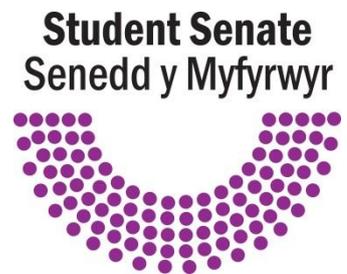


# **Student Senate**

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



**Tuesday 28 February 2017**  
**Heath Campus 6pm**

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## **Agenda**

Please contact the Student Voice Team on 02920 781435 or email [democracy@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto: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.

- I Standard Items:**
  - A. Apologies 6.05pm
  - B. Welcome from the Chair 6.10pm
  - C. Minutes from previous meeting 6.15pm
  
- II Students' Union Items:**
  - A. Bye Laws amendments 6.20pm
  
- III Submitted Items:**
  - A. Student Senate Reforms 6.30pm
  - B. Cardiff's Welsh Speaker's Students' Union 6.45pm
  - C. Gender Neutral Toilets 7pm
  - D. Ablutions 7.15pm
  
- IV Any Other Business:**
  - 1. Lapsed motions 7.30pm

The next meeting will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 28 March at the Cardiff University Students' Union, Park Place

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### I. Standard Items C. Minutes from the previous meeting

## Student Senate – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 6pm – Room 4J

### I. Standard Items:

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies received from Nuoyi Peng, Bethan Perry, Nichola Bagshaw, Osian Morgan and Marcus Connolly.

#### 2. Welcome from the Chair

Jake Smith (JS) is acting as Chair. Welcomed Senators to the meeting and explained that Ruth Lewis has resigned as LGBT+ (Womens) Officer and read a statement from the Students' Union. The date of next Senate will be decided between Katey Beggan (KB) and Student Voice.

#### 3. Minutes from previous meeting

*No amendments to previous minutes.*

Joshua Green (JG) asked for clarification on the gender equality motion and if it will be discussed at AGM.

Steve Ralph (SR) confirmed that it can be.

#### a. Matters Arising

Mo Hanafy (MH) explained that:

- The Board of Trustees are explicitly and legally responsible for the budget and it is not appropriate to be discussed by Senate, as they are a policy-making body from company law perspective, but there is student representation on the Board.
- The makeup of Finance & Audit Committee is an External Trustee (Chair), a Student Trustee, VP Postgraduate and VP Societies.
- Students can submit motion to change Bye-Laws, but recommended that it's not too often as Board need to approve.

*Note: MH is responding to actions in relation to student members amending Bye-Laws. Page 24 of to the Bye-Laws reference "17.2 Amendments to the Bye-Laws may be proposed by Student Members to Student Council."*

MP asked for a time-frame for being told Senate's role in scrutinising the budget

MH explained that Senate is for policy making

Steffan Bryn (SB) commented that scrutinising the budget is a function of Senate as well as policy making

MP commented that it is in Bye-Laws

JS commented that this can be discussed in a later motion

## **II. Submitted Items:**

### **a. Students' Union Items**

#### **1. Complaints, Discipline and Appeals**

Alex Kuklenko (AK) explained that the composition of the committee was a Head of Department and a Sabbatical Officer (SO) but Senate wanted change to 2 SOs. The Board accepted with the condition of 1 SO, 1 external Student Trustee and 1 Head of Department to avoid conflict of interest between SOs.

*Item passes*

#### **2. Bye Laws – Sub Committees**

MH explained that CUSU Bye-Laws have had changes and flexibility has been added so the Board can put on trustees as and when, to make use of trustee skills.

Matthew Procter (MP) expressed concern that there is no student representation on the Finance & Audit sub-committee.

MH replied that there will be 1 SO who is a student representative, and the Board of Trustees are mainly student representatives.

Daniel Palmer (DP) explained that this was proposed because the subcommittee was determined by Trustees and now documents can be harmonised rather than changed.

MP commented that there is a scenario where 5 students sit on the Finance & Audit subcommittee and SOs may not want to, so student voice may not be heard. Someone needs to be well trained to tell students how the University is operating financially and to prevent the committee from becoming a bubble.

MP proposed an amendment to add 'at least one of the members must be a Sabbatical Trustee or a Student Trustee'.

*Amendment accepted by AK and MH*

*Item passes*

## **b. Senate Motions**

### **1. TEF Off**

Proposed by: Matthew Procter

Seconded by: Marcus Connolly

MP introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

MP spoke for the motion and explained that the NSS will be using TEF in England to raise fees and eventually this will raise fees in Wales as Wales always follows England. Through the Welsh Assembly, they will probably lift the cap and raise fees consistently. TEF is also bad for immigration as it will be used as a metric for immigration quotas for specific Universities. The NSS relates to TEF and a boycott will show disdain for useless and harmful policy and wreck the metric itself as with no data there will be no benchmark. MP then read a list of Universities that are taking part in the

boycott.

