

QUEEN MARGARET UNION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

BOARD REPORTS - 31 MARCH 2023



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1. PRESIDENT – Lachlan Farquharson

1.1 Main Executive Responsibilities

1.1.1 Provide guidance, motivation and training to the Board of Management and their committees.

- After the election last year (2022), Susanna and I organised a Convenor training for the incoming Convenors – with some of them being new into the role without board experience, we assisted them as much as possible.
- Throughout the year I attended committee meetings, having a precise focus on committee convenors which had no prior board experience in order to pursue projects at a faster rate.
- I made graphics, promotional material, posters, flyers, documents and delivered projects for all the committees in meetings amongst internal Executive-Management, Cross-Campus, Student Experience, and University SMG.
- I helped organise training sessions during Freshers' Week, as well as Board member training sessions after the October election. I am currently working on a new set of Convenor training programs for the incoming convenors after this AGM!
- This year I introduced, alongside management, "Convenor Prices" at the bar for all Convenors and Executives. This was in aim to have more post committee meeting is drinks take place in the union rather than bars across the West End. I believe this did have a positive impact, albeit a small one.
- We're in the final stages of trying to organise Board Fleeces for the outgoing board – better late than never!
- With anyone who's needed clarification, I've been in the union, or accessible within 15 minutes via Messenger or preferably Microsoft Teams! I have had an open-door policy (mind you this does not mean the door is always physically open!), and helped in any way and capacity I can with anyone who wanted to come with me with problems, queries, questions or general requests for help.

1.1.2. Support and advise other members of the Executive

- I had two non-board member Vice-Presidents at the start of the last election. I helped guide them through the process of being a trustee of the Union and put forward training programs with the University and Graham Atkinson Consultancy (which was led by the wonderful Sarah Wright).

- Our Executive worked close together, albeit a bit stretched at times due to other commitments by members of our Executives. When not in the building we were always able to reach each other by messenger.
- Unfortunately, Andrew resigned after the New Year. I was in Australia at this point and his out-with university work commitments were increasing.
- Iris took over as an ad-hoc position. I gave the best quickfire handover I could and guided her through the role when things arose to try mitigating any issues in the mid-year handover process.
- The second half of the Executive team worked very closely together, despite perhaps Iris' initiative meaning that we had a lot of late night messages until 2-3.. 4 in the morning.
- Amongst all three of us, we had shared responsibility of overseeing the different Committees and I believe amongst all of us, the convenors had access to support from at least one member of the Executive at almost all times during work hours.
- The Executive have had a very open and respectful dialogue this year, though where tricky decisions were being made, I often took lead due to greater time and experience over specific practices, protocols and legal parameters.

1.1.3. Encourage involvement in the Union by ordinary members

- My number one focus this year was to be an active visible President within the Union during the day, during some of our night events, and some of our bigger events. This included being part of majority of our event promotional campaigns, boots on the ground promotion, and lead at most open days.
- At Freshers' Fair I manned the stalls for both days, bulk of the first day as I had further responsibilities on the Wednesday. I have been at all but one Open Days (due to the Open Day taking part on a Saturday and the Union being effectively closed due to a private whole building event).
- I have represented the Union in many different events, ranging from formal speeches to simple outreach programs and University panels. I have ensured that the Union has had opportunities on all levels of university programs to be represented and noticed on campus.
- We have constantly looked at our incentives for members throughout the year and how we can ensure affordability within the union within the cost-of-living crisis.

- This year we updated our website with the aid of Agency23. This has meant our website is now completely accessible and easier to navigate than ever before.

1.1.4. Communicate with our membership

- One of the biggest points of this year was ensuring effective transition from hybrid learning to a back to normal physical “sticky campus”. We have returned to flyering, poster around the union, whilst also having a focus on less regular social media posting to ensure that we do not get lost in the algorithm.
- I wrote posts for majority of our student-focused content and campaigns, as well as delivered videos introducing the Union during Freshers’ Week, and election content.
- Alongside our Marketing Officer, Lanna, we have revitalised our social media presence, reaching record number of likes multiple times this year.

1.1.5. Establish and evaluate long term goals for Executives

- This year I had clear goals in what I wanted from my Executives with a priority to ensuring long-term stability for the union after our time. This focused around ensuring effective responsibilities across board, more accessibility for wider board members to engage with staff and management, more rewards for effective work put in the union, amongst more that will be seen in the Strategic Plan!
- As always, the long-term goals for the Executives, and board alike, is very focused and reliant upon person participation. I believe that those within the union who have shown true active participation both within the union and its goals, but also within the board, have gained a lot, and gotten a lot out of the union in particular.
- A long-term goal that is finally being achieved is the work on GBV reforms on the university, as a university deadline date of end of August has been achieved. I hope that by the time the next President comes in, this will be 90% done and all they will be needing to do is sign off on the final documents.
- Other long-term goals that we have set out is more clarity within elections for the roles, a revamp on how the committees operate and what guise they operate under, effective self-funded fundraising (with the union putting forward payments with expectation of remuneration from funds raised), a more engaged board.

1.1.6. Generate Policy for Submission to the Board of Management for Approval

- I have called and chaired CBP meetings over the last 12 months, and have put forward effective changes to our Constitution, Bye-laws, and Policies ensuring that our documents are now more modernised and up-to-date with current day technologies.

1.1.7. Be a member to the Appeal committee to hear staff appeals in accordance with the staff grievance and disciplinary procedure.

- The Appeal committee has not been called this year, and no situations have arisen which have required me to assist with staff grievance or disciplinary procedures.

1.1.8. Be a member of Staffing Committee to discuss all issues related to staff.

- Staffing Committee was not formally called this year, though I, and management, have communicated very closely day-to-day. I believe all staff are comfortable within the union to come to any party of myself or management with issues, and we have seen that our current staff are happy to come to the office at any time necessary.
- I did not attend “Management Meetings” this year, which I have key concerns over. I believe it is in the best interest of the next President to be invited to, and attend, these meetings for key input in areas that student feedback would be useful. I have found several issues not being taken upon which was raised by students early in the year, which was finally addressed when it was far too late in the academic period.
- We have continued our committal to being a living wage provider, which has now extended to all our student staff as well. As President I brought the wages of all our students up to ensure that there was no discrimination to age in correlation to wages.

1.1.9. Attend all Exec-Cons, Staffing and Finance meetings where possible.

- We have not had any official Exec-Con meetings this year. I do not believe they are entirely necessary due to the proposal I have made to the incoming board: to have fortnightly Board Meetings, though the second one acts without Management, thus becoming a wider “Exec-Cons” for the whole board.
- Whilst our finances are handled by Brendan (our outsourced accountant), our Management does play a key role in ensuring that our accounts are up to date and make

sense. I have always been at meetings to discuss finances when necessary and have overseen the Union's committal to being a living wage provider.

1.1.10. Submit an Annual General Report to the Annual General Meeting

- This is it.

1.1.11. Oversee all aspects of Convenorship including authorising expenditure

- Alongside my Executives, we worked hard to ensure that Convenors were able to deliver projects on time as well as being financially viable. We worked hard to ensure that when it came to finances, they were supported in all aspects.
- Whilst some Convenors may feel that I may have been harsh in my feedback or negotiation with them over finances – once any project had made it past my support it received full backing to management. Behind the scenes, there is no project that I nullified or argued against to management that was proposed by one of our board-member students, that had gone through effective project proposing.
- Whenever applicable, any proposals that came to me that required a seconder, was supported by myself, and all finances were transparent and accessible were realistic.
- I will be organising Convenor training before I leave to train the incoming Convenors in their responsibilities, financial oversight, and responsibilities as a Convenor.
- I have attended committee events whenever possible, and I have been there to help with set ups when I am available. This includes the very tedious week of inhaling paint for Halloween.

1.1.12. Be a member of the Health and Safety Committee and ensure the Union complies with the responsibilities of the Employer under current legislation.

- We have assessed many risk assessments throughout the year and ensured that the Union is complaint.
- We have recently got a new truss in our Venue as our load bearing was about to go over the legal limit.

- Our venue floor started further slipping, and we have put in temporary measures whilst we are looking to completely renovate the floor over summer.

1.1.13. Maintain appropriate archival of Union related material.

- This year we have had more of a paper trail finally! We have archived at least one of all documents, and the wonderful Hannah has volunteered a couple hours a week to have an in-house archival system.

1.1.14. Submit reports to the meeting of the Board of Management detailing activities relating to their remit.

- I have submitted a report every month.

1.2. Main Responsibilities

1.2.1 Represent the Union at all public occasions, social functions and business meetings.

- This year I have represented the QMU at Freshers' Address, Memorial Service, Cross Campus Dinner, University of Glasgow's Anti-Racism Panel, GUSA Ball, Student Experience Committee, Cross Campus Committee.
- Outside the University, I have attended all our Northern Services meetings since I took office which included a very messy trip to Belfast which ended up in me becoming a viral sensation for 15 minutes.
- I was unable to attend the Daft Friday and the Carol Service, however Iris Duane attended the Carols on behalf of the Union. Where any event that I was unable to attend, I ensured that there was a Union representative on all occasions.
- This year I did not attend the Volunteering Clubs & Societies Awards. This is because my fellows **volunteering** Vice-Presidents were not invited nor recognised, despite the SRC four paid sabbaticals being invited.

1.2.2. Convene all meetings of the Board of Management.

- I have chaired every single Board of Management meeting this year. We have offered hybrid meetings all year which was not that necessary until the March Meeting where over 60% of our board were ill and had to attend online! So, the hybrid option remains very useful!

1.2.3. Normally take the Chair at general meeting of the Union.

- I would say I am excited by this, but I cannot bring myself to lie. Bittersweet that I will be the one chairing in what will be my fifth and final (I hope) AGM.

1.2.4. Act as a designated Officer in terms of the University Code of Practice.

- Fortunately, we did not encounter any problems with or instances of this, this year.

1.2.5. Communicate with external organisations on behalf of the Union.

- Over the last year I would say the Union has had a great relationship with external organisations, to the point of it perhaps being the best it has ever been. We established relationships with several businesses and organisations during Freshers' Week including Dockyard Social and a key number of other Glasgow businesses.
- Our board members, in particular Sorcha Mullen, has helped us have a very strong relationship with key members from GCRC and Glasgow Women's Aid.
- I have been disappointed with student media this year, in particular the Glasgow Guardian. Rarely, if ever, this year have we been asked to comment albeit a good thing as perhaps nothing has arisen, however the Union's portrayal in negative articles for no reason has been frustrating. Perhaps better, and factually correct, journalism from their side may result in better and more active support by the QMU.

1.2.6. Oversee and be responsible for the creation and management of online content.

- Once again, our social media presence has increased dramatically this year with the help of our Marketing Coordinator, Lanna.

- We have seen record number of likes and engagement this year under my tenure as President, which has included more active appearances by myself, but also engageable content.
- When I took over on July 1st the QMU was sitting at 3,900 followers on Instagram. Working hard alongside Lanna we saw the Union hit 5,000 followers and about to hit 5,300. This is a 33% increase in followers, significantly more than we have had in past years.
- My working relationship with Lanna has been strong as we have both had a good sense of social media overload and accessibility. We worked together on some projects, but we were both able to focus on the two different aspects of the unions individually (the student side and the commercial side). I have key concerns next year if the Union does not set up a critical PR Committee to help with the student side of PR with Lanna otherwise she will be left chasing up students ineffectively.

1.2.7. Contribute to the planning and control of capital and maintenance projects.

- I have been involved in all discussions about maintenance and improvements of the Union, sometimes the person initiating them to the University too.

1.2.8. Provide hands on management when required, in association with departmental managers and general managers.

- I have had a very strong relationship with all members of our staff this year. I believe that the staff relationship amongst each other, but also with students is being left in the best place it has been in many years, and I look forward to seeing this upheld.
- Communication between staff and students has been easy, with more communication channels available, as well as myself able to point towards convenor access (whether it be email, text, or other methods of chat).

1.2.9. Liaise with the general manager on a daily basis.

- Day-to-day communication has finally returned with everything pretty much back to normal after the Pandemic.

- We have removed the need for weekly meetings as any issues are brought up and resolved quickly as they arise.
- I am very satisfied with the transparency and open communication between the Executives and the Senior Management of the Union compared to what my predecessors may have said. Running a Union during a pandemic, as well as not being in and around the union constantly, has meant that communication would have been nowhere near the level it is this year.
- I believe that I have been informed on all matters of the commercial aspects of the union, whilst Margaret is informed in all aspects of the student side of the union.

1.2.10. Participate in the recruitment and selection of staff with the general and dpt. manager where appropriate.

- I have not been entirely involved in the hiring process this year, mainly due to the fact that our bulk of hirings have been operations staff and student staff which is led by Paula and our Management.
- We have not hired any further office staff this year.

1.2.11. Be a nominated key holder of the building and the second named contact by the alarm company or the police.

- I was not nominated key holder of the building. I do not believe this to be necessary in the modern day. If any situation arises where I need to access the building, the building is open on a Saturday due to the restaurant, and failing that, I was able to contact either William, or Bob, who would let myself in if a situation arose.
- No situations arose that called for me to be contacted by the alarm company or the police.

1.3 Key Achievements and Things to Note

1.3.1 Truly Exiting the Pandemic

One of the key priorities that I laid out at the start of the year was the Union's need to truly kickstart again now that the Covid Pandemic was mostly "over". With students back on

campus we needed to prioritise our methods of engagement, our commercial offerings, and accessibility as both a social union, but throughout the day, increasingly a study space.

Freshers' Week was our first big comeback and had mixed successes. Whilst we hit record capacity for the Vengaboys, ultimately wristband sales were down to an all-time low. I do suspect that with the success and popularity of last year's Freshers', this year's wristband will find more success due to leftover chatter. Our social media engagement was great during Freshers' Week, and I believe that being part of a number of stories and posts helped our engagement and students' ability to identify myself as President (as well as being around the union) created more of a connection with incoming students. In Freshers' Week alone we gained 650 followers on Instagram which opened a greater engageable following.

Our next challenge was re-establishing our previous success of our "Café". It took a while, but I believe we're finally at a strong point once again, though the speed of the service must increase next year otherwise we may see the outlet falter again. A grab and go culture is necessary for the café to succeed into the new year as students are wanting to come in for a coffee and maybe a nibble and leave. In addition, for time spent in the café versus money spent, the consumers who are coming in to take-away are much better value for the union, and thus we must have more grabbable items that don't require heated up, or minutes to prepare – most students probably have **five minutes** when they come to the union to queue up, grab a nibble, a drink, and get to their lecture if they're taking away. I think some small things can be done to enhance this, most things which we used to do, which would be taking bulk orders and lining them up on the machine so people can get through the queue quicker (and those just grabbing a soft drink can get out quicker too). I would also highly suggest looking in to hiring a full-time Café manager to free up the chaos that is the role of being within the "operations" team. We have done a good job in hiring baristas instead of just putting regular ops staff which has enhanced our product and ensured we have good coffee going out *most of the time!*

Our Bistro, which is now StrEatBites went through a plethora of changes due to issues which I will mention later, but it is good to see that we finally have a daily catering service which is growing again. I would like to see it modernised a bit over summer which I believe is in the plans – maybe even renaming it one more time to simply: StrEat, something a bit catchier than StrEatBites. The menu, the portion sizes, and online engagement with the

catering outlet has been very promising considering it launched halfway through the second semester.

Perhaps the most important piece of strategy that we focused on this year was social media and engagement. At the start of the year, we ran into an issue that appeared to be that we were shadow banned by the algorithm on Instagram due to excessive posting. Lanna and I were painfully difficult with the Board and even Staff about posting but I think in the long run it has been for the better. At the start of the year, we were averaging about 30-50 likes, peaking at 100 at our best. Now that I am leaving, the work that I have done with Lanna has been nothing short of fantastic. We are averaging over 100+ likes per post, bottoming out at around 50 at our “worst” whilst also hitting massive record after record now peaking at a high of 508 likes on a single post (the launch of StrEatBites). In addition, this means that committees that are putting out collaborative posts on our Union Instagram are also reaching record number of likes and engagement – everyone has benefited from Lanna and I being absolute tools, but I think it was worth it in the end!

