

Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Senate

Tuesday 15th December 2020
Via Zoom videoconferencing 5pm

PRESENT

Members:

Ahmad Shabib
 Angie Flores Acuña
 Ashly Milena Alava Garcia
 Christopher Dunne Chair
 Daniel Mapatac
 Daniel Philitoga
 Darshan Dalal
 Elizabeth Champion
 Emily Long
 Georgia Day
 Georgie East Sabb representative
 Hannah-Lousie Salter
 Isadora Sinha
 James Taylor
 Janet Williams
 Julia Komar
 Katherine Waldock
 Lola Brin
 Lucas Jakabovic
 Luke Caesari
 Madalina Toea
 Megan Dee
 Megha Roy
 Orla Tarn
 Owain Beynon
 Polly Denny
 Rebecca Hardy
 Roma Eccles
 Sebastian Ripley Sabb representative
 Simran Mahajan
 Talia Khan

Zachary Edge

Also in attendance:

Henry Bishop	Randomly Selected Academic Rep
Tim Fry	Student Voice Coordinator (AHSS)
Steve Wilford	Director of Engagement and Participation
Eleanor Peters	Student Voice Assistant (Minutes)

Section I Standard Items:

A. Apologies for absence

Asher Amen
Jude Pickett
Charlotte Mallinson

B. Minutes from previous meeting

AGREED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17/11/2020, subject to:-

- AS and KW names to be spelt correctly.
- DD and MD were in attendance

Section II Students' Union Submitted Items:

A. SABB Update

SR confirms no updates.

Section III Chair's Items

CD asks to postpone subsection A until later in the meeting when Steve Wilford can attend to explain it. Senate moves onto subsection B.

B. Amendment to by-laws - Appendix 2 – Replacement of Campaign Officers

CD argues for pushing back the amount of time to elect campaign officers to coincide with student council elections. If a campaign officer has left office after the notice of student council elections (mid-October), instead of having a by-election after student council elections, VP Welfare and Campaigns would be entitled to appoint a student member following an interview process. CD notes that any by-elections held other than the two main ones would not get appropriate attention. SM asks for clarification regarding time scale in part c. CD explains if VP Welfare has not decided by the time of the next student senate meeting and if a senator proposes to fill the vacancy by by-election then that motion will be heard. Otherwise there is no time limit. SM asks for this detail to be included in the amendment. CD agrees to amend and clarify section c.

Amendment is approved.

C. Amendment to by-laws – Insert new Section 8.4 and 8.5 – Creation of the Campaigns Committee

CD explains it is a forum where all campaign officers get together to discuss and coordinate campaigns. It would meet twice an academic term and be chaired by VP Welfare and Campaigns. Ensures best practice is continued forward. Students will not be censured for not attending but VP Welfare would. GE agrees and asks to reword section 5 to 'at least 2 days notice'. CD agrees to amendment. GD asks what happens if VP Welfare is ill. CD explains that this is reasonable excuse for not attending hence they are covered by section 5.

Amendment is approved.

D. Amendment to by laws - – Insert new Section 8.6

CD proposes there be a formal mechanism for campaign officers to step back from their roles, as it is currently informal. Called a 'recess from the role'. No time limit to length of recess because campaign officer is a voluntary role. GE suggests that that if a campaign officer spends less than 50% of their time in their role that they have a meeting with VP welfare. This quantifies 'regular and appropriate contact'. CD agrees to quantify the timeframe but suggests 3 months of a semester and then the meetings could happen weekly or fortnightly. MR agrees with having a formal meeting. JK suggests meeting happen every two weeks as weekly is too intrusive. CD suggests meeting every 2 months of continuous recess instead of 3 months. GE