MH spoke against the motion and explained that Wales is different to England and gave the example of the Diamond Review, which only applies to Wales, not England. Senators need to make sure they do what is most beneficial for student in Cardiff (Wales) rather than thinking about the UK. NUS Wales are happy to support NSS as long as there are no fee rises. No Universities in Wales are boycotting NSS and only 23 out of 150 are in the whole UK and there are over 600 SUs in the UK. The boycott will mean that Cardiff University will fall away and employers won't see information and reputations. There are many examples of NSS benefits and feedback is essential. If we don't have NSS data we can't use it to lobby the University, boycotting is not the answer.

### *Questions*

Prashant Garg (PG) asked how we could get other measures of University success if we boycott the NSS

MP replied that the Students' Union (SU) can put out its own survey which isn't used in TEF policy. It can collect data as an independent institution, which is less harmful than TEF. There are lots of rankings all using different data sets, and boycotting NSS won't have an effect as the University also use marketing to encourage students to apply.

MH asked for a run through of how the Sunday Times make their league tables

MP replied that there are 5 subsets and 3 come from NSS and explained that data from smaller Universities and musical conservatoires does not have enough statistical relevance to be used to compare but they still recruit students without NSS data.

KB asked if the 23 Universities boycotting NSS include Exeter, Bristol and Bath.

MP read out the list again.

KB suggested that the SU should align more with these Universities rather than those in Wales due to research links.

MH replied that we shouldn't as the funding is different (HEFCW and HEFCE) and Cardiff is the capital of Wales so should represent Wales.

### *Debate*

MP spoke for the motion and commented that despite MH trying to distance us from England,

loans for both countries come from same Government and differences will put Wales behind. Block grants could mean that there are more taxes.

Chiron Hooson (CH) spoke against the motion and explained that NSS is used by schools to hear student views, for example the Law School have used NSS scores from this year. It shows how the University really does listen and how important it is. NSS has a 68% turnout, the highest of any feedback.

MP commented that CH is overrating the importance of NSS and the University have only started looking because TEF is being introduced. 2 years ago, the NSS wasn't as important and it doesn't capture student's views accurately.

Sarah Al Sayed (SAS) commented that the immigration restriction rule has already been applied, it's not because of TEF.

MP explained that NSS said there will be less students due to TEF.

### *Summations*

MP explained that they are standing on a turning point for Higher Education and can either go along with the Government or say no, and recognise that what happens in England will then happen in Wales.

MH explained that if we use our own data we are not comparable and also can't look for other good practise to use and aren't comparable in terms of employment. TEF data is dated from 14/15 and 15/16 and this data has already been used. A boycott will have no immediate effect as the University has been focussing on NSS since the Vice Chancellor implemented it in 2012, before TEF.

### *Motion falls*

## **2. Stop Fuelling Hate**

Proposed by: Matthew Procter

Seconded by: Joshua Green

MP introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

MP spoke for the motion and explained that this campaign aims to defund Cardiff University advertising in The Daily Mail, The Sun and The Daily Express as they fund hate and this University shouldn't be supporting them. If students want to buy hateful propoganda they should pay the

price and it shouldn't be subsidised by SU money as it does not match SU policies.

Callum Smith (CS) spoke against the motion and explained that the whole point of the advertising is to attract people to Cardiff University and this would stop attracting some types of people. Although he doesn't agree with their principles, everyone from any walk of life should come to university to learn and debate.

### *Questions*

Usman Bukhari (UB) commented that if the SU start boycotting on behaviour of ideologies, this becomes a sister motion to AGM.

JG commented that this is not a freedom of speech argument and money should not go to these advertising campaigns. If we support anti-lad culture etc, we can't sell papers like this. It's not no platforming, its saying that we don't support negative hate towards student.

CH commented that The Daily Mail and The Sun have 1 million readers and asked if we don't advertise in those newspapers, where else we could advertise.

JG commented that Cardiff University are aggressive in terms of advertising and will not be forgotten about, as we are growing without these adverts. Papers that are against what we support, should not have our adverts in, even if we lose money.

Emmaline Rice (ER) asked if we start boycotting papers based on ideologies, will we need a more extensive list.

JG replied that it's about not funding advertisements in papers, not boycotting. The papers referenced in the list could be edited to remove an ad as seen fit by Senate as these papers have said things we think are wrong.

### *Debate*

SAS spoke for the motion and explained that this isn't about freedom of speech, it's about choosing where the money can go. There are other places to advertise, not The Daily Mail.

