

Student Senate

Members of Student Senate are notified that the next meeting will be held:

Tuesday 10 December 2019

Room 4J, 4th Floor Students' Union 6pm

Agenda

Please contact the Student Voice Team on 02920 781434 or email democracy@cardiff.ac.uk to discuss any additions or amendments you may have or to request further information on any of the below agenda items.

Section I Standard Items:

- A. Apologies
- B. Minutes from previous meeting

Section II Submitted Items:

- A. Create Lennon Walls in SU
- B. Make new student ID cards free or cheaper

Section III Any Other Business:

- 1. Lapsed motions

The next meeting will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 28 January in
4J, Cardiff University Students' Union, Park Place

SECTION I

C. Minutes from previous meeting

Student Senate Minutes

Thursday 19 November 19

Standard Items

A. Apologies

Received

B. Welcome from the chair

Confirming no-one wishes to speak Welsh – confirmed no attendees wished to speak in Welsh.

C. Minutes from last time

Amendment Page 7 – JP added in 16/17 to 17/18

Minutes approved with amendments

Section II Students' Union Items

A. Election of Vice Chair

There were three candidates for Vice Chair of Student Senate: Liam Powell, Christopher Dunne, and RON (Re-Open Nominations).

Christopher Dunne was elected.

B. Students' Union Budget

JM provided an update on the students' union budget (Engagement & Participation).

Question from CD surrounding whether sabbatical officer wages were included within this budget as well as why there was an increase in said area.

JM confirmed that all of the funding included sabbatical officer wages.

C. Report from the trustees

Jayne Sadgrove joined the Board of Trustees, the First floor renovation of the students' union building was discussed, a Task & Finish Group on Climate Emergency was created, the

Relationship Agreement between the university and students' union was approved, and the lease for the students' union building was also approved.

D. Bye Laws Amendments

TE introduced the Bye Laws Amendments to remove the provision around voting for submitted ideas and noted that these changes were purely administrative.

Questions were asked around the changes to Scrutiny Committee being all elected based off of amendments submitted last time. TE noted that the Board has chosen to not accept the Bye Laws amendment. Senate then asked for explanation as to why.

ACTION: for SU President to provide an update for next time.

E. Administrative review of the Memorandum & Articles of Association

JY introduced the Administrative Review of the Memorandum & Articles of Association noting that the changes were in line with the required review timescales.

Question from CD around abolishing the committees and Student Senate.

It was noted that the reference to Student Senate within the Memorandum & Articles of Association review were in error.

Questions and clarifications around the removal of certain sub-committees, most notably that of the CEO appraisal group. It was noted that there is no intention to remove said committee. Clarification was given that the committees are not chosen on an annual cycle and instead are based on need.

Section III Submitted Items

A. Change of Campaign Officer position for LGBT+ Officer (Women's Place) to LGBT+ Officer (Trans Place)

JM introduced the motion, providing context of the current roles of LGBT+ Women's and LGBT+ Open and the impetus for change from Mental Health to wider representation. Clarification was given around why there was not a suggestion of creating a third LGBT+ post meaning the existing posts would remain. Considerations noted around the numbers of students that run for the posts. JM highlighted that the post would be reserving the place for Trans student representation.

EA (Edel) spoke against the motion and noted that the officer should be represented by one officer rather than two. EA compared this concept to having an additional representation for international students. EA noted that the Trans community could feel more a part of the community of students and suggested that there should be one officer not two.

ZE spoke for the motion and explained that the push behind the motion was to include and represent Trans students and that the two officer positions work. Noting the Transphobic environment and how the post would work

CP spoke against the motion noting that there should be a focus on improving the wellbeing services of the university rather than amending the officer positions.

JW spoke for the motion explaining the change is administrative and that they were aware of non-binary students who did not run due to the title of the post.

General Motion discussion

Questions were asked around how LGBT+ Women would continue to be represented if the position were to not exist. It was confirmed that within the motion itself there is the understanding that there is to be increased collaboration across campaign officers.