proposes frequency of the meetings could be at the discretion of VP welfare and campaign officer involved. SM asks how often GD meets with campaign officers who are not in recess. GD explains they contact campaign officers weekly offering catch-ups and there is also a monthly catch up with all campaign officers. OB agrees that one meeting should be formal but then meetings going forward should be informal and the time period can be at the discretion of the campaign officer. The formal meeting should be arranged at the 'half-way' point of the campaign officer's requested recess. LJ agrees with OB. SM suggests having a formal meeting every two months for campaign officers who are in recess. LJ asks if this 2 monthly meeting will be formal. CD suggests that the meeting is not defined as formal or informal and just say a meeting must take place at least every two months at minimum. JK asks for clarification over frequency of meetings and timeframe. SM explains there must be a formal meeting every two months and there can be any number of informal meetings at the discretion of VP welfare and the campaign officer. CD agrees the amend section 4 to say 'VP Welfare must contact a campaign officer taking a recess from the role at least every two months'. MD raises concerns of campaign officers being left without support. Regular contact should happen every two to three weeks from VP Welfare. GE agrees with MD's point explaining that VP Welfare needs to give campaign officers opportunity to express need of taking a recess, and further frequent contact is needed to understand what the campaign officer wants to do in regard to their role going forward. CD suggests amendment to section 4 – VP Welfare must contact a campaign officer taking a recess from the role every eight weeks of continuous recess in a formal review meeting. This meeting can occur at the discretion of VP Welfare and campaign officer involved and any number of informal catchups can happen at their discretion.

Amendment is approved.

A. Potential Options for AGM 2020/21

SW apologies for delay to meeting. Explains that the SU have been in discussion with the board of trustees regarding adapted AGM format due to Covid and they will make a decision in two days time. Currently considering five options. Explains it is the trustees role to interpret the bylaws and apply them in the current situation, so today's voting is advisory. AA asks if they can only vote for one option or multiple. CD explains they should vote for every option they find acceptable, not just favourite. JW asks for clarification regarding how many people would be in the meeting that would have proxies involved. SW explains this has not been discussed yet. JW suggests voting occurring before the meeting to get a true representation of the views of the absent students. SW disagrees saying JW described a referenda (a decision making process), whereas an AGM is a debate. SM asks SW to explain

difference between option 2 and 3. SW says the difference is that the use of proxies in option 2 would mean in essence there is 500 people in the room as there would be 500 votes but with fewer people present. Option 3 involves the trustees and senate making the decision to reduce the number of votes needed. MD expresses concerns regarding sign language and Welsh language translator being available at AGM. SW says Welsh language provision will be provided but sign language is unlikely to be provided for due to cost vs demand. DM asks how the proxies would be selected. SW says the trustees are yet to discuss this. It may be a first come first served approach – the ones most willing to attend and act as a proxy. Potentially could run an election to pick a representative in the meeting, however this is similar to student senate. SM asks what happens in the case that the AGM numbers are reduced to 100 people but not enough people attend. SW explains the bylaw says that a second AGM must take place to get the numbers. If this does not happen then the responsibility goes to student senate.

Section IV Submitted Items:

A. Embed Sustainable Development Goals into Cardiff University Students' Union working framework

JK explains the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the proposal to embed them in the SU framework. DD mentions that sanitary napkins have been made free in Scotland and asks how this can be implemented at Cardiff SU. JK explains that after a successful campaign, free sanitary products will be provided around campus for the next 2 years. GE says they plan to present this successful campaign to Welsh Government to promote free sanitary products. MD asks if there are points regarding accessibility and disability in the development goals. JK explains that if it passes through senate then an action plan will be created with goals and these will include improving things for students with disabilities.

Motion is approved.

B. Cardiff University Students' Union to commit to carbon neutrality by 2030

JK explains this motion is to add a date to the climate emergency which was declared last year by student senate. Propose that this should happen by 2030. This gives a clear goal to work towards.

Amendment is approved.

Section V Any Other Business:**1. Lapsed motions – none submitted**

GE reminds student senate that nominations are now open and they close in February.

CD thanks all for attending.

The next meeting will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 2nd February via Zoom