



Cardiff Students' Union  
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

# Student Senate – Minutes

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023, 5pm – Via Zoom**

## **Attendees:**

### **Committee Members**

Tanisha Kohli (Chair)  
Angie Flores Acuña (Students' Union President)  
Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies and Volunteering)  
Alex Meers (VP Heath Park Campus (Education & Welfare))  
Deio Owen (VP Welsh Language, Community & Culture)  
Georgia Spry (VP Sports & AU President)  
Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate Students (Education & Welfare))  
Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate Students (Education & Welfare))  
La'shaunna Williamson (Anti-Racism Officer)  
Matilda Durant (LGBTQ+ Officer)  
Hanna Pageau (Students with Disabilities Officer)  
Finnerty Templeman (Student Parents & Carers Officer)  
Nathan Mintz (International Students' Officer)  
Trystan Gwennap (Ethical and Environmental Officer)  
Daisy Tipping (Women's Officer)  
Aby Anderson-Peled (Student Senator)  
Amelia Hamilton (Student Senator)  
Andrew George (Student Senator)  
Gokula Krishnan Kelambakkam Rajendiran (Student Senator)  
Jonathan Williams (Student Senator)  
Masud Rahman (Student Senator)  
Raashi Khanna (Student Senator)  
Shane Toner (Student Senator)  
Sushama Swathi (Student Senator)  
Gulshanbanu Ansari (Student Senator)

Rhys Davies (Student Academic Rep)  
Iwan Williams (Student Academic Rep)



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Hannah Baird (Student Academic Rep)  
Yu (Timothy) Lee  
Alexandra Ibbott (Randomly Selected Student)  
Jack Morewood (Observer)  
Wilbur Hyde (Observer)  
Cadewyn Skelley (Observer)

## **Staff**

Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info Point)  
Hannah Fatkin (Deputy Head of Student Voice)  
Sophie Loudon (Democracy and Projects Coordinator)  
Cymen Cyf (Translation Services)



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<b>Standard Items</b>	
Welcome	<p>Tanisha Kohli (Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting and TK mentioned that Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice) is the Info Point for this meeting.</p> <p>TK also highlighted that there are translation services available for English and Welsh speakers. The Chair explained the agenda and voting process to all attendees and talked through the agenda. The Chair also provided a reminder to attendees of the importance of respecting all opinions.</p>
Minutes of the previous meeting	<p>TK (Chair) went through the minutes page-by-page asking for any amendments.</p> <p>Page 3 Alex Meers (VP Heath Park) mentioned that his engagement for Heath events was at least 300 attendees and a correction on Placement Bursary Funding which is referring to the NHS Bursary and Placement experience.</p> <p><b>No issues raised for pages 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7</b></p>
<b>Students' Union Submitted Items</b>	
Report from the Trustees	<p>Angie Flores Acuña (SU President) began by stating that this would be a brief overview of the report from the trustees for the month of November.</p> <p>Angie (SU President) provided updates on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Following the previous meeting and in collaboration with the university, along with the funding received for Black History Month and more inclusive initiatives, we hosted an event that showcased African and Caribbean talent, drawing over 150 attendees.</li> <li>2. The Medics Varsity between Cardiff University and Bristol University took place with the initiative of Alex Meers (VP Heath Park) and Georgia Spry (VP Sports and AU President).</li> <li>3. The Winter Wellbeing campaign, planned by Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies and Volunteering) and Georgia Spry (VP Sports and AU President), is ongoing throughout December to support students during the Christmas period.</li> </ol>



	<p>Planned activities, such as visits to Winter Wonderland, will continue until December 18th.</p> <p>4. Madison (VP Societies) highlighted the success of the Movember Campaigns, which raised over £80,000 for charity.</p> <p>5. Angie (President) discussed the success of the Winter Showcase, organized by Madison (VP Societies), showcasing the various talents of different societies within the university.</p>
<b>Submitted Items</b>	
Item 5: Bye-Law Amendment	<p>Deio began by explaining that the purpose of the proposed change to the title of VP Welsh Language, Community and Culture is to ensure that the position accurately reflects the reasons behind its creation last year.</p> <p>Deio explained that changing the title to VP Gymraeg would better represent the role's responsibilities and expand its remit to include all matters pertaining to the Welsh language within the University.</p> <p>No one spoke against the amendment.</p> <p>Deio summarised the proposal and thanked the senate for their time.</p>
Item 6: Campaign Officer Title Change	<p>TK (Chair) read item 6 of the agenda and invited Hanna Pageau to elaborate on the proposed amendment.</p> <p>Hanna Pageau outlined the proposal, which is to change the Campaign Officer's title from Disabilities Officer to Accessibility Officer while retaining the name of the Students with Disabilities Association.</p> <p>TK (Chair) invited Senate members to speak against the motion if they wished. TK (Chair) then invited Micaela Panes (VP Postgrad) to speak.</p> <p><b>Against</b></p> <p>Micaela (VP Postgrad) acknowledged the intention behind changing the title but emphasized the importance of specific representation for the individuals this role encompasses.</p> <p>Micaela focused on the visibility and advocacy for these students, expressing concern that an accessibility officer title might broaden the scope too much, leading to potential misunderstandings.</p>



**For**

Daisy Tipping (Women's Officer) noted the evolving role of campaign officers and emphasized that disabled students need a dedicated avenue to advocate for their accessibility needs.