James Daly (JD) spoke against the motion and commented that this is not freedom of speech, it is freedom of opinion and is setting a dangerous precedent. All newspapers have political opinions.

JG spoke for the motion and commented that precedents are only a slippery slope if followed. Political platforms are a debate, we shouldn't support papers who actively say negative comments about trans rights or Muslims.

CS spoke against the motion and commented that Senate have no statistics on how many students come to Cardiff University based on advertising.

SB spoke for the motion and commented that this isn't Senate's responsibility, it's the University's. Senate should think about funding the excellent projects that attract students from underprivileged backgrounds and a wider net.

Vaishnavi Sayal (VS) spoke against the motion and commented that this is up to the University as we haven't done enough research and need to see if we are risking the University's uptake from this.

JG spoke for the motion and commented that newspapers are declining and social media will have a better effect on the younger generation.

KB proposed an amendment to senate resolves 2 of 'will not engage in press releases' rather than 'engagement'.

*Amendment accepted by MP*

*Summations*

JG commented that this has been discussed at length and is not about freedom of speech, it is about where we send funds. Advertisement can be elsewhere and these funds could be used for much better campaigns.

UB explained that there are a lot of conservative students who will read these papers and some students are far right and they still have to be considered.

*Motion Passes*

### **3. Senate AGM**

Proposed by: Matthew Procter

Seconded by: Steffan Bryn

MP introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

MP spoke for the motion and explained that at previous AGMs students have had the right to vote on proving the annual report and accounts. This isn't in the Bye-Laws, it says that AGM should receive documents but not approve them but you can vote on receiving documents as is common in shareholder meetings. An annual report can be given in 1 minute, but this is just a speech. The AGM should vote on receiving the annual report and accounts. If they don't, the officer hasn't fulfilled their duty. There is no long-term impact, it is just good democratic procedure.

AK spoke against the motion and explained that it is important to realise that the SU is split into 2 organisations; CUSL and CUSU. The company CUSL is limited by guarantee, and has no share capital or shareholders, as defined in company law 2006. Therefore the word 'shareholder' in this motion has no meaning. CUSU is the other half and is a charity, so is non-profit and also has no shareholders. It has trustees and those are Sabbatical Officers.

### *Questions*

SAS asked if the words 'shareholders' just have to be amended.

AK commented that if it was changed it should be to 'stake holder' and then this would mean that any stake holder can vote on reports but due to structure of service, they should not have right to vote on receiving or ratifying anything.

MP commented that he is aware this is a member's organisation and was not saying members are shareholders.

AK asked why he said shareholder.

MP explained that it was an analogy and was just taking practise from them.

JD commented that the motion refers to students as shareholders.

MP commented that the accepted practise of shareholders meetings could be transferred to us.

AK commented that when you look at company law, members are not all the same and it should refer to trustees.

MP commented that everyone is a member of the SU.

DP explained that the SU and the trading company are both companies without share council and are controlled by members. CUSU members are trustees, company law members and then student members and should never use the word member by itself as this distinction is because trustees own the company and regulate the charity initiatives. This places ownership to student members. The wording of this motion is confusing but the sentiment is there and it would be better

to work out how they can work together.

MP asked if there was anything in senate resolves that there is an issue with.

MH commented that Senate are passing the motion as a whole, rather than one part.

CH suggested it would be prudent to re-table this motion for next Senate to change some formatting as the resolves part needs more clarification and more precise terming.

MP explained that Senate need to clarify what the points for clarification are.

Matthew Jenkins (MJ) explained that it isn't clear that an analogy is being used and it should refer to what we think is good democratic practise.

MP suggested putting in a small note that we know we aren't a shareholder organisation.

MH explained that 'members' referred to here are not right as there are 2 types and there is confusion as to who the members are and what their roles are.

AK commented that motion is poorly worded and using 'member' is an issue of law.

MP withdrew the motion.

*Motion withdrawn*

#### **4. Humanist Chaplain in Cardiff University**

Proposed by: Usman Bukhari

Seconded by: Sarah Al Sayad

SAS gave the motion to UB, who introduced it for 60 seconds.

UB spoke for the motion and explained that in the non- religious society, there are many students who believe in God but don't adhere to a religion. In Wales, 51% people do not affiliate with a religion and by 2030, at least half of the UK will not. The education sector is mainly young people and they need help with deaths etc. There is a humanist chaplain in the Armed Forces to provide spiritual counselling and this can also include agnostics. Ben Lewis is enthusiastic about this motion and we will have a meeting in March but would like to see an approval of student body.

*No speaker against*

### *Questions*

KB asked what a humanist chaplain is for.

UB commented that a humanist movement is when you don't adhere to religion.

KB explained that in the Oxford Dictionary 'chaplain' is related to religious context and asked if a different word should be used.

