



Cardiff Students' Union
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cardiff University Students' Union
Thursday 23rd November 2023 – 18:00
The Great Hall

Agenda

- | | | |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| | 1. Welcome | |
| Past | 2. Minutes from AGM December 2022 | (P2) |
| | 3. Annual Report 22/23 | (P7) |
| | 4. Financial Report 22/23 | (P8) |
| Present | 5. Affiliations | (P12) |
| | 6. Open Questions to the Trustees | |
| Future | 7. Sabbatical Officer Structure | (P13) |
| | 8. Tabled Motions | |
| | A) Lapsing Policy | (P17) |
| | B) Submitted Motions | |
| | i) A Better & More Inclusive University | (P18) |
| | ii) Time to Act: Tackling Sexual Misconduct at Cardiff University | (P22) |
| | iii) Ceasefire Now | (P26) |
| | iv) The Climate Crisis: an Evidence-Based, Sustainable Food System for Cardiff University | (P33) |
| | v) Advocation for the Abolition of Tuition Fees | (P38) |
| | 9. Notice of Elections | (P39) |
| | 10. Any Other Business | |



ITEM TWO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020/21
Minutes
Cardiff University Students' Union
Thursday 6th December 2022, 18:00
Venue: Great Hall, Cardiff Students' Union

1.	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Rebecca Hardy (Chair) welcomed all attendees and outlined the way business was to be conducted over the meeting.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes from AGM 2021</p> <p>Minutes from the 2021 AGM were confirmed as a true record and were approved.</p>
3.	<p>Annual Report 21/22</p> <p>Gina Dunn (SU President) presented the SU Annual Report 21/22.</p>
4.	<p>Financial Report 21/22</p> <p>Daniel Palmer presented the Financial Report 21/22 and audited financial statements of the group and Union.</p>
5.	<p>Affiliations</p> <p>RH explained that the SU affiliations are and provided members with the opportunity to debate the affiliations.</p> <p>NUS affiliation - £37,500 BUCS affiliation - £20,479.25</p> <p><i>NUS affiliations approved.</i> <i>BUCS affiliation approved.</i></p>



6.	<p>Open Questions to the Trustees</p> <p>9 questions were asked in total covering the topics of housing, Transgender student support, changes to the extenuating circumstances policy, the real Living Wage, BUCS funding, the representation of international students, the Union’s lobbying activity, the new Sabbatical Officer structure, and the costs of hosting an Adjourned AGM.</p> <p>The Sabbatical Officer team, as members of the Board of Trustees, responded to the questions asked.</p> <p>RH stated that time was up for Questions to Trustees and attendees were invited to submit any further questions via the typeform or directly to the Sabbatical Officers.</p> <p>Jack Morewood challenged the chairs ruling to move on to the next time of the agenda via a procedural motion. JM spoke for the procedural motion, RH spoke against.</p> <p><i>The procedural motion fell.</i></p>
7.	<p>Tabled Motions</p> <p>RH noted the lapsing motions, before explaining the procedures for debate.</p>
i.	<p>Adoption of an Official Pro-Choice Stance</p> <p>Ashly Alava Garcia spoke on behalf of the proposer of the motion for up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the motion as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>Ashly Alava Garcia provided a summary of the motion submitted.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the motion.</p> <p><i>The Motion (Adoption of an Official Pro-Choice Stance) passed</i></p> <p>Zaid Manair requested the following clarifying statement be read out by the Chair. RH read the following clarifying statement:</p> <p>“Being a Muslim I did not like my religion being associated with the comments that were made. It’s up to an individual how much they want to believe in something, and Islam</p>



	does provide freedom and an individual can believe what they want.”
ii.	<p>Climate action and accountability: Making Net-Zero a Reality</p> <p>RH noted that an amendment had been submitted to this motion and accepted by the proposer of the motion.</p> <p>James Barber, the proposer of the motion, spoke for up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the motion as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>JB provided a summary of the motion submitted.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the motion.</p> <p><i>The Motion (Climate action and accountability: Making Net-Zero a Reality) passed</i></p>
iii.	<p>UCU Industrial Action</p> <p>Micaela Panes, the proposer of the motion, spoke for up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the motion as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>MP provided a summary of the motion submitted.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the motion.</p> <p><i>The Motion (UCU Industrial Action) passed</i></p>
iv.	<p>Cardiff Students’ Union Stance on the FIFA 2022 World Cup</p> <p>Jazz Walsh, the proposer of the motion, spoke for up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the motion as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>JW provided a summary of the motion submitted.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the motion.</p>



	<i>The Motion (Cardiff Students' Union Stance on the FIFA 2022 World Cup) passed</i>
v.	<p>Cops Off Campus</p> <p>Penny Dinh, the proposer of the motion, spoke for up to 4 minutes.</p> <p>*</p> <p>An amendment was submitted to the motion. RH explained that the amendment can be found at the end of the agenda pack.</p> <p>Jack Marwood, as the proposer of the amendment, spoke for up to 2 minutes.</p> <p>PD, as the proposer of the original motion, was provided the opportunity to speak against the amendment.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the amendment as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>JM provided a summary of the amendment.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the amendment.</p> <p>RH considered the count too close to call and asked for a manual count.</p> <p>The AGM team conducted a manual count.</p> <p><i>The proposed amendment fell</i></p> <p>*</p> <p>A procedural motion was proposed to challenge the Chair's ruling that the amendment fell.</p> <p>The proposer of the procedural motion was invited to speak for up to 2 minutes.</p> <p>RH, as the Chair, was invited to speak against the procedural motion.</p> <p>Christopher Diamond, as Deputy Chair, invited the room to vote on the procedural motion.</p>



	<p><i>The procedural motion fell.</i></p> <p>*</p> <p>AGM returned to debate on the original motion as submitted</p> <p>*</p> <p>A procedural motion was proposed for the Question now be put.</p> <p>Noah Russell, as the proposer of the procedural motion, was invited to speak for up to 2 minutes.</p> <p>AGM entered debate on the procedural motion as per the debate procedure.</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the procedural motion.</p> <p><i>The procedural motion passed.</i></p> <p>--</p> <p>RH invited the room to vote on the motion.</p> <p><i>The Motion (Cops Off Campus) passed</i></p>
	<p><i>Time allocated time for the ending has lapsed and therefore the motion Fossil Free Careers was not debated and instead submitted to the next available Student Senate meeting.</i></p>
8.	<p>Notice of Elections</p> <p>RH drew attention to the Notice of Elections within the agenda pack, highlighting that nominations for the spring elections open on Monday 12th December 2022.</p>
9.	<p>Any other Business</p> <p><i>No additional 'Any Other Business' was submitted and the meeting was closed.</i></p>



ITEM THREE

Students' Union President, Angie Flores Acuña, will present the key messages from the report, highlighting significant developments, achievements, and changes within the organisation for the 2022-23 academic year.

