

## Postgraduate Executive Committee

**Meeting One:** 11 November 2025

**Location:** 3B, Students' Union

**Attendees:** Becky Spooner, Cass Swan, Miles Rothoerl, Nodie Caple-Faye, Peace Akinlaja, Vignesh Senthil Kumar Sugee, and Sean Strong

### **Minutes**

VP Postgrad Update:

- Reminder of Manifesto
  - o Protect Postgraduate Experience during University Transformation
  - o Improve Accessibility, Visibility, and Offering of Wellbeing Services for Postgraduate Students
  - o Protect PGR Teaching and Demonstrating Opportunities
  - o Improve Postgraduate Involvement in Sports and Societies
  - o Develop a Strong and Cross-University Postgraduate Community
- University Policy Direction
  - o **Postgraduate Wellbeing:** Looking at implementing PGR: Long-Term Strategies.
  - o **Postgraduate Study Space:** Secured SU space for January exam period; in discussions with libraries about the attainment of a 'postgraduate study zone' within the ASSL.
  - o **The Graduate School:** Developing this project alongside relevant colleagues. This will include the consolidation of PGR processes and services into one location, alongside a new physical home too on the Cathays campus.
  - o **PGR Supervisory Teams:** Working with affected PGRs on managing the issue of supervisory changes during Academic Transformation.
  - o **PGR Teaching and Demonstrating Opportunities and PGR Office Space:** Defending and advocating for the retainment of both for Cardiff PGRs. A preemptive campaign will be launched in February to ensure that PGR teaching and demonstrating opportunities are protected.
- SU Policy Direction
  - o **Postgraduate Community:** Looking at building a stronger postgraduate community through social events, academic events, academic events, and ensuring that physical space is provided to postgraduates within the SU.
  - o **Postgraduate Involvement in Sport and Societies:** Working on a proposal for a 'Postgraduate Summer Sports League' to be created for summer 2026.
  - o **Postgraduate Inclusion within the Success Measures:** At the moment, only NSS



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scores are recorded within the SU success measures for student experience and I'm pushing towards data from CUPTS and PRES to be included within the Students' Union success measures to ensure that all levels of students are represented.

- **Postgraduate Wellbeing:** Throughout December and January, I will be hosting several events linked to wellbeing. The aim is to promote University and SU services whilst also hosting engaging activities for postgraduates to strengthen their community. This includes facilitating PG exclusive study rooms within the SU during the January exam period.
- Upcoming Campaigns
  - Winter Wellbeing (December – January)
  - Celebrating PGR Teaching and Demonstrating (February)
  - Transitioning Beyond Bachelors (April)
  - Postgraduate Summer Sports League (June-August)

#### Members Priorities:

- **Becky:** (1) Increase postgraduate community (2) More postgraduate events revolving around casual sports and nature (3) Better opportunities for understanding transitioning into postgrad and beyond.
- **Cass:** (1) Ensure postgraduate voices are heard at every level of decision-making on issues such as study space (2) Improve visibility and accessibility of wellbeing and mental health events (3) Better communication of PGR resources (newsletters).
- **Miles:** (1) Increase postgraduate involvement in sport and societies, including lower commitment opportunities (2) Ensure that Wednesday afternoon is also free for postgraduate students to explore extracurricular activities.
- **Nodie:** (1) More work on transitions, especially from other institutions (2) Better support for disabled postgraduate students.
- **Peace:** (1) Improve postgraduate community (2) More opportunities for postgraduate placements, including dedicated support.
- **Vignesh:** (1) Improve inequalities of supervisor meeting allocation (2) Better alignment of academic modules with study skills, alongside acknowledgement of what skills are needed before enrolling. (3) Student-Staff meetings to be held outside of working hours (Heath)

#### Professional Development:

- **Event Planning and Hosting:** Becky, Cass, Miles, Peace, Vignesh
- **Research Data and Survey:** Cass, Nodie
- **Communication and Confidence:** Becky, Peace, Vignesh
- **Transferable Skills (Teamwork and Time Management):** Becky, Miles, Nodie, Vignesh

#### Accountability Panel (4<sup>th</sup> December):

- Becky and Miles were nominated to be postgraduate reps for the first accountability panel.

**Next Meeting:** 25 November, 6-7pm (3A)



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