

Student Senate

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



Tuesday 24 January 2017
4J, 4th Floor Students' Union 6pm

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:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|
| 1. Apologies | 6.05pm |
| 2. Welcome from the Chair | 6.10pm |
| 3. Minutes from previous meeting | 6.15pm |
| A) Matters Arising | 6.25pm |

II Submitted Items:

a) Students' Union Item

1. Complaints, Discipline and Appeals (Paper Attached) 6.50pm

b) Senate Motions

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. TEF Off | 6.55pm |
| 2. Stop Fuelling Hate | 7.10pm |
| 3. Senate AGM | 7.25pm |
| 4. Humanist Chaplain in Cardiff University | 7.40pm |
| 5. Recorded Student Senate Meetings | 7.55pm |
| 6. This is Wales | 8.10pm |
| 7. Time to Change Action Plan | 8.25pm |
| 8. Put liberation and campaigns at the centre stage | 8.40pm |
| 9. Tuition Fees should not rise within TEF in Wales | 8.55pm |
| 10. Student Senate Discussion | 9.10pm |

III Any Other Business:

- | | |
|---|--------|
| 1. Lapsed motions | 9.25pm |
| 1. Cynnig llety Cymraeg - First year accommodation for Welsh speakers | |
| 2. Support Equal Access for Asylum Seekers to Higher Education | |

Note on lapsing policies for next time:

Being a Zero tolerance union (replaced 24/11/2016 at AGM), Run a voter registration campaign targeted at students, ahead of the 2015 general election, Gender Balance our NUS UK Delegation, as well as Policy on Sexist Media and Advertising

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I 3. Student Senate Minutes

Student Senate

Minutes

Tuesday 21 November

Student Senate
Senedd y Myfyrwyr



Monday 21 November 2016, Room 4J, 4th Floor Students' Union, 6pm

1. Standard Items:

A) Apologies

Apologies from: Callum Smith, Jasmin Owen and Vaishnavil Sayal.

B) Welcome from the Chair

Sophie Timbers (ST) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C) Minutes from previous meeting

No amendments. Minutes ratified.

2. Students' Union Items:

A) Election of Chair

Sophie Timbers (ST) explained she was not acting as chair, just welcoming senators to the meeting and helping with the Chair election. Interest has been shown from Katey Beggan (KB) and Jake Smith (JS).

Matthew Procter (MP) asked if there is a vice chair election and when it is.

ST responded it is following this election. Asked if there was any interest for vice chair.

MP expressed interest

ST opened floor to KB and JS

KB explained she is running for Student Senate Chair as last year she was an elected officer and so knows how the Students' Union runs, how the Bye-Laws work and how Senate feeds into that. She has experience chairing meetings and knows how they should run. This can be brought to the table. She wants a welcoming atmosphere where any motion can be brought to table and will be supported.

JS requested to withdraw his nomination

ST explained there are 2 options; KB or RON (re-open nominations) and opened floor for nominations for Vice Chair

MP explained he is new to Senate but has lots of experience outside in committees and can bring fresh perspective to how its run. He said he can compare Chair to other places and use this to run Senate in the best way. He explained that he is free lots this year, so could Chair Senate if needed and that he is competent in debating.

JS enquired about running for Vice Chair instead of Chair.

ST confirmed this was ok and opened the floor to him

JS explained that he would make a good vice chair as it is his 3rd year on senate and he has significant experience on how to conduct meetings. In his first year, the Chair was absent and he explained that he ran 2 meetings and did a good job. He also sits on the Scrutiny Committee and is this year's NUS delegate. He explained that he has good experience of different levels of the Students' Union, knowledge of NUS and also levels of student movement.

ST explained there are 3 candidates; MP, JS and RON.

ST confirmed that KB was elected Chair and there was a draw between JS and MP for Vice Chair. It will be decided each meeting who will act as Vice Chair. She congratulated all nominees.

Katey Beggan elected as Chair

Jake Smith and Matthew Procter elected as Vice Chair

B) Students' Union Budget

ST explained the overall budget for 2016/17 and student service provision has been provided.