My final bit of achievement regarding our exit from Covid that I would like to touch on, which also appears later in challenges ironically, has been the change of guard in culture within the Union. I am proud to say that the Queen Margaret Union is a place where people can be comfortable, have fun, and ultimately be themselves whilst trying to achieve the best versions of themselves. It is a vision that not everyone has agreed with, each to their own as everyone believes they have the best vision for the union which I respect, however I have always believed that a Union that strives itself in having fun, and more fun than the GUU like to claim, is a union that people **want to come to**. In my three-year tenure as an Executive, and with the strong help of Alejandra this year, we completely revitalised our affiliation system. Our engagement with societies, as well as personal relationship with societies that use the union, is better than ever—and is being noticed around campus too—I believe this is a key strategy in ensuring the success of the union. The GUU’s strategy is simply target the sports clubs, and people will follow. I don’t believe the QMU can do this exactly in its current state, and style of building we have (perhaps in 10 years!?), but there is over 400+ societies that can be engaged at the University of Glasgow and we must continue the great work we have done in reaching out to many of them.

As someone who has perhaps been part of the union during its toughest years, I am extremely proud to say that I have full belief that this union will no longer be a threat of

shutting down any time soon. We have reclaimed our place on campus, despite it still being a small place for now. I have faith and trust in those taking over the union to continue the charge of the revitalisation of the Queen Margaret Union, and those beyond us.

1.3.2 Board and Wider Engagement

Board engagement within internal events in the QMU has always been a tricky, and difficult task. This year there has been a great sense of effort and support from our board members to be at as many events as they can. This perhaps capped off with almost all our board members making an appearance at our St. Patrick's Day event, which was extremely rewarding to see, and I hope they all enjoyed the very cheap drinks and live music we had on offer!

One of the key things I had on my mind coming into this year as President was Board Member incentives, and how to reward those who can put in work, as well as those who have extra responsibilities. This has been a mix of throwing crates out and around when we had impromptu board socials, giving out crates at the odd event for our Board Members, continuing having access to guestlist for gigs (where there is any left), and board discounts on food in café and bistro. Considering there were no incentives during Covid, of which many were left behind, the work that has been done with myself and management to ensure that we are offering something that isn't just free alcohol to our board members has been important. I am glad to say there is a good level of incentives if you utilise them. In addition, for Convenors we implemented Convenor-Executive Bar prices for this year which was to combat committees going out the West End to get drinks with their committee and have a bit more presence within the Union. I believe this made a small change, but also that the Convenors enjoyed having much cheaper pints and spirit-mixers for their work! I would just say to Dan, make sure to be strict on reports and make sure if they're not getting the reports in, they lose that privilege for the coming 3 weeks until the next report is in!

I believe Fleeces are in chat to be in very soon (before I leave!), this is something that was in my manifesto as VP Board 3 years ago, so I'm glad to say I might finally be ticking this off.

1.3.3 Cross Campus

Cross Campus has been a big part of my work over the last year, all culminating down to this year. I believe QMU's place in Cross Campus is truly established to a strong level, especially our bonds with GUU and GUSA. This year we had a combined training program between us three without the SRC (albeit I believe they were invited and rejected). In this program we helped establish relationships and goals which unfortunately time permitting we were unable to achieve. I believe this program is being run again earlier in May which should hopefully mean more time can be established if these sorts of ambitious aims that we have are again talked about.

In terms of working collectively, the GUU and the QMU worked together on the wristband program for Freshers' Week which was a mixed success – I believe that it will be stronger this year coming given the reputational boost that we had this year with GUU hosting 'Scouting For Girls' and us, the Vengaboys. This will be fresh in the mind of incoming students and hopefully increase the activity in sales for the wristband and breath some more air into both unions. Fuad has been a wonderful President to work with, though I suspect the heavy-duty course he is on and business of his Presidency has consumed and probably overwhelmed him at times, but I appreciated the support, and at times mini-gossip sessions and trips away!

As for GUSA, I have had a good relationship with their Executive though in terms of Cross Campus we have not collaborated on big projects as so much, but rather support claims and proposals within Cross Campus, as well as discussion on training programs and helping build an effective Board of Management/Council between us. Vivek also attended board meetings where applicable which was appreciated as some GUSA notes came up through our board meetings this year. Vivek as GUSA President was welcomed with open arms with his belief in Cross Campus and representing and ensuring student voice is heard. I hope that the people coming after Viv, and his team (Ewan and Eirinni) continue the hard work he has done to truly bolster the '3 outside unions' and continue to make sure students outside the typical University representational bubble are being represented.

The SRC has also worked with the Union and hosted some successful Cross Campus events. We have had a couple of mature student events within the union which has been good to see. I truly hope to see GUSA, GUU, and the QMU work together in the coming

years. There is a great bond that has formed, and it would be a shame to see it fracture back to the days it once was.

1.3.4. University Relationship

The University relationship after my stewardship is in an extremely strong position. My biggest job from now until handover will be preparing the incoming President with the names and lists of who to go to and when. We have a greater voice, mostly due to better accessibility, to the university's strategic planning which has been bolstered by the addition of Jonathan Jones as the university's 'Change Director'. This gives us more direct access to people within the delivery board, and input on ideas and plans.

Our relationship with further staff like Robert Partridge has once again been strong and fruitful. I have been able to rely on Robert in some times of panic and I am very grateful for his guidance, especially in the very tricky and tenuous times. This year we've also built great relations with new staff who have come to the University which includes the Head of Estates, Ian Campbell, and Head of Waste Management, Tom Bryce. These are accessible routes which we've not truly had before, and have harassed the wrong people perhaps, thus when issues arise, we are now able to go to the right channels and not upset too many people. Our CEO has had a good working relationship with Robert Garnish from Commercial Services, and as such we have been able to work our way around other issues such as the Catering Framework addition which should hopefully be resolved soon.

Perhaps my only real significant worry about our 'University Relationship' is the threat of the SRC being the bottleneck to representation of the four student bodies at the University level. It is being proposed that the SRC will take the feedback of all the unions and bring them to the Delivery Board at the University for the incoming Student Experience Strategy, however I do not believe, nor have the confidence that the SRC can do this. I do not believe that the SRC are able to represent the QMU, or its members in any capacity, and have seen evidence of inability to even represent the other student bodies when they're in the same room during Student Experience meetings. Given that the SRC President is invited to Board Meetings, it would be necessary for them to attend all QMU meetings in the future, as well as GUSA, and GUU, to truly grasp our issues, and what our needs are. This year, Rinna (SRC President) did not attend any, which I sympathise with as I did not attend SRC Council meetings, however SRC Council is not a place for me to bring my grievances, nor my Union's issues to forum—whereas the President attending our Board Meetings will hear

directly what is happening within the QMU. Thus, in writing I write this one final time: **I have absolute zero confidence in the Glasgow University Student Representative Council to represent the Queen Margaret Union.**

1.3.5. Diversity and Identity

Perhaps one of the greatest things I am proud of is the Union's diversity this year. We have expanded upon our customer base, as well as students who engage with the union which has strongly been aided by the addition of our Asian Fusion restaurant, Soundbite. Ronnie has been an absolute legend as we've been able to use Chinese social media platforms to spread awareness of the union, and this has had a very positive impact across societies, internal committees and general consumer ship at the Union. Given the International College is upstairs in CR1, 2, 3, those students also being able to have a connection to the union through their exposure of the QMU on social media has been a massive positive. Our Board is also becoming increasingly diverse, and I am glad to see diverse representation on our Executive once again this year coming.

The QMU has been looking for an identity for quite a while and this year we worked on some of the foundations that Susanna put down last year. The focus on arts and culture has been successful this year, especially with the hammering home of live music at the union. We've also amended our tagline to something a bit more catchy and exciting, going from 'Alternative Since 1890' to: "***Making Noise Since 1890***". I believe even this small change brings a sense of excitement back to the union. Given the manifesto of the incoming President, I have full confidence that this focus on the arts and cultural scene of Glasgow University will be well and truly bolstered to the forefront of the union – something which I have also seen first-hand to bring excitement to members of our Board. I truly believe that establishing live music as part of our arts and cultural identity will bring the Union back to glory, albeit slowly. We have seen how this has brought success in events like Paddy's Day, Friday Music Quiz with live music after, and how bands have connected with the Union and brought friends to the Union who now also have an affination with the QMU. It's a never-ending cycle, and it will work, and we have seen it does work.

1.3.6. An Accessible and Visible President

This has been my biggest point of action as President this year and I believe that I have achieved that. It is critical for the Union to have a President that is known, or at least recognisable – I think Dan might have that easy as he's a tall ginger. This doesn't mean being 'well-known' but rather visible at important events such as open days, QMU events, Cross Campus, and social media and so on. This is mostly because there's a reliance on you to support and represent the union on your back as President, but also because when issues arise, the buck stops at you as President.

In addition, the President must be seen as the person who can be trusted and to go to in terms of decision-making. It is important that the President is able to represent the Union at all levels of meetings, with the Union's interests at heart whether it be at University SMG levels, or down to society affiliation discussions.

1.3.7. QMU's place as a Live Music Venue

One of the most exciting things I can disclose is our success as a live music venue. In 2022 we had a huge number of gigs go on, with November 2022 having more gigs than all of 2019 combined. The QMU is building back its reputation as a legendary gig venue, but also a venue with great acts which includes the likes of The Backseat Lovers, BADBADNOTGOOD, and Kelsea Ballerini and more. Stewart alongside Kris and Margaret have done wonders in bringing the Union back in the scene and if all else fails, the QMU as a music venue will live on!

1.3.8. Living Wage and the President's Wage

One of the highlights of my year was bringing our student staff up to £10 an hour in goals of working towards all staff being paid living wage. We are in the process of completing this to ensure that all staff members at the Queen Margaret Union are paid living wage from students to full-time staff regardless of age. It will be a fantastic day when this is officialised and the end of age discrimination on wages is over, especially given the cost-of-living crisis that we're all under. This also means that the President's wage will be rising with the Living Wage which is exciting for future Presidents!

1.3.10. Strategic Planning and Reforms

Coming to the end of my term, the Strategic Plan will be in place and actionable – hopefully the incoming President will finalise some touches, but most of it has been a review of things that went wrong. In addition, I have been working alongside board in looking at reforms to our complaint and discipline procedures. By the time with the AGM I will have had first level of discussions with the university in putting this through and should all be in place by August.

In addition, I have worked with Iris our VP MCS on modernising the Constitution and Bye-laws and hopefully by the end of my tenure **all of our documents will finally be up to date**. This is a bigger ask than it seems, but more one that is just tedious!

In light of the Ross Report, we have also gone through a number of changes in how we are going to operate our reporting, and complaints procedure, which should be clarified before the new academic year.

1.3.11. Election oversight

This year the role of President unofficially took over the role of elections – I believe this has worked a charm and meant that the role of VP Board is not inundated with election pressure if they want to run themselves. This will be formalised at the AGM.

1.4. Key Challenges

1.4.1. Financial Management through Rising Costs

One of the ongoing challenges this year has been costs for the Union, for committees, and general costs for the union simply running. Prices have risen and risen and risen, with no look at it ever ending. This has meant that we have constantly had to adapt and see how we can rise our prices without putting a burden too much on students. Unfortunately, price pints have for long been artificially low, but as we come into a time where it seems that students are no longer price sensitive to where they drink, we have had to increase them, albeit still extremely low. One of the hardest parts of this year has been having to try managing spending across our committees where prices for same projects, prints, and more, have increased massively despite the exact same project happening. Flexible financial management has been needed within our committees and I'm glad that our convenors have been open to this. I believe that a structure that has been talked about

where convenors who can raise their own pot and have access to their own money will teach great budgeting skills, but also financial savviness—something that will actually give our board members real world experience.

1.4.2. Structure of the Union and Failing of Old Strategic Plan

I believe that the structure of the Union is in dire need of revamping, from staff levels to board member levels. Regarding staff, there needs to be more clear direction and understanding of different departments. The structure that implemented under Graham Atkinson did not truly work, nor understand the depth of the Union. Whilst I appreciate the work that the consultancy did, it has now been almost five-years since it happened, and it is time for the QMU to start to develop its own structures from what worked and what did not.

Perhaps the most glaring issue I see is the breadth of “operations”. Our management has worked well to bring these closer, we now have proper Baristas in the café, we also have catering and hospitality in its own section with its own workers rather than everyone, and everything being spread thin. However, as I have stated before, I believe the union would benefit greatly from an established café manager which allows our Bar manager to have proper focus on the bar service. This also means we can have better lines of communication within the Union, and better reporting procedures which has slowly began to take place.

In terms of board structural change, I believe this to be more explanation into roles and understanding what each role entails. I think this needs to be more expressive explanation within the application process to explain what the role of the Convenor is, what the Executive role is and so on, but also a general level and explanation of basic duties of each role. It has been year-after-year we have seen people resign from the overwhelming nature of some of the roles due to not truly grasping the depth and intensity of the role at certain times.

The strategic plan also had ineffective measures of success, but also unachievable measures of success (some of which was planned around the implementation of an inefficient constitution). I would not be too disheartened by some of the results of the

Strategic Plan review, and I hope to identify key areas where we did reach success, but not by the standards that we had hoped for in 2019.

1.4.3. Student Voice and Feedback within the Union

One of the biggest holes I have seen this year is the gap in direct student feedback to the operational side of the union to staff. Kris and Margaret have been fantastic at being open ears to myself when it comes to things like bar prices, but I do believe that input in other areas of the union which are so quickly accessible because of the board should have some privy.

Whether it be small things like the future President being involved in the Managers Meetings, or more regular meetings with wider levels of staff that include the President to utilise input from the wider board, it would be good to have a sense of student input. This is not to say students have the final say on all matters, but rather to give feedback on things like menu options within Café and StrEatBites, wait times in our outlets and bars, drink selections or lack of, and ambience within the same outlets and bars. I hope that this can be implemented this year as the board are often the customers who use these facilities the most and are the most easy to talk to within board. Perhaps it is a suggestion to the incoming Executive to enable this in the future as I do believe the Management team are open to suggestions and feedback, but the right channels still have not been officially set-up or utilised.

1.4.4. University Timescales and Failings

The most severe issue of my time as President has been to do with University timescales surrounding projects and requests, and consequent failings of the University due to the inability to meet deadlines. A lot of issues that come from the University end up falling on us and our management, even though we have external pressure to deal with matters on very short notice. The most notable complaint we had this year was when we asked the Board Members to urgently move things out of the SRC managed storage locker room. They were unhappy with it being dropped at such late notice, and with a very harsh deadline of it needing to be done the day after. Whilst staff did help, and moved everything to Board Flat to be sorted, it did create tension on board. Unfortunately, this was relayed by the University who demanded we cleared out the storage locker space within 24 hours to allow

the failing SRC storage locker space initiative to continue (a different issue in itself). Being told by the University it had to be done put immense pressure on us, and thus in turn the board itself, albeit the University fail to meet deadlines time and time again.

As such I am going to list out the key failings that the University let us down this year, and some of the consequences of such:

- ***The lift delay and failure.***

The University decided to upgrade the long-needed lift. This was a great and welcomed idea until their first proposal which was to upgrade both lifts at once, deeming the union completely wheelchair inaccessible. We had to point this out to the University who then turned around and agreed to do the main lift first. This was supposed to be a project that was completed by Freshers' Week, but obviously with the tone of this section you can tell it was not. Having a lift out of order for Freshers' Week (and only the goods lift in action) was nothing short of disastrous. It also meant that we needed to put a staff member on our goods lift at all times throughout the week to ensure accessibility. The university failed to agree this until too late and the staffing was not able to be put on which resulted in some awful situations. In addition, I truly believe that the lift is barely wheelchair accessible as it is extremely narrow and has caused concern a number of times.

- ***Electrics issue on Level 2***

The electrics issue on Level 2 ended up being a quick fix, however it was extremely drawn out and unnecessary. At one point the university reached a stalemate in negotiations and no work was done for a significant amount of time. This resulted in us having no proper catering facility throughout the first semester and just about first half of the second semester. The issue ended up being resolved very quickly and cause question as to why it took almost a full year plus to fix this issue. It also meant that our catering was unable to truly kickstart as we had hoped during Freshers' Week.

- ***Heating throughout the building***

Perhaps the most embarrassing moment of the Union was when we had to shut during the extremely Baltic weather in December as it was completely freezing in the Union with people's breath being visible. This was due to the lack of heating on the

higher levels of the building, and despite months if not years of requests as to why this was the case, the University could not figure out what the problem was. It finally transpired that at the start of Covid, a university staff member came and turned off the heating valves in an area only University staff can access (the area was completely unknown to our staff) and after Covid they had forgotten to turn it back on. This issue lasted almost three years, and it was such a simple fix that affected the union massively.

