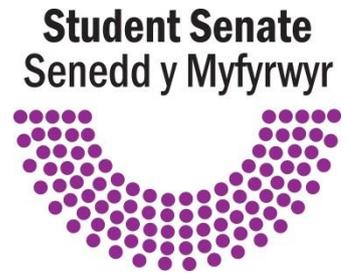


Student Senate

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



Tuesday 14 November 2017

Room 4J, 4th Floor Students' Union 5pm

Agenda

Please contact the Student Voice Team on 02920 781435 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.

I Standard Items:

- A. Apologies
- B. Welcome from the Chair
- C. Minutes from previous meeting

II Students' Union Items:

- A. Election of Chair
- B. Students' Union Budget
- C. Report from the Trustees
- D. Bye Laws Amendments
- E. Update on Policies passed last time

III Submitted Items:

- A. Freedom To Read
- B. Eliminating Economic restrictions on Societies to uphold Freedom of Speech

IV Any Other Business:

- 1. Lapsed motions

The next meeting will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 5 December in 4J Cardiff University Students' Union, Park Place

SECTION I

Student Senate

Tuesday 2 May 2017, 4J at 6pm

Students present:

Callum Smith
Chiron Hooson
David Hooson
Emlyn Pratt
Esyllt Lewis
Jake Smith
James Daly
Jordan Martin
Joshua Green
Marcus Connolly
Matthew Jenkins
Matthew Procter
Nicholas Fox
Nuoyi Peng
Osian Morgan
Prashant Garg
Saurodip Banerjee

Students' Union staff present:

Elin Harding
Niko Ciecierski-Holmes
Steve Ralph
Daniel Palmer
Vicki Groves

I. Standard Items

A. Apologies

Apologies received from: Aayat Almezaal, Charlie Knights, Emmaline Rice, Jasmine Owen, Jessica Lam and Steffan Bryn.

B. Welcome from the Chair

KB welcomed attendees to the meeting.

C. Minutes from previous meeting

No amendments to the previous minutes.

D. Matters Arising

KB explained there is now a policy tracker on the Student Voice website, the recording from last Senate is currently being edited before being released and asked if anyone was interested in setting up a working group to evaluate Sabbatical Officer roles.

II. Students' Union Items:

A. Amended Bye-Laws

SR explained the only change is the creation of a subcommittee to membership services. Other changes are small administrative changes.

III. Submitted Items:

A. Student Senate Reforms

Proposed by: Matthew Procter

MP explained the document is self-explanatory and suggested a general discussion would be best. Acknowledged that issues have been raised with 4 and is happy to remove.

NCH asked about the proposal for social media presence and what it would entail.

MP replied that he doesn't know what an effective social media strategy is and it will be up to marketing department. Asked why the document is not being voted on.

KB explained a discussion is the best way.

NCH explained that proposal 6 is already being done and the proposal about working with Board of Trustees was discussed at an away day in January and came up with some ideas. Proposal 2 is a bit

more complex, Senate is a policy making body and accounts are already presented at AGM.

MP explained Senate should be able to understand the accounts if they will be making policies.

EH commented that it is more beneficial to have a more informal discussion about accounts rather than voting on them.

MP replied that they aren't mutually exclusive. If Senate don't vote we can show we aren't happy with the accounts information we have been provided with.

MJ clarified that it would be voting on receipt of accounts, not to accept them.

MC commented that we are meant to do this at AGM but if we don't understand them then can't vote effectively.

KB asked how it should be taken forward, suggested a policy or a working group.

MP would like a vote of consent.

EH disagreed, there has already been progress on a lot of points and it is better to have a more informal way to improve Senate. People might not agree with every point.

KB suggested taking it away and a small group could work on something to bring to Senate next academic year. More people will be able to be involved and it can be looked at in more detail.

MP replied they are not mutually exclusive, Senate can agree today and then also want to change or expand the document next year.

MJ suggested a middle ground to vote to establish a working group. This will give the document legitimacy, but doesn't pass any specific points.

KB explained that in the bye-laws (5.6.1 responsibility e) it explains that Sabbatical Officers can formulate a working group in Senate.

MC commented this is a good idea.

CH commented that this could ensure continuity over the summer.

NCH explained that it could be added to the Policy Tracker.

Action Point – Sabbatical Officers to form a working group.

B. Upholding the fundamental rights to liberty

Proposed by: Prashant Garg

Seconded by: Georgi Ivanov

PG spoke for the motion and explained the motion called Stop Fuelling Hate was to lobby against CU advertising in certain newspapers. The University is politically neutral and this motion contradicts that, especially as Challenge Don't Sensor passed at AGM. Free speech is very important, if people don't like the newspapers they don't have to buy them. Do we want to align Cardiff University to ideas that are only politically correct, we should be about free speech and not destroy the pillar of education.