MP asked for clarification on what is being voting on

KB explained it is just for reference

Steve Ralph (SR) explained the Bye-Laws say we have to show the budget

MP suggested it might be useful to have a comparison to last year's report

ST acknowledged feedback

JS noticed there is more being spent than taken in. He asked if this was from the pot or running into deficit.

ST explained that all profit goes back into the Students' Union and will be spent. Additional funds are given gifts from CUSL and profit from that can help to fund projects. A lot is spent on students.

JS asked who decides how much money is spent on AU/societies.

ST explained it is the Board of Trustees and officers sit on board. It is decided in house (by the Strategic Management Team) and also externally.

MP asked for clarification on why we are given this information

KB explained that it's in the Bye-Laws

MP asked if Senate should scrutinise

ST explained it is a chance to ask questions

MP raised concerns that no one in this room can scrutinise this in 20 mins. He suggested there should be a budget scrutiny committee and that we should get their minutes instead.

ST explained that this can be discussed in house and that there is a Governance Review underway that this could feed into. Feedback will be provided next Senate.

Steve Wilford (SW) explained that the Finance and Audit Committee scrutinise the budget and it is presented less for scrutiny and more for information and as an opportunity to give opinions.

Steffan Bryn (SB) asked who sits on the Finance and Audit Committee

ST explained it is chaired by an external member and members include 2 elected officers, external chairs for sub committees, a University-nominated trustee and 1 or 2 student trustees. This information will be checked for next Senate.

SB asked what opportunities are there for students to influence the budget before it is presented and also what the process is for budget formation.

ST explained it is set up by strategic aims over the next few years and is sorted year by year. They work with departments for future plans. There is student representation too as it includes student trustees who can approve budget. Students can present ideas at AGM.

Josh enquired if the process of AGM was to ratify and approve budget, pass or move on?

ST explained it is more for acceptance and move on

Josh suggested that it would be nice to have more information and breakdowns

ST explained that at AGM consolidated accounts are presented (CUSL and CUSU)

JS suggested this could be provided as publically available information

ST explained the Students' Union is a registered charity, therefore tries to be transparent. The budgets are available online and she will clarify where.

SW explained it is a news item and could be circulated

SB explained that there is a difference between approving accounts and having the opportunity to influence the budget. That's what needs to be addressed here.

ST explained that the finances are complex and that it would be very difficult to come to a conclusion here.

Hollie Cooke (HC) explained that it took a long time and a lot training to be able to understand this budget

SB acknowledged this point but explained that there are a lot more complex budgets (Cardiff Council) who consult the public. He then asked why students can't give their opinion.

ST offered to speak to the Board

Nicola Bagshaw (NB) asked for significant changes to be highlighted

ST explained she can't do that now but could look for another time

James asked why NUS affiliation is not on the spreadsheet

ST explained this would come under central services overheads (£956,000)

JS noted that all income from NUS is listed (£16,000)

Sara asked for clarification as to why Jobshop funding is negative

ST explained that the Students' Union expect to spend more than they get, in order to enhance student experience. There is income from the operating company and subsidiary

Ruth asked why Campaign Officers get such little funding when it is for the benefit of student population, especially for minorities

Marcus commented that each year people say they are underfunded

ST explained there is a limited cost and that money comes from the Student Voice budget which also has to pay for student reps but acknowledged this feedback.

Ruth asked if the budget could be split more evenly between societies and Campaign Officers

ST explained there are thousands of society members but some spend more. Offered to speak to Ruth about this at another time

MP commented that this 10 minute discussion shows the need for another committee. He asked for clarification on what will be done for next meeting

ST responded that she will discuss options around how student groups can have more influence in budgeting and would see if Board would approve any options. She will have separate conversation with Campaign Officers about budget options.

MP asked what role Senate have with accounts and what is going to be done about that

ST explained that this is the first time we have done this and always welcome feedback. This can be clarified.

SB asked for a direct number for Welsh language funding as this needs reporting back. Also asked for other liberation campaign options

ST explained that it is hard to find an exact figure as each department had separate costs

C) Report from the Trustees

ST explained that Cardiff Volunteering is now a charity, the ground floor redevelopment is completed and all outlets, bar one, have been leased out to different tenants (both internal and external). The Centre for Student Life will bring together all professional services in one building. The Students' Union now pays all student staff the National Living Wage (£7.20 or £7.70 for supervisors) The Heath Students' Union has had a new common room and is already at capacity. Ranked 5th best Students' Union in UK by NSS, of which 87% students were satisfied. NUS quality charter mark awarded us Excellent in student engagement. Welsh Language Policy has been approved and put in Bye-Laws to be reviewed annually. There have been new student trustees, a University nominated trustee and a bilingual charity law specialist recruited.

