

SUC/A/25/3

**QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST STUDENTS' UNION**

To: Members of the Students' Union Council

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a Special Meeting of the 2024-25 Students' Union Council, to be held on Tuesday 1 April 2025 at 5.00 pm in The Cube, Level 1, Students' Union.

Yours sincerely,

DAMIEN CORRIDAN

Clerk to the Students' Union Council

**AGENDA**

**FIRST CIRCULATION**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Previous Meetings
  - 2.1 There are none.
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 3.1 There is none.
4. Communications
  - 4.1 Student Council Membership – Update
  - 4.2 Process for Selecting Delegates to National Union Conferences – Update

It was agreed at the January 2025 Statutory Meeting of Council that:

- *The current provisions in the Students' Union Constitution concerning the election of delegates to national union conferences were no longer applicable as the national unions no longer required elected delegates.*
- *As an interim measure, delegate positions will be allocated to Full-Time Student Officer roles in the first instance, with remaining vacancies put to election amongst student representatives in the Students' Union, with the electorate comprising student representatives in the Students' Union.*
- *Council shall, at a later date, develop formal proposals for appointment of national conference delegates and consider any relevant constitutional amendments.*

Subsequently, NUS-USI announced that its formal conference shall be held in November 2025, with a less formal 'democratic event' to be held in April 2025. The Full-Time Student Officers shall represent QSU at the April 2025 event.

The Full-Time Student Officers shall represent QSU at USI Congress 2025 – the national conference of the Union of Students in Ireland. Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts some members of the current Full-Time Student Officer team shall be unable to attend the full event. Therefore, some members of the incoming Full-Time Student Officer team shall be registered as delegates to ensure continuity of representation of QSU at the conference.

Due to changes to the internal rules of the National Union of Students, there will no longer be a UK-wide NUS Conference event.

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

Queen's University Belfast is legally established by means of a Royal Charter and supporting Statutes (formal rules) as approved by the Privy Council. The Privy Council advises the monarch on matters of state.

The Charter and Statutes also give legal standing and effect to Queen's Students' Union and its Constitution and Rules.

The University successfully sought approval for a number of amendments to the Charter and Statutes from the Privy Council in February 2025.

Some of the changes make minor amendments to the Statute which gives legal standing to the Students' Union.

These are detailed in the attached paper (SUC/P/25/24). Any consequential impact on the current text of the Constitution will be brought for consideration to a future meeting of Council.

#### 5. Constitutional Amendments/Rule Amendments

There are none.

#### 6. Business for Consideration

##### 6.1 The Clubs and Societies Committee at its meeting of Monday 14 March 2025, considered whether the following Clubs and Societies meet all Constitutional requirements necessary to recommend them to be considered for recognition by the Council:

6.1.1 QUB Synthetic Biology Society (Academic Society)

6.1.2 QUB Slavic and Balkan Society (Cultural Society)

6.1.3 QUB Formula Racing Society (Academic Society)

6.1.4 QUB Myanmar Student Society (Cultural Society)

6.1.5 QUB Medico Legal Society (Academic Society)

6.1.6 QUB Haematology and Pathology Society (Academic Society)

##### 6.2 Students' Union Strategic Plan 2025-30 SUC/P/25/25

*Council is asked to consider approval of the Students' Union Strategic Plan 2025-30 in the attached paper (SUC/P/25/25), subject to minor textual amendments.*

#### 7. Business for Discussion

There is none.

8. Bye-Elections

There are none.

9. Elections

## 9.1 Students' Union representative to be elected by the Council for the following University Committee:

University Senate

1 vacancy

At this meeting, Councillors will be invited by the Union Speaker to self-nominate for this position.

The election count will take place on Wednesday 2 April 2025. Results will be published on the completion of the count.

It is advised that Councillors do not stand for this role if expect to graduate in July 2025 or December 2025 as the term of office for this role extends into the 2025-26 academic year.

Background

*This new position is a second Council position on the University Senate (the governing body of the University), arising from the approval of revised University Charter and Statutes. The Council already elected a representative (Sajid Khan) in October 2024.*

*The Union President is also a member of the University Senate.*

*From this election onwards, the following new provisions in the University Statutes shall apply to all elections by Council to the University Senate:*

- *The elected candidate shall hold office for no more than two years. Previously, candidates held office for one year, with elections held annually.*
- *The two members are to overlap to provide continuity. This shall, over time, result in one election to Senate taking place each year, with the successful candidate holding office for at most two years.*

*A student elected to the University Senate ceases to be a member of the Senate when they cease to be a member of the Students' Union Council. Only currently registered students of the University are eligible to be members of the Students' Union Council.*

*Therefore, it is advised that Councillors do not stand for this role if expect to graduate in July 2025 or December 2025 as the term of office for this role extends into the 2025-26 academic year.*

10. Motions

There are none.

11. Report of the Management Board and Recommendations

There is none.

12. Report of the Executive Management Committee and Recommendations

There are none.

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 Annual Business Meeting of the Students' Union Council

Tuesday 6 May 2025 at 5.00 p.m. in The Cube, Level One, Students' Union.

*Business Agenda Deadline: Tuesday 15 April 2025, 9.00 a.m.*

*Constitutional Amendments Deadline: Tuesday 8 April 2025, 9.00 a.m.*