



Cardiff Students' Union
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

Student Senate
Cardiff University Students' Union
Tuesday 5th December 2023, 5pm
Via Zoom

Agenda

Please contact the Student Voice Team via email (democracy@cardiff.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

Standard Items

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Minutes from the previous meeting (P2)
4. Report from the Trustees

Submitted Items

5. Bye-Law Amendment: Vice President Welsh Language, Community and Culture to Vice President Cymraeg
6. Campaign Officer Title Change: Students with Disabilities Officer to Accessibilities Officer
7. Lapsing Policy
8. Tabled Motions:
 - i. Advocation for Abolition of Tuition Fees

Any Other Business

9. Notice of Elections
10. Date of Future Meetings



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ITEM THREE: Minutes from the previous meeting

Student Senate – Minutes

Tuesday 7th November 2023 5pm – Zoom

Attendees:

Committee Members

Rebecca Hardy (Chair)
Angie Flores Acuña (SU President)
Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate)
Deio Siôn Llewelyn Owen (VP Welsh Language)
Alex Meers (VP Heath Park)
Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate)
Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies & Volunteering)
Hannah Pageau (Students with Disabilities Officer)
Trystan Gwennap (Ethical and Environmental Officer)
Daisy Tipping (Womens' Officer)
Sweezel D'Souza (Mature Students' Officer)
Aby Anderson-Peled (Student Senator)
Amelia Hamilton (Student Senator)
Anna Kiddier (Student Senator)
Gabriela Dimitrova (Student Senator)
Gokula Krishnan Kelambakkam Rajendiran (Student Senator)
Maria Pollard (Student Senator)
Shane Toner (Student Senator)
Sinitha Debroy (Student Senator)
Sushama Swathi (Student Senator)
Tanisha Kohli (Student Senator)
Raashi Khanna (Student Senator)
Zohaib Tahir (Student Senator)
Catrin Parry (Student Academic Rep)

Jack Morewood (Observer)

Staff

Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info Point)
Hannah Fatkin (Deputy Head of Student Voice)
Sophie Loudon (Democracy and Projects Coordinator)
Cymen Cyf (Translation Services)



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Standard Items	
Welcome	Rebecca Hardy (Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained the agenda voting process to all attendees and talks through the agenda. The Chair also provided reminder to attendees of the importance of respecting all opinions.
Minutes of previous meeting	<p>RH (Chair) went through the minutes page-by-page asking for any amendments. RH (Chair) highlighted the error in the agenda with incorrect names on p.7.</p> <p>Page 2 Micaela Panes (VP Postgrad) asked if amendment could be made to reflect that she acted as Vice Chair (VC) in the last meeting.</p> <p>Angie Flores Acuña (SU President) raised an issue with her second surname not containing the correct accent.</p> <p>No issues raised for pages 3,4 or 5.</p>
Students' Union Submitted Items	
Item 4: Election of Vice Chair	<p>RH (Chair) explained the role of VC and invited members of Student Senate to put themselves forward for position of Vice Chair.</p> <p>Maria Pollard and Tanisha Kohli put themselves forward and were invited to speak for 60 seconds explaining why they should be elected as Vice-Chair.</p> <p>RH explained the voting process in further detail and reminded attendees to complete their voting card.</p>
Students Union Budget	<p>Angie (SU President) presented the Students' Union budget.</p> <p>Angie (President) outlined the headline figures. Including reduction of budget of just under £200,000. Angie explained this is part due to inflation and increases in costs.</p>
Report from Trustees	<p>Angie (President) explained the role of a trustee and who they are, then provided a verbal update on behalf of the trustees.</p> <p>Angie (President) provided an update on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open letter sent to the Vice Chancellor over summer to demand refunds for disruption from UCU strikes.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campaign ran to ensure students were aware of the deadline for strike disruption complaints (email sent to all students and use of social media) • Implementation of new postgraduate (PG) teaching contracts for PG students who teach, a campaign run by Michaela Panes (VP PG) to ensure all PG students knew what this meant for them, and the new rights held. • Welcome packs delivered to around 500 flats to help communication between new students • Food festival, silent cinema and escape rooms held as part of Freshers Fortnight • Micaela (VP PG) ran event to engage PG students with over 300 attendances • Alex Meers (VP Heath) ran specific Heath student events with over 100 attendances • Over 21,600 attendances at the Freshers Fairs beating previous attendance records. Claire Morgan (Pro Vice-Chancellor Education and Student experience) and Wendy Lerner (Vice-Chancellor) also in attendance. • Black History Month was run in collaboration with the African Caribbean Society. Students were asked what change they would like to see; a commitment will be kept throughout the year with the next event Afrogene on 20th November • Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate) also launched the Harm Reduction Drug survey which gained around 200-300 responses. Noah (VP UG) confirmed 300 responses so far via chat. • Madison Hutchinson (VP Societies and Volunteering) led Pink Week • Madison (VP Societies and Volunteering) also relaunched Clean Up Cardiff • Housing and Wellbeing fair was also held. Wellbeing was added to ensure students know what support systems are in place. • Deio Siôn Llewelyn Owen (VP Welsh Language) started Movember campaign in collab with other social groups • Sober Socials week starting 13th November • Alex Meers (VP Heath Park) working on Placement Bursary Funding with some students for Heath Students
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event with Wendy Lerner (Vice-Chancellor) run which was well attended • In December Winter Wellbeing will be led by Georgia Spry (VP Sports) and Madison (VP Societies and Volunteering)
Questions	<p>RH (Chair) invited members of Student Senate to ask questions with regards to trustee report and budget.</p> <p>No questions are asked at this point. RH (Chair) reminded students that if they do have any question to email the Sabbatical Officers.</p>
Item 7: Appointment of external trustee	RH (Chair) invited members to read the paper outlining the recommended re-appointment of an external trustees.
Submitted Items	
Item 8: Lapsing Policies	RH (Chair) explained there were no lapsing policies for this meeting.
Item 9: Amendment to by-laws	<p>RH (Chair) provided a reminder of how motion debate works. RH (Chair) explained the bye-law amendment to be discussed. RH (Chair) further explained that an amendment was submitted to motion and accepted by the proposer.</p> <p>RH (Chair) invited Jack Morewood (Proposer of amendment) to speak on the proposed amendment of bye-law 4.</p> <p>For Jack (Proposer) outlined the intensions of the amendment and provided context of the previous decision by Student Senate.</p> <p>Against RH (Chair) invited Senate members to speak against the motion should they wish to. RH (Chair) invited Noah (VP UG) to speak.</p> <p>Noah (VP UG) explained he understands the need for accessibility and does not wish to raise issue of costs as he does not believe this should be a barrier to accessibility. He argued that there may be issues of maintaining democratic validity.</p>