MP asked if Senate ratify student trustees

KB explained it is ratified by Board

SR confirmed that they have been ratified previously

MJ commented that the National Living Wage is £8.45 an hour

ST commented that progress has still been made

D) Bye-Laws – Update

ST addressed the fact that the Bye-Laws needed tidying up but explained this was very

administrative. A summary page of changes that go beyond basics has been provided. She explained that no text has been removed, it has been updated and better summarised. She explained that the Governance Review needs to include the Bye-Laws update

KB requested clarification that changes are under 'Additional Changes'

SW explained that the summary sheet applies to complaints, discipline and appeals and Bye-Laws is only administrative changes

MJ commented regarding wording of additional changes

SB asked why there are no proposal and seconder and who makes these.

ST explained that this is not a motion, it is an item for approval presented at Senate

SB asked if amendments could be proposed

ST responded yes

E) Bye-Laws – Complaints, Discipline and Appeals Procedures

ST explained that changes have been outlined in the update on page 1

Chiron Hooson (CH) asked if this would be the procedure that is followed if previous complaints (Dapper Laughs) were made now

ST responded that this is concerning individual members of the Students' Union and that any other complaints made can still go to corresponding members of staff

Marcus asked which department it is talking about when it says students and asked how it will be better than its current makeup

ST explained that it is difficult for a student to complain about another in front of a panel of students and that it might be beneficial in front of another panel. Explained that the makeup reflects panel for University disciplinary procedures; an elected officer, a senior member of staff and a trustee. This is a good makeup to get a balance of views.

MJ requested page numbers for future meetings and clarified that a member found guilty can have access to services 'at the discretion of the department'.

SB commented that the change is from a body run by students to one increasingly by staff. He asked whether this is the kind of trend that we as a Senate should be welcoming to represent student's interests. Also requested clarification as to whether revising Bye-Laws should be taken to senate

KB responded that should be brought up as a separate item next time

ST welcomed student input on complaints but explained that there is a sensitivity around some complaints and it wouldn't be fair to be put it in front of Scrutiny etc. She explained that the appeals process is mainly students

SB replied that it is not a majority of students

ST explained that we need to consider consistency, so a member of staff must be in the room as this reflects the University disciplinary procedure. Also explained that this is just to inform you of changes each year. Will clarify whether any student can submit a motion to change Bye-Laws

SW confirmed that Bye-Laws can be jointly amended by this group and by Trustees. Explained that how that arrives with Senate by any format that you like. Used to be a document for approval, it doesn't fit motion template and that's why it's this format.

MJ commented that there's no one in this room that has had same training as HR, there is no comparison. Senate don't have a full time job so we could voice our opinions but a disciplinary isn't the place for this. It's a place for expertise rather than everyone's vote being equal.

SB commented that staff were not voted for and the makeup of a panel and suggested a panel could be 2 Sabbatical Officers and one Head of Department.

MJ commented that there shouldn't be a democratic vote for everything, sometimes a professional is needed. Having democratic influence on someone's life or career at a disciplinary procedure isn't necessary.

Marcus commented that it is vague over who will determine which department are involved. Asked how this is determined and also how we know if adult members of staff have experience.

KB suggested to go to a vote or go to point F

ST objected and explained that this policy needs to be changed. Advised Senate to have trust in Elected Officer positions. If we went to point F, student welfare would be affected.

SW commented that once it is passed by Senate and Trustees, the committees would disappear. Suggested that it is best to pass now and then can be revisited.

Marcus asked what would be the procedure until passed by Trustees

SW explained that until they pass, we go with the old policy

SB commented that the point is being missed and that a mandate by students should be students

ST commented that she understands the concern

KB explained that an amendment would need to go to the Board

ST explained that it can be approved here and then go to Board, if they approve its then in place. Proposed an amendment to have a Head of department and 2 Elected Officers on the panel to give a student majority.