The annual impact report for 2022-23 can be found here:

<https://cardiffstudents.my.canva.site/impact23>



ITEM FOUR

Financial Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 July 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are the advancement of education of students at Cardiff University for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at Cardiff University during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students;
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and Cardiff University and any other external bodies; and
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

In shaping the Union's objectives for the year and planning its activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general and relevant supplementary guidance on public benefit. In pursuit of these aims for the public benefit, the Union has established departments and services for use by its members and works with the University and other organisations on behalf of Cardiff University students.

The Union sets its long-term priorities in line with its strategic plan, reviewed periodically and informed by research undertaken with Cardiff University students. The trustees consider the strategic plan when setting the Union's annual objectives, articulated in a balanced scorecard and pursued by trustees and Union staff. In December 2021 the Union launched its current strategic plan covering 2021 to 2025, entitled 'The Heart of the Cardiff Student Life' and it can be viewed at: <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/about-cusu/plans/>

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group's total income amounted to £12,393,500 (2022: £12,318,155) with total expenditure of



£12,643,876 (2022: £11,064,178) in the year. The unwinding of the discounted pension provision resulted in a debit to the Statement of Financial Activities of £(390,908) (2022: credit of £398,444). Overall, this resulted in net expenditure of £(641,284) (2022: net income £1,652,421). This comprises a restricted deficit of £(541,390) and an unrestricted deficit of £(99,894).

At 31 July 2023, the group's free reserves (i.e. unrestricted funds excluding designated funds and not represented by fixed assets and pension fund liability) amounted to £1,746,589 (2022: £1,534,034) and the trustees are satisfied that the Union has a sound financial base to continue to operate and pursue its objectives and activities. In addition, a further £43,608 (2022: £584,998) was held in restricted funds.

Within the Union's trading subsidiary, Cardiff Union Services Limited, turnover increased to £5,515,116 (2022: £5,237,048) resulting in a gross profit of £2,517,348 (2022: £2,611,536). Administrative expenses increased to £4,808,546 (2022: £4,191,369) in the year. Overall, the trading subsidiary reported a profit of £80,034 (2022: £1,088,843).

During the year the trading company's pension liability increased to £4,821,724 (2022: £4,757,753) as a result of the updated net present value of future deficit contributions and accounting for deficit payments made in the year. The increase in deficit position is additionally due to the extension of the recovery plan period to 2037 from 2035. The deficit arises from the company's future obligations towards the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme (SUSS), which was closed to future accrual in 2011. The trustees and directors are satisfied that it has the funds to meet the obligations to the fund as they fall due over the life of the scheduled deficit recovery plan up to 2037.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees annual review the Union's reserves position and set targets for reserve levels in accordance with future needs, should funding not be available from the principal funding sources. The Union's reserves policy states that the Union will budget to achieve surpluses annually from its consolidated activities to build unrestricted free reserves of £1.6m. Free reserves are defined as 'unrestricted funds not represented by fixed assets'.

At 31 July 2023 the parent charity's free reserves amounted to £2,612,916 (2022: £2,403,768) and for the group a consolidated position of £1,746,589 (2022: £1,534,034).

GOING CONCERN

After making appropriate enquiries, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Union has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis of preparing the financial statements.



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total Funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	3	3,327,789	53,095	3,380,884	4,460,391
Charitable activities	6	3,482,313	-	3,482,313	2,619,808
Other trading activities	4	5,515,116	-	5,515,116	5,237,048
Investment income	5	15,187	-	15,187	363
Other income		-	-	-	545
Total		12,340,405	53,095	12,393,500	12,318,155
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds	8	7,808,665	4,095	7,812,760	6,821,814
Charitable activities	9	4,775,936	55,180	4,831,116	4,242,364
Total		12,584,601	59,275	12,643,876	11,064,178
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		(244,196)	(6,180)	(250,376)	1,253,977
Unwinding of discounted pension provision		(390,908)	-	(390,908)	398,444
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(635,104)	(6,180)	(641,284)	1,652,421
Transfer between funds		535,210	(535,210)	-	-
		(99,894)	(541,390)	(641,284)	1,652,421
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		9,277,248	584,998	9,862,246	8,209,825
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		9,177,354	43,608	9,220,962	9,862,246



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET
31 JULY 2023

	Notes	Group		Charity	
		2023 £	2022 £	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	15	12,252,488	12,155,967	14,277	29,351
Investments	16	73,563	73,563	2,000	2,000
		<u>12,326,051</u>	<u>12,229,530</u>	<u>16,277</u>	<u>31,351</u>
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	17	136,326	108,518	-	-
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	18	1,035,164	966,428	1,534,727	963,209
Cash at bank		<u>2,591,521</u>	<u>3,480,876</u>	<u>2,122,396</u>	<u>3,094,600</u>
		3,763,011	4,555,822	3,657,123	4,057,809
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	19	(2,046,376)	(2,023,686)	(1,002,598)	(697,040)
		<u>1,716,635</u>	<u>2,532,136</u>	<u>2,654,525</u>	<u>3,360,769</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>14,042,686</u>	<u>14,761,666</u>	<u>2,670,802</u>	<u>3,392,120</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES					
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	20	-	(141,667)	-	-
PENSION LIABILITY					
	23	(4,821,724)	(4,757,753)	-	-
NET ASSETS					
		<u>9,220,962</u>	<u>9,862,246</u>	<u>2,670,802</u>	<u>3,392,120</u>
FUNDS					
Revaluation reserve	25	9,183,829	9,786,047	-	-
Pension reserve		(4,821,724)	(4,757,753)	-	-
Unrestricted funds – Designated		3,068,660	2,714,920	14,277	374,351
Unrestricted funds - General		1,746,589	1,534,034	2,612,917	2,403,768
Restricted funds		<u>43,608</u>	<u>584,998</u>	<u>43,608</u>	<u>614,001</u>
TOTAL FUNDS					
		<u>9,220,962</u>	<u>9,862,246</u>	<u>2,670,802</u>	<u>3,392,120</u>



ITEM FIVE

Affiliations

NUS Affiliation Fee: £37,500.00

BUCS Affiliation Fee: £22,913.00

- Many of our registered sports clubs and societies affiliate to various sporting and cultural national governing bodies.



ITEM SEVEN

SABBATICAL OFFICER STRUCTURE

The following Sabbatical Officer structure is being proposed to AGM for election in the Spring Elections 2024.

- a. Students' Union President
- b. Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President
- c. Vice President Societies and Volunteering
- d. Vice President Undergraduate students (*Education & Welfare*)
- e. Vice President Postgraduate students (*Education & Welfare*)
- f. Vice President Heath Park Campus (*Education & Welfare*)
- g. Vice President Cymraeg*

In the event that AGM does not approve a change to the Sabbatical Officer structure the Spring Elections 2024 will elect to the pre-existing Sabbatical Officer roles and titles.