UB explained that lots of other unis have a humanist chaplain for pastoral care as it also has a spiritual context.

JD commented that this all comes under the University's welfare service and asked why this is different.

MP explained that humanists who want spiritual guidance can speak to councillors as they help with mental health problems but chaplains help with everyday life problems.

PG asked who will appoint the chaplain.

UB replied that Ben Lewis will choose.

CH asked if the chaplain would be an extension of the counselling service and if there would be any financial implications.

UB replied that it shouldn't be, as they aren't doctors. The NHS and Army fund theirs so it will have to be discussed by the University, it could be volunteering roles.

CH commented that the counselling service is strained and has a set budget and asked how it would be paid for.

MJ replied that the chaplains are paid for by external organisation not the University. The University gives a small amount of funding and provides internet but that is all.

UB commented that chaplains at other Universities are self-financed.

MP commented that the University and the SU shouldn't be paying and then need to say who will. Suggested an amendment to make this clear.

UB commented that this will be left to Ben Lewis and finances can be worked out later.

MP explained that the policy needs to say that there are no financial implications.

### *Debate*

MJ spoke for the motion and commented that several chaplains are in favour and it wouldn't be funded independently as they are given a lump sum which would be shared. Chaplains are available to speak to individually but are run together.

MP proposed an amendment that 'and SU' should be removed from Senate Believes 1.

### *Amendment accepted*

MP suggested adding about financial implications and that no services will be cut.

MJ commented that this is University policy and is above Senate, so there is no need to add.

### *Summations*

UB explained that this is just an extension of the chaplaincy and we could be first in Wales to provide it which would be progressive.

### *Motion passes*

## **5. Recorded Student Senate Meetings**

Proposed by: Usman Bukhari

Seconded by: Sarah Al Sayed

SAS introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

SAS spoke for the motion and explained that Senate should be recorded as well as minutes, as they aren't always accurate. Senate could have video or voice recording, if Senators don't want their faces shown.

### *No speaker against*

AK asked what 'any other media outlet' within senate resolves means and if there could be a cost.

SAS commented that Senate could pick the most cost effective option.

UB commented that CUTV record the AGM.

JD proposed an amendment to change 'any other media outlet' in senate resolves to 'any other

service’.

*Amendment accepted*

JG asked if Welsh speaking would be recorded too.

SAS explained that it’s to have a correct recording of what is said so we should have a transcription.

Amendment proposed to add ‘to provide a transcription with the recording’ to senate resolves.

*Amendment accepted*

MH explained that there is a full time translator in the University but it might not be cost effective to have subtitles.

SAS commented that it depends if it’s voice or video.

UB commented that some Senators might not like to be recorded. Suggested we could do a hybrid but then it gets complicated. Subtitles will be cost effective.

MH explained that it will not be cost effective.

UB commented that the minutes did not reflect what was said and it would be better to hear what is said at the same time.

*Summations*

SAS explained that Senate should be recorded.

*Motion Passes*

## **6. This is Wales, We Want Ales**

Proposed by: Usman Bukhari

Seconded by: Matthew Jenkins

MJ gave the motion to UB who introduced it for 60 seconds.

MJ spoke for the motion and explained that we should recognise Welsh history and culture and the brewing of ales should be celebrated by the SU. Currently, students can only buy lager and Guinness and it is easy to get drunk and have health problems with lager. As a cultural piece, it

should go through Senate.

AK spoke against the motion and explained he has done research as to why the SU doesn't stock ales. It is £95 a keg and previously, 4 gallons was wasted from each. Ales have been trialled and then lost money for the SU but they do stock ales in bottles.

### *Questions*

SAS asked if UB had asked anyone if they want ales.

UB explained that there is a real ale society and the beer and cider festival is popular. There is a limit on kegs, they need to be drunk in 3 days, but there must be a small microbrewery, like Brains, who have smaller kegs.

CH asked what is wrong with bottled ales.

UB replied that they taste different.

CH commented that there are financial burdens if kegs aren't used so unless statistics can be shown for the need then there is no point.

MJ commented that there are lots of nearby pubs that sell ale and don't go under.

CH commented that because they don't go under isn't the point and asked if ales could just be for special events.

MJ commented that this would probably work out more expensive.

Emmaline Rice (ER) commented that UB is passionate but should maybe do some research, find a microbrewery and re-present at a later time.

UB commented that this was fair enough but he doesn't want to dictate what ale they should buy as Venues should decide.

### *Debate*

KB spoke against the motion and explained that although it is good to celebrate Welsh culture through ales, the money could go to better use. Some students don't drink and would prefer a better selection of non-alcoholic drinks. There are probably more people who don't drink than those who drink ales.