SB commented that there is more than one panel and asked how we can be sure this applies to all panels

ST replied that if that is the feeling from Senate for it to be every panel then it can be proposed and accepted.

Amendment proposed and accepted

James commented that a student's access to Student Advice should not be compromised, they should still get support. Proposed an amendment to say 'just premises'

Amendment proposed

ST explained that this is a case by case basis and Student Advice wouldn't be taken away. It would be membership rights (ie, club or society) if a student has complained about another student. During that complaint, they should therefore be removed.

Amendment rejected

Matthew suggested changing 'have access to services suspended to undertake an investigation' to 'have access to services suspended, in so far as it is necessary, to undertake an effective investigation' as it places more on Heads of Department

Amendment proposed and accepted

KB suggested that results be sent via email and then next Senate to form or remove committees as necessary

F) Senate Representation on Standing Committee Elections

1. *Discipline Committee*

2. *Complaints Committee*

3. *Appeals Committee*

3. Submitted Items:

1) Catering for all – Vegan food options at the SU
Proposed by Matthew Procter (MP)

MP described a self-explanatory motion where the Students' Union should provide vegan food options and information regarding animal content of drinks should be made available to bar staff. The Students' Union should lobby University catering departments as they are lacking in vegan food options. The President of Vegetarian and Vegan Society thought this motion was a good idea and I agreed.

No speakers against

Ruth mentioned that this time span is quite sudden and asked how quickly the turnaround could be. She suggested that a later goal could be better to give time for menu printing etc.

MP responded that he is happy with the deadline as if the Taf and Students' Union can't make the deadline they can get back to us for next Senate. He explained that this motion is just a nudge to the Students' Union. It would be a shame for this motion to get lost.

ST clarified that it would probably be a feasible date. The Taf does offer vegan options but perhaps these are not well labelled. This can be addressed and then we can look at other places and vegan options.

Charlie asked whether students could ask for vegan options or substitutions.

MP responded that he once asked for a vegan chilli but the staff member didn't know.

NB asked if there was a dietary book

MP responded that it was busy

Sara explained that they do have a book as she has asked for gluten-free before

MP suggested that it could have been bad timing

SB asked if there was anyone working in the Taf who would know if they get this training or whether vegan food is available

SW answered that there is but it isn't well labelled. This will be an aim for the new semester

Sara explained the menu used to be labelled but it changed and these labels were lost

Charlie explained it is not an issue of availability and suggested it needs to be more open

MJ explained that it won't change the motion if they need new labels

Sara suggested they might want vegan options available all over the University though, not just the

Taf

MP explained that University and Union catering are different but this motion says to lobby

ST explained that lobbying is simple as the Students' Union are in regular contact with the University and staff member that oversees catering

HC asked whether all drinks should be labelled or is it just alcoholic drinks

MP responded that all drinks should be labelled

NB asked if one option was enough

MP thought that one was enough to aim for

NB described a growing population of veganism and suggested more diversity of options in future

KB explained that this motion could be passed and then that would be a separate motion

SB explained that it is difficult to propose an amendment to point 1 which says 'at least one option'

MJ suggested the amendment could say 'more options by end of semester'

Josh suggested using this motion as a starting point to be followed up in next Senate if the motion succeeds

KB asked for clarification if SB wished to propose an amendment or not

SB declined and did not see how one can be added

MP did not wish to summate

4. Any Other Business:

1) Lapsed motions

- Stop Saturday Exams
- Gender Equality on Senate
- Living Wage Employer
- Ban on Promotion of Cruel Sports

KB explained that new motions will need to be brought in to Senate to renew

MP commented that he has a questionnaire on feedback from the election and enquired where the yearly review is.

Marcus commented that it should be released after AGM

ST explained that the finance pack should have been released and she will work on it

Marcus commented that point 7 has been rendered useless by voting on point E

CH commented that the next meeting is very soon and there isn't much time to put motions forward

MP asked why Scrutiny Committee haven't met yet. To bring issues to Senate, Scrutiny Committee need to meet first.

KB explained there is a provisional date at the moment but this is likely to change. Commented that the AGM is on Thursday at 6pm and voting from this Senate will be released electronically and next meeting will include breaks and an account of how long each section will take.