- ***Block grant***

Financially the most worrying time of the Union is the lead-up to Freshers' Week. Significant amounts of money moves in and moves out of the Union during this time. However, the block came late, coming in September rather than August. This is such a simple payment which happens every year and it was completely baffling to me how the University could make a mistake on something that has existed for so long... (perhaps they remembered the good old days when they tried to completely cut the block grant).

- ***Maggot incident***

In August, the University had a waste bin explode at the bottom and a massive maggot infestation which was disgusting, and awful smelling. This was embarrassing to the Union given it was outside our building despite it being waste from the JMS. Multiple University staff came to inspect, yet many failed to deal with it. Enva even came in hazmat suits and looked at the bin and refused to take it simply because they could not be bothered – they even took a different bin than the clear blatantly obvious one with maggots leaking out of it. This should have been an issue that was resolved within a couple of days, but instead it took almost two and a half weeks.

- ***Potentially our venue floor***

I have extreme worries over the university's belief that they can fix the Venue flooring within 8 weeks between gigs, or between our last summer gig and Freshers' Week. Given the lack of success that they have had in every other project in this union, if they were to begin at the end of the final summer gig, we would need extreme backups in case they fail yet another project, and one that would completely destroy our Freshers' Week offering. I do hope that it ends up being a

success, and that the venue floor is no longer warped and sagging, but there is extreme risk if deadlines are not met.

1.4.5. Changing the Culture within the Board and Union

Perhaps the biggest challenge of my last four years has been trying to implement a change of culture within the Board, and union. It is not untrue to say at times it has been abrasive, and forceful, but it has been one that was, and is necessary. For far too long the Union has been happy sitting on things it has done in the past, and reflecting on history, as well as repeating events over and over until they die out. In my time as President, we have seen all our committees and board members show brilliant initiative in trying to change the way we think and put forward projects and events. All of our committees are and have been in need of modernisation, and each convenor, as well as those incoming, have risen to this challenge which has also played to the success of the QMU this year.

One of the key challenges that can be identified is the different levels of success that falls within the union. One of the most important challenges that will be difficult to stomach across board is events not living up to standards. For some committees we see a turnout being seen as successful whereas for other committees' similar numbers would be deemed failures. Whilst consideration must be made to funding, and cost of certain events to relativity of turnout, I hope all of our incoming convenors aim for the stars in their projects and give them everything to be the successes that they can be. Don't aim low for numbers, aim for as high as you can go, and don't put a cap on success. You'll find by just putting your all into a project to succeed, there is a higher chance that it will, rather than fighting for a small number and hoping for the best. In addition, build on success and analyse what could have been failures. There are some projects I have seen which in theory work, and in theory are fantastic, but the execution was not exactly there. Figure out why, and implement the changes, and I promise you that the legacy of people past will be represented, but with modernisation to ensure sustainability and success in the future.

1.5. Priorities for the Year Ahead

- **Continue to prioritise culture and the arts:** believe in the Union's motto of 'Making Noise Since 1890' and make sure it's true. We have done great work in establishing

student bands, and have created great relationships, as well as seen other aspects of culture in the arts such as performances and more. Continue this as this can be the bread and butter of the union's success in the future.

- **Establish more active feedback channels:** there is a massive group of volunteers who use the union the most. Make sure that you're able to harness both the excitement, but interest in these volunteers. Making volunteers feel like they have a channel for feedback and review will help stoke the flame and ensure that volunteers aren't getting burnt out.
- **Ensure that cross campus values student voice:** make sure that the work that has been put together by GUSA, GUU and ourselves continues. Keep each other accountable, but also work with each other. When needing to tackle the university all four student bodies work together than individuals and you can enact much more change that way.
- **Believe in everything you say:** do things with purpose, and make sure what you're doing has an end goal. There is no point in bobbing along with no goal in sight. Ensure that the goals you set are achievable and do something for the student campus.
- **Focus on campus engagement:** The union is for anyone who comes in and engages with it, but we have to make ourselves accessible at the same time. However, we are the Gilmorehill campus, and for students to truly get the most out of the union they have to be in, or around the union. It's good to access wider campuses, but in the end if they don't travel out to us, there is little we can do apart from the odd engagement.
- **Continue the fun:** the QMU is being recognised once again as a fun union. This has taken a long time but were finally there again. When I was here in 2018, the belief was that the union would be shut within five years. It's 2023 and five years later we're starting to look healthier once again, and that our place is being cemented slowly back on campus.
- **Have fun, have fun, have fun:** it is so important I'm putting it in here twice. Students will come if they see you having fun, and students will stay if they're having fun. Do not forget, as a "social union" we are here for students to kick back, make friends, socialise,

and have fun. At the end of the day, people come here to have fun, and if you're not having fun whilst doing anything in this union, you're not doing something right. Figure out what it is, and adjust it, and that way every experience you get out of this will be rewarding. After all, I've been here for almost four and a half years so I must be doing something right.

1.6. Thank yous!

Well here we are, who would have thought it has finally come! The end of my reign of terror and grip on this union over the last three years is over! I'm sure that some people are going to finally be happy to see the back of my head as I finally leave this union one day, but unfortunately, I still have two months left after this! Alas, I'd like to use this chance to thank a few (a lot really) important folk who have made this year the year it is!

First of all, my wonderful girlfriend, Becca. You've been there for me this year a lot in times of stress and unnecessary annoyance and put up with all of my rants. When I've been ill and sick you've been able to help me mend and get better quickly which led to more time in the union and more time getting ill, but also you ill as well! Thank you for putting up with the craziness that is the QMU and putting up with my many late night emails, response to messages when I easily should not have been replying, and me putting work first when really the wage is not worth it at 1am in the morning.

The next big thanks have to go to Josh Hay. You are the reason I am writing this report right now, and you are the reason why I joined board in 2019, and at times the reason why I stayed on board throughout. I know you hate recognition, but it's a good laugh at the end of the day.

Alejandra and Andrew, and Iris my three VPs, a massive thanks to you all, especially Alejandra and Andrew who trusted me enough to throw themselves into the VP roles. A lot could have gone wrong, and a lot did, but we made it through it all and I hope all three of you have enjoyed the experience and gained a lot and learnt a lot. These roles require a special level of patience and care and you all showed that throughout your terms. I hope for you Alejandra, that you can enjoy live as a convenor, and life out of the fast lane of the union – you never know, never say never to a future Presidential run?

To Ethan, my flatmate, and friend since first year. In 2018, Ethan and I used to come to the QMU and enjoy in the many festivities and games of pool. It is a friendship that has stayed since, and been one that has even seen you join Board as a life member. Your special guidance to our members and board has been interesting to watch, but its been great to have you on board.

To the special Techies in my heart: Charlie, Ash, Grant – all three of you have done loads for me over the years, especially wee Chazza. From graphics to last minute tech requirements, to checking things for me on the weekend because I can't be bothered coming in, thank you three immensely for everything you've done for the Union.

To Ruaraidh and Laoise, the three amigos originally, our time has come to an end finally, and rightfully so. Ruaraidh, I shall be joining you in the heavens of Past Presidents and thankfully so. Laosie, you can finally be usurped of duty and no longer have an inch of care for the Union, which I'm sure you don't already.

To Dan, our incoming President. Good luck. Thanks for a being a drinking buddy. I hope next year is everything you want it to be, and you're able to capitalise on the success of this year and truly bring the Union into the forefront.

Obvious thanks must go to Kris and Margaret who have put up with me for a long, long time. From countless debates, agreements, disagreements and arguments, there is no doubt that as a team we have pulled this union from the depths of almost everything and anything. I'm happy to say that as I leave, we have left this union in a much greater place whether it be the staff, or now the board, and the culture within the Union. No longer is this a place where people are watching behind their backs, but now a strong community of people who want to make change and are able to.

To Lanna, thank you for making me a viral celebrity, but also fuelling each other's gambling addictions on the slots. It's been great seeing the work we've done together become successful and our socials back to a place where we are making a killing.

Thanks to Lesley for doing almost everything I don't want to or can't do! Whether it be the admin of the membership, to the last-minute changes and printing of quiz sheets, to

working on reception for membership, and even doing all the membership cards. You have been reliable and that means a massive amount in a workplace that is chaotic at the best of times.

To Scott who has put up with terrible chat, but also made crazy changes to the union and put up with an insane amount of painting, and repainting, and then repainting again. Your ability to change and fix things at a moment's notice has been indispensable, but also your reliability of lending us all sorts of equipment and paints that we probably still haven't returned and are somewhere in board flat.

To Aki, Paula, and Lee thank you for putting up with me when I'm sober at nights, but also drink at nights. Thank you to Aki who has left this year, and I wish you the best in everything you do. For Lee and Paula, it's been fantastic working with you thinking of drinks, cocktails, and all sorts of concoctions for our random nights.

Our kitchen team Bob, Duncan, Andy must get a big thanks for getting me fed, but also putting up with random requests, last minute things like President's Lunch, and food requests in the café and Bistro. I look forward to hearing about the success of StrEatBites next year, and I look forward to also hopefully hearing we get on the University catering framework agreement!

To Tricia who has been a wonderful source of chat and gossip in the mornings, I truly hope that the Board keep rooms clean for you next year!

Angela and Sam who have been the supply of endless coffees and overzealous scan in the morning – special thanks to Angela who makes a mean stack breakfast role which has probably taken a couple years off my life.

To Stewart, you have helped bring QMU events back from the ashes. You've also helped me complete a true passion project which was our Sunday Markets. I know you've tried to convince me to get a job in events times a many, but maybe one day once I pursue a bunch of other passion projects first!

Huge thanks to Ronnie who has helped us access a student demographic that we would have never otherwise had. From translating our events to be more accessible, to talking to

students about what in the world is going on and making them excited for things within our Union. You have been irreplaceable!

Martin, you know what you did to help me, so thank you. I will never forget.

Whilst most won't remember Sean Paul O'Connor, he was extremely influential within this union and helped the shift and change before he left. A lot of advice and help had come from in, and influenced the way that all of us have ran this union as President.

A big thank you to Lauren and Shak who have been on the doors for my whole time here. From being scared of them on door, to them being some great friends and chatter bugs on some gruelling nights. Whether it be the chaos of Wet Wednesdays, or the more chill nights of events that didn't go as well as we expected, each and every night we've been on together has been so much easier because of you two!

My fellow diversity kings! Vivek and Fuad, it's been an immense pleasure working with you two this year and Cross Campus has never been so strong between the three other bodies.

I cannot ignore the wisdom and advice that Robert Partridge has given over the years, especially this year as President. Whether it be times of panic, you've always been an email or text away, and even a phone call if I've needed it. Thank you for all your help over the years!

To our Past President Gary Brown who has put up with the odd message and request at random times, but also your guidance over the last three years. Coming into the Union and dealing with things during unprecedented times, it has been good to have the value and advice of someone who's managed to hold a steady hand over the union despite how much we end up hating it, or maybe ourselves!

Over three years' worth of Fresher Helpers, and specifically the 2021 Helpers thank you for taking part in Freshers' Helping, and you made my life, and the union's ability to engage students so much better!

Finally, to all of our wonderful boardies, its been exciting to work with you all, to watch you grow, and put forward ideas to the union to see it improve. Your input and work has been invaluable!

To anyone else I have forgotten, trust me with almost 11,000 words it happens, but I appreciate everything you've done. Just ask me to buy you a drink if I have!

1.7 Closing Remarks

Well, that takes us to the end. It has been an immense privilege to be able to add my name to the list of mighty Presidents of before. It has been a learning curve, but an experience that you will get nowhere else at this age unless you're some sort of business prodigy. I am truly proud to say that I full and well believe I have left the Union in a far greater place than it was when I first joined, and if each and every President can say that, then the QMU will finally be back to the mighty days where it deserves.

Being President is a job, but it should never feel like a chore. This year has been extremely rewarding, and has been one where I've made great friends, and been able to pursue passion projects that nowhere else would allow me. I wish Frances, Iris and Dan the best of luck. I'll always be a message away, but perhaps no longer at 1 or 2 in the morning this time. The union is crying out for someone with a fresh face (despite Dan being considerably older than most of the board) to take it to the next level, and I believe that the timing is right as I am no longer that person. I have full faith in all three of you to lift the Union up as we've finally got our stable platform that we've been desperate for, and now it's time for you to be the ones to reap all the rewards.

Remember to always have fun because when you do the Union will be the best place to be on campus. I cannot wait for President's Lunch, and I cannot wait to be invited to the next couple.

On that note, See You Space Cowboy.

2. VICE PRESIDENT MCS – Andrew McAllister, Iris Duane

The first section pertains to Andrew McAllister's time as Vice President MCS before resigning in January where Iris Duane took over the role.

Andrew McAllister (July – January)

Introduction:

For the QMU, 2022-23 was a fantastic year. I was elected on the promise to help fix some of the operational complaints that had been raised around the way members interacted with the building and to help make Freshers' Week 2022 the most successful in recent memory to help the union bounce back from Covid with a vengeance.

I, unfortunately, like everyone is susceptible to, made some missteps throughout the year that may have harmed the outcome of some of the situations I encountered. However, I did my best to make the most of every situation I faced, and not only do I know I gave everything I had to my time at the QMU, but I am proud that despite the complete lack of handover I received, I left the union in a tangibly better state than I found it in.

I, unfortunately, did not get to see out my full year in the executive team at the QMU due to personal circumstances relating to the University and the cost-of-living crisis and ended up being forced to resign in January as I could no longer afford to continue dedicating my time to the union.

Freshers' Week:

I am proud to say that, at least from my perspective, Freshers' Week was a huge success. There were some significant challenges faced throughout the week and some missteps along the way with the planning but in the end, the week went ahead at full steam for the first time since COVID and we had no events with cancellations or major issues which is a win for everyone that was involved. We hit capacity on several nights throughout the week including the ever-popular White T-Shirt Party and peaking with our headline act The Vengaboys which saw the venue consistently at capacity for over 4 hours.

The events ended up running over budget by a small margin however despite disappointing bar sales that were significantly lower than anticipated, the union came out with a profit that exceeded the previous year and a significant reputation boost from having extremely popular events run with few issues.

Freshers' Week Funding and Wristbands:

The funding situation for Freshers' Week this year was significantly improved following our successful warding off the SRC-mandated scrapping of the wristband from last year through our collaboration with the GUU to run the wristband as a social union-owned and operated operation. This collaboration and cooperation also meant that we no longer stood liable to pay the significant chunk of the revenue from the wristband that the SRC used to fund its staffing.

While the funding was a significant improvement over the £0 from the 2021 Freshers' Week, our potential revenue was significantly undercut due to a handful of circumstances and decisions that were forced upon both social unions. The first and most significant one was the SRC presented motion to prevent the wristband from being sold as the only means of access to the Freshers' Week Main events as it had been in every instance prior. The University decided to uphold the presented motion and we were forced to provide a pay-per-event option which resulted in significantly lower sales of full-price wristbands and hurting the revenue that could be dedicated to funding Freshers' Week in an incalculable way.

Freshers' Helper Training:

The University provided helper training that remained extremely similar to the training that has been provided for the previous 2 years. We polled our helpers, and it was agreed that this training was thoroughly underwhelming and generally unhelpful to the real-world scenarios encountered by helpers on a day-to-day basis. The training while providing a foundation for some issues, generally did not go far enough to provide actionable techniques and practices to provide first-line help to someone who is struggling to adjust to university life or with being away from home for the first time.

Membership:

Due to my early departure, I did not get the opportunity to put as much focus on driving membership as I originally had planned. We did however put a strong emphasis on driving membership during Freshers' Week and between myself and with the help of our Admin staff member Leslie, had someone manning the reception booth at almost all times during the day to get people signed up as members. This proved to be an extremely effective endeavour and resulted in membership signups during Freshers' Week alone exceeding total membership signup during the year 2021-2022.

Thank Yous:

I would like to thank my fellow VP Alejandra for putting up with my random rants and always giving me something to chuckle at.

I would like to thank Grant for all his assistance with my tech-related goals and for not trying to murder me with a ladder like he did last year.

I would like to thank John for looking after society relations with me by always making sure there was a partnership in place for the Karaoke spots on a Tuesday along with his collaborative BWNPQ spots.

