



Cardiff Students' Union
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

Accountability Panel Record

20th May – Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Panel Members

Dylan Wynne (AU Executive Committee)
Neema Akala (AU Executive Committee)
Christabel Gono (Heath Park Executive Committee)
Claire Morris (Heath Park Executive Committee)
Deeshka Venkatesh (International Executive Committee)
Jena Charles (International Executive Committee)
Christian Pepler (Postgraduate Executive Committee)
Stanley Plant (Postgraduate Executive Committee)
Jason Sze (Societies, Volunteering and Media Executive Committee)
Joshua Tandy (Societies, Volunteering and Media Executive Committee)
Owain Siôn (Welsh Executive Committee)

Also in attendance:

Sophie Loudon (Democracy and Projects Coordinator)
Hannah Fatkin (Deputy Head of Student Voice)
Cymen (Translator)

Welcome, Introductions, and Information

All panel members were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.

Sophie Loudon (Democracy and Projects Coordinator) provided information to the panel about the process of the meeting, and how it would be conducted.

Question Planning

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the first Sabbatical Officer. It was noted that these needed to be related to the Officers' roles, their manifestos, and



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Union policy, and would be added to a compulsory question for all Officers asking for a brief overview of their work so far this year.

Catrin Edith Parry (VP Cymraeg)

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the Welsh Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. What have you done to support Welsh culture and promote this to new students?
3. Please can you elaborate on your responsibilities surrounding a 'Welsh welcome'?
4. How have you supported and protected the voices of all Welsh students, including fluent speakers and learners?
5. What sort of engagement have you had with societies outside of Y Gym Gym to ensure the Welsh language is heard across different aspects of student life?
6. Do you feel you have been sufficiently supported by the Union in promoting Welsh services and campaigns?
7. What work has been done to sustain UMCC as a voice for Welsh students?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.

Madison Hutchinson (SU President)

This section of the panel was chaired as a group across all executive committee representatives.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. What have you been doing to make campus a safer place for students?
3. You have campaigned to protect the voice of undergraduate students. Has this benefitted the postgraduate student body as well?
4. Has there been any progress on the work being done to protect redundancies within the university?
5. What progress has been made towards improving the extenuating circumstances policy?
6. What changes have you made to sporting facilities to improve them?
7. What improvements have been made to halls of residence, including for postgraduate-specific halls?



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8. Has there been any progress towards reading weeks for all students, which was a point on your manifesto?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.

Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate Students (Education and Welfare))

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the Postgraduate Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. What changes have you implemented for fair for postgraduate students that also teach?
3. What have you done to improve mental health provisions and combat student experience with imposter syndrome?
4. Have you been successful in delivering alumni discounts to self-funded postgraduate students?
5. What progress has there been on the postgraduate mentor scheme, and has anything been actioned yet?
6. What progress has been made working alongside the government to cap postgraduate tuition fees?
7. Were there any updates you could share regarding university residences granting tenancy extensions over the summer?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.

Break

Question Planning

Panel members were given further opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer. It was again noted that these needed to be related to the Officers' roles, their manifestos, and Union policy, and would be added to a compulsory question for all Officers asking for a brief overview of their work so far this year.



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Eve Chamberlain (VP Societies & Volunteering)

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the Societies, Volunteering and Media Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. What did the mandatory committee training against sexual misconduct entail and how successful was this across the university?
3. What methods have you used to increase inclusivity and good mental wellbeing (extending to LGBTQ+, postgraduate, and international students)?
4. With the Guild of Societies fee expected to rise next year, what impact will this have on accessibility for lower-income students and the ability of societies to change their individual membership fees to support their activity?
5. Are there any updates regarding portable mirrors for performance groups?
6. Are there any updates regarding the Welsh language pack for society committees?
7. How are volunteering groups being supported and publicised in order to get them back on their feet?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.

Shola Bold (VP Heath Park (Education and Welfare))

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the Heath Park Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. How have you communicated access to financial planning and self-care workshops to students?
3. What was the success of the Heath Park ball and has it occurred yet?
4. Has the inclusion of free commuting to and from Heath Park campus (on your manifesto) been implemented? If so, how has this benefitted undergraduate and postgraduate students, and how successful has this been with international students?
5. What progress has been made on the facilitation of prayer rooms at the Heath Park campus?
6. How successful was the 'Give It A Go' week on Heath Park campus this year? What activities were delivered specifically for Heath Park students?
7. What lessons did you learn about how to get Heath Park students more involved in Students' Union activities, especially with placement-heavy schedules?



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8. How successful were cross-campus events and collaborations (such as the Afrodance workshop with ACS) in engaging both Heath Park and Cathays students? Were there any formats or approaches that stood out in terms of turnout and positive feedback?
9. Has there been any development for Heath Park on Tour?
10. With the majority of Heath Park students going out on placement and the difficulties this brings to student engagement, what lessons have you learnt and where have you been able to adapt your events and priorities to meet students' needs?
11. What has been your highlight in your term as a Sabbatical Officer?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.