Action Points.

ST:

- To discuss possibility of a scrutiny committee for budget and provide feedback next Senate
- To confirm make-up of Finance & Audit Committee
- To speak to the Board about why student groups can't give their opinion on the budget
- To highlight significant changes in financial report for next time
- To speak to Ruth about splitting budget between societies and Campaign Officers
- To clarify whether any student can submit a motion to change Bye-Laws

KB:

- To send results of Section 2E voting via email and form or disband additional committees as required

II. Submitted Items 1. TEF OFF

TEF-OFF

This senate notes:

- 1) The NUS policy is to boycott the NSS¹ in an attempt to stop the implementation of the teaching excellence framework (TEF), which is one of the reforms in the HE bill still being debated in parliament²
- 2) TEF will allow institutions to raise tuition fees in England based on a rating, that of bronze, silver or gold. Such ratings are based on three pillars. Firstly, the outcome of NSS, secondly, the drop-out rate, and thirdly employment and graduate earnings data. The extent to which institutions are allowed to raise fees will be decided by the government, without the need of parliamentary consent.
- 3) The home office have also indicated they may use the rankings in order to allocate quotas for the number of international students³
- 4) The aims and metrics the TEF have been described as fundamentally flawed, and have been heavily criticised by several higher education experts⁵⁻⁶
- 5) If less than 50% of the eligible respondents do not respond, then the results cannot be used for benchmarking, or for use in TEF, owing to their statistical irrelevance. There was a turnout of approximately 75% of a sample size totalling 4748 students in 2016⁴. In order for Cardiff's results to be irrelevant, 1120 students who would have completed the survey will no longer have too. This figure is achievable given volume of support the SU currently puts into maximising the outcome.
- 6) The boycott may have to last more than one year to take effect, owing to the way in which the government compiles and presents data (the methodology has not yet been decided)
- 7) The Welsh context: Welsh institutions will not immediately charge higher fees, as the authority to do so requires the consent of the Welsh government. However, History has shown, that when England increases fees, Wales follows suit⁷. In the context of allowing individual institutions to increase fees, there is clear incentive for the Welsh government to follow, owing to the widening of a funding gap between Welsh and English institutions.

This senate believes:

- 1) CUSU has a duty to implement NUS policy.
- 2) That CUSU should stand shoulder to shoulder with organisations across the UK against the HE education bill, and the continuation of the TEF.

- 3) That boycotting the NSS is an effective way to wreck the implementation of TEF,
- 4) That boycotting the NSS is an effective way to publicise students disdain at the proposed reforms. .

This senate resolves:

- 1) That The VP education immediately cease work on promoting the NSS, and that no officer will carry out any promotional activity in regards to the NSS, and that no other Union staff or resources be involved in its promotion.
- 2) That the VP education, with the help of the entire sabbatical officer team, plan an effective campaign to boycott the NSS at Cardiff.
- 3) That we mandate the sabbatical officer team to contact other welsh institutions and NUS Wales, to ensure they also stand in solidarity, and co-ordinate similarly effective campaigns.

Proposer: Matthew Procter

Seconder: Marcus Connolly

- 1) https://issuu.com/nationalunionofstudents/docs/boycott_the_nss_flyer/1?ff=true&e=26989484/40742053
- 2) <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/highereducationandresearch.html>
- 3) <http://independentthe.com/2016/10/24/uk-visas-and-immigration-update-october-2016-newsletter/>
- 4) <http://www.hefce.ac.uk/lt/nss/results/2016/>
- 5) <https://www.theguardian.com/science/political-science/2016/feb/23/why-the-teaching-excellence-framework-is-flawed>
- 6) <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/nss-and-teaching-excellence-wrong-measure-wrongly-analysed>
- 7) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-37047679>

II. Submitted Items 2. Stop Fuelling hate

Stop fuelling hate

This senate notes:

Cardiff University has an advertising budget of £831 000 pounds a year¹. Whilst some of this is spent on activities such as open days, some of this is also spent on advertisements within newspapers, and their online counterparts.

That Cardiff University actively engages with a range of print media, and their online counterparts to publish newsworthy breakthroughs or innovations the University has made. It does this through emailing and telephoning journalists from a range of papers with stories and statements it

publishes.