Iris Duane (January – March)

The role of Vice-President of Membership, Clubs and Societies has had a tumultuous time in the 2022-23 period; starting the year with Andrew McAllister in the seat and ending the year with me taking on his role. Due to Andrews unfortunate resignation in January, I took at the role of VP MCS in end of January and have acted as somewhat of a continuity candidate – taking up the baseline responsibilities of the role but not being afforded much time to make any significant difference; focusing somewhat on the day to day of the role and nothing that can overall be put forwards as a ‘success’ – that is my fault and a failure of mine to actively engage with the vast needs of the Vice-President MCS role.

Despite this failure on my behalf, overall, it has seemingly been a good year for the QMU, no thanks to any contribution of my own in my short tenure, but rather through the hard work of others who have somewhat shared the responsibilities of my role with me. As the long shadow of the coronavirus pandemic recedes, it is the hard work of our volunteers and the strong leadership of our president that has brought the QMU into a position where we can begin to flourish in this new world we find ourselves in, a world where we can build a reputation once again and one in which we continue our long trend of adapting to change as it comes.

The jump from CSR to VP MCS as such an inopportune time of the year has left me with not that much to say overall - it is unfortunate that this relatively close to a time in which I would be writing a ‘big’ report for the annual general meeting highlighting all that I haven’t managed to do in my short tenure but ‘thems the breaks’!

For the reasons set out previously this report will be much shorter than that of what is traditionally expected from the VP MCS, focussing more on the generalities of the role and less on the specifics of what little I have managed to actually do; Freshers' Week and other aspects of the role have already been covered by Andrew McAllister prior to my section of this report and therefore I will focus mainly on membership, life membership and club/societies booking.

Membership:

Overall, our membership is low in comparison to the pre-covid years, with the union having an alarming drop in membership from 2019. As of writing this report we have 1545 members, an extremely disappointing number when compared to 3329 members that we had registered at the time of the 2019 AGM. Whilst there are many tertiary reasons as to why our membership numbers may have fallen to such a degree (the pandemic, changing culture around student unions and the overall engagement drop of students on their campuses) a 54% drop in membership in 4 years is unhealthy for the union going forwards; and this should be a key focus in the evaluation of how we can reach out to more students. It is integral for the union going forwards that we encourage students to sign up for our membership and furthermore make use of the benefits that our membership brings. Unfortunately, outside of the very successful membership drive in Fresher's Week 2022, no overall membership campaign has been implemented this year – a fact which may account for some (not all) of the declining numbers that we are seeing today.

Whilst I have discussed membership drives with other members of the board of management, I have unfortunately not brought anything at all to fruition and I have overall failed to make any form of impact on this declining total of members – an unfortunate by-product of my failure to engage with all elements of my role. Furthermore, whilst our admin worker Lesley works incredibly hard to make sure all new members are assigned membership cards quickly, many of our cards are left uncollected, something which should be looked into going forwards, as if they do not have their membership cards, they clearly cannot be taking full advantage of the membership benefits.

Despite all this, we had a very substantial turn out in the 2023 Annual General Election, with 18% of our members exercising their right to vote. Having almost 1 in 5 of our members getting involved and choosing who they would like to be on the board of management

(despite there only being one contested position and seemingly no in-building campaigning) is incredibly positive and shows that our members are actively looking to the future of the union. This builds on previous years of work and shows that when UofG students are called on they will answer; with almost a tenth (142) of our total membership total signing up on the run up to/ within the election period. If a small membership campaign executed by our prospective candidates can make such an impact on our overall total of members, a centralised campaign executed by our VP MCS across the entire year may make a substantial difference and help bring the union back to membership numbers from years gone by.

Going forwards I believe that a planned membership campaign should be executed across the entire year, which should make it clear as to why it is beneficial to member of the union and furthermore showing our members why it is great to get involved in the union as a whole. Moreover, I believe that working with the convenors, individually, on membership campaigns may help to increase our numbers overall and further educate those who use our facilities of the inner workings of the union; as many are happy to use the union (not just limited to members but also large societies) but do not sign up for membership whilst doing so. On top of this, a re-evaluation of membership benefits may be needed to ensure we are best catering to our members needs in the union, as campus life changes so do the needs and wants of our students, more membership benefits or more publicization of the current ones should serve bring more active members into the QMU.

Life Membership

In line with the general membership, there has not been much movement on the life membership this year. In my short tenure on board and as VP MCS we have had no life membership applications passed through the board and I have not been made aware of any previous ordinary members of the union who are looking into seeking life membership on top of this. We also have not hosted any life members events this year. This leans heavily into the membership section and going forwards this can be something that can be looked into being improved to pay ode to those who came before us.

Clubs and Societies Booking

I have spent the majority of my time in the position simply dealing with bookings and I am incredibly thankful to our operational manager Kris whose help with this has been absolutely invaluable. Relations between the QMU and clubs/socs continue to be strong

and many societies are finding regular use of all of our facilities across the entire building – we have certainly been seen as a hub for societies and their many diverse needs, from board meeting to karaoke and club nights, the QMU certainly has it all. It has been an incredibly busy year for the QMU, with our Venue space being used almost every day of March; with only two of them being external events! Our committee rooms are also getting much use, with societies using them for a mixture of practices, socials and board meetings. Overall, from my perspective the booking system, with any clashes being able to be moved around at the day and time.

However, with the good also comes the drawbacks. Whilst societies are seeing us an easy place to book, some are booking out committee rooms and then failing to turn up without alerting anyone. This leaves us with an empty room that could have been used for other societies and often no explanation from the society when being contacted. Furthermore, whilst having the venue space booked so frequently is fantastic, it has been difficult to keep events out of bar or limit bar to ‘quiet’ events in periods of high demand, with some societies who hire the venue space needing the bar to also be quiet. Going forwards venue hirings that require the bar to be quiet or fully vacant should possibly be subject to a hiring fee for the extra space that they are requiring to be hired out. Apart from this, with the help of Kris, Alejandra and our staff, bookings have been amazingly dealt with, and when issues do arise, they are dealt with very quickly.

Thanks!

And finally, to the fun part (or that’s how the old reports make it seem!). Massive thanks to Lachlan for aiding me with all my stupid questions and supporting me in my transition into my new role, you have been a fab president and your guidance and advice is always greatly appreciated. Your departure from the union will certainly be felt and we will all miss you greatly.

Alejandra thank-you for your entire existence not just listening to all the stuff I chat but your dedication and hard work across your entire term has made such a positive impact on the union, and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with. Grant thank-you for (lets be honest) being shadow VP MCS during my time as ad hoc and working with Ale to solve problems before I even knew about them, you are very greatly appreciated.

To Dan thank-you for always encouraging me to get more involved in the union and supporting me in all of my phases, even at my lowest you have always been there to lift me up.

Thank-you to management and staff for making the union a friendly place to be, even when I am asking you stupid questions.

And finally thank-you to StrEAT bites for their 3 for £10 deal for making me fat(er) and mini-soundbite for their lemon iced tea which makes me feel seen.

See you all next year you little gremlins xxxx

3. VICE PRESIDENT BOM – Alejandra Paja Garcia

Board of Management

Even though I was a lot around last year, this has been my first year as a boardie – and what a better way to get introduced to QMU board than to be VP Board! I have absolutely loved my time as VP, even though it has occasionally driven me close to mental breakdowns.

I want to apologise to everyone for my beefy minute taking throughout the year. I will try my best to keep it short and sweet for the AGM.

Board Socials

We had a few board socials throughout the year, two of them in election nights (October and March). In November we went to Fore Play minigolf, I hope everyone had fun in that one! Christmas dinner had to be rescheduled for a Burns Night dinner so Lachlan would be available to attend it. Unfortunately, a major water pipe broke in Glasgow, and the QMU and half of the west end was running out of water an hour before the dinner was meant to start. The dinner was meant to be rescheduled – I apologise for not finding another date but have been swamped in university work for the whole semester. I had more socials planned for the year, including a laser tag night, but have been unable to plan them due to university work (semester 2 has been awful), being sick for a month and other personal reasons. For the next VP Board: organise a laser tag social, either in the building or someplace else.

Training

In January, we had bystander training with the GUU board led by Glasgow and Clyde Rape Crisis. Both QMU and GUU board agreed that this training was much more helpful than the one provided by the SRC before Freshers' Week, as it was much more hands-on and practical, and I think everyone appreciated having it for next year's FW. We were hoping to have the 'Train the Trainer' session rescheduled too at some point before the end of the year – I am not sure if it will happen.

Even though we did not have duty board this year, I think it would be needed for some events next year, especially if we plan on continuing club nights, or just in case anything happens during smaller-scale events. I have found myself doing duty on nights such as Halloween and other committee events unexpectedly solely because I was the only exec in

the building at the time. Even though not ideal, I understand that anything could happen during these nights, but I believe there should be someone around that is prepared in case anything happens, even if it is unofficially.

Committees

I have tried to attend as many meetings from each committee as possible this year, but later in the year it has been almost impossible for me to go to most meetings due to deadlines in my course. Even though I did not attend some meetings, I have tried to go to all events organised by committees and be around the Union in case anyone needed help at any point.

At the beginning of the year, Social committee brought back the Friday Music Quiz, which was later passed onto Events. Although attendance was not great it was good enough to continue having a money prize for a couple weeks, even though that was changed due to lower attendance. I will also hope to never be hosting again a BWNPQ.

I have (as expected) very involved with the Welfare committee. It has been an absolute pleasure working with Lauren and Sorcha throughout the year and hope to continue their work in this next year. We were very keen on having the 'Chat with the board' event which turned out to be a disaster that no one really attended, although it was a great opportunity for a board social. Although I believe these types of events can be very useful and provide a safe space for students to talk about whatever is on their minds, I do not think we approached it correctly, since people can feel a bit intimidated coming into a room full of strangers. Also, I have noticed that students are not as interested in getting involved with the Unions anymore. Even though we are meant to represent student voices, and we can talk directly to the SRC or university staff, there is not much we can do if students do not come to us with their concerns. Probably the best approach is to talk to societies and liaise with them to reach a wider audience. This next year, I will explore the possibility of creating a platform for students that they can refer to regarding any welfare-related issues, including signposting to university resources as well as external organisations. It will probably be my main objective for the year and will try to get it across in cross-campus meetings – I really do not think student welfare is something each student body should be approaching individually.

Ross Report & Complaints Procedure

Following the Ross Report published in December 2022, we have had to look into our complaints procedure in more detail. Over the past weeks we have had meetings with Sorcha and a CBP meeting to address the recommendations outlined in the report and figure out if there is anything else we can do and how to better support GBV survivors. It is important to note the report mentioned that it did not have enough data from the unions to properly analyse them in the same way as the university.

The main takeaway points from the Ross Report are the fact that there is very little to no trust in university to deal with GBV complaints, resulting in some of them going directly to the student unions and leaving student representatives, with no training, deal with them. This not only affects student representatives' welfare, which most times deal with complaints alongside their duties, but also survivors, since in most cases there is very little we can do within the unions and without going to university.

The report suggests that all cases of GBV should be reported to the university. I agree that should be the case but opens the question of if by doing so the trust in the student unions will diminish too, and less survivors will come forward. Many of our reports are anonymous, and there is very little we can do in these cases. Our next steps should be re-building the complaints procedure and clearly outlining what the Union can and cannot do in each case. We should also tackle the issue of how to report to the university whilst ensuring that survivors get the support they need, and if there is anything else we can do to help.

Societies - Affiliation drive

During summer I worked on creating an affiliation pack for societies and liaised with management and bar staff to come up with benefits for affiliated clubs and societies. Before Freshers' Week I sent out an email to all clubs and societies on campus letting them know that society affiliation with the QMU was available. This was mainly to have societies know about the QMU in case they wanted to organise events during Freshers' Week, and to have block bookings organised before the academic year started. Looking back on it and considering the number of new societies that are created each year (and do not appear in the SRC website because they are not yet official societies), I think that the next VP Board does not have to spend so much time copying and pasting hundreds of emails – just have a social media campaign to promote affiliation.

This year we have had 98 societies apply for affiliation. 2 of those affiliations were rejected: one was the Tories and was voted against in a board meeting, and the other one was the Politics society, which we have had issues with during the year. Various organisations external to the University have also tried to affiliate with the QMU. Even though we have had an amazing response from societies, there have not been that many sports clubs affiliating. Only 6 sports clubs affiliated with us this year. Next year I would investigate if there were any reasons why few clubs affiliated, and possibly come up with affiliation benefits aimed at them.

One thing to consider for next year is revising if societies booking spaces are affiliated with the QMU. Some of the benefits of being affiliated with the QMU included reduced bar prices and the option to do block bookings and take part in the Tuesday Karaoke. Even though at the beginning of the year we made sure that all societies booking spaces were affiliated, we slowly gave up with this. For next year, I would definitely at least ensure that societies doing block bookings and wanting to take part in the karaoke – or even quizzes, as society collaborations started this year – should be affiliated. Ideally, it would be good to extend this to bar prices, since it would create another benefit to affiliated societies over those who are not, but I understand that this is difficult to control and put into place. Regular societies that have used our spaces regularly throughout the year include STAG, FemEng, K-Pop, DanceMania, Doctor Who Society and GSDC. Special mention to GULGBTQ+ Society which used Café every single day and had events throughout the year!

Room Bookings

For most of the year I have also done room bookings with Kris and Andrew. At the beginning of the year, it was a mess. All three of us were emailing the same societies about events and did not know about it. Since events were not in the calendar on time either, some rooms were double booked, and we had to email societies very last minute and tell them that they did not have a space for their event. We tried CC'ing each other in emails regarding room bookings, which unfortunately did not work either. By November time, we decided that the best way for us to work was with Kris taking bookings from both bars and Venue and Andrew doing Bistro and Committee Rooms. Despite his best attempts and me chasing him up, I still had to take some room bookings that Andrew forgot to take. That led to some societies getting mad and stop booking our spaces, which was not ideal. Even with classes being booked every day 9AM to 6PM, Committee Rooms were booked almost every day for society events. With all rooms booked and enquiries about block

bookings still coming in, we started using Café as a meeting space in the evenings. At first there were some issues since Café was originally the place where crew members would leave all the flight cases and gig equipment in gig nights. Societies were being told that they could not use the space and having to move minutes before their event. Some of them contacted us to see if any other rooms were available or if we could warn them beforehand to let them know the space was being used. This was very inconvenient since gigs are not regular and I do not have access to the Venue calendar, so most times I was unaware there was a gig on. Andrew (after me whining a lot) went to talk to Stewart and agreed for crews to put their equipment in the basement, which freed up Café. This meant another space societies could use during the evenings. Hopefully, we will have the basement re-done at some point in the next year(s) and bands can use it as dressing rooms and green rooms. There have also been issues with the locker room on the third floor. Even though it was very useful for those two months when we could have all the stuff from board flat somewhere else, it was a pain when the university reclaimed it for them to not even use it. For the next exec, please figure out what is going on with the locker rooms and try to agree with the University to remove the lockers so we can use it as an extra space.

Issues

Halfway through semester 1 we had to send an email out to societies regarding alcohol consumption in the QMU. Bar staff had several incidents where they found societies bringing in alcohol for their events. Societies cannot drink alcoholic drinks in the QMU brought from outside since it will break licensing laws and would put the whole Union in a bad place if people found out about it.

Some societies have booked rooms and then not appeared the day of the event. I am sure John and Iris will expand more on this issue, but it was decided that if they do not turn up for room block bookings, the rest of the bookings will be cancelled, and they will have to rebook again the spaces. Societies not turning up to events puts an extra pressure on duty managers on the night, which have to open and lock rooms for them, on top of doing their job.

Cross-Campus - Training

Before Freshers' Week, we had training with the GUU and GUSA exec led by a former NUS head. It was a week of very in-depth training, designed to prepare ourselves for the job of student representatives and helping us understand how we can better represent student

voices on campus and better approach our roles as exec. The SRC has their own training, therefore they decided not to attend this one, which probably resulted in the relationship between the other three student bodies consolidating throughout the year.