Georgia Spry (VP Sports and Athletic Union President)

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the Athletic Union Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. How have you prioritised non-BUCS clubs and elevated them within the Students' Union? What more do you think could be done?
3. Can you give some examples of supporting postgraduate access to sports clubs, and mental health support in those clubs?
4. In relation to your manifesto commitment to improve EDI, how are you measuring this and the impact of related campaigns? Do you believe them to have been successful?
5. Has there been any tangible progress on Talybont roof repairs? Will this be completed before fixtures start again?
6. Is there any progress on clashes in Wednesday fixtures with lecture timetabling?
7. What work has been done to make bystander and consent training compulsory for all students involved in running sports clubs at Cardiff, particularly IMG teams?
8. Do you believe the return of full-building takeover nights has improved the student experience in the Students' Union, and are there plans to continue or increase the frequency of these events?
9. What has been your highlight in the role, and if you had the time again, what would you try to achieve?

Panel members were given the opportunity to discuss and decide upon questions to ask the next Sabbatical Officer.



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Ana Nagiel Escobar (VP International Students (Education and Welfare))

This section of the panel was chaired by the representatives from the International Executive Committee.

The panel asked the following questions:

1. Give us a brief overview of what you have been working on.
2. What is your progress regarding the family discount?
3. Do you have any updates regarding the International Forum? Is this something that is being planned to leave with the next VP International Students?
4. What are you doing to encourage multiculturalism?
5. Which societies have you worked most closely with in your role so far?
6. How has the VP International Students collaborated with and integrated into the Sabbatical Officer team?
7. Given the recent announcements made by the UK government, do you have any plans to address the impact on students, and provide support for those affected?
8. As the first VP International Students, how are you planning to support your successor during the handover period?

Panel Discussion

The panel was invited to discuss the responses of each Sabbatical Officer and especially highlight one area they would like to commend the Officer for, as well as one area that they would recommend the Officer focuses on moving forward.

Catrin Edith Parry - VP Cymraeg

The panel chose to highlight the understanding Catrin has of the key issues facing Welsh students following the Academic Future proposals and using this to liaise between UMCC/Welsh Executive Committee and the University Executive Board. The work done to support Y Gym Gym and continue to bring Welsh culture to all students, normalising this around campus was also noted.

The panel recommended Catrin continue to explore collaboration with other societies in order to make Welsh culture accessible to all, and opening this for discussion with the next VP Cymraeg.

Madison Hutchinson – SU President

The panel chose to highlight the work Madison has done to ensure student voice and representation continues to be a priority amidst the university's ongoing Academic Future consultation, including



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organising town halls and opportunities for students to provide feedback and raise concerns.

The panel recommended that Madison strive to make some progress on plans to improve halls of residence, including mapping out a clearer timeline for when action may be achievable, even if this is in future years.

Micaela Panes – VP Postgraduate Students (Education and Welfare)

The panel chose to highlight Micaela's work towards fair pay for postgraduate researchers, and the continued prioritisation of the postgraduate student voice at different levels of the university.

The panel recommended that Micaela revisit plans to lobby for extending the alumni discount for postgraduates, and see if further work can be done to push for this to be extended in future.

Eve Chamberlain – VP Societies and Volunteering

The panel chose to highlight Eve's work on events designed to create an inclusive space in the Students' Union, and that promote positive mental health, including events for LGBTQ+ History Month and Dance Varsity.

The panel recommended that Eve prioritise working on getting portable mirrors available for performance groups, exploring other ways of funding such items to manage costs.

Shola Bold – VP Heath Park (Education and Welfare)

The panel chose to highlight Shola's prioritisation of cross-campus events, including the postgraduate event at the Heath Park campus.

The panel recommended that Shola use the remaining time in office to explore possibilities for Heath Park on Tour, even if this is delivered by the next Sabbatical Officer.

Georgia Spry – VP Sports and Athletic Union President

The panel chose to highlight Georgia's continued prioritisation of the representation of non-BUCS clubs.

The panel recommended that Georgia use the next few weeks to consider the sustainability of the consent campaign, and how this can be made broadly available and expected of IMG teams.

Ana Nagiel Escobar – VP International Students (Education and Welfare)

The panel chose to highlight Ana's work on the family discount for international students.



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The panel recommended that Ana consider what more can be done to ensure cultural events have a space in the calendar of student-led events in future years.

Formal Notices

There were no Motions of Censure and no Notices of Required Improvement submitted for this Accountability Panel. The Panel were given the opportunity to discuss and vote upon any Notices of Satisfaction they wanted to apply.

Following discussion and voting, the following notices were approved:

1. Notice of Satisfaction for VP Cymraeg

This notice was applied for the work Catrin has done to ensure Welsh student voice is prioritised following the Academic Future proposals, using this to liaise between UMCC/Welsh Executive Committee and the University Executive Board.

2. Notice of Satisfaction for SU President

This notice was applied for the work Madison has done to ensure student voice and representation continues to be a priority amidst the university's ongoing Academic Future consultation, including organising town halls and opportunities for students to provide feedback and raise concerns.

3. Notice of Satisfaction for VP Postgraduate Students (Education and Welfare)

This notice was applied for the work Micaela has done to ensure postgraduate voices are heard amidst the university's ongoing Academic Future consultation, including advocating for more flexibility, and increased pay for postgraduate researchers.

4. Notice of Satisfaction for VP Sports and Athletic Union President

This notice was applied for the commitment Georgia has made towards inclusivity, equality, and diversity in student sport, including increasing representation across non-BUCS clubs.

Close



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