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| Sabbatical Officer Name: | Angie Flores Acuña |
| Sabbatical Officer Role: | SU President |

**Section 1: Sabbatical Officer Report**

*This section is to be completed by the Sabbatical Officer prior to the accountability session.*

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| **General Report**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this report is aimed at providing insight into their work/activity since the last accountability session or the start of their term in office)* | | |
| **June** | * Sabbatical Officer training * Graduation 2023 political negotiations * Established a collaborative management style for the Sabbatical Officer team * Brought together the team to understand our identity as a team and identify our aims for the year * Interviewed new student trustees | |
| **July** | * Sabbatical Officer training * Led the SU strategic response to the Marking and Assessment Boycott which represented the frustration of Cardiff University students and called for action. [Find petition here](https://www.change.org/p/cardiff-university-end-the-mab-by-supporting-ucu-ucea-negotiations). * Spoke in Graduation ceremonies and showed support for UCU by wearing a badge and a pink dress on stage * Boycotted the Graduation dinner organised by the university in solidarity of the students affected by the Marking and Assessment Boycott and striking staff members * Hosted the Russell Group Students’ Union residential and led conversation with a representative of Russell Group Universities regarding the Higher Education funding model * Attended Lead and Change, a NUS Conference focused on training newly elected Sabbatical Officers * Welcomed the new Vice Chancellor to Wales and established a good groundwork for the future of our relationship by championing the student voice, our student community and our Students’ Union | |
| **August** | * Lobbied for refunds for students refunds for those affected by the strikes and the Marking and Assessment Boycott * Created communications for students to ensure that they were aware of the deadlines and guidelines for submitting complaints regarding the strikes and the Marking and Assessment Boycott * Oversaw the delivery plan of missing marks for the Marking and Assessment Boycott * Built relationship with the EDI Hub in the University and secured £1000 funding for Black History Month * Established a good groundwork for the future relationship with Cardiff Council and the Cathays councillors * Chaired the first Officers Executive committee, established communication channels with the Campaign and Sabbatical Officers * Supported the change in Love Cardiff image by encouraging it to make it more personable and with more movement for students to relate more to our commms * Participated in the Police engagement task and finish group and met with the police to put forward our asks regarding accountability and disengagement * Participated in the planning of Freshers’ and Welcome Team | |
| **September** | * Established a good relationship with the [Urdd](https://www.urdd.cymru/en/) after participating in their annual [Peace and Goodwill message](https://www.urdd.cymru/en/peace-and-goodwill/) in April. I was invited to be part of the Wales youth delegation that attended the commemoration service of the 60th anniversary of 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing and reaffirmation historic friendship between Wales and Birmingham, Alabama * Organised the Sabbatical Officers and led the update on the Student Relationship agreement – yet to be updated on the Cardiff University website but find [here](https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/about/organisation/governance) the previous version for reference * Chaired the SU Board of Trustees meeting and welcomed the new student trustees * Participated in the Y Sgwrs Fawr (The Big Conversation) session at senior management level at Cardiff University and championed the student voice, our student community and the Students’ Union. Improvised and led a Student Satisfaction and NSS results session for some schools and estates * Worked in partnership with the University and interviewed the schools with low NSS scores * Participated in the organisation of the Welcome Team, encouraged and supported the Sabbatical Officers to take an active role in it * With the Welcome team, welcomed students in their accommodation for four days in a row, which also gave me the opportunity to introduce my team and the Students’ Union to our new students * Supported with Freshers’ Events and attended different Give It a Go sessions to promote student groups and network with them * Supported the Cardiff Digs stall during Freshers’ and encouraged students to register to vote | |
| **October** | * Championed Autumn elections * Delivered Black History Month events in collaboration with the Anti-Racism Officer and the African Caribbean Society * Reached out to student groups affected by the Middle East conflict * Supported the organisation of one session for Y Sgwrs Fawr (The Big Conversation) at the Students’ Union – hosted a conversation amongst students and the New Vice Chancellor * Participated in a consultation for a New Residencies strategy in the university and highlighted the importance of having spaces for postgraduate students, mature students, and other communities * Invited the Cathays Councillors to our Housing and Wellbeing fair for students to meet them and for hosting surgeries | |
| **November** | * Supported the organisation of Afrogene, our annual showcase that celebrates the African Caribbean talent in our community. I am proud to say that this was very successful as in the evening we saw more than 150 attendees * More strategic Students’ Union submissions to committees * Participated with other Presidents’ in a student panel for the Higher Education Founding Council for Wales (HEFCW) which was part of the consultation for shaping the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER) * Organised with other Welsh HE and FE institutions (via NUS Wales) to ask HEFCW to pay our students for their time for student consultation * Promoted AGM and informed students about the importance of making their voices heard in this democratic forum * Championed AGM as a democratic forum in my 121 with the Vice Chancellor and started lobbying for resolves in the Time to Act motion * Met with proposers of the Ceasefire motion and successfully lobbied for the change of the wording of one of their resolves as this did not comply with the IHRA definition of antisemitism * Led a lot of Sabbatical Officer team meetings and conversations previous to our participation in AGM * Championed the confirmation of our NUS membership * Met with the Jewish society post-AGM * Provided support to proposers of the ceasefire motion post-AGM * Supported the Reclaim the Night march led by the Womens’ Officer | |
