

Student Senate

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

Tuesday 17th November 2020
Via Zoom videoconferencing 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 Students' Union Submitted Items:

- A. Budget from Trustees
- B. Sabb update

Section III Chair's Items

- A. Invitation for Senate Members to Stand for Election to become Vice Chair of the Senate 2020-21
- B. Amendment to by-laws 5.3 and 5.4
- C. Amendment to by-laws 6.1.4
- D. Amendment to by-law 5.7.1
- E. Amendment to by-laws 6.1.6 and 6.1.1
- F. Amendment to by-laws 6.2.2 and 6.5
- G. Amendment to by laws Appendix 2

(B, C, D, E, F and G to be discussed at the discretion of the new Vice Chair.)

Section IV Submitted Items:

- A. Add the Q!

Section V Any Other Business:

1. Lapsed motions (further detail can be found here <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/policy/>)
 - (i) Muslim students to be better facilitated by the SU
 - (ii) Changes to VP Societies and VP Welfare
 - (iii) Students consulted at every level: A seat on UEB
 - (iv) Real financial support for postgraduate students in need

The next meeting will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 15th December
via Zoom

SECTION I

C. Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Senate

Held on: Tuesday 17th November 2020, at 6pm via Zoom due to the coronavirus

PRESENT

Members:

Ahmad Shabib
Alfie Potter
Angie Janyse Flores Acuna
Asha Armin
Ashly Alava Garcia
Charlotte Mallinson
Chris Dunne (Chair)
Daniel Mapatac
Daniel Philitoga
Darshan Dalal
Elizabeth Champion
Emily Long
James Taylor
Janet Williams
Julia Komar
Jude Pickett
Lola Brin
Lukas Jakabovic
Luke Caesari
Madalina Andreea Toea
Megan Dee
Megha Roy
Orla Tarn
Owain Beynon
Peter Nattrass
Polly Denny
Rebecca Hardy
Roma Eccles
Simran Mahajan

Talia Khan
Tomos Evans
Zachary Edge

Randomly Selected Student Reps:

Matthew Davies
Hettiyahandi DeSilva
Florence Miell-Ingram
Raymond Ariho
Weiling Xu

Also in attendance:

Tim Fry	Student Voice Coordinator (AHSS)
Steve Wilford	Director of Engagement and Participation
Shane McCullough	Student Voice Assistant (Minutes)
Jane Chukwu	Vice President Postgraduate Studies
Luke Evans	Vice President Societies and Volunteering
Tom Kingsbury	Gair Rhydd

1. Standard Items

- a. **Chris congratulates everybody for attendance**
- b. **Apologies for absence**

Catherine Waldock

- c. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 22 April 2020**

AGREED: *to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2020*

AGREED – *no amendments to previous meeting minutes*

2. Students' Union Submitted Items

- a. **Budget**

TE outlines the depleted budget due to coronavirus pandemic. This has been accounted for. Student services prioritised and only cut by 20%. Considerable budget cuts for AU. JTa queries increase in budget for officers. TE states this was due to budget saved from events that did not take place such as ESLAS and AU ball. MD asks about support from

university regarding funding. TE also states they are also being pressed financially due to lack of international tuition fees due to lack of travel forced by coronavirus.

b. Sabbatical officer updates

TE outlines the reopening of the Student Union building which is now fully open besides the nightclub. TE states the main concerns currently are regarding getting students home safely. JP states many groups and societies have been limited due to coronavirus pandemic and have had to transition online. JW asks if the disability access lift is working. TE states it should be working by 20/11/2020

3. Chair's Items

a. Vice-Chair elections

Orla Tarn is congratulated for being elected as Vice-Chair. OT will chair when CD is illegible to chair such as when he proposes amendments.

b. Bye Laws Amendments

5.3 and 5.4

CD requests an amendment to 5.3 that for Chair and Vice Chair elections shall be conducted using Single Transferable Vote (SVT). DD asks why Sabbatical Trustees or Academic Reps cannot be selected as Chair or Vice Chair. CD states he is not proposing a change to this section of the by-law.

Amendment was approved

6.1.4

CD requests an amendment that for Chair and Vice Chair elections for scrutiny committee, STV is used. JP asks why is chair and vice Chair is elected on first meeting rather than outgoing senate. SW states this is due to the need for experience of chairing senate meetings compared to scrutiny. JW asks CD if he intended it to be a secret ballot. CD confirms he does.