### *Summations*

MJ explained that this is a cultural point and would not be a money sink for the SU. This could make money if implemented correctly, as lagers make a fortune.

VS explained that she appreciates the cultural aspect but this motion is based on a hope that this will work as we don't know about Taf finances. We need proper information.

*Motion falls*

## **7. Time to Change Action Plan**

Proposed by: Chiron Hooson

Seconded by: Emmaline Rice

CH introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

CH spoke for the motion and explained that this is a campaign lead by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness to tackle discrimination. It was signed in 2013 but the policy has lapsed. We have VP Welfare and that position focussed on mental health and a group led by the wellbeing team. In renewing the pledge, we can revise the action plan, as in 4 years things have changed and we need to make sure the University will continue their efforts.

*No questions*

*No speakers against*

*Motion passes*

## **8. Put liberation and campaigns at the centre stage**

Proposed by: Steffan Bryn

SB introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

SB spoke for the motion and explained that the intention of this motion is steps to make Campaign Officers more prominent and raise their status in the SU, treating them with the same mandate and giving them better prominence to do their jobs as well as possible. Using correct language and terminology in documents and governance is important and ensuring that correct resources are available so they can do jobs properly and ensuring there is a voice, specifically for NUS wales and liberation Campaign Officers. We need to look at the budget at the beginning of the year to ensure campaigning is respected and need to ensure that a Campaign Officer is a practical officer for all students.

MH spoke against the motion and commended SB on how well this motion is presented. Acknowledged that Sabbatical Officers and Campaign Officers need to work better together but

don't want to promise we can do something and then let you down. We can't guarantee that all Campaign Officers can come to all partnership meetings if the University don't agree. This motion highlights something we need to work on and Sophie Timbers is setting up a meeting to have us come together and discuss, Senate is not the place to do this. With regards to the budget, cuts are happening everywhere.

### *Questions*

JD asked for clarification on budget management and asked when Campaign Officers were we going to be told about the meeting with Sophie.

AK replied that Sophie does not decide the budget, she is given it to accept and manage. Sophie is trying to set up a meeting, it is in planning.

MJ proposed an amendment to senate resolves 6 to 'that the Students' Union does what is in its power to ensure Campaign Officers shall be invited to....'

### *Amendment accepted by SB*

VS commented that most points can be discussed and passed in Senate. Meetings with Sophie will not be set in stone and Senate can do this as it can be hard to find a good time.

MH explained that Senate can't pass this here and then that's it, as we need to talk about how to work together all year and ensure we do.

AK commented that there were 2 options to invite Campaign Officer's but there wasn't always full attendance.

VS explained that international students may have to go home so they need to ensure people are free. This motion is more about publicity and recognition, Campaign Officers should be invited to be involved in more and there is no guidelines.

MH agreed that something needs to be in place to work together throughout future years too.

AK agreed that Campaign Officers should have greater advertising, we are not fighting this.

MJ commented that it is rare to get all officers at Scrutiny, there is usually some apologies as they can't all meet at the same time.

KB proposed an amendment to add a point to senate resolves '10. Resolves mentioned above will be continually discussed with the Sabbatical team.'

### *Amendment accepted*

AK reminded that Sabbatical Officers can't promise everything with the Board.

SB explained this is a statement of intent.

### *Debate*

CH spoke for the motion and explained that the problem of not enough support has been prolonged for many years and it is good to show an action plan. This sets precedent for what needs to be done. A meeting might not happen for a while, but this states that change needs to happen.

### *Summations*

SB explained that he wanted to build consensus around this topic and it is time to put some concrete steps in place to ensure that Campaign Officers can do the job they have been elected to do. In terms of budget, that has been clarified, the motion facilitates operation, it's not restrictive year to year.

### *Motion passes*

## **9. Tuition fees should not rise within TEF in Wales**

Proposed by: Mo Hanafy

Seconded by: Chiron Hooson

MH introduced the motion for 60 seconds.

MH spoke for the motion and explained that this needs to go to the NUS Wales conference and the deadline is 10<sup>th</sup> February. This can be submitted and then we will lobby them. We have an influence on policy here (Diamond Review eg) and this motion will tell NUS Wales that TEF can be used, but fees will not rise. REF has been implemented for years and has had great results for research. We are on good terms with NUS Wales and also with other members of the Welsh Government so they will have successes with lobbying the Government. The next 5 years is fine for the near future. Students in Wales need to pick the correct fight and need work in progress to make change for better.

### *Questions*

MP commented that TEF doesn't measure teaching excellence and the NUS Wales president wasn't going to fight with TEF as they were going to try to get assembly to block fee rises, asked what evidence there is to actually prevent it.