Meetings

Cross-Campus meetings this year have been mostly to update each other on what is going on in each student body. Especially after FW, a distancing between the SRC and the remaining three bodies has been obvious, which has continued throughout the year. I do not know what the future of Cross-Campus will be – maybe it will be redefined, because as it stands now it seems like the meetings can be simply turned into update emails. However, most of the issues raised with the SRC have not been a success, contrary to what they think, and we have often been excluded from important conversations. I sincerely hope that this can be solved, and if not, that we can work more effectively with the rest of the student bodies if they are still keen on maintaining cross-campus relationships.

However, there were some minor accomplishments. For the first time in a while, the SRC agreed to have meetings outside of their building, and each student body is hosting them on a rotational basis. The meeting hosted by the QMU has been the most successful Cross-Campus meeting up to date! I think that's pretty much it.

Welfare forum

I have only attended one Cross-Campus welfare forum but have been kept up to date by Sorcha. Similar to regular Cross-Campus meetings, I do not think much gets done apart from discussing events happening in each student body. The SRC wants to open these meetings up for societies to be involved too. They have also taken the 'Dear Safe Space' project from SWAG, ditched on it and passed it onto the university. I do not know if the university has any intention of continuing this project (I will probably follow them up on that) and SWAG was not made aware of anything, so they are not happy with the outcome. After hearing back from Sorcha after one of the meetings, she mentioned the SRC are not keen on us having some events (e.g.: peer support sessions) since they are already hosting those, and that would be duplicating resources. In terms of welfare, I don't think that having too many resources is an issue, especially when in our case they are free and we are not using students' money, and I will probably have many discussions with them over the next year.

Other issues raised at welfare forum were the inclusion of the university to the Emily charter and the Ross report. I believe Sorcha will surely be getting into much more detail in her report, but the SRC does not seem keen, at least for the moment, on taking different actions to the university or pressing them to take additional measures. The GUU on the other hand seems keen on working with us, so hopefully we can get some projects together for next year.

Thank You

There are so many people that have helped me make it through the year, I am sorry if I forget anyone, I will try my best.

John, thank you for putting up with all my shit, especially this year. I still find it funny that we met in our first day of FW (in a QMU event!! Shout out to Josh) three years ago now and look where we've ended – it really is true that there is no escaping the QMU. You have been a great social convenor and I'm really looking forward to dragging you to every Welfare meeting. Thanks for being my best friend and looking out for me all this time. Also, sorry for the several murdering attempts.

Grant, you have turned into one of my best friends this year, I don't even know how. Thank you for being there whenever I needed someone to talk to or just to make fun of John. You have singlehandedly carried the Union and Freshers Week with tech, even though you didn't even have many volunteers to start with, you did an amazing job and created a fun atmosphere in tech. I'm also dragging you to welfare meetings, just for your own good.

Andrew, even though you had to leave your term early, I really enjoyed having you as VP MCS. Thank you for all the venting after meetings in the office, and for being someone I can go to for support or advice at any time, you have been a great friend. I will however fight you if you put a Garage stall in uni during Freshers Week.

Lachlan, thank you for trusting me as you VP, it has been an incredible opportunity that I would not have even imagined if it weren't for a 2am drunk text. I hope I wasn't much of a pain to deal with, it has been great working with you over this year. I have only known the QMU with you as an exec, so it will be weird seeing if it will not fall apart without you.

Iris, my love, my dear. Thank you SO MUCH for taking over the other VP position, I would have cried a lot if you hadn't. I am looking forward to being your welfare convenor and I know you will do great things for the QMU this year. Also, don't you dare bring me back as VP.

To my fellow boardies, I have loved being your VP. You have all done some incredible job throughout this year and must remain sure that you have left the QMU in a better place now than when you started. I am looking forward to seeing what the new board can accomplish!

To Margaret, Kris, Lanna and Leslie, thank you for putting up with me this year and helping me out so much, I am so grateful for all the support I have received from you. To Lee, Aki and Paula, thank you for being so patient with me while I was having full-on crisis trying to figure out bookings and always making sure that I was doing okay.

I really apologise if there is anyone, I forgot to mention but I just want to thank everyone who has helped me, I am looking forward to the joys (and sorrows) the QMU will bring next yea

4. CAMPAIGNS AND CHARITIES CONVENOR – Luke Hills, Sorcha Mullen

The first section pertains to Luke Hills' time as Campaigns and Charities Convenor before resigning in November, until January when Sorcha Mullen took over the role.

Luke Hills (July – November) failed to provide an AGM report on time.

Sorcha Mullen (January – March)

Overview

So having only taken over the position at the beginning of the second semester, this report will mostly focus on that period, but I will touch on some of what happened in first semester as best I can. Overall, it has been a successful year, with previous year records being beaten in both Fresher's Week and SHAG week, and new projects and working relationships being built on throughout the year too.

Fresher's Week

£1759.58 raised in total breaking last years record

- 4 fundraising activities
 - Face Painting - £1189.50, most successful fundraiser of the week
 - Bake sale: £70-80
 - Drag Bingo: £230
 - Sponsored Walk: £270
-

Beyond Campus Fair

When the event first started it was touch and go with success. We found that having the event inside meant attendance was incredibly low, most likely due to lack of visibility, and contending with the sheer number of events on campus during Fresher's Week, particularly the Fresher's Fair. We found that moving the event outside greatly boosted attendance and visibility, and the charities were speaking to students most of the day. We also posted short videos and stories to our socials to spotlight the charities and groups in attendance. I think having the fair outside the building definitely has benefits in this respect, however of course this is unfortunately weather dependent, and there was a notable lack of space between

stalls, with tables all crushed up next to each other. I think for next year it is definitely something to consider doing again, however we should also look at boosting promotion and visibility, and being careful what day of Fresher's Week to run it on. As an event I think it's something that really ties in with the QMU's history and values, so perhaps rebranding it as an activist fair, or something similar, and really promoting the volunteering opportunities and community engagement the charities and groups offer would work really well.

Red Ribbon Ball

- Total profit = 607.67 GBP
 - Total cost of the event = 97.78 GBP
 - Total net profit = 509.89 GBP
-

Condom Booth

Condom booth continues to be something that, despite the quiet days, remains successful and essential. Booth volunteers do find that in their average day, not many people will come by the booth, but those that do are always grateful for its presence, and remark on not knowing it existed.

We do find that the times the booth is left unmanned is when we give away most of our stock! I think having volunteers on booth is still essential, to answer any questions and also to generally keep an eye on things, however volunteers should perhaps be given more leeway to come and go from booth during their allotted hours (remember to fill up the condom buckets and menstrual products in all the bathrooms!).

Promotion of condom booth is something that's been coming up for some time now, and I'm honestly not too sure what else we can be doing. We have posters up in the bathrooms listing the days and times it's running, along with the products on offer, and we promote it on socials where we can. Its new position in foyer, as opposed to cloakroom, also seems to be helping things, however it would be good to continue brainstorming ideas as a committee on how to promote it better.

That being said, some of our stock is flying off the table! The re-usable pads in particular are proving incredibly popular, and we've had requests for period pants too. Due to the contract with the uni I'm not sure this particular product would be possible, but it's definitely something to keep in mind if that contract ever changes.

One thing we haven't offered on booth this year is the menstrual product delivery service, or the click and collect service. The former was largely introduced because of the pandemic, so it didn't make much feasible sense for this to be continued this year (due to volunteers and funds needed), however the click and collect service is something that could potentially be looked into continuing for next year.

S.H.A.G Week

Sexual Health and Guidance week make a comeback, and I'm delighted to say we raised a grand total of £330.31 for Glasgow Women's Aid! I think continuing SHAG week as an annual event should definitely be a commitment of the committee, as its a unique week that breaks up the monotony and gloominess of the second semester.

We slightly changed some of the events we ran last year, with this year having a Twilight movie screening instead of karaoke and having notably better attendance at this event. That being said, last year's Pads and Pints event proved successful, while this years had no attendance (literally no attendance, no one turned up sadly).

Continuing flexibility on the events offered is something that can allow the event to adapt each year and work out what's working and what's not.

Galentine's Club Night

While Galentine's was an Events Committee event, I think incorporating this kind of event into SHAG week in future years would work really well. We made a decent amount of money on this night with facepainting and glow stick sales, setting us up for the rest of the week. For future weeks we could potentially look at running this more as a collaborative event with Events and C&C, and/ or other committees.

Galentine's was intended to be a fundraising event for Glasgow Women's Aid too, however due to being short on profit this didn't happen. To ensure this kind of event is more profitable for charity may take some looking into other similar events we could run, however I do think a club night was a great idea and worked really well. We also had a safe space on the night sponsored by Glasgow Women's Aid, and while this wasn't attended, I still think is an idea for future events like this.

Twilight Movie Screening, Red Flag Green Flag Game

This event was actually a surprising success! As this event was on Valentine's Night, and previous film screenings have not had the best attendance, we weren't the most optimistic for this event. However we ended up having about 20 people in attendance! This event also promoted sales at the bar, with people buying pitchers and pints of red and green drinks for the red flag/ green flag game. This game involved people either partaking in a drinking game, or using actual red and green flags if they didn't want to drink, to interact with relationship red flags and green flags they saw in the film.

This meant people were engaging with some of the themes and materials of our chosen charity for SHAG week (Glasgow Women's Aid have gave us a pamphlet of 'relationship red flags' to distribute as part of their 'Enough!' Campaign aimed at young people, these pamphlets are also displayed throughout the QMU). I think this event worked really well as a way to engage people with the work of our chosen charity, and started discussions on themes that are really important for young people. Even if not just limited to SHAG week, I think a film screening that encourages people to enjoy the film whilst also thinking about these themes in a way that is fun and appealing to students could be a really great way to promote the work and values of C&C.

SHAG Week Big Wednesday Pub Quiz, Bake Sale, Pads and Pints and Waverley Care Rapid HIV Testing

The quiz had a decent turn out, but lower than average for the usual pub quiz. We still raised a decent amount of money, and sold off the last of our bakes. The bake sale also proved to be a good source of fundraising. Pads and Pints and Waverley Care Rapid HIV testing both had no attendance. There was a mix up on days with Waverley Care, but even on the dates advertised no one turned up.

The service has said, however, that we can promote their service and people can request to get tested at the QMU, Waverley Care can send out testers to do this. This is something to think about for next SHAG week, perhaps gauging interest and looking at a sign up system, as Waverley Care are too busy to spend a day in the union for no one to turn up. For Pads and Pints, as well as no one turning up, it appears the room was double booked, however Becca recorded instructional videos we can use if we decide to run Pads and Pints again.

Bingo with the Order of Perpetual Indulgence

As always, this event proved popular and was by far the most profitable of all SHAG weeks events, definitely keep the nuns as a staple going forward.

Glasgow Women's Aid

This year we began what I hope is an ongoing working relationship with Glasgow Women's Aid. We have run fortnightly drop-in sessions on our condom booth every second Wednesday 12-4 in both semesters, with really positive feedback from those who have used the service, including the need for it on campus, so I would strongly advocate for this to continue. Women's Aid have also run some workshops, including awareness raising and active consent, with limited attendance, usually mostly board members. I do believe the workshops are just as essential as the drop ins, however we need to look at how to boost attendance. Women's Aid have also provided training for us to get the Survivor's Peer support group up and running, with plans to roll it out in the new academic year.

Homeless Project Scotland

Fundraising for this years chosen charity took a bit of a dip due to changeover in convenors. £60-70 raised in bake sale at end of October, no fundraising done since but plans for donation drive and sponsored walk at end of semester. For future chosen charities, I believe having a year long campaign where the work of the charity is highlighted, opportunities to get involved are promoted, and a general more ongoing presence may work better, instead of sporadic fundraising efforts throughout the year. I believe by also promoting an ongoing relationship with the charity throughout the year, and looking at getting them on campus if possible, would build better connections between C&C and charities, and also highlight to potential new committee members the kind of work C&C does. I believe this would also work better given we are trying to lean more into the campaigns side of C&C going forward.

5. EVENTS CONVENOR – Dan Rogers

Introduction

Firstly, I think it is important to note a special thanks to Lachlan. Aside from being a decent enough drinking buddy, it is down to him that the Events Committee continued to the point of me taking over, and survived me, no easy feat.

The Events Convenor position itself is a difficult juggling act, with the constant scramble to fill and fix events, whilst to attempt to deal with external factors. Overall, the position itself is deeply rewarding and deeply frustrating one but also something I wouldn't have any other way.

It should perhaps be noted that I came into the position with relatively little to no experience with either the QMU or events management itself, aside from running weekly drinking socials for my society during my undergrad. Meaning that the learning curve was steep and immediate. However, I feel that I was able to adapt quickly and had lots of guidance and help from Lachlan and management, which eased (perhaps) some ineptitude on my part.

After being a freshers' helper team leader, I was hooked on the QMU, seeing it as a place to have fun, relax and enjoy being around. In this regard I should thank the people I encountered during freshers' week, regardless of if I ever saw them again, because without their friendliness I definitely wouldn't be in the position I am in now.

Halloween

A difficult one, to say the least. An event which was better attended than the year previous but was difficult one for myself, as I was still adjusting to the role.

There were some positives from the event itself- the mixed demographic was encouraging, with a lot of international students enjoying the games we had on offer, especially the spin the wheel game, which I think was the most popular game on the night.

The event also illustrated to me the need for the QMU to move away from big club nights, as I feel the venue is not accommodating to less than full nights, and gave me more impetus for live music events, which I thought the QMU is better equipped for.

Finances

We lost- £530.238 for this event. Definitely not a good event on the pricing alone, so we would need to look at this when doing the next Halloween.

Friday Music Quiz

After taking over the music quiz during the second semester we were able to create a popular quiz with live music afterwards, which brought people into the building. Notable nights include the Jazz Soc, Escher, and The Bloody Muppets. By being able to bring in student bands, who bring their own audience, we were able to ensure that the quiz was building a strong base for the next year.

The idea for the live music afterwards is more to fit a dive bar aesthetic which still enables people to have a conversation but listen to some good music. I think we were able to achieve this on occasion but obviously when we move to Games it is more difficult with the lighting issues, as they are too harsh and not fitting with the vibe.

The struggle is perhaps getting promotion for the events, but that was perhaps my own failings. In the future I would recommend that the acts playing are booked more in advance, so adequate promo can be done for each band, whilst also giving the acts time to reach out to their own friends to come along.

Another change I would perhaps recommend is the branching out of live acts, as it would be good to have a balanced rotation of live acts. However, this could be done by having printed promotional material across the West End.

On the whole, I think Events taking over the quiz has been a positive, by taking some of the pressures of Social Committee we were able to create two separate quizzes that have different vibes and audiences. Also, by having the same consistent hosts each week, with a few rotations, enabled the quiz to prosper as the hosts gelled and started to understand each other's patterns.

A note for quizzes, I think it is vitally important that hosts don't talk over each other or over explain jokes. Whilst, also realising that not everyone in the audience knows what the internal gossip of QMU and neither is it a podcast.

I think the quiz itself ran effectively, even if sometimes people forgot to write rounds, occasionally. I would suggest that the need for good weekly prizes is a must, as the bumble prizes are a bit on the poor side. A small budget for the weekly prizes is perhaps required, especially as Oxfam have cheap records that fits the overall vibe we were attempting.

The Friday Music Quiz itself fits in perfectly with the music vibe, I myself want the Union to promote, by giving a space for student and young musicians a chance to play should ensure that the QMU is able have a bigger presence in Glasgow nightlife and also provide an alternative to club nights that play the same playlists.

Finances----

13-Jan	Jims	746.2	335.79	60	100	120	55.79
20-Jan	Jims	474.8	213.66	60	50	120	-16.34
27-Jan	Jims	526.3	236.835		100	120	16.835
03-Feb	Jims	670.3	301.635		50	120	131.635
10-Feb	Games	419.35	188.7075		50	120	18.7075
17-Feb	Jims	1248.75	561.9375	60	50	120	331.9375
24-Feb	Games	283.5	127.575		50	120	-42.425
03-Mar	Jims	258.4	116.28	0		120	-3.72
10-Mar	Games	105.7	47.565	40		120	-112.435
			0				0

Galentines Night

A beautiful idea, not the best execution.

I think the QMU should put on and promote inclusive nights, which is what we tried with Galentines, an event focussed towards women and the LGBTQ+ community. The idea was also to help the Charities and Campaigns committee's SHAG week and to then donate the profits to Glasgow Women's Aid.

What we found out from the event was that even if the idea is a good one, we need the turnout to back it up. It may have 'failed' because of factors out of our control, like assessments, exams and perhaps for a few, relationships. However, the event itself did also have a decent amount of engagement on socials, yet it was difficult to turn 'likes' into actually people showing up.