Daisy highlighted that the accessibility officer can still advocate for disability needs.

**Against**

Alex Meers emphasized the need for fluidity in the Campaign role, allowing officers to respond to current issues.

Alex argued that renaming officers based on current focuses might limit the flexibility of future officers.

**For**

Matilda Durant (LGBTQ+ Officer) countered by stating that accessibility will always be relevant for students with disabilities.

Matilda noted that the officer, under the new association, would also be the president of the Students with Disabilities Association and could still run events and campaigns.

Matilda stressed that everyone understands the role of an accessibility officer, as accessibility is at the core of the position.

**Against**

Angie (SU President) reminded everyone of the type of candidates they want to attract for these roles.

Angie emphasized the importance of attracting students who can relate to their communities and expressed concern that changing the role's name sets expectations from the beginning.

**For**

Nathan mentioned that the core of the role is to improve accessibility at the university. Nathan echoed the opinions of Matilda and Daisy, emphasizing that, since the association remains the same, the role still fundamentally represents disabled students.

Nathan also noted that the name change would feel more inviting to students, as the term "disability" might not fully encompass the scope of the role.

### **Against**

Micaela raised the point that the name change could introduce ambiguity and confusion for future officers. For instance, "accessibility" might be interpreted in various ways, potentially including financial accessibility.

Micaela mentioned that senior management aims to better integrate Campaign Officers into university meetings to represent their communities. Changing the title might increase the scope of the role, possibly diverting attention away from the specific needs of disabled students.

### **For**

Daisy highlighted her understanding of the Campaign Officer role and countered Micaela's argument about ambiguity by pointing out that the association is still retaining the name of the Students with Disabilities Association.

### **Against**

Angie wanted to clarify that the role of Campaign Officers is left up to the individual to define.

### **Summary**

Hanna provided a summary of the motion.

The Chair drew the debate to a close and reminded senate on the voting procedure.



Item 7: Lapsing Policy	TK (Chair) explained there were no lapsing policies to note for this meeting.
Item 8: Tabled Motions	<p>Motion I: Advocacy For The Abolition of Tuition Fees</p> <p>TK (Chair) explained the process of the motion for the abolishment of tuition fees and invited Cadewyn Skelley to present the motion.</p> <p>Cadewyn highlighted that the student demographic is diverse in age, gender, and sexual orientation, all sharing the common goal of self-improvement.</p> <p>Cadewyn argued that the English and Welsh governments have shifted the responsibility from the state to students, asserting that education should not be tied to a lifelong debt clause. He pointed out issues with the current repayment plan system, noting that fluctuating interest rates increase the time repayment takes, likening it to a student tax.</p> <p>Cadewyn also expressed concerns about the new Repayment Plan 5, which lowers the minimum payment threshold and could result in a significant increase in student loan repayments for working and middle-class students, especially considering the cost of living.</p> <p><b>Against Motion:</b></p> <p>Gokula Krishnan Kelambakkam Rajendiran mentioned that fees are necessary for a functioning government, as funding for departments drives research and projects forward.</p> <p>Gokula provided an example of the Norwegian government initially abolishing academic fees for bachelor's and master's degrees, but they were reintroduced due to an inability to handle the influx of students.</p> <p>Gokula expressed concerns about future research and projects being hindered due to a lack of funding.</p> <p><b>For Motion:</b></p> <p>Hanna showcased the examples of Germany and Scotland, where being at the forefront of research and technology is possible without</p>



	<p>tuition fees.</p> <p>Procedural Motion Put Forth:</p> <p>Info Point explained the process of the procedural motion and passed back to the chair to manage debate.</p> <p>The chair invited Alex Meers to open the debate for the procedural motion.</p> <p>Alex agreed overwhelmingly with the spirit of the motion, stating that the SU should refrain from restricting societies on what they are allowed to campaign for. No further speakers spoke for or against the procedural motion.</p> <p>The Chair invited the room to vote on the procedural motion.</p> <p><b><i>Procedural Motion Passed</i></b></p> <p>Debate closed for Motion I and the Chair reminded members of the voting procedure.</p>
<b>Any Other Business</b>	
Item 9: Notice of Elections	TK (Chair) reminded members that the Students' Union Spring Elections nominations open on 11th December.
Next Student Senate Meeting	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024
<b>MEETING ENDED</b>	
<b>VOTING RESULTS</b>	
<p>Minutes from the previous meeting: <b>Approved</b></p> <p>Bye-Law Amendment: Vice President Welsh Language, Community and Culture to Vice President Cymraeg: <b>Approved</b></p> <p>Campaign Officer Title Change: Students with Disabilities Officer to Accessibility Officer: <b>Approved</b></p> <p>Advocation for Abolition of Tuition Fees: Resolves 1: <b>Approved</b></p>	





Advocation for Abolition of Tuition Fees: Resolves 2: **Approved**



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