A question was asked around asking for additional funding so that there can be the introduction of a new post without removing any existing positions. The response to the question noted that finance as an issue was supplementary.

Another question was asked around the reason for the two LGBT+ roles existing. It was explained that Cis gendered men were those running for the positions, creating the second place reserved to ensure representation. Noting the rationale is the same for this proposal.

Further question around how it will be ensured that LGBT+ Women will be represented by the posts. JM noted that it is the responsibility of Scrutiny Committee to ensure that they are undertaking the role appropriately. ZE also noted that all Campaign Officers run their own associations, the positions are designed to ensure that the sections of the community are represented this is a similar thought-process.

HD asked for confirmation that there are different types of representation within the association and this was provided.

B. Interdisciplinary opportunities for students

CP spoke for the motion and explained that the purpose of the motion is to reduce in silos across academia, particularly Cardiff University. Noting tuition fees and the differences in experiences across disciplines. The proposer further provided context of the concept creating a culture across the university that creates more opportunities for students. CP noted the Grand Challenges project run by the University as an example of how this already in place in some way.

LP raised concern around how lecture rooms are not fit for purpose in terms of space for current students within certain schools.

JG Jennifer raised a similar concern around courses of sizes instead proposing that lecture recordings being made available for all students. JG also noted that currently JOMEK students cannot access resources outside of their own programmes and schools.

RB clarified that they were not speaking against the motion nor the concept of interdisciplinary activity but noted that the current structure is not built for this motion's objectives. CUROP (Cardiff Undergraduate Research Opportunities Programme) was used as an example of how

interdisciplinary research takes place. RB further noted the UCU discussions around workload as well as the link to rhetoric used in Transforming Cardiff change management process.

General Discussion

SK spoke in favour of the motion, noting an issue that has come up in LAWPL whereby a module in Media Law had certain resources that were only available to students in JOMEK. SK noted that the idea of opening more libraries and allowing them the space to talk to tutor leaders would be useful. JG confirmed this from a JOMEK perspective.

EA asked for clarification for being able to access any class at will or whether it is accessing learning central.

CP responded that it would be about regulating the process based on an academic-by-academic basis.

EA noted that this might already be in place. Learning Central access permissions asked on a case-by-case basis.

EA proposed an amendment:

“access we need is access to learning central and modules after the module leaders.”

Noting that the current structures don't allow for this and that in order to make the motion work that the amendment needs to be approved.

Questions to EA on the amendment:

TK drive is to empower students to talk to academics about whether they can.

EA responded that motions to student senate have a structure, the proposed amendment would allow for students to ask permission of the academics to come to the lecture ahead of time.

LP asked whether the proposal of the amendment is to add the ability for lecturers to refuse it.

EA responded that it is the fear of increasing class sizes that would impact lecturers and that the amendment is around creating the option of students asking.

CP spoke against the amendment and noted that the concept of the motion is to not be prescriptive as to what the action from the motion to be. Noting that the motion is about the day-to-day interactions between the academic community and the university senior managers being accountable to the vision of the university.

4 votes in favour of the amendment

16 votes against the amendment

5 votes for abstain

Amendment falls

Question JM to CP – the senate supports the idea of interdisciplinary work rather than more amendments

Procedural motion from JM to move to a vote, JL allowed the procedural motion.

JM spoke in favour of the procedural motion to ask Senate to vote on the motion now and for Senators to engage others through consultation in terms of details of how the motion is enacted.

RB spoke against the procedural motion and that there should still be a debate and further noted the pressures upon academics, particularly with the current UCU strikes.

Procedural motion vote:

15 votes in favour were required for the procedural motion to pass

20 voted in favour of the procedural motion to move to a vote

4 voted against the procedural motion to move to a vote

1 voted to abstain on the procedural motion to move to a vote

Procedural motion to move to a vote passes

JW asked whether this will include focus groups. JP noted that if the motions passes then it would up to the officer team to decide

Section IV Any Other Business

1. Lapsing motions

More Vegan Food in the Taf – JP noted that any student can submit an idea to the next Senate to

2. The Ideas Function

It was noted that Senators are encouraged to submit ideas via the ideas function.