**Changes to the Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community role requires an approved change to the Union's bye-laws by Student Senate and the Board of Trustees. The approved title outlined in 'point g' will only be adopted if such approval is received. In the event that Student Senate and/or the Board of Trustees do not approve the necessary changes to the bye-laws the role will remain Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community.*



PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SABBATICAL OFFICER STRUCTURE

AMENDMENT 1: INTRODUCTION OF A VICE PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Proposed by: Nathan Mintz (International Students Officer) and Tom Spare

To replace

d.Vice President Undergraduate Students (*Education and Welfare*)

with

d.Vice President International Students (*Education and Welfare*)

Supporting Text

Currently 1 in 4 students (over 9000) are classified as International Students and are represented by a voluntary International Students' Officer.

Unlike their classmates from the UK, International students are faced with culture shock, high tuition fees, additional visa and healthcare costs, strict immigration rules and work restrictions.

The University is making a loss from home (UK) students to counter this, they have increased international student recruitment. This means more of the student experience is being funded by international tuition fees.

With growing international student numbers, representation is more important than ever, however Student democracy has not shifted to reflect this demographic change.

This role takes on responsibility for the representation of International Students, the creation of events and the building of a wider international student community.

The Students' Union is permitted 7 full-time Sabbatical Officers, full-time paid student representatives. These currently represent a President and Vice Presidents for Sports Clubs, Societies, Undergrads, Postgrads, Heath Park, and Welsh Language Community and Culture.

As trustees and leaders of the Students' Union, full-time officers have the resources and staff support to campaign on key student issues, create policy to improve the student experience, run events and influence decision making in the University.



AMENDMENT 2: ROLE TITLE CHANGES FROM VICE PRESIDENTS TO OFFICERS

Proposed by: Jack Morewood

To replace

- a. Students' Union President
- b. Vice President Sports and Athletic Union President
- c. Vice President Societies and Volunteering
- d. Vice President Undergraduate students (Education & Welfare)
- e. Vice President Postgraduate students (Education & Welfare)
- f. Vice President Heath Park Campus (Education & Welfare)
- g. Vice President Cymraeg*

with

- a. Chair of the Trustees and Students' Union President**
- b. Sabbatical Trustee, Sports Officer and Athletic Union President
- c. Sabbatical Trustee and Societies and Volunteering Officer
- d. Sabbatical Trustee and Undergraduate Students Officer (Education & Welfare)
- e. Sabbatical Trustee and Postgraduate Students Officer (Education & Welfare)
- f. Sabbatical Trustee and Heath Park Campus Officer (Education & Welfare)
- g. Sabbatical Trustee and Cymraeg* Officer

Note: In the event that AGM approves the creation of a Vice President International Students (Education & Welfare) role (amendment 1), role d should be referred to as Sabbatical Trustee and International Students Officer (Education & Welfare).

**Changes to the title of President requires an approved change to the Students' Union's Memorandum and Articles of Association. It will become possible to change the President's title as part of the Students' Union's governance review next year should students wish.

Supporting Text

The objective of these changes will help to provide clarity to the role of Sabbatical Officers. Cardiff University Students' Union is not a presidential executive where there are executive powers vested in any single Sabbatical Officer. Nor does any individual have veto powers. Instead, most their power comes from their membership of the Trustee Board as the highest decision-making body of the union and is shared. The use of presidential terms and exclusion of their sabbatical trustee status in titles misexpresses this.

These changes will provide necessary clarity that these roles are collaborative in nature when



standing for office and that manifestos and policy are ultimately subject to the approval of the Trustee Board. This will also provide students with more visibility to the decision-making structure of the union should they wish to make changes in the future.

These changes do not change the scope of the Sabbatical Officer roles nor their powers, only their titles.



ITEM EIGHT

A) Lapsing motions

The following motions passed at AGM will lapse prior to the next scheduled AGM in 2024. These are presented for information only. All motions were passed at the AGM in April 2021.

- *Commitment to Improving Student Safety*

Please see this section of the website for all policies –
<https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/policy/>



B) Submitted Motions

MOTION ONE

A BETTER & MORE INCLUSIVE UNIVERSITY

Proposed by: Rasheed Shehadeh (ISOC President) and Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies and Volunteering)

AGM Notes

1. The Students' Union has previously adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism in full.
2. Cardiff University has a very diverse community of students who come from a range of ethnic, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.
3. Cardiff University has a number of quiet rooms on both the Cathays and Heath Park campuses. They are currently set up for individual prayer and reflection, meditation, contemplation, or just quiet time.
4. Cardiff Students' Union has a dedicated multi-faith prayer room, at the Cathays campus, which includes private ablution facilities
5. There are various cultural, international, and religious societies in the Students' Union, representing different faiths and cultures, which students can join.
6. The University's and the Students' Union's current communications around religious and cultural holidays outside of those celebrated in Christianity is not sufficient. Additionally, these occasions are not taken into account in the general planning and scheduling of activities such as lectures, exams, Freshers' Week, and so on.

AGM Believes

1. It is the responsibility of Cardiff Students' Union to represent the views of Muslim and Jewish students proactively and accurately, and ensure the environment in which they learn, study, research and live in, is safe and free from discrimination and discomfort.
2. The University's current communications around religious holidays is not sufficient. The university should educate in addition to celebrating.
3. Cardiff University Students believe that not enough work is currently being done to provide for students of different cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

AGM Resolves

1. Cardiff Students' Union should adopt the Muslim Engagement and Development (MEND)



- working definition of Islamophobia¹ to better protect and support the Cardiff University community.
2. Cardiff Students' Union should lobby Cardiff University to ensure that all University buildings have dedicated multifaith prayer rooms with private ablution facilities included. With particular attention needed at the Heath Park Campus.
 3. Cardiff Students' Union should work to introduce Halal and Kosher food options in the Students' Union. In addition to lobbying Cardiff University to introduce Halal and Kosher options across the food outlets around campus. With particular attention needed at the Heath Park Campus.
 4. Cardiff Students' Union should run awareness campaigns regarding different religious events/celebrations and observations e.g., Ramadan, and Hannukah. With the intention of educating students on the matters.
 5. Cardiff Students' Union should lobby Cardiff University to make educational resources more readily available during religious periods on the student intranet.
 6. Cardiff Students' Union should work to introduce committee training for sports clubs and societies on faith, religious observations, and discrimination.
 7. Cardiff Students' Union will commit to conduct consultations with its members from marginalised religious backgrounds to improve the experience of these students. Particularly important areas for consideration in these consultations may include: the centrality of alcohol in student events and in the communication of student life, access to support for discrimination, etc....