MJ spoke against the motion as the author of Challenge Don't Sensor. The motion only refers to actions of students and can't be passed with false notes. The final senate notes is false too. These need to be removed and then there wouldn't be enough and it can't pass. If it was a campaign against right wing papers we should have also banned the Times and Telegraph. We do not have adverts in the Sun so they are not next to Page 3, to protect students.

PG spoke for the motion and explained that if we are lobbying against any freedom of speech, then we are breaching the motion from AGM. Political and moral issues are not very different and we can't decide what a moral issue is. Can't silence other issues, one should strive for social scrutiny and freedom of speech.

JG spoke against the motion and explained that numerous times we have gone against certain topics, but they are not assigned to a political ideology. Problems with certain papers is because they make it inaccessible to debate with them. We just don't want to support things we don't agree with.

PG spoke for the motion and explained the University stands for diversity of ideas and the Daily Mail does not have only sexist images and articles. Lots of people subscribe, it is popular and if we don't advertise in it we are marginalising its readers.

MC spoke against and explained an advert is trying to sell a business. The SU is very political and Senate is a driving force for politics. We don't want to align ourselves with papers who have done bad things.

PG explained that the SU may be political but does not discriminate. It values diversity and is where we get ideas and information. Also, what message does it send to those who read these papers and are at Cardiff University?

JD clarified that we are not banning papers, we are stopping adverts.

SB explained they are important newspapers and banning these advertisements is not a solution.

MJ explained that more is being said about freedom of speech and less about advertising. Senate are willing to be consistent with other newspapers.

Summation for:

PG explained Senate need to create awareness that any kind of demographic phobia is wrong, but we can't silence it.

Summation against:

JG explained it is not a philosophical debate, this motion doesn't interact with the AGM motion. Also, Senate is happy to be consistent. This isn't about freedom of speech. The motion is poorly written too.

Action point – Sabbatical Officers to make a working group about retracting policies.

Motion falls

C. Voting in AGM

Proposed by: Matthew Procter

MP spoke for the motion and explained that this motion ensures students have voting rights in democratic procedures.

NCH spoke against the motion due to current state it is in. In Senate believes 4, this is not your job as Senate. It is interpreted by Board of Trustees, who are experts.

NCH proposed an amendment to Senate believes 4, to change 'is' to 'should be'.

MP accepted amendment.

Summation for:

MP explained this reaffirms that students should receive documents at the AGM.

Motion passes

D. Voter Registration & Postal Campaign 2017-05-02

Proposed by: James Daly

Seconded by: Matthew Jenkins

JD spoke for the motion and explained a snap election was called and the SU have usually run a prolonged campaign. Would like to see a repeat of the level from 2015 and also provide information on postal voting as lots of students may have gone home after exams and their voice won't be represented.

EH asked about resolves 1, because of short notice it will likely not be the same as 2015 as we may not be able to get time and funding and we haven't budgeted for it.

EH proposed an amendment to change resolves 1 to 'CUSU shall aspire to run a registration campaign similar to that run in 2015'.

JD accepted the amendment.

CH explained that Senate notes has some errors and isn't very professional to be in policy book. Asked what will actually be done, as campaigns take a long time to organise.

CH proposed an amendment to add 'Theresa' to Notes 1.

JD accepted the amendment.

JD explained he went back through previous senate motions and they have previously have had much shorter motions and it means it is easier and more concise.

NCH asked JD and Senate to come forward with any ideas.

MC asked if there is any leftover branding from previous elections, could ask NUS for help.

MP explained that at the University of Sheffield to get onto the portal, students have to add their address and they have a data sharing system with the electoral register.

JG commented that is a good idea and the SU need to be aggressive with this.

JS suggested students could register through Sims and in 2015 there was a stall asking people to register to vote by post, it got a good response. The SU could run events. Forms is available as a pdf online and could be sent out.

EP commented that voting registration is up from 2015. Emphasis should be put on voting.

KB suggested emailing ideas to the Sabbatical team.

Motion Passes

E. Commonwealth and The Vote

Proposed by: Vaishnavi Sayal

Seconded by: Prashant Garg, James Daly, Nicholas Fox

SB spoke for the motion and explained that Commonwealth students have the right to vote. Examination period is coming and there is not much time to get National Insurance number, lots of students don't know how to apply for it so we should promote this. This will mean more students could vote. Suggested putting on CUSU website or university website. Need to find solution to help students get their NI number.

JD explained you don't need NI number to vote, can just send passport.

NCH agreed we need to push out ideas, but as a charity we can't necessarily push NI numbers, need to send students to international support.

JD just checked and students don't need NI number.

SB explained we need to ensure students are told the information they need to register to vote.

EH commented we only have 3 weeks and it can take 10 working days to get NI number, there might not be time. It is better to do it without a NI number as we are short on time.

JD proposed 2 amendments. To remove the final Senate notes and to change the final Senate believes from 'like obtaining a national insurance number' to 'of how to register with or without a National Insurance number'.

SB accepted both amendments.