Amendment was approved

5.7.1

CD states this is to remove duplication within the by-laws.

Amendment was approved

6.1.6 and 6.1.1

CD requests an amendment that requires all members to be elected rather than some being appointed by Chair as this can lead to an undemocratic senate. CD also notes the amendment relates to amendment F where committee members can be substitutes for scrutiny but without any voting powers. ZE requests why there was a shift from an elected scrutiny to some being appointed. SW states this has been something previously raised in senate and by trustees and was to increase skill sets within scrutiny rather than popularity. MD states the transition from 5-10 was to avoid a popularity contest. CD rebukes by saying the current by-laws allow a popularity contest but for the chair. TE asks CD if elected officials being scrutinised are doing so for personal gain and then not attending once elected or not understanding the election process. CD notes this is a risk but refers Amendment F as a deterrent to this. CM asks why does Chair of senate control who is appointed rather than an alternative member who is in charge of the application process. SW states this will not change the popularity contest but changed to a different individual. CM follows up by asking if senate could make the decision of those elected. CD states this is unpractical and time consuming. JW suggests why cannot this be a selected panel from the senate that makes the decision on who is elected to scrutiny. SM notes if both options have drawbacks, can there be a different option that combines Chair, Vice Chair and another member. CD responds by stating this also is unweeding and still has its drawbacks in relation to impartiality for the selected members who decide scrutiny committee. MD agrees with SM and asks if another option should be considered. TE requests deferral of amendments. CD confirms this will not affect scrutiny.

Amendment deferred to another Senate meeting

6.2.2 and 6.5

CD requests the stripping away of 6.5 and sets forwards that student council can elect 3 members for scrutiny committee as substitutes. CD requests the removal of by-elections so spots of scrutiny can be filled immediately in positions where people are removed/resigned. CD requests amendments that if more than 4 scrutiny members drop out at one time then Chair can replace or nominate a senate member to replace missing members although this is very unlikely. CD also states that observers can fill spots on committee when there are not enough members present to pass motions. JW requests if there can be a group of elected substitutes present as observers on scrutiny in case they need to step in and notes that chair of senate should not be a

substitute. ZE agrees with JW and notes this can then disrepute impartiality if Senate Chair is present. CD notes this is only in extreme cases where the Chair can step in as a substitute. Amendments E and F will be combined when tabled next meeting.

Amendment to be deferred to next meeting

Appendix 2

CD states that this amendment will allow by-elections at autumn elections and that a student can be appointed in place of a campaign officer who resigns by VP welfare and campaigns in case of resignation as by-elections are not as democratic. CD notes this amendment is for better and more committed campaign officers with a larger share of resource and support. JW comments this system has been used elsewhere and has been successful. ZE states concerns for a campaigns committee that 4 hours per semester is unrealistic. CD agrees but notes this is important to ensure that campaign officers engage. TE states that this adds more confusion and work for campaign officers and requests that a quick call could be used instead. CD claims this allows campaign officers to communicate and support each other and does not believe it is too much of a burden and that having campaign officers who do not engage is more detrimental to groups these campaign officers are representing. JP states that it should not be the VP welfare officer's duty and should potentially be new to the role and may be getting to grips with it. CD

responds by claiming that mitigating circumstances can be applied. JK states that there is support available already for campaign officers. CD claims that this amendment will formalise that structure of support for campaign officers. AAG agrees that this will formalise support but disagrees that the sole responsibility should not be placed on VP Welfare but all VPs and requests for some amendments. CD agrees that this should be deferred to next meeting.

Amendment to be deferred to next meeting

Add the Q!

Proposal by LJ to expand LGBT+ to LGBTQ+ to increase the inclusivity of the acronym. TE asks if this was proposed to happen throughout the university or just within the SU. LJ confirms this is the case to be a mandate on officers. JP requests a time frame for issue. LJ requests by the beginning of the next academic year. CD amends for this to happen by the end of the academic year.

Motion was approved

4. Any other business

a. Lapsed motions

Lapsed motions requested to be looked and resubmitted due to time strain in due course.

5. Next meeting

Next meeting to take place on 15/12/2020 at 6pm

CD thanks all for attending