



Cardiff Students' Union
Undeb Myfyrwyr Caerdydd

Student Senate
Cardiff University Students' Union
Tuesday 23rd April 2024, 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)
SU Submitted Items	4. Report from the Trustees	
	5. Lapsing Policy <i>(There are no lapsing policies to note for this Student Senate)</i>	
	6. Officer Accountability Reports	(P8)
Any Other Business	7. Dates of Future Meetings	(P10)



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ITEM THREE: Minutes from the previous meeting

Student Senate – Minutes

22nd February 2023, 6pm – Via Zoom
(Adjourned meeting from 13th February 2023, 5pm – Via Zoom)

Attendees

Committee Members

Maria Pollard (Chair)

Deio Owen (VP Welsh Language, Community and Culture)
Alex Meers (VP Heath Park Campus (Education and Welfare))
Noah Russell (VP Undergraduate Students (Education and Welfare))
Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate Students (Education and Welfare))
Hanna Pageau (Students with Disabilities Officer)
Sweezel D Souza (Mature Students' Officer)
Nathan Mintz (International Students' Officer)

Amelia Hamilton (Student Senator)
Gokula Krishnan Kelambakkam Rajendiran (Student Senator)
Jonathan Williams (Student Senator)
Raashi Khanna (Student Senator)
Umar Shahid (Student Senator)
Gulshanbanu Ansari (Student Senator)
Sandhya Ayar (Student Senator)
Taniya Hasan (Student Senator)

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	
Item 1: Welcome	<p>Maria Pollard (Chair) welcomed attendees to the meeting and MP mentioned that Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice) is the Info Point for this meeting.</p> <p>MP (Chair) also highlighted that there are translation services available for English and Welsh speakers. The Chair explained the agenda and voting process to all attendees and talked through the agenda. The Chair also provided a reminder to attendees of the importance of respecting all opinions.</p>
Item 3: Minutes of previous meeting	<p>MP (Chair) went through the minutes page-by-page asking for any amendments.</p> <p>No issues raised for pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9</p>
Students' Union Submitted Items	
Item 4: Report from the Trustees	<p><i>This participant spoke in Welsh.</i></p> <p>Deio Owens (VP Welsh Language) provided an overview of the report from trustees since last Senate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Began by stating that since the last meeting the AGM had been held with four motions passed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A better and more inclusive university - Time to Act: Tackling Sexual Misconduct at Cardiff University - A Ceasefire Now - Advocation for the abolition of tuition fees <p>DO (VP Welsh Language) also noted that many people from across campus turned up and took part in the AGM.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2) Spring Elections are on their way and VP Undergrad Education and Welfare officer role has been changed which will come into force in the elections in the next few weeks. DO (VP Welsh Language) wished luck to all those that are standing. 3) Sabbatical Officers have been working on many different campaigns such as assistance for students on placement, Winter Welfare, SHAG Safe and postgrad issues, cost of living and LGBTQ+ history month. Revision Aid has now come to an end and the Sabbatical Officers supported striking junior doctors



	<p>outside the Senedd. DO (VP Welsh Language) also thanked all those that had any participation in the LGBTQ+ showcase.</p> <p>4) DO (VP Welsh Language) highlighted the success of Medics Varsity which took place in December and brought attention to the upcoming Varsity which is taking place in April.</p> <p>5) DO (VP Welsh Language) highlighted the importance of work currently ongoing to improve access to assessments in Welsh, Welsh medium provision in terms of modules and communication rights, standards of Welsh and the prospectus in Welsh.</p> <p>6) Finally, DO (VP Welsh Language) thanked Alex for all of his work as this was his last meeting as a Sabbatical Officer.</p>
<p>Submitted Items</p>	
<p>Item 5: Lapsing Policy</p>	<p>No lapsing policies to note for this Student Senate</p>
<p>Item 6: Tabled Motions: A better future for Welsh Students</p>	<p>MP (chair) explained that motions from AGM that received more than 50 upvotes on the AGM portal but were not in the top 5 have been submitted for discussion at the Senate. 3 motions were submitted but 2 were withdrawn by the motion proposers.</p> <p>A better Future for Welsh Students</p> <p>MP (Chair) provided a quick reminder of how the motion debate works. Motion provider will talk for 4 minutes and then someone wishing to speak against the motion can speak for 4 minutes. It will then be decided whether attendees want to hear another round of speeches. General debate will occur at the end where final comments can be given but no new information.</p> <p>Deio Owen's (VP Welsh Language) outlined the proposal, which is for the Union to not submit nomination to the National Honours Board and to encourage the University to follow suit. DO (VP Welsh Language) provided the context that Cardiff University nominates people that should receive national honours to the Welsh Government then onto the National Honours Board. National Honours are OBEs, MBEs, and Knighthoods. DO (VP Welsh Language) outlined that the motion also refers to Welsh Independence and how this would create a better future for Welsh Students, allowing the Union to provide an example of how an SU can be politically active to advocate for better student and society</p>



experiences. Stated that national honours system is outdated, open to misuse and glorifies the atrocities of the British Empire, also celebrates an unelected head of state in a democratic country. Lists some disgraced celebrities that have received national honours and some that have refused them. Does not believe that this should be celebrated and supported by the university and believes that there are many other ways to celebrate people.

