Council 2025-26 will take place in semester one of the 2025-26 academic year, in the Students' Union Building.