I would perhaps suggest that events like these, those that might constitute a failure, could perhaps just need some tinkering and a more detailed look at the period we put them in. Even though Galentines day is the day before Valentines, the event could be replicated and planted at any point during the year, which might make it more successful.

I know previously I've said I'm not personally a fan of club nights in the Union, but if the next Events Convenor thought it could work the Bar provides a good alternative to the impractical venue. The Bar can be made to look good for a club night, and also provides less capacity which is obviously easier to fill.

Finances

We lost, £299 for the event, so obviously not good for the finances.

St. Patrick's Day

A successful, profitable event. Paddy's Day brought with it good numbers, in turnout and profit, with people that stuck around and seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves. Special thank you to everyone that showed up and enjoyed it.

Also, Fran and John - flyering maestros.

Yet, like many things within the QMU, the event was not without its challenges. For example, we had the trad band pull out, the Irish band pull out and in a nice change we had too few tables for the amount of people. Seems not all challenges are negative. Hopefully next year we will have even more people, so that would mean sourcing more tables.

In the case of Paddy's, I feel that a 'Big Bar' type event works really well, as we have the stage for live music, whilst also having the relaxed space for seating and a smaller dance floor for those who want to boogie.

For the line-up of musicians, I would suggest that not having to scramble the week before for acts is a good start, however I did have my line-up sorted for months until two of the acts pulled out. Yet, I should have still been pickier with the acts that I booked. The two acts I booked to fill the void were both talented and I'm thankful that they came and played but the style of music perhaps did not gel as much as I would have liked. Hopefully, next year we will have some actual Irish bands playing, even though I quite liked the non-Paddy's Day Paddy's Day we put on.

I think that it was really good to promote bands from the FMQ to the venue, as it provides them with a good steppingstone to bigger audiences, whilst also highlighting that the QMU is a place for young talent to congregate and to develop. To the Bloody Muppets and Escher, you guys were great and deserved your time on stage.

I also think that this year's PR'ing for Paddy's was excellent, with our Guinness campaign being particularly successful. I'm also hoping that people stole the posters and remember the QMU when making plans for next year. Lovely bit of guerrilla marketing there. It should also be noted that perhaps people wouldn't have stuck around for as long as they did if it wasn't for management agreeing to lower the prices of Guinness and shooters. I think this helped massively and helped us be successful, when in direct competition with the GUU's own event. £3 for a Guinness, in the West End??

Finances

Pre-calculating costs the event made- £4,567.75.

When totalling in the costs of stewards, staff and acts we made- £1,070.48.

With the acts costing:

The Bloody Muppets (£80 bar tab)

Esher (£150)

Stone Combo (£180)

Callum Geddes (£125)

The Next Year

So, it looks like I'll be sticking around for the next year. I'm looking forward to working with all the incoming board, I am sure you'll do a great job!

My focus for the year will be to help each board member to achieve their vision for the Union. I hope you also feel welcomed and appreciated during your time on board, to this end myself, Fran and Iris will be there for all of you.

I think it is important to continue the excellent progress we've made since the pandemic and keep pushing to provide a great atmosphere for every person who comes into the Union.

I hope during my time the Union lives up to it's promising start and I hope we are able to make the Union better.

Let's make this coming year a good one!

General Thanks

I'd like to take this moment to specifically thank Grant and his Tech committee, for putting up with me and for helping put on every event throughout this year. Grant, you're an angel but get a haircut and turn your trousers down.

Next up, Iris. You're alright, I guess.

Lanna, you've been great throughout the year, from helping organise Halloween, to writing quiz rounds with me (although your music taste is *DREADFUL*.)

Ethan, you're a babe, I could write 1,000 words about your smile but instead I'll say cheers.

Martin, you know what you did to help me, so thank you. I'll never forget.

Ale, thanks for putting up with my random conversations in board flat and only looking like you wanted to kill me a couple of times.

To my Events Committee, you guys were great throughout the year, even if you derailed my meetings, made fun of my love life and generally just irking me. I really appreciate you guys for continually coming to my meetings and also believing in the process.

To our next Events Convenor, Matilda, I hope you enjoy the year, it'll be stressful and sometimes frustrating but definitely a worthwhile endeavour, and you get out what you put in. I'd also suggest that you ensure the role doesn't consume you and if you feel burnt out, please come, and talk to me and the rest of the Exec. (That point actually goes to all incoming convenors, **please** come, and talk if you're feeling burnt-out or frustrated.)

To the bar staff, Paula and Lee (and Aki), you guys were great throughout the year, put up with me wanting to change the closing time and providing great chat!

To the board members leaving or graduating, thanks for making the QMU a welcoming place, and I wish you the best in your future endeavours.

Finally, thanks to management, Kris and Margaret, from wild conversations to advice, you guys have been fantastic and welcoming to me. I've really appreciated you guys, and I am looking forward to working with you throughout the next year!

6. MENTAL HEALTH & WELFARE CONVENOR

1. Overview

Second year of welfare over! I am grateful for the two years I have spent on board and can't wait to see what the future holds for welfare. This year was much slower paced than last year as I was ridiculously busy throughout the year, but what we did manage to achieve is an increased awareness of mental health on campus which is the main reason we are all here. We were able to be more present in cross campus discussion, and we are reaching more students with every event we run.

Attendance and contribution within committee could have been better this year, and I did find it difficult at times to organise big events on my own, but overall we made good progress in growing as a committee. Dissolving the positions (social media, events coordinator, etc) was one of our key improvements we wanted to make from last year, and this was definitely worthwhile – it has allowed much more freedom as a committee and we are able to keep to tasks more on time and divvy workload to be more manageable and enjoying for those involved.

In this report, I have outlined the events we ran over the year, and highlighted key campaigns and initiatives that emphasise what the committee is all about.

2. Fresher's Week

This year we ran a busier Fresher's week than last year, with four events spread over the week. Below is a summary table of our events for Fresher's 22', followed by a statement about our Paws Against Stress event that had a few notable issues.

Event	Date/Time	Description	Key Outcomes
Movie Screening: Inside Out	12/09/22 6pm-8pm	Held in Bar with the help of social committee	Our first movie screening as a committee and was relatively well attended. Those that came along showed gratitude for a more relaxed evening event in comparison to all the club nights.
Tea and Talk	13/09/22 11am-1pm	Update from previous Big Conversation, safe space to talk about anything, free tea and coffee were provided	Attendance was roughly 10 people which is a huge step up from the 3 or 4 we usually get at big conversation events. Those that attended engaged well and showed real interest in helping with the committee moving forward. Again though, this idea of a safe space needs rebranded as we are just not reaching the students we intend to.

Paws Against Stress	14/09/22 11am-1pm	Charity brought in dogs for students to interact with	Extremely busy event, albeit good for the charity and their affiliation it was not nice to be turning away students.
Creative Session: Bob Ross Paint Along	15/09/22 1pm-3pm	Painting materials supplied for students to follow along to a Bob Ross video	This event was again well attended, likely due to Freshers week footfall.

The paws event was very successful but this posed another issue. We decided not to run this event ticketed as we have done previously because it was aimed at freshers who in theory won't know about us as a committee beforehand to book tickets. We wanted to give everyone an equal opportunity to attend so decided to do walk-in only. This was ten times more popular than we anticipated. Lots of people turned up for the start time that we had to quickly change our strategy and start booking people in for slots over the following two hours to ensure people were still getting in on a first come first serve basis. By half an hour into the two-hour event there was no space left at all and we had to turn away people who were still turning up. This was devastating for us and we received a complaint about the lack of space for this event, which we took under advisement and decided that the event will always be ran ticketed in the future to avoid disappointment. To combat the worry we had about freshers not knowing about us, I would suggest next freshers week that the paws event is made late in the week and tickets go live for slots at the beginning of freshers week once all students are on campus.

3. Events

3.1 Paws Against Stress

We focused our efforts on the well-attended events from the previous year and replicating that this year. Emphasis was put on the Paws Against Stress event after the increasing popularity and the Fresher's week fiasco. I liaised with the Therapets charity to see what they were able to do and they agreed to do as many events as they could. This ended up only being two given how busy they are but they have expressed interest in maintaining the relationship I've built with them and increasing the number of events they do with us.

The first independent paws event ran November 28th, which we marketed as a destress event given the lead up to December exams. The second was also marketed as destress and ran on March 13th. Both events ran with Fixr Tickets so students could reserve a slot, which works very well as the slots do fill up quickly and it allows for better control on the day. Majority of slots book up and the limited free slots allow for students to possibly stay for longer or walk-ins for students who may not have known about the event beforehand, which happened both times and it provides a great experience – these are the people who become regulars.

3.2 The Big gig and Open Mic

One of the other successful events from last year was the Big Gig, and we had bands lined up to perform again as they loved the cause. We attempted another gig night on November 21st but unfortunately, we had trouble securing acts – the bands that wanted to come back weren't free in November and another band had to pull out due to injury. Thankfully, we

found others who wanted to play and ended up having two new bands who played amazing: The Zebecks and Trading Glances.

After the gig night, committee were keen to do an open mic, something elephant in the room did prior to covid and they were always fun nights although not always well-attended. The gig night portion finished at 9pm and from 9-10pm we ran the session as an open mic. This was not well attended and majority of those who came to the gig ended up going home. As a result of this we were just short on bar sales, however I still class the night as a success because we were able to bring in around the same amount of people to this night with two bands as the last night we held with three bands.

3.3 Pub Quiz/Gig Night

We took over the big Wednesday night pub quiz on March 15th, writing an entirely welfare-based quiz. We kept the six core rounds but created questions that had a mental health theme, and this worked really well – the idea gets people talking about mental health and allows awareness raising to be more fun and engaging when the topic is rather sombre most of the time. This event was not as well attended as we hoped but this can be attributed to time of year and deadline season. First prize was two tickets to the welfare ball which went down a treat.

After the quiz, one of our biggest supporters Josh Grant played an acoustic set. I want to take this opportunity to thank Josh for the support he has given welfare committee over the two years I've been here, he is always willing to play gigs with us and his appreciation for the mental health cause is encouraging. Acoustic sets hold great potential for welfare as a more relaxed option to a gig night.

3.4 Welfare Ball

A ball has been requested from us since we rose to a board committee. It was a lot of work, but I am so happy we are able to put on the first Welfare Ball and hope that this becomes a yearly tradition. The welfare ball will happen on March 21st in Venue, with tickets priced £10 each – this includes drinks reception, canapes and ceilidh entertainment. We are lucky to have Deocndorys ceilidh band play the night for us at a discounted price of £225 which we are grateful to them for. The itinerary of the night is as follows:

6:30pm: Doors open to guests
6:30pm-8pm: Drinks reception with canapes
8pm-8:30pm: Ceilidh (first half)
8:30pm-9pm: Break with fundraising game
9pm-9:30pm: Ceilidh (second half)
9:30pm-10:30pm: Open disco mingle

Canapes are provided by inhouse chef Duncan, and QMU providing a drinks reception with Pink Gin Fizz on offer at the door, plus non-alcoholic alternative.

While we want to give students a safe space to enjoy a ceilidh ball, we also want to stick to our roots and promote mental health and welfare as much as we can. We had hoped to get representatives from local charities into the evening to give a bit of information about what they do, possibly man a stand and allow students to ask questions, but unfortunately, we were unlucky and the charities we contacted were not available on the day. We instead have opted to have QR codes placed all around the hall with links to various resources so people can still be made aware of the help that is out there that they may not have known about. We

are splitting profits between ourselves and a donation to the Joshi Project, a local Glasgow charity (who really wanted to be at the event but are in England for the week of) who are fighting to change the way the UK government deals with mental health and make help more accessible.

I will give updates at the AGM on successes of the ball, and any fundraising totals we achieve.

4. Initiatives

I have worked with Sorcha on starting up a gender-based violence peer support group, which in all honesty has felt like pulling teeth. Sorcha will likely be going much more into detail about this in her report but the support we have had for this from the university has been poor. We have worked with Glasgow Women's Aid and Rape Crisis Scotland to prepare us to lead such an initiative and although we are prepared to move forward we are struggling to make progress due to a lack of support. I am hopeful that the initiative can grow in the coming years but we need to build a better cross campus relationship for this to be fruitful.

Another initiative we tried to start up was the chat with board. Myself, Ale and Sorcha worked on this with the idea that it be a place for students to come and voice concerns to members of the board who are able to make real difference about them. The event flopped and was very poorly attended, however I don't feel events of this nature should be given up on. Similarly to how we have been trying to rebrand 'the big conversation' and 'tea and talk', the idea for the safe space is much needed but we just need to find a better way of communicating this to students.

On the topic of cross campus relations, I have the opportunity to attend Welfare Forum, which I was only able to attend a few of but they do not tend to be productive towards student welfare, and seem to steer towards corporate interests. The forum is not as welcoming as it could be, and more members of the union could have been invited given much of the talk is about nightclub standards and I have little to do with this in the union. Overall, I feel the forum could be much better utilised and hope to see a more inclusive approach in future years, one that puts a little more focus into student mental health.

One of the main things I wanted to achieve as convenor was to make it simpler for students to access resources that have potential to help with their wellbeing. I wanted to create a website so that we can constantly update the charities that are available without having to print new sheets or send constant emails, it's just one link with all the resources we can think of. I am happy to say that I have made this website and have been working on it for some time now in the very limited spare time I have. We have a long list of charities and support groups listed on the website currently and my aim is to launch the website at the welfare ball, given that this event is to raise awareness. The website is far from perfect, but the basics are there and I am happy with that.

5. Finances

We ran one big fundraising event this year, which was the gig night making £147.13 in ticket sales and donation buckets. Funds will also come from the welfare ball, an event which has not happened yet but as of writing this report we have sold 51 tickets at £10 a ticket, with more ticket projected to be sold before the night.

We are in a good position financially going forward, given we have not spent any funds from our fundraising efforts last year as I wanted to build up as much money to pass the committee onto new things with. We have £570.07 in the safe from last year so combining this with final number from this year I would say is a huge success and allows the committee to provide vital support in student mental health, the core reason of the committee.

6. Acknowledgements

Firstly, I would just like to thank everyone on the board and the staff for their patience with me this year. As I'm sure I've told most of you on several occasions, I have been working 7 days a week all year between my hospital placement and part time work so I have had very little time to dedicate to welfare this year. This makes me sad as I have not achieved everything I wanted to this year, but I am happy to have managed to keep the core committee going and can't wait for Ale's very capable hands to make it thrive next year.

Thank you to everyone who served on board with me this year, it has been another year of last-minute requests and miscommunications, but we always managed to pull it off and I appreciate you all. Despite the relatively poor attendance, I would like to also thank everyone who made an effort to attend a committee meeting through the year, I know we are all very busy but I appreciated the insight. A special shout out goes to Bailey and Sorcha, without you two I could not have done nearly as much with the committee this year. You were always there to jump in when I had last minute meetings at the hospital or just felt a little burnt out, and I am so grateful to you both for everything across my two years on board! Further shout out to Lesley who has been a godsend behind the scenes from Fixr tickets to manning the doors of events!

Apologies for another long report, but I definitely got to reminiscing while writing. I will miss welfare; it feels like my baby that I've raised through the ranks, and I will be watching it grow from the side-lines. Can't wait to see where the committee goes next year

7. PUBLICATIONS CONVENOR – Matilda Eker

AGM Report Publications Convenor:

Hello everyone! First of all, a massive thank you to everyone who has attended meetings, launch parties, written for us, read the magazine over the year. Special thank you to all QMU staff for always being helpful and of course to the whole editorial team.

General

In my first board report I outlined my goals for qmunicate which was to increase visibility on campus and reach more potential contributors, something which I think we were successful in doing, particularly during the first semester. Our largest issue this year has been the decline in engagement in the second semester, and while this is something that could be addressed in the future, I think that this is not something unique to qmunicate, but rather an effect of people losing motivation as exams loom closer.

I would also guess that people attend more events and meetings generally at the start of the academic year since this is when many people make friends, and less so a few months in when many people have established their social circles.

The Team

I kept all of the roles from last year; with editor positions in Features, Arts & Culture, Film, Music, Creative Writing, Lifestyle, Design and News & Politics. In addition to this, we had two Online Editors who run the website and the social media, a deputy editor, an events organiser and a fundraising & advertising editor.