3. Register to vote

Senators were reminded to register to vote.

4. AGM

Senators were reminded that AGM was due to take place Thursday 21st November.

SECTION II

A. Create Lennon Walls in SU

What is the problem?

If you have read the news, Hong Kong is now suffering difficulties-A revolution. I am a Student and a protester from Hong Kong. I have been protesting over the Summer. Our freedom is being taken by our government and the police misused their powers. No matter you are from Hong Kong or not, I hope you can support us.

What is your idea?

I hope the union can give us a space in SU to form "Lennon walls" in order to support the revolution happening in HK. Also, in a country with freedom of speech, I think it is the best way to let students to express their views on this revolution. CARDIFF WE CONNECT! Last but not least, LIBERATE HONG KONG, REVOLUTION OF OUR TIMES! FIVE DEMANDS, NOT ONE LESS!

B. Make new student ID cards free or cheaper

What is the problem?

To update your student ID card if your appearance has changed, or to get a new one if it gets lost or stolen, currently requires a processing fee. This can discourage students from getting a new ID card.

What is your idea?

New ID cards should be made free, as they are so essential, or the cost of a new one should be reduced.

Section III Any Other Business:

1. Lapsed motions (24/01/2017 – 24/01/2020)

Time to Change Pledge

Senate Notes:

1) 'Time to Change' is a campaign led by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness which are mental health charities. The Time to Change pledge is a public statement of aspiration that an organisation wants to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

2) The pledge is not a kite mark or accreditation, and is not an endorsement by Time to Change, but the pledge does involve organisations taking some meaningful action which is set out the student's union action plan in response to the pledge taken back in 2013.

3) A 2016 Time to Change survey of over 7,000 people living with mental health issues found that 64% were feeling isolated, 61% worthless and 60% ashamed of their condition. They explained they felt this way because of the stigma and discrimination they regularly face.

3) A 2013 major NUS survey with 1,093 students discussing mental health on behalf of the all-party parliamentary group (APPG) showed: -78 percent of respondents said they believe they have experienced mental health problems in the last year, (whether diagnosed or undiagnosed). -87 per cent have felt stress; 77 per cent have suffered anxiety; and, 69 percent have felt depressed in the last year.

- 33 per cent have had suicidal thoughts – around double the figure (17%) for the general population. Of respondents who did not identify as heterosexual, 55% reported suicidal thoughts.

5) Other Students' Unions have signed the pledge including Oxford University Students' Union, Warwick University Students' Union and Nottingham University Students' Union.

Senate Believes

1. Mental health is an important issue for students and we should recognise the work achieved by the University and the Students' Union student led services and elected officers so far to support students' mental health and to improve support in the future.

2. 1 in 4 students suffer from mental health issues (statistic published by NUS)

3. The number of clients at the Counselling Service at Cardiff University has doubled from 2006-2013, demonstrating a rise in demand for the services, also taking into account the system change to allow more students to be seen.

4. 65% of clients who had been considering leaving the Cardiff University prior to counselling declared that counselling helped them to stay.

Senate Resolves:

1. That the Students' Union will renew the signing of the 'Time to Change' pledge.
2. To mandate the elected officers to continue working with the university in the various activities helping promote campaign's and works towards the pledge goals.
3. For the student's union to review the action plan formed back in 2013 and adapt the plan to the new support systems and developments today in the union as well as the university in tackling mental health.

Stop Fuelling Hate

This senate notes:

Cardiff University has an advertising budget of £831 000 pounds a year¹. Whilst some of this is spent on activities such as open days, some of this is also spent on advertisements within newspapers, and their online counterparts.

That Cardiff University actively engages with a range of print media, and their online counterparts to publish newsworthy breakthroughs or innovations the University has made. It does this through emailing and telephoning journalists from a range of papers with stories and statements it publishes.