Against

MP (Chair) read out Hanna's against point which had been placed in the chat due to illness.

While agreeing with nearly all proposals, does not think it is an appropriate vote for Senate as this should go to next year's AGM for a vote from the wider student body. Does not believe that this is something that only 13 people should be deciding.

This statement was interpreted as a submission of a procedural motion which was then confirmed by HP.

Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) confirmed that 2 speeches for and 1 against are required to debate the procedural motion.

For

Noah Russell (VP Undergrad) stated that a change is needed with independence being gained as a goal. Stresses the needed of a renationalisation in economy, healthcare, education, and transport. Claimed it is utterly unjust to nominate people for honours in an imperial system.

PROCEDURAL MOTION NOW DEBATED

Micaela Panes (VP Postgraduate) enquired whether this will go straight to AGM agenda or if it will go priority ballot again. TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info Point) confirms that this will go straight to AGM agenda.



	<p>For – Procedural Motion</p> <p>HP speech is repeated to form the argument for procedural motion.</p> <p>Against</p> <p>DO (VP Welsh Language) questioned the need for this motion to be delayed by a year if pushed back to AGM. Highlighted that this motion had already been pushed from AGM to Senate.</p> <p>TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) confirms that this will now go to voting.</p> <p><i>Voting was carried out and the procedural motion fell so there was a return to debating against the original motion.</i></p> <p>MP (Chair) asked if there were any more speakers against the motion and then there was a move onto the general discussion.</p> <p>DO (VP Welsh Language) summarises that the motion is there to make a statement that the Union does not wish to nominate to the national honours system.</p> <p>MP (Chair) reminded attendees of the voting process</p>
<p>Item 7: Officer Accountability Reports</p>	<p>TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) runs through the accountability reports, explaining that he is not there to answer questions about the findings but to only run through what they are. TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) outlined the changes that have been made to this process since last year. Senate was made aware that no issues had been flagged to them which is why this is to note instead of discussion.</p> <p>TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) outlined how this change has been implemented for Campaign Officers whose association committee act as their executive committee. Has noted that this has been harder to implement, and Voice are actively looking into how this process can be changed for next year.</p> <p>Finally, TA (Head of Student Voice and Advice, Info point) encourages everyone to give them a detailed read and states that anything in the</p>



	reports can be brought to the officers directly or via the Democracy inbox
Any other business	
Item 8: Elections	Nominations have now closed for Spring Elections.
Item 9: Future Meetings	Student Senate 4: Thursday 21 st March Student Senate 5: Tuesday 23 rd April
Notices	DO (VP Welsh Language) wishes to note once again that this is Alex's last meeting and would like to thank him for all the work he has done over the years he has been involved with Senate and as an officer.
MEETING ENDED	
VOTING RESULTS	
Minutes from the previous meeting: Approved	
A Better Future for Welsh Students: Approved	



ITEM SIX: Officer Accountability Reports

Sabbatical Officers

Following phase 1 of the democracy review and as outlined in the Students' Union governing documents, the Sabbatical Officers are each required to have their own executive committee (excluding the Students' Union President). Each executive committee is required to convene an accountability session at least three times per academic year whereby they ensure their appropriate elected officer is held to account on their work against their manifesto, year priorities, and actions on relevant passed policy. In the case of the Students' Union President an accountability council was directly elected in the Autumn Elections.

Each Sabbatical Officer's second accountability session took place between 14th February-22nd February 2024, with the scheduled accountability sessions due to take place 22nd April-3rd May 2024.

The full accountability reports for each accountability session can be found on the Students' Union website here: <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/democracy/accountability//>. These reports are made available to Student Senate as required by the Union's governing documents. This page is also accessible by all Cardiff University students.

During the accountability sessions the members are asked whether there is anything they want to make Student Senate aware of as a result of the meeting. The following was identified in the Vice President Postgraduate Students (Education and Welfare)'s session:

There is no concern about the performance of the VP Postgraduate. However, the committee are concerned about the implications of the current PG funding cuts from the government. This will have lasting impact beyond a Sabbatical Officer term, and the committee would like to note the importance of continued work on this in future years, by future Officers.

No concerns regarding the elected officers' performances were identified by the accountability sessions and therefore these reports are presented for note only.

Campaign Officers

Similarly, the Campaigns Officers each have their own committees elected from their association members. The association committees are then responsible for holding the accountability sessions for their respective elected officer as outlined above. Whilst associations and association committees are not new or a result of the democracy review, the role they are asked to play in regards to an officer's accountability is.

Reinitiating the associations and ensuring the same accountability process is followed has been slightly harder than originally envisioned by the democracy review, through no fault of the



Campaign Officers themselves. The democracy review will therefore be proposing a rethink of the accountability requirements of Campaign Officers which is better in touch with their role and responsibilities and takes note of the fact they are unpaid volunteers who do immense work across campus.

The Campaign Officers' first accountability reports are available to view here: <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/democracy/accountability//>.



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ITEM SEVEN: Dates of Future Meetings

Student Senate 5: Tuesday 4th June 2024

END OF PAPERS



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