Appendix 1

MEND's Working Definition of Islamophobia:

Islamophobia (in line with anti-Semitism, racism, homophobia, sexism and other forms of hatred and discrimination) is a tool used to gain and maintain power. It is inextricably linked with socio-economic factors, and frequently reflects the underlying inequalities within society. Islamophobia is a prejudice, aversion, hostility, or hatred towards Muslims and encompasses any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference against Muslims that has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

As such, Islamophobia is demonstrated in, and articulated through, speech, writing, behaviours, structures, policies, legislation or activities that work to control, regulate or exclude Muslim participation within social, civic, economic and political life, or which embody hatred, vilification,

¹ <https://www.mend.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/MEND-Approaching-a-definition-of-Islamophobia-More-than-words-Executive-Summary.pdf>



stereotyping, abuse or violence directed at Muslims. Taking into account the overall context, examples of Islamophobia in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere may include (but are in no way limited to):

Causing, calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Muslims or those perceived to be Muslim due to their religious identity.

- Causing, calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of individuals due to their perceived or actual connection to or support of Muslims.
- Charging Muslims with conspiring to harm humanity and/or the Western way of life or blaming Muslims for the economic and social ills of society.
- Making mendacious, dehumanising, vilifying, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Muslims.
- Objectifying and generalising Muslims as different, exotic or underdeveloped, or implying that they are outside of, distinct from, or incompatible with British society and identity.
- Espousing the belief that Muslims are inferior to other social or religious groups.
- Accusing Muslims as a collective of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Muslim person, group or nation, or even for acts committed by non-Muslims.
- Applying double standards by requiring of Muslims a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other social, religious or ethnic group.
- Applying ethnocentric approaches to the treatment of Muslims (judging another culture solely by the values and standards of one's own culture). For example, evaluating Muslim women's choice of dress exclusively through the speaker's expectations and without reference to the personal cultural norms and values of the women in question.
- Acts of aggression within which the targets, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Muslim(s) or linked to Muslims.

While criticism of Islam within legitimate realms of debate and free speech is not in itself Islamophobic, it may become Islamophobic if the arguments presented are used to justify or encourage vilification, stereotyping, dehumanisation, demonisation or exclusion of Muslims. For example, by using criticism of religion to argue that Muslims are collectively evil or violent.



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MOTION 1

AMENDMENT 1

Proposed by: Penny Dinh

Replace

Believes 1. It is the responsibility of Cardiff Students' Union to represent the views of Muslim and Jewish students proactively and accurately, and ensure the environment in which they learn, study, research and live in, is safe and free from discrimination and discomfort.

Believes 2. The University's current communications around religious holidays is not sufficient. The university should educate in addition to celebrating.

Believes 3. Cardiff University Students believe that not enough work is currently being done to provide for students of different cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds

AND

Resolves 4. Cardiff Students' Union should run awareness campaigns regarding different religious events/celebrations and observations e.g., Ramadan, and Hannukah. With the intention of educating students on the matters.

With

Believes 1. It is the responsibility of Cardiff Students' Union to represent the views of students from marginalised and minoritised religious backgrounds proactively and accurately, and ensure the environment in which they learn, study, research and live in, is safe and free from discrimination.

Believes 2. The university should be educating its students on religious and cultural diversity around the world in addition to facilitating the celebration of religious and cultural holidays observed within its community.

Believes 3. There is a lot more that must be done to provide for students of different cultural, linguistic, and religious backgrounds.

AND

Resolves 4. Cardiff Students' Union should run awareness campaigns regarding different religious and cultural events/celebrations and observations e.g., Ramadan, and Hannukah, with the intention of educating students on the matters.



MOTION TWO

TIME TO ACT: TACKLING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Proposed by: Rebecca Rumsey, Bethia Tucker and Ishani Patwal

AGM Notes

1. There is now a local legal precedent that universities have a duty of care towards students regarding sexual misconduct. [1]
2. Feder and McCamish v The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) establishes that public authorities can be prosecuted if they negligently fail to prevent further harm. [2]
3. Cardiff University has failed year on year to provide just outcomes to sexual harassment cases, including failing to punish perpetrators. This is evident through Freedom of Information requests by Voice.Wales that showed in 2019-20 alone there were 218 reports of harassment, with only 9 of these reports leading to any kind of conclusion, and none leading to permanent expulsions. [3]
4. Cardiff University does not have an established definition of sexual assault, sexual Harassment or sexual violence, and the only definition that can be found is one for sexual misconduct in Cardiff University's dignity at work and study policy. [4]
5. Cardiff University is limiting students' academic success by not having a robust and clear approach to how they tackle sexual harassment. Research suggests that 25% of victims within UK Universities have missed lectures, tutorials or even dropped out of their modules due to their perpetrator being present in these settings.[5]
6. Underreporting of abuse and domestic violence is common and it is important that the University breaks down barriers to reporting, and that students feel safe and able to report all incidents of abuse, harassment and violence [6]. Within Cardiff University we see many students not reporting cases of this. An investigation by Cardiff Tab in 2021 found that 63% of respondents had experienced sexual assault. Of the 63%, only 9% of victims reported their assault, and of those who reported 70.5% were not happy with the outcome of their investigations.
7. Cardiff University has also failed to protect students from falling victim to the power imbalance seen within student-staff relationships [7]. This is evident in alleged grooming, for which an individual was later arrested for. [8]
8. According to 4.1 of the Disclosure Response Team (DRT) Briefing Note, the DRT has been working on increasing awareness of their team and the services they provide. This does not go far enough in encouraging disclosures.
9. The Students' Union has also failed to keep an updated page on sexual misconduct policy. The policy on zero tolerance of sexual harassment which has not been updated since 2015, nearly ten years ago. [9]



- 1) <https://wonkhe.com/wp-content/wonkhe-uploads/2023/10/5-10-23-Feder-and-McCamish-v-RWCMD-FINAL.pdf>
- 2) <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/judge-rules-universities-have-a-duty-of-care-to-students/> Blake, Dickinson Oct 2023
- 3) <https://www.voice.wales/cardiff-uni-hundreds-of-sexual-misconduct-accusations-in-just-three-years-2/#:~:text=The%202019%2D20%20academic%20year,students%20filing%20accusations%20of%20rape> 4
- 4) https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/966669/Dignity-at-Work-and-Study-Policy-2019.pdf
- 5) <https://www.empoweredcampus.co.uk/universities-1>
- 6) <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/domestic-abuse-act-statutory-guidance/domestic-abuse-draft-statutory-guidance-framework#chapter-4--agency-response-to-domestic-abuse>
- 7) <https://cardiffstudentmedia.co.uk/gairrhydd/will-cardiff-university-ban-staff-student-relationships/#comments>
- 8) <https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/lecturer-no-longer-employed-university-26747835> 9. <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/canttouchthis/our-policy/>

AGM Believes

1. That the University and the Students Union have a legal duty of care to students to protect them from any form of Sexual Misconduct, as established by the Feder and McCamish case.
2. Every organisation relating to student life e.g. Accommodation, Societies, The Athletic Union, Academic Schools, should have a clear pathway for these investigations, as well as protection for victims in the process.
3. Having a robust definition of sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape, and sexual misconduct is essential to addressing sexual violence on campus.
4. University investigations should increase the number of just outcomes, with punishments proportional to the offence. These investigations should be a viable alternative to a criminal investigation, given how invasive police and judicial involvement can be for the victim.
5. The University should still be able to expel as a breach of behaviour policy, even if not found guilty by a court of law. If a complaint is upheld, the perpetrator should face an appropriate punishment.
6. The University should act as a buffer between criminal investigations and the victims so as to ensure survivors are properly safeguarded throughout the investigative process, as well as a potential prosecution. An increase in just outcomes will encourage others to report sexual misconduct, and provide a deterrent.
7. Relationships between a university staff member and a student pose a high risk of abuse of power.
8. Survivors of sexual violence deserve the most compassionate, robust, and fit for purpose



policies and processes. This necessitates regular reviews of policies and structures such as the DRT.