That Cardiff University has refused to say which newspapers it advertises with, however there is evidence attached showing an online advertisement on a daily mail site.

This senate additionally notes that:

- The editorial stances of several newspapers has helped create a climate of increasing victimisation of certain groups, including, BME, LGBT+, refugee status, Muslims, and the disabled⁵. Hate crimes in the UK have been increasing over time⁴
- There is a growing movement, called 'stop funding hate' which seeks to remove the funding which such new platforms rely on to propagate their editorial stances. Recent successes include the co-op's review of its advertising policy, and lego's withdrawal of it's advertising with the daily mail group²
- That Cardiff University has both a duty, and a self-described aim to 'Ensure that we can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in our day-to-day activities'

This senate believes:

That the University Cannot continue to positively contribute to advancing equality and good relations, whilst simultaneously funding and serving the interests of hate through

- paying for advertising space in News outlets which fuel discriminatory hate
- providing newsworthy stories for outlets which fuel discriminatory hate

This senate resolves:

That the officer team be mandated, and act immediately to lobby the University to

- 1) Stop paying for advertisements in the news outlets outlined below and their online counter parts.
- 2) Not engage in press releases with the same print outlets and their online counterparts.
 - The outlets are the following: the daily mail group, the sun group, and the daily express group.

Proposer: Matthew Procter

Seconder: Joshua Green

- 1) www.whatdotheyknow.com/re...
- 2) www.stopfundinghate.org.uk/
- 3) www.gov.uk/government/upl...
- 4) www.disabilitynewsservice...
- 5) www.coe.int/t/dghl/monito... (point 40)

Put liberation and campaigns at centre stage

Senedd notes:

1. Cardiff University Students' Union ("the Union") has 7 paid, Sabbatical Officers and 9 Campaign Officers that undertake their duties on a voluntary basis. During the Cardiff Student Elections this year, a Mental Health Campaign Officer will be elected for the first time ever. All of these officers are elected into their positions by a cross-campus vote of the student body to serve for the preceding academic year.
2. Ensuring equality, liberation and diversity in all aspects of the education sector and every aspect of society has always been a core value of the student movement; that continues to be true to this day.

3. The Union's main governing document , the Memorandum and Articles of Association, states that one of the Union's guiding missions is to achieve the following at all times:

“(i) ensure that the diversity of its Student Membership is recognised and that equal access is available to all Student Members of whatever origin or orientation;

(ii) pursue its aims and objectives independent of any political party or religious group; and

(iii) pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society.”

4. Concerns that Campaign Officers are side-lined have been raised time and time again. However, the Union has ducked the issue. For example, in a meeting between the Campaign Officers of 2015/16 and the SU President and Director of Membership Services on 29 February 2016, concerns of that nature were raised; the Union leadership vowed to tackle the lack of publicity given to Campaign Officers and to provide them with lanyards/identity cards in order for them to access the Union building and for students to identify them. The undertaking was not acted upon. In the first Student Senedd meeting of 2016, a Campaign Officer stated that the arrangements for financing those officers and their liberation campaigns was insufficient; in the 2016 AGM, concerns that liberation officers are side-lined were also expressed.

5. There is no mention of the existence of Campaign Officers on the graphic displayed on the front of the Union building nor on the graphic erected in the new re-development near the Union's rear entrance on Senghennydd Road; on the Union's main website homepage; on pop-ups raised throughout the campus to promote the Union's work nor on the marketing TV screens within the Union building .

6. The positions and responsibilities of Sabbatical Officers are outlined in the Appendices to the Bye-laws , but the same isn't true of Campaign Officers.

7. Campaign Officers are granted the following resources to undertake their roles: Email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts, clothing, and access to a workstation within Student Voice (hot desk), as well as training from Student Voice.

8. Sabbatical Officers are granted the following resources to undertake their roles: Email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts, clothing, business cards, as well as training from Student Voice, a laptop that is provided as their workstation and a mobile phone.