	<p>For RH (Chair) opened the floor to s anyone else wishing to speak for the motion.</p> <p>Hanna Marie Pageau explained that this is standard with the National Union of Students (NUS) and that this is the only organisation out of 15 organisations she is a part of to not offer this style of AGM. Hanna reiterated that the practice outlined in the amendment should be the bare minimum.</p> <p>Against Noah (VP UG) explained that they will ensure virtual attendance and voting by proxy.</p> <p>For Micaela (VP PG) spoke for the motion outlining that the amendment is as positive one positive as not everyone will have access to someone who can vote by proxy for them. Also outlined how she understood Noah's concerns and the need to protect AGM.</p> <p>Alex (VP Heath) highlighted the barriers faced by Heath Park students on placement, part-time students, parents, carers, and students with Disabilities.</p> <p>Against Noah (VP UG) clarified that you will not need to know anyone at the AGM to vote by proxy as they have amended the system. Does not believe the amendment is well written enough to bring these changes forward.</p> <p>For Hanna outlined the lack of sense of disability justice that comes out of democratic process where disabled people are not included.</p> <p>Against Deio (VP Welsh Language) spoke against the motion.</p> <p>Summary RH (Chair) passed over to Jack for a final summation of the motion and provides a reminder that no new information can be given.</p> <p>Jack outlined he gratitude for everyone that spoke in favour</p>
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	and gave thanks to Noah's for his concerns against it. Vote RH (Chair) thanked everyone for the discussion and reminded everyone to vote via their voting card.
Any other business	
AGM	RH (Chair) reminded members that the AGM will be held on the 23 rd November at 5:30pm
Next Meeting	Next meeting 5 th December at 5pm
MEETING ENDED	
VOTING RESULTS Minutes from previous meeting: Approved Election of Vice-Chair: Tanisha Kohli Appointment of External Trustee: Approved Amendment to bye-law 4: Approved	



ITEM FIVE: Bye-Law Amendment: Vice President Welsh Language, Community and Culture to Vice President Cymraeg

Proposer: Deio Owen

Context

The Bye Laws of the Students' Union may be amended by a joint decision of Student Senate and the Board of Trustees as defined within Bye Law 17:

17. Amendments to the Bye-Laws

17.1 Amendments to the Bye-Laws shall be made jointly by the Trustees and the Student Council in accordance with Article 50.

17.2 Amendments to the Bye-Laws may be proposed by Student Members to Student Council.

Article 50 states that:

50. Bye-Laws

The Trustees and the Student Council shall have the power from time to time to jointly make, repeal or amend Bye-Laws as to the management of the Union and its working practices provided that such Bye-Laws shall not be inconsistent with these Articles.