9. The Welsh government's 'Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence strategy 2022-2026,' (VAWDASV) has set out a clear plan to tackle violence against women, and Cardiff University should adhere to this policy advice.

AGM Resolves

1. The Students' Union must support initiatives to prevent sexual violence from happening on campus by working with organisations such as Empowered Campus to change the culture that has perpetuated gender based violence across campus.
2. The Students' Union must also hold thorough and inclusive consultations with students about what they would like to see from the student union to promote a safe campus for all. These consultations must be accessible and inclusive, ensuring that marginalised students could engage with them and have their say in this matter. They should also commit to organising and promoting educational workshops on topics such as consent, understanding types of abuse, and gender-based violence.
3. The Students' Union must commit to collecting and monitoring data on the prevalence of sexual misconduct, following on from the findings of the Tab article as noted above.
4. The Students' Union must commit to lobbying Cardiff University to:
 - a. Adopt a progressive definition of sexual assault through annual student consultation and with reference to the Sexual Offences Act 2003,
 - b. Make updated definitions easily accessible on both the intranet and sims.
 - c. Amend accommodation contracts to remove perpetrators from university halls of residence. This policy should align the interests of the victim with university policy making to ensure a successful adjustment to accommodation contracts. Within this amendment, give victims the option to move residency while going through an investigatory process.
 - d. Adopt and enforce a clear policy which bans University staff initiating or developing close personal or intimate relationships with students where the member of staff holds a position of authority or responsibility over that student. Where both an academic and personal relationship exists, the member of staff must inform the University, so that alternative arrangements can be made to prevent any potential abuse of authority. The Students' Union must also lobby for a safe and effective method for students in/students aware of inappropriate staff/student relationships to disclose/report without fear of repercussion.
 - i. The Students' Union and student groups will work with the University to produce clear guidelines which may frequently be reviewed and made publicly accessible. However, situations where a staff member will have responsibility for a student will include, but not be limited to where:
 1. there is any direct supervisory or teaching relationship (for example



- between postgraduate students and their supervisor, or tutors and their tutees);
2. a member of staff has direct or indirect responsibility for that student's academic studies (for example, assessor of a student's work);
 3. a member of staff has direct or indirect responsibility for that student's personal welfare (for example providing welfare services or acting as a mentor or college advisor);
 4. a member of staff has a mentoring role or ongoing administrative responsibility for a student; or
 5. a member of staff is involved in the admission or selection of applicants or offer- holders." [Based on Oxford University's 2023 Student/Staff Relationship Policy].
- e. Conduct a student-led review into the disclosure response team following on from the ideas set up by Emily Carr, SU's Women's Officer (2022/23)
 - f. Ensure that cases of harassment and discrimination are thoroughly investigated and ensure just outcomes for the victim, including criminal convictions, and permanent expulsions.



MOTION THREE

A CEASEFIRE NOW

Proposed by: Penny Dinh and Bethany Thomas.

Disclaimers

- *This motion is not affiliated with any society due to its nature, the current conflict, and our belief that it would be wrong to affiliate it with any society for any political, religious, or social gain for an individual or society. Individuals speaking for or against this motion may associate their views with a society if it accurately reflects the wider membership of that society. Additionally, this motion was drafted with the assistance of a diverse group of individuals representing various ethnicities, nationalities, religions, political affiliations, and other backgrounds within the University to ensure its fairness and accuracy.*
- *Students have the freedom to shape their own viewpoints regarding the conflict as they may have family members in Palestine and/or Israel and are concerned about potential repercussions stemming from obligatory compliance. The purpose of this proposal is not to exert pressure on students to conform but rather to encourage the University and the Student's Union to release a statement advocating for a ceasefire.*

AGM Notes

1. Currently, neither Cardiff University nor Students' Union has released a statement calling for a ceasefire in Palestine.
2. The ongoing violence between Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territories has claimed the lives of over 10,000 innocent people, nearly half of whom were children.
3. Palestinian people in both Gaza and the West Bank have been living under illegal occupation and inhumane blockades imposed by the Israeli state. The blockade of Gaza is a form of collective punishment and is having a devastating impact on the Palestinian people.
4. Through rigorous and extensive research, Amnesty International published a 280-page report that presented damning evidence of a system of apartheid imposed by Israel on Palestinian people. The report states:

"Israel has established and maintained an institutionalised regime of oppression and domination of the Palestinian population for the benefit of Jewish Israelis – a system of apartheid – wherever it has exercised control over Palestinians' lives since 1948. Amnesty International concludes that the State of Israel considers and treats Palestinians as an inferior non-Jewish racial group. The segregation is conducted in a systematic and highly institutionalised manner through laws, policies and practices, all of which are intended to prevent Palestinians from claiming and enjoying equal rights to Jewish Israelis within the territory of Israel and within



the [Occupied Palestinian Territories], and thus are intended to oppress and dominate the Palestinian people.” (p.33) [1]

5. The United Nations (UN) has gone so far as describing the violence committed on Palestinian people as “ethnic cleansing” [2]. This is backed up by evidence reported by Amnesty International of Israeli attacks wiping out entire families in Gaza [3].
6. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, between January 1, 2008, and November 6, 2023, there have been 6,541 Palestinian and 309 Israeli fatalities, with an additional 155,713 Palestinians and 6,331 Israelis injured as a result of Israel's occupation of Palestine. While this conflict has been ongoing since May 14, 1948, when the State of Israel was established, igniting the first Arab-Israeli War, the provided data represents the most recent statistics following Israel's invasion of the Gaza Strip in 2008. [4]
7. A ceasefire is the only way to bring about peace, and to put a stop to the growing death tolls and bloodshed in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.
8. The people of Gaza have been particularly hard hit by the conflict, with the United Nations estimating that over 60% of the population is now dependent on food aid. [5]
9. Israel's decision to bomb hospitals and refugee camps in Gaza, rather than entering these areas to eliminate Hamas militants, has resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians without clear evidence of Hamas presence in the vicinity [6][7]. This approach is indefensible, as Israel's severing of communication lines to Gaza prevented many residents from receiving evacuation warnings prior to Israeli airstrikes. Additionally, Israel's evacuation orders were deemed inadequate [8].
 - Under international law, those evacuated from conflict zones must be provided with the means to survive. Israel's actions, including cutting off essential supplies such as food, water, and medical aid, constitute a violation of this obligation [8].
10. Hamas' decision to take 200-250 hostages as a negotiation tactic is also a violation of international law [9]. However, due to Israeli airstrikes, some of these hostages have lost their lives [10].
 - Israel's stated intention to rescue the hostages while simultaneously carrying out airstrikes aimed at eliminating Hamas militants raises questions about the coherence of its strategy. If Hamas is holding hostages, why not devise a targeted military operation to secure their release, such as raiding potential Hamas bases, including hospitals and refugee camps? This approach would likely result in fewer civilian casualties compared to widespread airstrikes.
 - Israel's actions in Gaza have caused immense suffering and loss of life among innocent civilians on both sides. The decision to bomb hospitals and refugee camps, coupled with the inadequate evacuation measures and the disruption of essential supplies, raises serious concerns about Israel's compliance with international law and its commitment to protecting civilian lives.