| **December** | * Currently reviewing AGM and responding to press * Run a Feed Your Flat event to support students with Cost of Living * Supporting with Winter Wellbeing activities * Working towards strengthening our relationship with the Campaign Officers * Supporting period dignity campaign in collaboration with other officers and Student Voice and Advice to talk about the importance of having period products available and accessible in campus * Chaired a successful Board of Trustees | |
| **Manifesto Update**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section is aimed at tracking their progress against manifesto commitments made by them during their successful officer election)* | | |
| **STRIKES** | **Safety net** | Worked with the University to ensure that students receive as many marks as they could and their certificates. This was not totally ideal as students received missing marks and incomplete transcripts, however it was the best solution at the time as UCEA and UCU did not find resolution for the Marking and Assessment boycott.  Almost all marks were received by students by the end of October. Lobbied the University to introduce a cover letter for the transcripts that included missing marks or ‘PASS’ awards to ensure future employers are aware that of these being consequence of the Marking and Assessment Boycott.  This would help students in a job market when competing with students that were not affected by the Marking and Assessment Boycott. |
| **Student refunds** | Lobbied the university to provide student refunds and organised within the Students’ Union to encourage students to submit a complaint. |
| **COST OF LIVING** | **Financial support for bills** | Not started |
| **Affordable transport Heath-Cathays** | Not started |
| **Free Circuit Laundry** | Lobbied the university for a more affordable laundry services in future residences plan.  Contacted other unions to study how they achieved this. |
| **Free breakfast items in the SU Kitchen** | Free hot drinks items funding recently confirmed.  Evaluating the feasibility of adding free breakfast items. |
| **Free period products across campus** | Currently supporting period dignity campaign in collaboration with other officers and Student Voice and Advice to talk about the importance of having period products available and accessible in campus.  Meeting scheduled with Estates in University to follow up the request put through the Student View last year which called for period products.  Next step is add more period products dispensers in the Students’ Union. |
| **SUSTAINABILITY** | **Push for a cleaner Cathays (bins and rats!)** | Met with the Cathays councillors to urge them to look for an alternative to plastic bags for bin collections  Madison is taking the lead on physically cleaning Cathays |
| **Rooftop garden in the SU** | Not feasible due to budget but will update if changes happen |
| **STUDENT COMMUNITY** | **More empathetic Extenuating Circumstances procedure** |  |
| **Improve student housing conditions** | Reconnected with Citizens Cymru to identify the steps to achieve this |
| **Secure more spaces for student groups across campus** | Not started |
| **Promote Welsh language and culture** | Establishing connections with the Urdd was essential in my understanding of the Welsh language, the Welsh context and the empowerment that comes with celebrating the language and culture.  A lot of learning has also come from working with Deio and the Sabb team, which has now collectively decide to not only champion for Welsh language use in our day to day with students and the university but also in the union.  At a personal level, and by being the only Sabbatical Officer who meets regularly with the Vice Chancellor, I ensured that Deio, VP Cymraeg, was being contacted to shape the ‘future of our university’ in the Welsh context. In the same way, I appointed Deio to be part of Council, the higher governing body in the university, to urge the university to be a Welsh University and not a University in Welsh.  I also facilitated Deio with an opportunity to introduce a Welsh section in the papers presented to the University for the first time in our history. |
| **Microwaves and hot water dispensers in all building** | Not started |
| **Open the CSL 24/7 for students to study in throughout the week** | Lobbied the university to bring back the extension of the opening hours of the CSL which was revoked during summer.  Depending on the building use, we can lobby for 24/7 opening hours. |
| **Secure a new library that caters to the needs of all students** | Participated in the consultation of the new library creation and ensured |
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| **Policy Update**  *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section report is aimed at tracking their progress against any relevant policy passed by Student Senate or AGM)* | | |
| **Cardiff University Students’ Union and Graduation 2023** | 1. This motion resolves that Cardiff Students’ Union will not send Sabbatical Trustees, Campaigns Officers, or any representatives of past, present, or incoming to attend or represent the Students’ Union at Graduation 2023, in the case that UCU takes industrial action in the week of Graduation 2023. This includes making speeches at graduation ceremonies, attending Cardiff University  graduation dinners, or related activities.  2. This motion resolves that Cardiff Students’ Union makes a public statement condemning Cardiff University’s choice to deduct 50-100% of pay from staff participating in the MAB, ASOS, or similar industrial  **Complete** | |
| **Change the way we talk about ethnicity** | 1. Cardiff SU will permanently change the title of the role of Black and Ethnic Minority – **Complete**  2. Cardiff SU will work with the current Black and Ethnic Minority Officer as well as future Anti-racism Officers to create a guidance on communicating about ethnicities and racism, which will be circulated to its staff members, trustees, as well as student societies and  student leaders. This work will involve consultation with the student body and review of best practice adopted by other organisations, such as the UK and Welsh governments – **Not started**  3. Cardiff SU officers will lobby Cardiff University to also adopt best practice in communicating about ethnicities and racism, steering away from the use of the BME and BAME umbrella terms, as well as the terminology of “political Blackness” – **In progress** | |