MH replied that TEF may not be the best measure of teaching excellence but something needs to

be put in place to try and improve the University. NUS Wales work closely with Welsh Government.

MJ commented that there is nothing here that says TEF is a good thing and secondly, we are not talking about limited time to fight one or the other, we can fight both.

MP proposed an amendment to remove '5 years' from senate resolves 2.

MH commented that if we leave it open it can be left to interpretation and proposed that Senate rethink a number.

CH commented that the next election is a realistic target.

MJ spoke against the amendment and commented that the motion is more likely to pass and then it's more likely to have the desired effect. If we say 'never raise fees' we will be laughed at, 5 years means that we our have foot in door.

MP spoke for the amendment and asked how a 5 year boundary is less realistic than eternity.

Jordan Martin (JM) spoke against the amendment and explained that they could keep down fees for 5 years but politicians can't commit to forever.

MP spoke for the amendment and explained that if you get head out of the status quo, it isn't far off.

Aayat Almezaal (AA) commented that this is very exclusive to home students and asked how this relates to international students.

VS commented that this also refers to the amendment and asked if this will mean international students fees will be increased for eternity.

MH commented that this motion will affect home Undergraduate students, but once TEF is implemented this will put constraints on international students as it will put pressure on universities to allow more international students to study.

*Amendment falls*

*Summations*

MH explained that everything has been discussed and this motion is a step in the right direction for Welsh students.

*Motion Passes*

## **10. Student Senate Discussion**

MP explained that Senators have met to come up with proposals for Senate.

JS explained that a few changes to Senate have been discussed and the Chair has agreed that Senate should receive proposals and vote on them. Explained that Senators should vote to discuss now or next time.

MP spoke against moving the discussion as effects could be in place for next Senate, but if Senators haven't had the time to go over them then it's fine.

MJ commented that this has only been seen today and would like to go away and have more time to go over the motion for next time as longer to prepare is better.

*Motion not discussed*

## **B. Any Other Business:**

### **1. Lapsed motions**

1. Cynnig llety Cymraeg – First year accommodation for Welsh Speakers – 2013
2. Support Equal Access for Asylum Seekers to Higher Education – 2013

SB asked, in terms of gender balance motion and NUS motion for it, if it is equal in terms of what we do and if there was a motion to go back, would this have to be resubmitted.

SR commented that Cardiff was ahead of gender balancing and in 2014 it was taken on by NUS governing documents, so has to be 50:50 anyway.

SB asked if it will still be gender balanced if no one resubmits.

DP explained that it needs to be a Bye-Law, it isn't at the moment but it should be. Constitutionally it is not strong enough.

JD asked that now Ruth Lewis has resigned, if the next person would take on the role immediately or wait until next year.

AK replied that the position will be given next year.

SR explained that it could be a phased approach forward.

JD asked if these meeting should alternate between here and Heath campus.

SR replied that they aren't alternate, one will be at Heath and the rest here.

JS thanked Senators for attending and closed the meeting.

### III. Submitted Items A. Student Senate Reforms (Attached)

### III. Submitted Items B. Cardiff's Welsh Speaker's Students' Union

**Establish 'Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Caerdydd' (UMCC – loosely translated to 'Cardiff's Welsh Speaker's Student's Union) within Cardiff University's Students' Union (CUSU)**

**Proposer:** Osian Morgan

**Seconded:** Esyllt Lewis

#### **This Senate notes**

- The relationship between Welsh speaking students and non-welsh speaking students has not been productive and acceptable during recent years.
- The community of Welsh speaking students in the University is isolated from the main body of students within the University.
- The community of Welsh speaking students in Cardiff do not feel like they belong in CUSU, and they do not feel that they are being adequately represented. As a result of this, they do not take advantage of CUSU's facilities, and they do not take part in activities arranged by CUSU.
- Whilst positive steps have been taken during recent years to improve CUSU's Welsh language provision (f.e CUSU's Welsh language policy), the provision is still lacking in comparison to other universities in Wales, and the relationship between Welsh speaking students and CUSU continues to be insufficient in comparison to other universities in Wales.

#### **This Senate believes**

- The poor relationship between Welsh speaking students and CUSU is a big problem, and CUSU should work closely with the Welsh Language Officer, and the Welsh language societies in order to solve this problem as a matter of urgency.
- The best way to improve on this relationship is by establishing a body within CUSU that will be responsible for representing Welsh language speakers and learners socially, academically, linguistically, politically and with welfare issues, similarly to the bodies that were established in Bangor (UMCB) and Aberystwyth (UMCA) in the 1970's.
- Welsh speaking students in Cardiff should not receive poorer representation in Cardiff University – the university in the capital city of Wales, and the university with the highest number of Welsh speakers – than in other universities in Wales.