11. The use of disproportionate force by the Israeli military against Palestinian civilians is a violation of international law. Israel's destruction of Palestine vs Hamas's destruction of Israel is widely different. [11] Israel also uses force against its own citizens who support Palestine [12].
12. Further background information can be found in Appendix A:

References:

- [1] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/5141/2022/en/>
- [2] <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls>
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- [4] <https://www.ochaopt.org/data/casualties>
- [5] <https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/gaza-strip#>
- [6] <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2023/11/7/israel-continues-to-attack-hospitals-in-gaza-city-killing-at-least-eight>
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- [8] <https://newsroom.unsw.edu.au/news/general/%E2%80%98gaza-being-strangled%E2%80%99-why-israel%E2%80%99s-evacuation-order-violates-international-law>
- [9] <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/3/what-do-we-know-about-the-israeli-captives-held-by-hamas>
- [10] <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/what-do-we-now-about-hamas-hostages-2023-10-19/>
- [11] <https://x.com/talhaahmad967/status/1721299973570977913?s=20>
- [12] <https://www.newarab.com/news/israeli-police-attack-anti-zionist-jews-amid-gaza-war>

AGM Believes

1. A ceasefire is the essential first step towards a lasting peace in the region.
2. Cardiff University has a moral responsibility to speak out against injustice and oppression.
3. Cardiff University has a duty to do right by its Palestinian and Israeli students who have been affected by ongoing violence in their homeland.
4. By calling for a ceasefire, Cardiff University can send a strong message of support for coming to a peaceful resolution in the region, while also reaffirming its commitment to equality, human rights, and social justice.
5. Just condemning Hamas or just condemning Israel is not enough, both need to be criticised accordingly.
6. Hamas does not represent all Palestinian people or Islam. Supporting Palestine and supporting Hamas are two distinct positions. Similarly, Israel and its military do not represent all Israeli people or Judaism. Anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism are not synonymous.
 - There are innocent people on both sides, everyone deserves to live in peace and safety.
 - The violence against civilians on both sides reflects the beliefs of the parties and



underscores the general lack of respect for civilians.

AGM Resolves

1. Cardiff SU to publicly call for an immediate ceasefire, while also lobbying Cardiff University to make this call.
2. Cardiff SU to call for material support to Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, and Muslim students, as well as any others affected during this time from Cardiff University as well as other stakeholders in Wales.
3. Cardiff SU to organise, support, and curate educational events and resources to bring more awareness to the conflict among the students. Important topics to consider are:
 - That Israel does not represent Judaism, and that it is anti-Semitic to presume that any Jewish individual owes allegiance to Israel, rather than it being anti-Semitic to not support Israel.
 - The difference between Israel, Judaism and Zionism, and the difference between Hamas, Palestine and Islam.
 - Not every Muslim and Arab individual supports Hamas; they stand in solidarity with the Palestinians. Supporting Palestine does not necessarily imply supporting Hamas; it means advocating for an end to the Israeli occupation of Palestine.
 - Rise in racist, Islamophobic, and anti-Semitic hate crimes due to people conflating pro-Palestine with pro-Hamas.
 - How to spot lies and propaganda from the state of Israel and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), e.g., biblical justification of the occupation of Palestine, extent of the damage to Israel, location of Hamas bases, etc.



Appendix A

Further background on Israeli Occupation of Palestine since 1948

This appendix outlines important historical events that lead to ongoing violence between Israel and occupied Palestinian territories. Since 1948, Israel has occupied approximately 80% of the land that was originally designated for the Palestinian state².

An important event that marked the start of this ongoing occupation was 14th May 1948, where Zionist military forces declared the establishment of the State of Israel on what was previously the British Palestine Mandate. This event is known as the Nakba, which translates to “catastrophe”. During the Nakba, Zionist military forces expelled at least 750,000 Palestinians from their homes and lands and captured 78 percent of historic Palestine.³

Violence continued in 1967, when Israel seized the remaining Palestinian territories, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, in what was known as the Naksa (meaning setback or defeat)⁴. The rapid expansion of Israel on historic Palestine has continued ever since⁵.

The occupation has had a devastating impact on Palestinian people⁶. It has restricted their freedom of movement, access to resources, and economic development⁷. It has also led to widespread human rights abuses, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and arbitrary detention.

The international community has repeatedly condemned the Israeli occupation and called for its end⁸. However, Israel has refused to comply with these demands.

More detailed breakdown of the land that Israel has occupied from Palestine since 1967:

- West Bank: Israel has occupied over 60% of the West Bank, including all of the major cities and towns⁹. The West Bank is - home to over 2.5 million Palestinians.
- East Jerusalem: Israel has annexed East Jerusalem, which was previously part of the West Bank¹⁰. East Jerusalem is home to over 300,000 Palestinians.
- Gaza Strip: Israel has occupied the Gaza Strip since 1967, and has imposed a blockade on the territory since 2007. The Gaza Strip is home to over 2 million Palestinians¹¹.
- A large number of Palestinians in these areas are Palestinian refugees.

² <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/6/4/the-naksa-how-israel-occupied-the-whole-of-palestine-in-1967>

³ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/5/15/nakba-mapping-palestinian-villages-destroyed-by-israel-in-1948>

⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2018/6/4/the-naksa-how-israel-occupied-the-whole-of-palestine-in-1967>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/unispal/history/>

⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2017/06/israel-occupation-50-years-of-dispossession/>

⁷ https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/gdsapp2022d1_en.pdf

⁸ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/10/un-expert-warns-new-instance-mass-ethnic-cleansing-palestinians-calls>

⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/18/mapping-israeli-occupation-gaza-palestine>

¹⁰ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/07/israelopt-10-things-you-need-to-know-about-annexation/>

¹¹ <https://www.npr.org/2023/10/10/1204873146/what-is-gaza-strip>



ISRAEL/PALESTINE

What is the Nakba?

Every year, on

May 15 Palestinians around the world mark the Nakba, or **catastrophe**, referring to the ethnic cleansing of Palestine in 1948.