The following proposals is being submitted to Student Seante and the Board of Trustees following a decision by the Union's Annual General Meeting on Thursday 23rd November 2023. Student Members' Meetings or Referenda have the power to determine the Sabbatical Officer structure as long as the structure includes no more than seven roles which include a Students' Union President and a Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community. In the spirit of this requirement a seven officer structure was proposed and approved by AGM.

However, this structure also included a recommendation to rename the Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community to Vice President Cymraeg. The paper noted "*Changes to the Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community role requires an approved change to the Union's bye-laws by Student Senate and the Board of Trustees. The approved title outlined in 'point g' will only be adopted if such approval is received. In the event that Student Senate and/or the Board of Trustees do not approve the necessary changes to the bye-laws the role will remain Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community.*"

Therefore the Board of Trustees and Student Senate are being invited to approve the proposed change to the bye-law to allow for the change in title in time for the Spring Election 2024 nominations which are due to open on Monday 11th December 2023.



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Bye Law	Current	Proposed	Considerations for Board
Bye-law 7	<p>“7.2.8. Sabbatical Trustee roles shall be determined by a Members’ Meeting or a Referendum, but will at all times include a President and a Vice President Welsh Language, Culture and Community.”</p>	<p>“7.2.8. Sabbatical Trustee roles shall be determined by a Members’ Meeting or a Referendum, but will at all times include a President and a Vice Cymraeg.”</p>	<p>This change requires Board and Student Senate approve but remains within the spirit of the original change.</p>



ITEM SIX: Campaign Officer Title Change: Students with Disabilities Officer to Accessibilities Officer

Proposer: Hanna Pageau

Proposal:

1. Rename the Students with Disabilities Officer role to Accessibility Officer
2. Retain the name of the Students with Disabilities Association

The above proposal would change **only** the name of the officer. This is to reflect the work actually done in the position and to make the role itself more accessible for students who need help with accessibilities needs on campus but who may not identify as disabled or feel comfortable taking up space allocated specifically for disabled people.

The proposal retains the name of the Association to assure that students with disabilities retain a permanent place of representation specifically. The Association would still be run by the renamed Officer. This follows the precedent of the Anti-Racism Officer and the currently retained name of BAME Association. This would, hopefully, assist in creating new precedent that could be codified into our governing documents to allow for slight discord between the names of an Officer position (which are more all-encompassing) and their associated Association.



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ITEM SEVEN: Lapsing Policy

1. Embed Sustainable Development Goals into Cardiff University Students' Union working framework – Passed by Senate 15/12/2020
2. Cardiff University Students' Union to Commit to Carbon Neutrality by 2030 – Passed by Senate 15/12/2020



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ITEM EIGHT: Tabled Motions

ADVOCATION FOR THE ABOLITION OF TUITION FEES

Proposed by: Cadewyn Skelley

AGM Notes

1. Tuition Fees we're originally abolished in 1976, later reinstated by a Tony Blair Government, and rose to their current levels under a Conservative and Liberal Democrats 2010 coalition Government;
2. Tuition Fees for Welsh undergraduate students in Wales can be up to £9000 per year;
3. Tuition Fees for international students with oversea status can exceed £20,000+ per semester, with the possibility to increase in the second and subsequent years of a course as permitted by law or Welsh Government policy;
4. There are three repayment plans for English students Plan 1, 2, and 5;
5. There are two repayment plans for Welsh students, Plan 1 and 2 (Same set up as Plan 1 and 2 for English students);
 - i. Former students who started before 1st Sept. 2012 = Plan 1;
 - ii. Current and former students who started during Sept. 2012 and 31st July 2023 = Plan 2; c. Future English students who start on or after 1st Aug. 2023 = Plan 5;

AGM Believes

1. Tuition fees are a regressive system which negatively impacts the accessibility of higher education, while simultaneously punishing those who seek to improve their standard of living (students);
2. It is a predatory practice with regards to international students;
3. Plan 5 is a deeply regressive system for English students, requiring them to pay back for a longer period with a lower repayment threshold, which primarily effects middle and lower income families;
4. While the Student's Union doesn't have the capabilities to alter the current system, it has the capabilities to voice and promote activist action that challenge the current system;

AGM Resolves

1. To support tuition fee abolition and forgiveness of student debt for all, international and national students;
2. To support and promote activist action on the subject of tuition fee abolition and forgiveness of student debt, while strongly encouraging Cardiff University societies to do the same.



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ITEM NINE: Notice of Elections

On Monday 11th December 2023 the Students' Union will open nominations for the Spring Elections. All sabbatical officer and campaign officer roles for 2024/2025 will be open for nomination in these elections. If you'd like more information keep an eye on the Students' Union website (www.cardiffstudents.com) for the Notice of Election.

END OF PAPERS



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