

Review of activity ULSU February – August 2016

Strategic Plan

- Strategic Plan approved by Council March 2016, printed and launched in June at handover event
- 3 working groups established with membership from UL, ULSU and student body, all groups have met twice and are working through strategic objectives under each pillar. They are having great discussions and are very positive and are also making proposals to the Development Fund.
- Final pillar Management and Finance to be established in October
- A link to the plan to be mailed to all staff and affiliates email in October

Staffing / Sabbatical Team

- Niamh Madden on maternity leave from May to January, Lydia Doody recruited to back fill the position
- John McDermott seconded from Student Affairs to ULSU in April. John has responsibility for Organisational Development, creating and facilitating the Strategic Plan Working Groups, and his role will also creating links with external agencies like Career Guidance Counsellors and other objectives within the Plan
- Keith Quinlan, who had been sick on and off for a period of time is now out with a long term illness until at least June 2017, Tess Maher was recruited in June to see the Union through the Summer and had responsibility for planning Orientation events and Freshers Week. Olwen Murphy has been recruited to back fill the position until at least June 2017.
- New Sabbatical Team elected and in place since early June, underwent induction training with Dominic Doherty, former Deputy Director Queens SU. Dominic also did training for staff on Team Work
- New team of co-ops recruited since June and as agreed at previous Management Committee meeting are now on payroll at €50 per week. 4 co-ops are on the team this semester.

Referendum on new Student centre and enhanced sport facilities

- On the 13th of April 2016 Students were asked to vote YES or NO on the introduction of an annual student levy commencing in September 2017 to contribute to the development and build of: new Student Centre and Enhanced Sports Facilities.

If students voted **YES**, the facilities development would go ahead and the levy will commence on a graduated basis. Students will pay €36 in 2017-18 and 2018-19, i.e. 40% of the levy. The full levy, €90, will come into effect in 2019-20. Thereafter a €2 increment will apply each year to reflect inflation.

If students voted **NO**, there would be no levy and no new student facilities.
the result of the ULSU Referendum April 13th was
3698, i.e. 26.96% students voted in ULSU referendum
78.75% (2912 votes) voted Yes,

21.25% (786 votes) voted No.

The poll exceeded the required quota of 15% student population turnout and the required simple majority in favour. Therefore the result of the referendum was valid and the motion was carried.

- A projects committee comprising membership of ULSU and UL was established before the Referendum and continues to meet since the YES vote on finalising an Memorandum Of Understanding between UL and ULSU and overseeing the tendering process.
- At present the process is at the point of shortlisting applicants to invite to tender under the 6 design and construction areas, for all the projects. Sarah, Paul Lee and Martin represent ULSU on this Committee. Once tendering is completed, separate building committees will be established for each of the 3 projects and membership will need to be extended to wider student and staff input.

Programme

- Normal events ran throughout Semester 2 up to the start of Summer, Charity Week raised €16,000 which was divided between 4 charities, Bumbalance, Corbett Suicide Patrol, Blood Bikes, St Vincent De Paul drop in centre
- During the summer he sabbatical team with Liz, Killian and Martin attended at 3 day networking and information sharing mini-conference with Queens SU, Ulster SU and East London SU at Queens, which was very beneficial, in addition to meetings with Queens and Ulster about building projects and the role of Student Advisors in Queens
- Orientation week 2016/2017 had a new dimension to it, the SU Development Fund funded stalls and workshops for students in the courtyard as part of Orientation tours.
- Freshers Week had good attendance at the majority of gigs and events, costs and income still being calculated. An evaluation of both weeks has happened and learnings recorded for next years planning.