SB made an amendment to Senate resolves 5 to change 'obtain it' to 'register without National Insurance number'.

MJ proposed amendments to add 'and Republic of Ireland' to Senate notes 2.2 and Senate resolves 7 and to add 'and Cyprus, Malta and Republic of Ireland' to Senate resolves 2.2.

SB accepted amendments.

JS commented that in 2015 many people wrongly believed they needed a NI number to vote. And added an amendment to Senate resolves that 'The SU will actively remind students they do not need

a National Insurance number to vote’.

NCH commented that this is repetitive to the earlier amendment.

SB rejected the amendment.

Summation for:

SB explained he appreciates concerns raised but the idea is to get more students to vote. What we propose is that the SU should push for awareness.

Motion passes

IV. Any Other Business:

A. Lapsed Motions

No lapsed motions.

KB explained it is one Senate short and will try to organise one more.

EH provided an update from ST about putting liberation and campaigns at centre stage, wasn't time to translate into Welsh.

Action Point – will be provided at next senate.

CH asked for an update on the emergency motion from last Senate.

NCH explained it hasn't been written up yet, but there won't be a bye-election this side of summer. Board of Trustees confirmed if it was feasible if staff were able to organise but Student Voice is a member of staff down, so it isn't feasible.

Action Point – written update to be provided next Senate.

CH commented that a response to students should be made ASAP.

MP explained that a motion needs to be acted on, especially if it is a quick acting motion.

MJ commented that it is easier to go through motions when they are numbered.

Action point – SR to relay this to senators for future motions.

III. Submitted Items

A. Freedom To Read

The Student Senate Notes

- I. Currently the Student Union lobbies the WHSmith shop manager to continue to not sell the Sun and the Daily Star newspapers.

The Student Senate Believes

- I. Students studying here and shopping in the Union are adults that can make their own decisions. The point of a university is to promote freedom of thought and allow students to develop their own ideas. This starts by allowing them access to all forms of information as opposed to restricting them to a vetted selection of sources.

The Student Senate Resolves

- I. That the lobbying of WHSmith will end with regards to any publications after the passing of this motion and that the WHSmith shop manager will be informed that they should sell whatever material they see fit within one week.
- II. The Student Union will retain the right to criticise any publications in any way it deems necessary and has the right to persuade individuals not to purchase/read these publications but not to suppress individuals' rights to access these papers at WHSmith or anywhere else.

Proposer: Tomos Llewelyn

Seconded: Prashant Garg

B. Eliminating Economic restrictions on Societies to uphold Freedom of Speech

The Student Senate Notes

- I. Freedom of speech on university campuses has been under attack recently by a social movement that seems to put 'not being offended' as a higher virtue. Unfortunately, our university and students' union seem to have also fallen for this trend. Using an Orwellian Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech, the university effectively gave one of the new societies of this academic year an ultimatum – either pay security fees for our upcoming event or it will be prohibited.
- III. The Speaker 'Dr. Yaron Brook' was approved by the SU in August, but the University contacted the organisers in the last week of October, imposing several conditions on the event.
- IV. The University has suspended the venue of the event, imposed a prior booking procedure to be put in place, imposed the condition to have a person moderate the lecture and imposed the condition to hire two members of University security.
- V. The University cited an article on the Tab, which stated that a few students in University of Exeter did not like the speaker so held up protest signs in the lecture theatre. However, there was no physical violence at all. In fact, University of Exeter has no problem with the speaker and they have invited him to speak again on 15th November, a day before the same event in Cardiff. The Speaker will speak in 6 more Universities in November on a similar subject before he speaks in Cardiff on 16th November, with none of those Universities imposing restrictive conditions on Free Speech.
- VI. When the Event was moved from University premises to SU, the responsibility for providing the Security moved to the SU, who decided to hire external security, which is charging £101 for a 90-minute event. The new society has only £9 in its account, which the SU knows. The SU has used economic means to effectively ban the speaker.

The Student Senate Believes

- I. Discussing a topic related to economics and philosophy, or any subject taught in the University to that matter, should not make the talk so controversial as to attach several conditions on Free Speech
- II. The SU has a 24/7 security, which should be enough for securing any academic lecture happening inside the SU, eliminating the need for hiring Showsec, an external private security company.
- III. The SU should pay for security for an academic lecture pertaining to subjects taught in the University, if there is a condition imposed by University or the SU to hire security.

The Student Senate Resolves

- I. SU should be aware of the financial implications of the conditions placed by the University or the SU on the societies.
- II. The SU should pay for restrictive security cost imposed externally by the University upon the societies that cannot afford those costs.

Proposer: *Prashant Garg*

Seconded: *Tomos Llewelyn*

IV Any Other Business:

1. Lapsed motions

Motions passed 04/11/14

“The Welsh language is an opportunity, not a burden” Adopting NUS Wales' national Welsh language Charter

Divestment in Fossil Fuel

Drink Awareness