Many of the tasks of this last editor ended up being done by me, so I think the upcoming convenor will get rid of this position. It's useful to have a third person which the editor in chief and deputy editor can consult with on matters regarding events and launch parties, but with the addition of an events convenor, the advertising & fundraising role becomes rather redundant.

The person who had this role did a great job reaching out to various local businesses asking for sponsorship, but we did not hear back from any of them, likely because many of these businesses are already struggling and are not in a position to offer sponsorship. Perhaps the position could be revisited in the future.

I also kept the position of the welfare convenor, added by Maria last year, which is a role that you have on top of another editor role. This person didn't receive any feedback to pass on, but I think it is important to have this role just to make sure editors are happy in their positions. One initiative she did was to match people on the team up for weekly coffees, which I think was very appreciated.

Meetings

First semester saw a steady rise in contributors, with an average of 22 people a week, with 29 being the record. We have built up a group of contributors who come every week, which is fantastic, even if I wish we could have maintained that high attendance the whole year. The second semester has seen much fewer people, even if contributors are still active on the Facebook group, 'QMU Publications Committee'.

We also had really high engagement from QMU Board Members at first, but not towards the end. (But this is perfectly understandable, since we all always have so much to do!)

Publishing

Across the year we have published a Freshers' Zine and three issues, with the fourth coming out on April 13th. We have also published consistently on our website.

The team's first issue together was the summer issue (Issue 152), which was a charity issue, following initiatives of previous years. This year's charity was Solar Bear, a Glasgow based charity working to make theatre accessible. We raised £131 for them.

The second project we worked on was the freshers' zine which I changed slightly from the year before. Instead of being a collection of art and poetry from the editorial team, we made a guide for people who might be new to Glasgow. Some articles included 'What West End Coffee Shop Are You?', 'List of LGBTQ+ places in Glasgow', and a Freshers' Week Horoscope (just for the fun of it).

Then we started producing issue 153, which we had a launch party for.

Then, mostly over the winter break, we produced issue 154, which has just been nominated for an SPA in the 'Best Magazine Design' category.

The next issue, 155, is currently being designed by me, and will be out on our launch on April 13th.

Events

Unfortunately, our events organiser resigned for personal reasons only a few weeks into the semester, which limited the events we could put on, but we still managed to hold a few.

In Freshers' Week we held a Collage Workshop, An Open Mic and a Contributors' Meeting, all of which were successful.

Before our events organiser resigned, she organised a show and tell, which had low attendance but was really nice.

Additionally, I teamed up with Hagar and Enea, who used to run Aloud!, with the aim to restart the monthly poetry night, rebranded as qmunicate aloud. We ran two of these, in October and November. They were nice, but attendance was fairly low, less than 20 for the first one and less than 10 for the second one. Attendance was also very low even among qmunicate team members, so we didn't bring it back this semester. Perhaps in the future?

We have also had one launch party, and one upcoming one on April 13th.

Launch Parties

The launch for issue 153 was successful. Fewer people attended than I had hoped, but still good, and the team did a great job organising it. We had a jewellery vendor in, and we sold qmunicate posters. I ordered stickers too, but they didn't arrive on time because of Royal Mail strikes, so I am saving them for the next launch. We did presale tickets which were £3.50 and on-door tickets which were £5. For the upcoming launch I will make them all £5,

since it's a good deal for a magazine and live music, (particularly if we give first 50 people a free glass of prosecco again), and it gives us a bit more money to leave for the new team.

We had two acts playing, Amelia Hilton and Milange, both of which were great, and in total we sold 74 tickets.

The upcoming launch is on the 13th of April. Our music editor is helping with finding bands to play, but it is likely we will hire Milange again since they were so phenomenal last time.

Finances

The first launch raised a total of £351.80 + £602.60 in bar sales.

The presale tickets raised £116.80 (40 tickets), and the two card machines took £65 (prints + fee for vendor) and £170 (34 tickets).

The acts were paid £50 and £100, and £50 went to Tech.

Thanks!

Big thanks to everyone who helped me this year! I have loved being a QMU Board Member

8. SOCIAL CONVENOR – John Steel

1. Introduction

This year has been a thing. In September there was no committee, there were no plans, just some rough ideas and a dream to return this committee to glory. I like to think I've made a start but there is still a long way for it to go. Things have been quiet overall but throughout the year the building has grown busier and I have high hopes for next year. The major thing we need to work on is once again PR, we need to advertise our events more as well as increase our volunteer retention, we had a lot of volunteers just after freshers but sadly lost a lot of interest as the year went on. The attempt at having a full weekly calendar fell through due to not having enough people to run things though admittedly looking back burnout was inevitable. Hindsight and all that.

2. Fresher's Week

Fresher's Week was a success from socials point of view, a big one at that. Sure, there were some minor hangups and difficulties, but our events were busy, people had fun and I swear I almost got a grey hair. Overall, it was a success, and I was happy how everything went but something that needs to be made clear in future is what events the committee is expected to run as there were several events that I had no knowledge of until half an hour or even during that I was supposed to run though I believe that may just been due to how hectic this year had been.

2.2 Fresher's Helpers:

I just want to say a wee specialised thankyou to helpers for putting up with me during freshers and helping to run events during the week such as the pool tournament and Wii sports tournaments as otherwise I see no way all the events could have gone ahead.

2.3 Quizzes:

The week started off with the essential get to know Glasgow Quiz (hosted by myself, former C&C Luke and helper Katarina) on the Monday, originally two separate quizzes it was decided to merge the two to save time due to the similar themes. Decent attendance of 50+ people but not great for fresher if I'm honest, also the prize haul was significantly smaller than previous years due to the rising cost of living, meaning the budget might need increased to keep the significant number of prizes.

On Wednesday was the BWN PQ a staple of the QMU Freshers' experience (Hosted by President Lachlan, incoming President Dan, and FSM Ethan). The quiz filled venue right up into the balconies and was easily the committee's biggest event of the week, although the committee wasn't represented. My only note is that hosts should be chosen by the convenor and be hosts that will be seen throughout the rest of the year and not as a one-time thing for a passion project.

We revived the Friday music quiz (VP Alejandra, Bar Supervisor Lee and, Marketing

and Student Engagement Officer Lanna) and filled the main venue. It was very chaotic but a good fun quiz and proved to be very popular especially the addition of a lip synch battle. Not ideal for the rest of the year but was a fun addition for freshers.

The quizzes were easily a success and easily our best events during freshers. Printed books in my opinion are a much better method than using google forms and I'm glad we've moved back now covid times are over.

2.4 Speed Mating and drinking games:

We ran at least one of these events a day and proved popular throughout especially however at the start of the week. Later in the week for instance during the drinking games we just needed to provide the cards and cups ect whilst at the start freshers seemed to appreciate helpers teaching them more games and being a lot more involved. For speed mating we had high attendance filling bar each time. We kept the format simple with splitting folk up as they arrived and giving people 10mins per table before moving them to the next one, this worked quiet well and would do it like this again.

2.5 Language Café:

This was done in collaboration with various language socs that were available, quite a few didn't end up showing up, however. Done on 2 separate days, the first right at the start of the week was extremely busy, so much so the event had to be moved from café to venue to even accommodate everyone. The 2nd one located later on in the week was still busy but no where near the size of the first and would recommend this event be located as early in the week as possible, even when done multiple times.

2.6 Karaoke's

Karaoke's were very busy every night, and the nightly karaoke's were very popular. There was some slight communication issues with societies as it was originally said that societies could have all night, this was later changed to 10pm when the club night started causing some upset with societies though most were fine. Would recommend collaborating with a couple again but would limit so we can also run a few inhouse QMU karaoke's.

2.7 Screenings

Screenings were a nice wee space filler attendance would vary but we did end up filling café for several of the films so can easily be seen as a success. Would recommend keeping society collaboration was that worked quiet well.

2.8 Tournaments:

So starting off the worse attended event was the snakes and ladders, no idea why we wanted it so bad but was something cancelled last year and thought could be fun. Had about 12 people so wasn't awful but would not recommend doing it again.

The Wii sports tournament was very busy but also proved to be a logistical nightmare that wasn't very enjoyable. The use of Wii's for future freshers is recommended in the form of Wii games night instead as they are popular just this particular format did not work.

Darts was also fairly quiet but was much more manageable, despite earlier mentioning otherwise I think going ahead again with the event is worthwhile just with better PR.

The pool tournament was extremely busy, was originally worried about the time it would take but after the initial few heats sped up considerably would recommend again, but would start signups at least half an hour earlier to ensure the event stayed on schedule.

3. Regular Events Within the QMU

Original hope was to get a weekly social calendar built, with an average of 4 events a week in semester 1 this was successful. For semester 2, well it came down to 2 events with the loss of the Friday music quiz. It was negotiated for free drinks to be available for quiz hosts (up to 4 drinks), this is not included in the financials.

3.1 Big Wednesday Night Pub Quiz:

The Wednesday Quiz has been an overall success this year with a profit of £1446.715 including entrance loss, in semester 1 there was a loss of £22 of prize money however prize money was stopped in semester 2. Logs of attendance in semester 1 (for both quizzes) can be found below. Although actual attendance was more stable in semester 2 attendance is down to an average of 30-40 people a week which according to feedback is attributed due to the lack of decent prize. With the numbers from sales and the fact attendance was better with a cash prize I'd argue we need to bring back the cash prize though that is a future discussion.

Future entry for the quiz rather than being free or costing a pound due to people not carrying cash is planned to relate to bar sales whereby making a purchase at bar will provide entry to the quiz, other future plans include leading on to karaoke after the quiz.

After experimenting this semester with society collaboration, it turns out that although collabs may have increased turnout bar sales tend to go down, I'm sure there is probably reasons behind this but I would not recommend that many collabs in future maybe limiting to in house committee's as every loss is semester 2 was on a collab night with the biggest unfortunately being the SHAG quiz.

3.2 Friday Music Quiz and Jazz night

Although this is now ran by events, in semester 1 this was ran by social and can be considered an ok success with an entrance loss of £11, overall bar sales were not as good nor was attendance but it was popular and had a decent group of regulars. Exact financials were requested and have yet to be provided.

It also had the debut of live music with Jazz night now continued by the events committee which was very successful and was a very good night all round.

52	21-Sep	50	2
25	23-Sep	25	0
72	28-Sep	52	20
27	30-Sep	25	2
72	05-Oct	50	22
36	07-Oct	25	11
55	12-Oct	50	5
24	14-Oct	25	-1
29	19-Oct	50	-21
25	21-Oct	25	0
18	26-Oct	50	-32
19	28-Oct	25	-6
23	02-Nov	50	-27
17	04-Nov	25	-8
38	09-Nov	50	-12
16	11-Nov	25	-9
41	11-Jan	20	21

3.3 Open Pool Nights

In absence of the pool league, we made a promotion where the tables are free to use on a Monday evening this has continued all year. It hasn't gotten the most traction but is a nice thing to have in the building anyway but is probably the least successful thing this year next to games nights.

3.4 Karaoke

Booking out for society collaborations every Tuesday has worked pretty well so far, been a few issues with societies not showing or not bringing many people but have kept a record of which societies not to book with again. Been a good thing to have every week and overall has gone well.

3.5 Aloud

With the direction I was taking social not really fitting poetry and with a subcommittee appearing out of nowhere claiming to have kept Aloud alive I spoke with the publications convenor and had them take Aloud off our hands as it seems to be a better fit. I know they've had at least one event since. Wishing it the best of luck.

3.6 Drag Bingo

In November we had the bingo babes in for drag bingo, originally planned to get them in again but never got around to it. The event was not as well attended as originally hoped but with an attendance of 86 and profit on ticket sales of £18 as well as a profitable bar sale (waiting on exact numbers) the night was a success. Would recommend doing it again but this time getting more committee members involved in the organisation and pr.

3.7 Games Nights

We attempted several times to get a weekly games night up and running but every time we tried said attempts fell through for 1 of 2 reasons, 1 we had nearly no volunteers, 2 attendance was awful with no more than 5 people. Instead, it was decided just to leave games out for general use and seems to do ok. Considered society collaborations but decided it wasn't worth it.

3.8 Insta

We made an Instagram account for promoting events and contacting societies be sure to go and give it a follow if you already don't and feeling quite happy how it's grown.

4. Thank You and Goodbye

Well then that's it. I made it to the end and honestly I'm not sure what to do now, I know this is the bit where I say thank you and all that jazz but honestly I have so much I should say but don't know how. The QMU has been a pillar to me the past two years, and despite everything being social convenor is probably one of my happiest experiences and shall be one I miss. Anyway, without further ado the thank yous and apologies if I miss you.

Firstly, I want to thank everyone that has been involved in social this year, whether it's been as a host, writing rounds or even just coming to support me thank you! To my fellow convenors thank you for being supportive and it has been a pleasure working with you all.

Next I want to thank **Ross** for stepping into this position it can seem like a lot at times but I have high hopes for you and wish you all the best.

Leslie, you have been an absolute life saver by printing and making up quiz books for me throughout the year and has saved me a few times where I've been in a rush and

forgot to make some up so thank you!

Aki, Lee and Paula have been amazing for putting up with some of the nonsense I spout and for helping me loot the basement of all the worthwhile merch to use as prizes.

Margaret and Kris for putting up with my arguments over prizes and still be willing to help me try some new ideas for the committee as well as once again putting up with me randomly showing up in management to talk some rubbish.

Ale for somehow putting up with me the past three years, and only attempting to stab me a couple of times (early thank you Andrew). Whenever I needed help, needed a vent or even somewhere to crash I could rely on you so thank you for being one of my best friends.

Grant for ensuring tech was sorted every week as well as for chasing me up whenever I forgot to pass something on. Not to mention helping me vent no matter how “emotionally draining” I can be and being a reliable source for honey tequila.

Andrew and Sorcha, sorry for grouping together but to keep it short thankyou both for giving me lifts home when otherwise I’d have been stranded or of had a long walk down a dark county road, never mind just generally providing good vibes and a decent blether.

Maria thank you for being my leftie the past year when I know how busy you are, you’re minutes always made me laugh and you could always cheer me up when I was down.

A further thankyou too all of board, I could write another page thanking everyone but by now I’ve likely gone on too long, what can I say except it’s been a pleasure and that I’ll miss it. I’ll still be around as a good ol CSR but for those that leaving don’t be stranger and for everyone else,

For the final,

John Steel,

Signing off

9. TECH CONVENOR – Grant Simpson

Introduction

I am sure much of the board can agree with me that this has been a hectic, but overall great year for the QMU. This year marked the full return to in-person learning and thus, a return to much of the student activity on campus, christened by a chaotic but successful freshers' week. This year was also marked as the first year without a generation of long-time techies who left the team last year, such as Charlie and Ashleigh. My main goal this year was to carry on much of the important and hard work that they put into turning the team into what it is today, while also training up and creating a new generation of QMU techies that can run the building in the future.

Fresher's Week

Freshers' week 2022 was special by being the first year back since the outbreak of Covid back in 2020 (seems like a long time ago now huh) and with that, brought on the challenges that a normal pre-covid freshers week brings. This was however juxtaposed by a board with had only a little bit of experience in running a fresher's week which resulted in more than a few growing pains on the week.

An unfortunate consequence of the prior year's lack of footfall and exposure in the union was a reduced number of freshers helpers. This was painfully obvious when only a handful of helpers were allocated to be on the tech team during this week. As a result, I was pretty much in the building working most events from 10am – 3am most days with only a single evening off, alongside most of the few members of the team being on shift for 5 or more days giving them very little time to enjoy their time as helpers. Luckily, I was able to call on a few experienced techies that didn't sign up as helpers to join the team and help me run the week, special thanks to Malak and Rae for taking up the last-minute call. I was also only given the list of tech helpers barely a few weeks before FW, making it difficult to plan any useful or meaningful training sessions. Due to my lack of team members I decided to open a more general and optional (for the non-tech helpers) tech training session to all helpers if I needed some help during the more chaotic days. This overall went very well, primarily for tech team exposure as a committee with a few keen members recruited from the session.

Another big issue that tech shared alongside bar staff was a lack of a central timetable for the week. This meant that I only found out some events were happening the week before FW when the timetable was released on the fresher's week website which made planning that much harder. This was alongside some events not having an allocated space on the website, meaning that a setup for an event would be done only for me to find out it was in a different room the morning of.