#### **This Senate resolves**

- A body will be established within CUSU that will be responsible for representing Welsh speaking students and learners socially, academically, linguistically, politically and with welfare issues within CUSU and the University.
- The name of this body will be 'Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Caerdydd'
- CUSU's 'UMCC and Social Integration Committee' will be responsible for making arrangements regarding establishing UMCC within the next weeks and months, with the aim to assure that UMCC will be established by the start of the 2017/18 academic year.

### III. Submitted Items C. Gender Neutral Toilets

#### Gender Neutral Toilets in Union and University Buildings

**Proposer:** Emmaline Rice

**Seconders:** Chiron Hooson, Jake Smith, Nick Fox

#### The Student Senate Notes

- The current arrangement for gender neutral toilets to be made accessible in all university buildings has been noted, but no official policy has been passed regarding this.
- To have documented policy in promoting gender neutral toilets will ensure all students of any gender identity are catered for in the facilities provided by the Students Union.
- To have documented policy will provide a basis upon which to structure any progress and a cornerstone document to reference in the event of further changes (e.g., construction of new buildings, renovations, etc.).
- The gender neutral toilets in the SU are multipurpose in that they also serve as disabled toilets. This means that these toilets which can be accessed in the Taf and during club nights in Y Plas require radar key access to prevent misuse. (NB: other gender neutral/ disabled toilets in the SU (e.g., the toilet on the third floor of the SU) do NOT require radar key access).
- There is no current formal arrangement for nonbinary students to gain access to these purportedly gender neutral toilets, nor to find out about how to ask for access, except via word-of-mouth.
- This grapevine/informal approach is insufficient and unsatisfactory, in that there is no formal pressure to heed the students' wishes, no formal channels by which to do so, and no legal mandate that staff and officers must give this priority. This leads to vulnerabilities to the informal system as well as general confusion as to how to operate when presented with students asking for access every single time. Furthermore, due to the nature of terms of officers requiring frequent changes, there is no guarantee that this information will be passed on.
- In many instances of having to request radar key access, students may feel uncomfortable, in cases of both disabilities and gender identity. Thusly, the need for a discrete system is paramount.
- The 'Cardiff University Strategic Equality Plan, 2016-2020,' published in 2016, notes in Objective 4, page 13 of its Equality Objectives that an 'Issue/Area for action' is 'Ensuring that the physical environment is inclusive of all those with protected characteristics,' and a need to focus on the 'provision of gender neutral toilets'.

## The Student Senate Believes

- Publicising the information that gender neutral/inclusive toilets are accessible for students who do not feel comfortable using men or women-only toilets is the only way to ensure fair process with regards to making sure these students feel represented and comfortable in the Union (specifically the toilet in the Taf and in Y Plas).
- Making the toilets multifunctioning for both disabled students and nonbinary students\* should not impede upon their usage, as this is in both instances a minority demographic within the student body. The proposer would moreover hope the disabled community would be welcoming to the LGBT+ community, and acknowledges that some students identify with both.
- The current radar key system, informality aside, requires a nonbinary\* student to essentially out themselves to a staff member in order to gain access to the radar-key-access-only gender neutral/disabled toilets in The Taf and Y Plas. This may cause students undue discomfort, and is absolutely not optimal to require nonbinary\* students to essentially prove their need to use the gender neutral toilets comfortably.
- The University should make strategic progress towards including at least one gender neutral toilet in each University building.
- Strategic progress towards including gender neutral toilets in university buildings is in line with the Cardiff University Strategic Equality Plan published in 2016.

## The Student Senate Resolves

- Nonbinary\* students who disclose need or want to use the gender neutral disabled toilets in the Student's Union must be given access via radar keys with which to do so.
- This option must be well-publicised in order for the said students to be able to find out about this option; this process of accessibility should not rest on the shoulders of the LGBT+ officers or association alone, as the ever-shifting composition of the group would require more training with regards to this programme, and could lead to oversight- as has happened in the past with the informal set-up.
- The Union/sabbatical officers must designate a consultant for the students to speak with who will then arrange for the individual to be given access.
- The Union must provide signage in all bathrooms in the Taf or Y Plas with regards to the radar key scheme for nonbinary\* students to find out about the scheme.
- The radar key system will only be used for future gender neutral/disabled toilets only in instances in which it can be explicitly proved that the radar key access system is the only way the toilets can be operated safely by the Union/University. The clear preference of this motion is for the radar key system to **not** be chosen as it may cause undue discomfort and inconvenience for many individuals who would seek to use these toilets.
- The Union will lobby the University to maintain efforts to include at least one gender neutral toilet in each University building, whether these buildings are current or planned for construction.

- The Union shall lobby the University for the new Centre for Student Life building to follow this ethos and include gender neutral toilets.