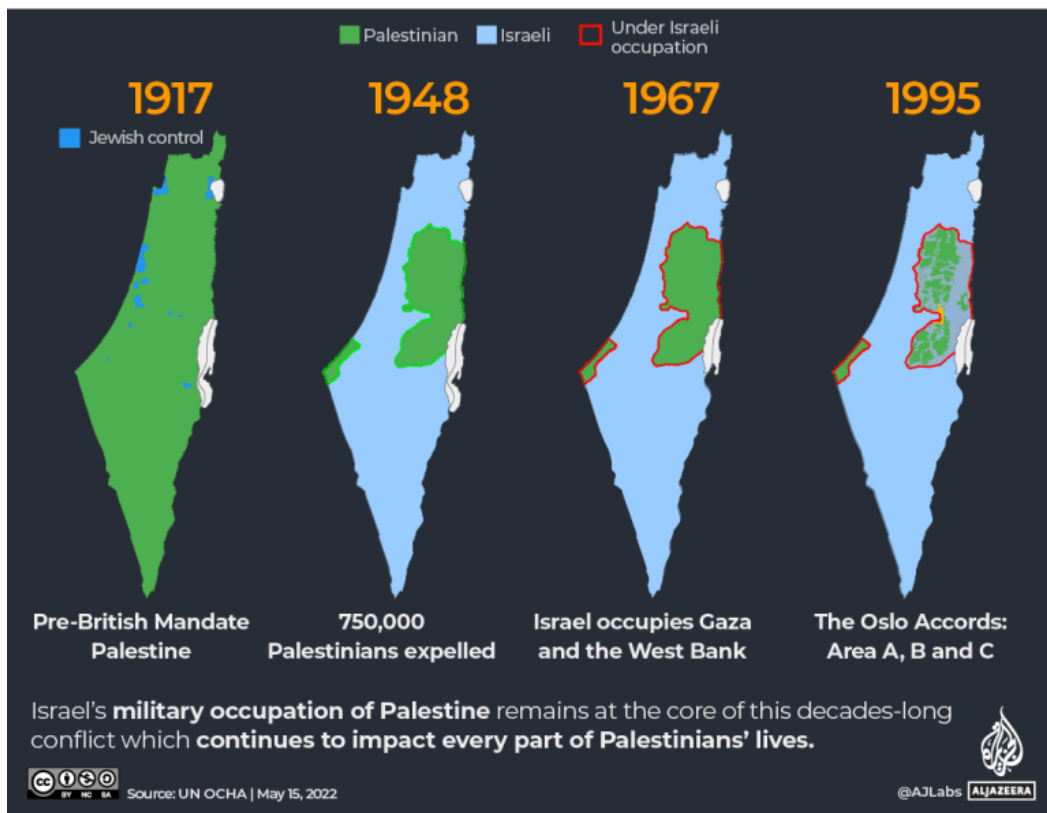


Figure 1: Timeline of the occupation of Palestine. Source: AlJazeera.

The Israeli occupation of Palestinian land is a major obstacle to peace in the region¹². The international community must continue to pressure Israel to end the occupation and restore Palestine's rights¹³.

This Appendix was curated by Penny Dinh and Bethany Thomas.

¹² <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15368.doc.htm>

¹³ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15451.doc.htm>



MOTION FOUR

THE CLIMATE CRISIS: AN EVIDENCE-BASED, SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEM FOR CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Proposed by: Olivia Herries

AGM Notes

1. We are in a climate and ecological emergency and Cardiff University's public principles state a clear commitment to addressing this: - "Cardiff University is committed to leadership in sustainability and improving our environmental performance [which includes] our aim to become carbon net zero by 2030." (1) - Cardiff University declared a climate crisis in November 2019. (2) - [Cardiff University] Catering will actively seek to support research projects, University and student initiatives to deepen understanding, collaboration, and action on sustainable food and reduce carbon emissions. Support staff and student-led activities which enhance a positive University food culture. Support research and teaching on sustainable food systems and use research to improve catering practices. (3) - [Cardiff University Catering] Monitoring Targets: To reduce carbon emissions from food year on year An increasing proportion of plant-based meals year on year. (3)
2. The current Vice Chancellor, Professor Wendy Lamer, when asked if the Plant-Based Universities campaign was something she could support, said: "Absolutely something we should get on the table. Climate change is real. We need to grapple with that in ways that will have implications right the way through the University, not just what we eat but what we do and where we do it." (4)
3. Greenhouse gas emissions from the livestock sector are estimated to account for 14.5% of the global total, more than direct emissions from the transport sector. (5)
4. Limiting global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial temperatures will require drastic carbon dioxide removal (CDR) from the atmosphere. The most readily deployable CDR option at scale in the UK is the restoration of its native forests. (6)
5. Research suggests that if everyone shifted to a plant-based diet we would reduce global land use for agriculture by 75%. (7)
6. Animal products are grossly inefficient as they account for only 18% of global calories, yet use 83% of global farmland. (8)
7. According to Oxford scientists behind the most comprehensive environmental analysis on farming, avoiding meat and dairy is the 'single biggest way to reduce our impact on planet Earth'. (9)
8. Plant-based food is accessible to students and inclusive of all diets, as it is almost always halal, kosher, lactose free and vegetarian. Students would have an abundance of options when eating on campus.



9. Plant-based diets are healthy and nutritionally adequate for individuals during all stages of life. Plant-based diets, and plant-based foods generally, may also provide health benefits in the prevention and treatment of certain diseases (10). Conversely, there is sufficient evidence indicating that certain animal-based products, such as red meats, cause diseases such as cancer. (11)
10. Students are struggling with rising food prices due to the cost of living crisis. According to a research study by the Oxford Martin School, in high-income countries, vegan diets were the most affordable and reduced food costs by up to one third. (12) - Cardiff Students' Union has previously delivered the 'Feed Your Flat' campaign, where free, plant-based cooking essentials, including pasta, lentils, rice and tinned tomatoes were given out to students. (13) - Cardiff Students' Union should, therefore, already be aware of the economic benefits of plant-based food and catering.
11. Plant-Based Universities is a student-led campaign with over 80 active groups across UK and international higher education institutes. To date, campaigners at Plant-Based Universities have achieved seven successful landmark votes for a fully plant-based transition, including at the universities of Cambridge, Stirling and Birmingham. (14)
12. In September 2023, over 900 academics - including 13 from Cardiff University - signed an open letter calling on British universities to commit to 100% plant-based catering to fight the climate crisis. (15)

References:

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2. <https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/news/view/1730638-cardiff-university-declares-climate-emergency>
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13. <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/campaigns/costofliving/feedyourflat/#:~:text=Helping%20you%20cook%20with%20less,lentils%2C%20rice%20and%20tinned%20tomatoes>.
14. <https://www.instagram.com/plantbasedunis/>
15. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/sep/04/hundreds-academics-call-for-meat-free-meals-british-universities>

AGM Believes

1. The Students' Union has a responsibility to implement evidence-based environmental food policies that are in proportion to the severity of the climate and nature crises.
2. The Students' Union represents an institution that is powerful and has the unique capacity to enact significant change. To clarify, this motion does not extend to the individual dietary choices of students and staff.
3. The Students' Union has a responsibility to engage with the University's 'Sustainable Food Policy'.
4. The Students' Union should strive to provide food options that maximise inclusivity for people of different beliefs, religions and socio-economic backgrounds.
5. The Students' Union should strive to provide food options that are affordable and good value for money, thus supporting students to manage their finances effectively during the current cost-of-living crisis.