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| Chair of the Accountability Session: | Zohaib Tahir |
| Vice Chair of the Accountability Session: | Harshdeep Kaur |
| Additional Members of the Accountability Session: | Harshdeep Kaur  Amelia Hamilton  Zohaib Tahir  Nodie Caple-Faye  John Beauchamp  Muhammad Ubaid-Urrahmaan  Adeeb Mohamed Rameez |
| Date of the Accountability Session: | 07/12/2023 |

**Section 2: Accountability Session**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members prior to speaking to the Sabbatical Officer. This section should then be used to aid discussion with the Sabbatical Officer and information added where relevant.*

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| **Areas Working Well**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think is working well and what they believe the Sabbatical Officer should keep doing)*  *Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what is working well.* | |
| * Big Conversation went really well * Great at AGM * Budgeting on financial support for bills going well so far * Effort in ensuring all students received their grades and graduated at the end of the year * Good communication with university – ongoing * A lot of things done – big report - lots of achievements * Engaging well with student community – wants to bridge gap between staff and students, particularly top management   Note from Angie   * Relationship capacity – strategic side | |
| **Areas For Improvement**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think could do with additional focus).*  *Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what could be improved.* | |
| * Support for underrepresented students e.g. international students – needs attention * Some things have not started/been looked at – need to make sure they are carried through * Offering support to every speaker at AGM * Affordability of transport from Cathays to Heath – needs looking at | |
| **Accountability Session Questions**  *(Written by the accountability session members this section should outline the key questions the session have for the Sabbatical Officer, a notes of the answers should then be provided in the next box).* | |
| **Q1.** AGM Press – How have you handled the situation? How are you supporting the proposers of the ceasefire motion? Have you reached out to Jewish students? | **A1.**   * Responded to Nation Cymru **-** Student removed for safety, to create order in the room. Students’ Union providing support to student * Responded to LBC * Dropped stories after response * Asked to be interviewed live – Dropped * Emailed President of Jewish Society * Contacted by four outlets – response was working in partnership with university to identify students who said offensive things * Students who said offensive things were removed from meeting * Reached out to Islamic Society * Reached out to speakers on motions |
| **Q2.** How are the Campaign Officer team being incorporated into your ideas of collaborative governance/working style? | **A2.** Commentsfrom COs on what is working/not working – sign they feel comfortable enough to do so. Communicating on what can be improved. Teams channel being used. Working to promote each other’s campaigns |
| **Q3.** Clean Up Cardiff - How are you dealing with the rat situation? Are you dealing with it in a humane way? | **A3.** Consequence of the type of recycling/bin disposal system. Brought into meetings with Madison e.g. Business School. Response has been that there is not enough money for it. View is to review disposal system |
| **Q4.** Can you collect data on how many students received refunds? Need to know to judge the success of the policy. | **A4.** Will look into how this can be done |
| **Q5.** Could activities with African/Caribbean community be widened to other communities? | **A5.** Madison very involved in doing so – would love to do it |
| **Q6.** The condom box on the second floor is empty. Can you do something about this? | **A6.** Made note, can review how many times it is refilled |
| **Q7.** How are you supporting/how will you support international students? | **A7.** Whenever in a meeting, international students on the list. Telling university to support is not enough, going to work on International Students Review to present to university. Role for SU and NUS to improve |
| **Q8.** Manifesto points haven’t been started e.g. transport between Heath and Cathays, financial support. Will you be starting them? | **A8.**   * Hoping to find a way to make it work amongst the team * Financial support – don’t think we have a way to do it, only way to make it happen – bigger lobbying university. Don’t know if there will be time for it * Transport – in communication with Alex, in his manifesto too |

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| **Does the accountability session wish to consider any of the following notices?**  *If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.* | |
| **Motion of Censure**  *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices. Note: When motions of Censure are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the censure.* | Yes / No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement**  *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments. Note: When notices of Requires Improvement are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the notice.* | Yes / No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction**  *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee. Note: Prior warning for a Notice of Satisfaction is not required.* | Yes / No |

**Section 3: Accountability Session Outcomes**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members following their meeting*

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| Is the session satisfied with the discussion held with the Sabbatical Officer? | Yes / No |
| If the answer to the above question is **no** please provide additional details below. | |
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| Is there anything the session wishes to make Student Senate aware of as a result of the meeting? | Yes / No |
| If the answer to the above question is **yes** please provide additional details below. | |
| Note – Senate updated on AGM press, keep updated in future | |

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| **Following consideration did the accountability session apply any of the following motions or notices?**  *If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.* | |
| **Motion of Censure**  *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices.* | Yes / No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement**  *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments.* | Yes / No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction**  *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee.* | Yes / No  Great communication with university and new Vice-Chancellor praised, achieved a lot for only 5 months in office. Questions asked were appropriately answered. Understand plans in place going forward |