\*or others of the LGBT+ community who do not feel comfortable using the gendered toilets

Cardiff University Strategic Equality Plan:

[http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/169238/2016-Strategic-Equality-Plan-v0.4.pdf](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/169238/2016-Strategic-Equality-Plan-v0.4.pdf)

### III. Submitted Items D. Ablutions

#### Ablution Facilities in the SU

**Proposer:** Nicholas Fox

**Seconded:** Emmaline Rice, Aayat Almezaal

#### The Student Senate Notes

- Ablution is a ritual washing that Muslims undertake before praying which involves washing the hands, mouth, nose, face, lower arms, head, ears and feet.
- Currently there is no Ablution facilities in the SU so before using the prayer room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor the majority of Muslim students have to use Union toilets. The majority of these students use the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor disabled toilet.
- Across the University buildings, quiet rooms are available for religious worship – but again suitable ablution facilities are lacking at the majority of these locations.

#### The Student Senate Believes

- The current Students' Union goals include being "Excellent at what we do by being totally inclusive" and having good facilities in place. There is an obvious lack of this facility in the Union and it should act to be more inclusive by offering this facility to the Muslim student population.
- Many Muslim students do not feel comfortable performing the ritual washing in normal toilets in case people walk in, which is why many use the disabled toilets.
- In discussion about this topic with the President of ISoc he said "*practicing as a Muslim within daily uni life has proven to be a challenge for a lot of people, particularly in regards to praying 5 times a day. What we really need is a prayer room, ideally in every university building, complete with Ablution/ ritual washing facilities. This would be our main priority I feel to address the needs of Muslim students*"
- There are over 1000 Muslim students in Cardiff University, with Muslims having to pray 5 times a day means that investment in ablution facilities would be well used and benefit a large number of students. Not to mention last for a number of years.

## **The Student Senate Resolves**

- The Union should look into installing ablution facilities within the SU ready for use at the latest at the start of the next academic year.
- The VP Welfare should lobby the University to install ablution facilities near quiet rooms that don't currently have them.

IV Any Other Business 1. Lapsed motions: A) Run a voter registration campaign targeted at students, ahead of the 2015 general election.

### **Run a voter registration campaign target at students, ahead of the 2015 general election**

**Submitted by: Harry Thompson**

#### **What's the issue?**

One of the biggest electoral problems we have in Cardiff is low voter turnout among students. This isn't due to a lack of interest in politics - most students are intelligent and well-informed, but don't engage with politics on a day-to-day basis. This leaves a lot of students who would otherwise like to have their voice heard unable to vote on election day, due to not registering months in advance.

#### **Why is this important to Cardiff students?**

Student turnout really is exceptionally low. The biggest student ward, Cathays, has turnouts of around 15% at council elections. If we run a campaign - as we have done on the 5th February - encouraging students to vote, we could potentially get that figure to around 40-50% (turnout will be higher come 2015 anyway due to more media focus on general than council elections). Most students live in the Cardiff Central ward, where the sitting MP has a majority of 4500, likely to be reduced. This would make the student vote crucial to anybody seeking to be Cardiff Central's next MP, and they would therefore be far more likely to make student-friendly pledges.

#### **What action should the Union take?**

The Union should endeavour to get as many students registered as possible, through tactics similar to, but going further than, those used on National Voter Registration Day. This includes having set days where people volunteer to tell people the benefits of registering and ask them to fill in forms which the Union sends off for free. The Union could also make use of its emails to students, electronic signs within the Union, Facebook and Twitter pages. It would also be beneficial to have a permanent area in the Union (perhaps with one of the officers) where students could go to fill in a voter registration form. The benefit of this would be removing a lot of the cost and effort of registering for students, and allowing us to track how many students have registered so far. The Union should also have a set budget specifically for the 2015 General Election push. Officers should be mandated to do lecture talks on registering to vote. We should also look into the idea of the Student's Union being a polling station for Cathays.

IV Any Other Business 1. Lapsed motions: B) Run a voter registration campaign targeted at students, ahead of the 2015 general election.

## **Gender balance our NUS UK delegation**

**Submitted by: Ollie Wannell**

### **The issue:**

The delegation we send to NUS Wales conference has to be gender balanced, but the delegation we send to NUS UK conference does not.

We have an organisational goal of diversifying our active student movement which includes, but is not limited to, making sure that men and women are equally represented.

### **The benefit:**

It fits within our organisational goal.

Having women's only places is not about reserving places for women but is about encouraging them to put themselves forward in a system that has historically been raining men.

### **The action:**

Have 50% of our NUS UK delegation as women's only places. To select NUS UK and NUS Wales delegates at the same time as Student Senate, and hold at least one by-election should the women's places not be filled in the first election.