AGM Resolves

1. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets 50% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.
2. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets 100% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.
3. For the Students' Union to work towards ending the surcharge on plant-based milk, and switch to default plant-based milk within Students' Union owned food outlets by the start of academic year 2024/2025.
4. For the Students' Union to work towards making all plant-based options offered at Students' Union owned food outlets (including meal deals) price matched to equivalent non plant-based options by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.
5. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer 50% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.
6. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer 100% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.
7. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all external businesses located within the Students' Union are replaced by plant-based food outlets when their licence expires or for the external businesses to adhere to the transition in line with resolutions 1-



- 4.
8. For the Students' Union to publicly endorse the Plant-Based Universities campaign.
9. To mandate a Sabbatical Officer to start and oversee the transition outlined by resolutions 1-7 with advice and consent from the Plant-Based Universities Cardiff team and support from the Ethical and Environmental Officer.
10. For the Students' Union to lobby the University to implement a second stage of the campaign: transitioning non-Students' Union University catering to 100% plant based.

***NOTE:**

- *The plant-based menus should be produced in consultation with dietary professionals to ensure nutritional adequacy.*
- *Changes to menus should take into account individuals who may have specific food-related or dietary needs to ensure a just, inclusive and compassionate menu.*
- *As the menu is being developed, new plant-based options must be priced affordably.*



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO MOTION 4

AMENDMENT 1

Proposed by: Long Mui

To replace

Resolves 1. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets 50% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.

Resolves 2. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets 100% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.

Resolves 5. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer 50% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.

Resolves 6. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer 100% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.

With

Resolves 1. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets at least 25% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.

Resolves 2. For the Students' Union to work towards making all Students' Union owned food outlets at least 50% plant-based* by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.

Resolves 5. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer at least 25% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2024/2025.

Resolves 6. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all Students' Union events offer at least 50% plant-based* catering by the start of the academic year 2026/2027.

And Remove

Resolves 7. For the Students' Union to work towards ensuring that all external businesses located within the Students' Union are replaced by plant-based food outlets when their licence expires or for the external businesses to adhere to the transition in line with resolutions 1-4.

Resolves 9. To mandate a Sabbatical Officer to start and oversee the transition outlined by resolutions 1-7 with advice and consent from the Plant-Based Universities Cardiff team and support from the Ethical and Environmental Officer.

Resolves 10. For the Students' Union to lobby the University to implement a second stage of the campaign: transitioning non-Students' Union University catering to 100% plant based.



AMENDMENT 2

Proposed by: Jack Morewood

To replace all existing resolves with

1. For the Students' Union to adopt an approach that is based on informed choice, the promotion of sustainable options and the inclusivity of different dietary needs and cultures.
2. The Students' Union shall work towards making changes to its food and drink offering for an experiment period lasting one academic year. These changes shall include the actions set out in Resolves 3 to 6.
3. All Students' Union owned food and drink outlets shall be at least 50% plant-based* during the experiment period.
4. All Students' Union events will offer 50% plant-based* catering during the experiment period.
5. The Students' Union shall work towards making all plant-based options offered at Students' Union owned food outlets (including meal deals) price matched to equivalent non plant-based options during the experiment period.
6. The Students' Union shall update its marketing of food and drink to provide more visibility to plant-based* choices. Marketing materials such as menus shall be revised to include a range of social, environmental and ecological sustainability indicators that enable students to make more informed choices.
7. For the avoidance of doubt, the experiment period should take place during the academic year 2024/2025.
8. At the end of the experiment period, the Students' Union shall report on the impact these changes have had, including data about the demand for plant-based food, student satisfaction and any lessons learnt from the experiment. Findings shall be used to revise the proportion of plant-based catering offered during future academic years and make further changes to marketing strategies if necessary. The findings will also be used as evidence to lobby the university and external businesses located within the Students' Union to increase plant-based* offerings.
9. To set up a Task and Finish group as soon as possible, chaired by a Sabbatical Officer. This Task and Finish group shall oversee implementation of the Resolves. The Task and Finish group shall take advice from the Plant-Based Universities Cardiff team and the Ethical and Environmental Officer.

**NOTE:*

- *The plant-based menus should be produced in consultation with dietary professionals to ensure nutritional adequacy.*
- *Changes to menus should take into account individuals who may have specific food-related or dietary needs to ensure a just, inclusive and compassionate menu.*
- *As the menu is being developed, new plant-based options must be priced affordably.*



MOTION FIVE

ADVOCATION FOR THE ABOLITION OF TUITION FEES

Proposed by: Cadewyn Skelley

AGM Notes

1. Tuition Fees were originally abolished in 1976, later reinstated by a Tony Blair Government, and rose to their current levels under a Conservative and Liberal Democrats 2010 coalition Government;
2. Tuition Fees for Welsh undergraduate students in Wales can be up to £9000 per year;
3. Tuition Fees for international students with overseas status can exceed £20,000+ per semester, with the possibility to increase in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or Welsh Government policy;
4. There are three repayment plans for English students Plan 1, 2, and 5;
5. There are two repayment plans for Welsh students, Plan 1 and 2 (Same set up as Plan 1 and 2 for English students);
 - i. Former students who started before 1st Sept. 2012 = Plan 1;
 - ii. Current and former students who started during Sept. 2012 and 31st July 2023 = Plan 2; c. Future English students who start on or after 1st Aug. 2023 = Plan 5;

AGM Believes

1. Tuition fees are a regressive system which negatively impacts the accessibility of higher education, while simultaneously punishing those who seek to improve their standard of living (students);
2. It is a predatory practice with regards to international students;
3. Plan 5 is a deeply regressive system for English students, requiring them to pay back for a longer period with a lower repayment threshold, which primarily affects middle and lower-income families;
4. While the Student's Union doesn't have the capabilities to alter the current system, it has the capabilities to voice and promote activist action that challenge the current system;

AGM Resolves

1. To support tuition fee abolition and forgiveness of student debt for all, international and national students;
2. To support and promote activist action on the subject of tuition fee abolition and forgiveness of student debt, while strongly encouraging Cardiff University societies to do the same.



ITEM NINE

On Monday 11th December 2023 the Students' Union will open nominations for the Spring Elections. All sabbatical officer and campaign officer roles for 2024/2025 will be open for nomination in these elections. If you'd like more information keep an eye on the Students' Union website (www.cardiffstudents.com) for the Notice of Election.

END OF PAPERS