9. Disparities between Campaign Officers and Sabbatical Officers can be identified with regards to elections .

10. Further information obtained by the Union executive for the purposes of forming this motion can be seen in Appendix 2.

Senedd believes:

1. That a more prominent and central place should be given to Campaign Officers and to liberation campaigns within the Union.
2. That all officers - whether they be Sabbatical Officers or Campaign Officers - are full-time, elected officers tasked with representing students, leading the Union and form part of one strong officer team; the Union should thus treat all of its officers as equals and afford them the same platform.
3. That Campaign Officers should be equipped with all the necessary resources to effectively undertake their duties as elected student representatives and they should not be under any personal disadvantage as a result of fulfilling their duties.
4. That standing as a student officer candidate in the Union's elections should be a practical option for every Member, which shouldn't be hindered by concerns such as personal finances.
5. That the work and contribution of Campaign Officers should be celebrated and recognised as such work is undertaken out of a passion and conviction for equality, whilst following full-time degree programmes and without pay.
6. That Campaign Officers in many cases are champions for liberation campaigns, and in that capacity have a key role to play in raising awareness of liberation issues amongst the student body in its entirety.

Senedd resolves:

1. That the pictures and names of Campaign Officers should be displayed alongside the names and pictures of Sabbatical Officers at the front of the Union building and in the re-development, near the Union's rear entrance on Senghennydd Road, as soon as possible at the start of the new semester and as a matter of practise during preceding academic years.
2. That when the Union gives publicity to the Sabbatical Officer team in its entirety (including, amongst other things, when erecting pop-up banners on campus, on TV screens within the Union building and on the Union's website home page), it should give the same publicity to the Campaign Officer team.

3. That the phrase “Elected Officers” shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union’s elected officer team in its entirety – to include both Campaign and Sabbatical Officers; that the phrase “Sabbatical Officers” shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union’s elected Sabbatical Officer team; and that the phrase “Campaign Officers” shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union’s elected Campaign Officer team.
4. That the nature of resources made available to the Campaign Officer team should be equitable to those made available to the Sabbatical Officer team, in order to allow all elected officers of the Union to fulfil their duties effectively. Senedd specifically resolves that lanyards/identity cards should be provided to Campaign Officers as soon as possible during the new semester; and that the Union should plan ahead to ensure that the Campaign Officer team have access to the appropriate equipment to effectively undertake their duties, such as business cards, clothing, IT equipment and mobile phones – without prejudicing the exact method of implementing this desire, and as determined by the executive team, having consulted with those parties deemed appropriate – from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.
5. To place a duty on Sabbatical Officers to consult with Campaign Officers on any matter affecting the latter’s remits and responsibilities, to share any relevant documents with them and to include them in coming to a decision on those matters; to invite the current Sabbatical and Campaign Officers to develop a protocol to ensure that liberation officers shall not be publicly undermined on any matter which relates mainly or solely to a liberation campaign led by them, should a situation arise whereby officers’ views differ.
6. That the Students’ Union does what is in its power to ensure Campaign Officers shall be invited to the Union’s Partnership Board with the University.
7. To invite the executive team to bring forward amendments to the Union’s By-laws to the next meeting of Senedd in order to include and recognise the positions of elected Campaign Officers within the Union’s governing documents, as is the case for Sabbatical Officers.
8. To mandate the SU President to write to the President of NUS Cymru to ask what progress has been made on the motion entitled ‘The 1994 Act is Problematic’ agreed at the 2015 NUS Cymru Conference ; to invite her to bring forward a report sharing the response to the next meeting of Senedd (or at the earliest convenience) and to present proposals regarding a comprehensive recognition package to Campaign Officers, whether that be financial or otherwise, that could be introduced from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.

9. That as the work of forming the Union's budget for the next financial year takes place, to call on the Board of Trustees to include an expenditure line containing protected finance to fund liberation campaigns and the campaigns of Campaign Officers within the budget, in addition to the Student Voice/other budgets for that financial year and preceding financial years.

10. Resolves mentioned above will be continually discussed with the Sabbatical team.