I had hoped to run an organized tech team taster session with a live band to boost recruitment as it serves as a key period for bolstering the team and highlighting the work that we do. Unfortunately, due to much of my time in the weeks before FW being spent trying to organize training and a timetable for the week this never came to fruition. Organizing this early is something that I am highlighting in my handover document.

While I will be taking a backseat role in tech this fresher's week, I plan on being closely involved with organizing as much as I can in advance of the week with my remaining time. I will also be helping Malak as much as I can to sort everything for the next one.

Despite the difficulties, with everyone's hard work the week turned out a success tech wise, I also don't think anybody will be forgetting the Vengaboys anytime soon. I would like to also give thanks to Thomas, who (despite an attempted murder on myself) gave up much of his time before and during the week to lend a hand and help me run the week.

Training

Training has overall gone well during my convenorship. I spent some time at the start of my position last year to train up some of the members of staff in the basic operation of equipment with eventual plans to do the same with the board. Unfortunately, I never found the time for this, however I am happy to report that after approximately 30 weeks as a quiz host John Steel can finally set up a microphone.

I was also finally able to secure a time for Chamsys (the company that makes and maintains our lighting desk) to come in for some official training. This session went very well, with good feedback from both the techies that attended the sessions and Rebecca the person leading the session. She has also offered up some student slots to the advanced training in April which will fortify the team's knowledgebase even more.

I also ran quite a few Jims bar training sessions both this semester and last semester, while unfortunately I was not able to run as many sessions of Venue training as I would have liked. I am hoping that next year Malak can be more organized than I was in sorting out training sessions and the now wider range of trained techies can even start helping in training newer techies. I do however have training documents that go through how to setup various pieces of equipment in the building that I can pass over to the next convenor.

We have seen a great uptake in the number of newer techies shadowing shifts this year. I believe shadowing is just as valuable as training as during quiet moments, the lead techie can explain or show a setup or explain something to the newer techie. I have however been cautious this year to throw newer techies into the fray with larger shifts if I have concern that they might struggle. I am thinking a dialogue should be opened with management about potential benefits for shadowing a shift, like a free pint on a Friday night or a bistro voucher to incentivise shadowing.

Workshops are another thing I have not had as much time for as I would have liked. Ashleigh ran a few successful one's last year that brought in a few new techies but unfortunately, I never found the time for it. Thomas however ran a very successful theatre lighting workshop this semester that received good feedback. Hopefully with a wider range of skills in tech and more time on our hands we can run some more next year.

Union Events

We saw a wide range of union lead events this year, from the re-launch of the Friday Night Music Quiz to clubnights like Galentines, tech has been kept busy! Having a weekly music event has been invaluable for tech in terms of experience and I would like to thank Dan for his hard work in organizing these events and getting me the tech specs (mostly on time). While I have not been able to find a fix for streamlining the organization and protocol for the organizing the tech for larger in-house events by the other committees, I have tried my best to be as available as possible, whether that be through being in the union as much as I can

or through promptly answering messages. I have not received any complaints about this from the other convenors (so far!) so I hope that just being as available as possibly is the best way to solve this issue but if anybody would like to give me feedback on this or chat about any ideas please get in touch! I still think some form of board training would help this also.

Society Events

With the return to in-person learning, societies have been rising from the grave left and right and running plenty of events. It's been nice to see many societies prospering and I am happy that the QMU and the tech team have been a big part in some of this. We have even seen some new societies emerge such as the Film making soc being a big one.

Many staple societies have run their events in the QMU this year, starting with the cecelians chaotic weekend show just after freshers week, many, MANY Stag shows, GUPDC running multiple events and the return of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association to name a few big ones. All providing plenty of great first-hand experience for techs while bringing more people into the Union.

We have also had zero official complaints societies about the technical support that they received for any events this year. The Chinese students and scholars made a small complaint to me about some equipment not being setup in time for the start of their rehearsal. This was quickly dropped however after I explained that the techs were busy dealing with a microphone that was broken by a member of their association when it was dropped.

External Events

My convenorship marks the 2nd year of not having an official venue technician due to Richie leaving in September 2021. While there certainly have been some growing pains since Richie's departure, with the hard work that Ashleigh put in last year as a base we have effectively been able to run many external events effectively.

A few of the highlights including the Marxist conference, the Cabeytu brothers show and the many external gigs that tech have had a part in running this year. The latter of which have been especially valuable as the techs get a chance to learn some of the intricacies of running professional productions. Special thanks to Stewart for helping and being open to letting QMU tech have a role in these events.

The Tech Team

As mentioned previously, this year marked the first year without many long-time techies that have been involved in running the union for years. While it certainly has not been easy, I am happy with the position the team is in. Throughout the year we have seen good numbers at tech meetings, one of my main goals was to improve meeting retention of newer members who might not be able to take the larger more interesting shifts. I mostly achieved this by running and hosting training sessions while opening as many shifts as possible to be shadowed by newer techs. I am happy with the basis of techs that are going into next year

with a mixture of more experienced techies in myself, Malak, Alejandra, Frank, and Thomas alongside a few keen newer members in Toyah, Adam, Finn, Elanor and Lou.

A special thanks for my leftie this year, Toyah who has worked hard in taking the minutes and attending as many meetings as possible. While unfortunately the laser tag social never came to fruition, I hope to share many pints with you and the team next year after meetings. I have also been playing about with the idea of expanding and adding more official roles to the tech team this year.

The role of tech convenor carries many pressures and tasks, especially with our new system of independent invoicing and finances from Management this year which I feel could be delegated to other members of the team. A few ideas being discussed were a financial role that would oversee invoicing and managing the administration work that comes with finances. Another idea that could be explored in the future would be a social secretary type roll that could oversee liaising with societies for collaborations and running tech-based workshops, while also overseeing running tech social media channels.

Again, thank you to Toyah who has been enthusiastic and very helpful in helping me experiment with the viability of delegating finances to the leftie roll by doing some of the more boring admin work. I am firmly of the belief that the more the tech convenor can delegate to other members the more time they will have to run the team effectively and liaise with management and the rest of the board on running events and is something I am planning on highlighting in my handover to Malak.

Financial Changes

One of the first things I did as convenor was working with management to discuss how to improve the tech invoicing system which was a big issue last year. Previously, management would charge an additional overhead to every booking which would go directly to paying the technician for operating the tech for the event. The problem with this approach was that often the person booking tech for their event would not be aware of what tech they needed, often leading to confusion on the day of the event on what was required. We have now moved into a system where the tech convenor will be cc'd into any email chain, where their requirements will be discussed directly with the organizer and a price will be given which will depend on the complexity of the setup and the time required. Additionally, tech will also be charged separately with invoices being sent out separate from their main booking.

Overall, this system has worked well, besides a few growing pains which naturally come with a change like this. I have received good feedback from management as it is something less for them to worry about and it has allowed me as a convenor to keep a close tab on the technical support required for each event. This has however come with the consequence of much of my time as convenor implementing and running this new system, which has given me less time to focus on training, running workshops and organizing other aspects of the team. As already discussed, I feel that going into next year introducing additional roles into the team to help take away some of the pressure from the convenor is going to be vital. This has also allowed for the introduction of an official tech bank account.

A small overhead is charged with the tech fee on some of the larger events ran in the building which will go directly to the tech bank account, which then goes to purchasing small

consumable items such as tape and cable adaptors. This has proven to be a real boon for operating the team as if something small is required, it can be quickly purchased using the accumulated funds in the bank account. The spending of this money has been something I have been very cautious of, and I have only been making purchases that I feel are required for the function of the team.

Potentially implementing a system of only spending the bank accounts funds with the blessing of a certain proportion of the teams' senior members is something that potentially should be implemented next year.

Equipment and the state of the building

Fortunately, we have not seen many equipment losses or breakages this year, and most of the larger ones are either in waiting to be repaired or have been fixed. An exhaustive list of equipment breakages and their current state as of the time of writing this is as follows:

- ZFX 16 Sound desk - Fixed – Broke during freshers' week, however has recently been fixed thanks to Stewart finding a new repair company that can do call-outs.
- Bass Amplifier – Fixed – Unfortunately broke just after the start of the new year, again now fixed thanks to the new repair contact
- Int Spot (moving light) – Broken (?) – Still in a state of repair but is currently with one of the external technicians that I have worked closely this year, Avais. I hope to speak with him soon to get a status update.
- Martin Atomic 3K Strobe Light – Broken – Unfortunately due to the complexity (and age) of the light the repair costs would outweigh just buying a new one. This is something that should be replaced before Freshers week as any decent club night needs a good strobe. Currently we have none.
- Giant light up Q – Broken – This item was unfortunately broken due to an incident during fresher's week with a cable left hanging in front of the stairs up to the stage in venue. It was just the lights plug that has broken however so should not be too expensive to fix.
- Guitar Amplifier – Broken – One of our two guitar amps, luckily this is simple a case of gluing back an internal component that acts as an input for the amplifier. This is on my list of things to do when I have more time.
- Old projectors (x2) – Broken – Two of these projectors broke during the start of the year, one of the incidents was due to it unfortunately not being turned off correctly and the other unfortunately broke due to unknown reasons. Luckily, we were able to source new projectors to replace them.
- QU-24 Sound desk – mostly functional – The desk is still functional, with only a certain function of the desk being non-functional. We have been looking to send the desk off for repair however due to the large number of events and lack of desks

finding an appropriate time for this has been difficult. This should be easier with the repair of the aforementioned ZFX sound desk.

The main change in equipment during the year has been the new venue box truss that has replaced the old audience and front stage truss. While a huge expense this purchase was necessary, as our old truss were not actually rated to hold any weight meaning that technically we should not have had anything on them in the first place. The venue rig was also moved and adapted for the new truss rig. This is alongside the installation of new motors on the stage truss meaning that they no longer need to be pulled up and down with the chain hoist (which I am personally very happy about). There are currently discussions ongoing around how to use the old trusses, potentially as a curtain rail in venue or if they should just be sold as scrap.

Going into next year, I hope that the push for a new venue sound desk is continued. As mentioned currently our main in-house sound desk (the QU-24) is sub-par for the purposes of large external gigs. This has meant that desks have been hired in for every large scale gig at a cost. The acquisition of a new in-house sound desk that is appropriate for the venue and the events that we run is a high priority, especially considering the purchase can be subsidised by the selling of the existing QU-24.

The upgrading of the venue lighting rig is also something that would be beneficial, especially if club nights are something that we are looking to continue after freshers week either with the return of Wet Wednesdays or the launch of our own. More moving lights which should not come at a large cost would make the venue much more appropriate for such events, as currently the number of usable lights for club-nights is lackluster. A smoke machine (the one we have currently is a haze machine and should not be used as a smoke machine) would also be a good purchase for club nights and even potentially for gigs.

I have begun a discussion with the tech team about looking into upgrading the Jim's lighting rig. We have had a few lights that could be installed sitting for a year or so now however we have been waiting for an additional lighting bar to be installed on the back of the stage (which is something that I have not had time to chase up). This would be a something that would be good to investigate over summer before fresher's week.

Recommendations for next year

I have high hopes for the future of the tech team, and I am planning on still having a role in the tech team next year as a CSR. I know that Malak is going to do a fantastic job and she is more than ready for the year ahead. I have a few recommendations for next year:

- Establishing a good relationship with management and the board early is vital for organizing events in the building. Generally, just being available and present in the building makes organizing and sorting things out with everybody so much easier.
- Utilize the experience of Alan, Avais (if he hasn't retired from the events industry by now) and the other external technicians for advice and to make your life easier. Alan especially really wants to see the building and the tech team prosper and understands the teams value as a pipeline into the industry.

- Try to establish good social relationships with more societies across campus, as often they serve as the best source of recruitment and PR for the team and our work. Working with the theatre societies such as STAG and Caecilians who have their own separate tech teams would be great for joint workshops.
- Learn what skills tech has and utilize them as much as possible for the benefit of the QMU. We have new talent coming into the team and with that, new skills such as livestream and AV skills which we unfortunately otherwise lacked this year.
- Expand and create new roles in the tech team to alleviate some of the pressure off the convenor position. Potentially start by expanding the role of the leftie.
- Work with Iris to implement a new booking system that works better for everyone involved. This was something that I hoped to work with Andrew on as it was one of his main goals but however this never came to fruition.
- Follow up on potential techies that show interest in the team but are put off by a particularly quiet or fast paced meeting. A message goes a long way into letting somebody know they are welcome and appreciated in the next meeting.
- Work with Lanna and utilize the QMU's social media channels to advertise the tech team and the workshops we put on and the work that we do.

Thanks

I would first like to put a special thanks to Ashleigh and Charlie, who have worked so hard throughout their time as techies and convenors during their time at the QMU. I would not be here in the position I am today in the QMU without their support and influence. I have learned almost everything I know tech-wise from them and was an absolute treat to continue their hard work.

Malak, thank you so much for your hard work throughout the year on shifts and on the team, I simply could not have done it without you. Its undoubtable that you are one of the pillars that make the team what it is today, and I cannot wait to work with you next year, I know you are going to do a smashing job as tech convenor, and I will always be available for any help, support, or advice you need. Always remember that you have a team behind you that will always have your back and will support you.

Lachlan, you have been a staple of the QMU for years now and it's going to be strange running the place without you. You have put so much effort into the union and were undoubtably key to its survival during its toughest years and the building owes you so much for your work. The future is looking bright for the new board because of the foundation that you have left, and we will all be sad to see you go. It has been a pleasure to work with you and to put up with your FNMQ and BWN PQ hosting sessions and everything else in-between.

Alejandra, thank you for your continued hard work and support throughout the year, both as a techie and as a VP. An unbelievable amount of pressure was placed on you during your year, but you carried on working hard and keeping the building afloat, I think we both deserve sit back a bit next year and pioneer the next generation of post-tech meeting pints.

You have helped keep us all sane and I am really looking forward to working with you both on the tech team and on the board.

Andrew, while I might have wanted to murder you during fresher's week your hard work in the union has always been appreciated and it was unfortunate that your run as VP was cut short. We became good friends over our time in the tech team and I hope to continue this in the future, and I am sure you will always be welcome in the union next year.

Iris, thank you for hard work you have put into your ad-hoc position as VPMCS, I cannot wait to work with you next year and I hope that you will not mind putting up with me and my computing science brain next year.

The tech team in general, a few key names to mention are Toyah my fantastic leftie, Adam the most efficient and successful QMU politician in history, Frank the best FNMQ band tech, Thomas the assassin, Finn, Rae, Lou, Elanor, Catherine and Rebecca. Your presence during meetings has always made my life so much easier and has made being convenor a pleasure. I cannot wait to work with you all in the future.

Dan don't burn the place down. In all seriousness working with you as events con this year has been a pleasure and I know you will do a fantastic job in leading us all to success. I cannot wait to share many, MANY pints with you next year, I know it's going to be a fun one. Thank you especially for pioneering the return of live music to a historic music venue, we have a good basis going into next year thanks to your hard work.

John, thank you for always being there to share a laugh with and being a positive presence on the board. I am glad you eventually learned how to plug in a microphone, and I am looking forward to working with you as a CSR next year.

This year's board, in no particular order, Maria, Sorcha, Matilda, Ailsa, Izzy, Martin, Ethan and Lauren. You have all put in so much effort this year and if you are leaving the board this year, I wish you all the best in your future endeavours. You will all smash it, and I am sure you will always have a home to come back to in the QMU. And for the board members who are staying, I cannot wait to work with you again next year and share many post-meeting pints.

The incoming board and new members of the board, Kirsty, Ross, Frances, and Matilda, I am really looking forward to working with you all next year and I know you will all do a fantastic job.

Senior Management team in Kris, Margaret and Lanna. You have all been a joy to work with during my time as convenor and I hope that I still have a chance to continue working with you all during next year. Thank you for keeping the building running despite any issues or difficulties through the year.

Stewart, thank you for your continuous support throughout the year and putting up with everything. It would not have been possible without you, and I am looking forward to working with you as a member of tech next year.

The bar staff, Paula, Lee, and Aki, you have made being in the union a pleasure and your banter and support has always made things much easier. Thank you for putting up with tech.

The external technicians that I have worked with throughout the year, Ross, Jazz, Alan and especially Avais. Your support, patience and advice were always invaluable to helping me run the team and I hope to continue working with you all next year.

All the staff in the QMU, again thank you for putting up with the tech team and our antics.