That Cardiff University has refused to say which newspapers it advertises with, however there is evidence attached showing an online advertisement on a daily mail site.

This senate additionally notes that:

- The editorial stances of several newspapers has helped create a climate of increasing victimisation of certain groups, including, BME, LGBT+, refugee status, Muslims, and the disabled⁵. Hate crimes in the UK have been increasing over time⁴

- There is a growing movement, called 'stop funding hate' which seeks to remove the funding which such new platforms rely on to propagate their editorial stances. Recent successes include the co-op's review of its advertising policy, and lego's withdrawal of it's advertising with the daily mail group²

- That Cardiff University has both a duty, and a self-described aim to

'Ensure that we can positively contribute to a fairer society through advancing equality and good relations in our day-to-day activities'

This senate believes:

That the University Cannot continue to positively contribute to advancing equality and good relations, whilst simultaneously funding and serving the interests of hate through

- paying for advertising space in News outlets which fuel discriminatory hate

- providing newsworthy stories for outlets which fuel discriminatory hate

This senate resolves:

That the officer team be mandated, and act immediately to lobby the University to

- 1) Stop paying for advertisements in the news outlets outlined below and their online counter parts.
- 2) To stop the pro-active engagement with the same print outlets, and their online counterparts.

- The outlets are the following: the daily mail group, the sun group, and the daily express group.

Proposer: Matthew Procter

Secunder: Joshua Green

II. Submitted Items 3. AGM Senate

This senate notes.

During the AGM, students were given no option to pass or receive the annual report. This is in direct contravention of what is stated on the union's website.

The articles of association notes that the business transacted in during an AGM includes

' 19.2.3. receiving the report of the Trustees on the Union's activities since the previous Student Members' Annual General Meeting;

19.2.3 Receiving the accounts of the Union for the previous financial year '

It is accepted practice in shareholder meetings for the shareholders to vote on 'receiving' the annual report and annual accounts. Shareholders have the opportunity to reject receiving the accounts, and annual report, if they believe the documents aren't a true representation of the organisation's work*.

Note that should shareholders vote to reject the annual report, or the annual accounts, this has no direct repercussions. It is merely a statement of dissatisfaction with the reports.

There has been precedence in a previous years, that members at CUSU AGM's have voted to accept the annual report. (minutes, 2014-15 AGM)

In order to vote on any business at the AGM, the agenda, and its attached documents have to be made available 'in advance'*

(bye law appendices 3)*

This senate believes

In this context described above, the intent of CUSU's articles of association is clear, in that at the very least, a vote on receiving both the annual report and annual accounts is a necessary procedure at the AGM.

That the interpretation of the CUSU's documents is the following

- That members have a right to vote on receiving the annual report and minutes at an AGM
- That a vote to receive the minutes is part of the agenda for the AGM

- The SU has to release the documents 'In advance' of the meeting;
- In advance should be interpreted as 7 days, the same timeframe as the agenda.

That such interpretation is important, and cannot be re-interpreted at will.

This senate resolves

The by-law appendices be changed to explicitly reflect this, notably, that appendix 3 have the additional wording

- That the interpretation of the articles of association in respect to article 19 to mean that, the AGM has to vote when receiving the annual report and minutes.
- That annual report and accounts which are to be received, are to be published as part of the Agenda

Proposer: Matthew Procter

Seconder: Steffan Bryn

* <http://www.sharesoc.org/voting%20at%20general%20meetings.html>

II. Submitted Items 4. Humanist Chaplain in Cardiff University

Humanist Chaplain in Cardiff University

Student Senate notes:

1. Two-thirds of young people and half of the population as a whole do not belong to any particular religion, and the steady decline in religiosity in the UK is set to continue, the 28th report of the British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey has found.
2. Following note 1, it is fair to assume that a large, if not a majority of the student population are non-religious.
3. A third of Humanist of membership of The British Humanist Association is young people.
4. There currently Humanist Chaplaincies in Glasgow Caledonian University (Mandy Evans Ewing) and University of Edinburgh (Tim Maguire).
5. Students of non-religious persuasion are still as vulnerable as their religious student counterpart, but currently lack the secular spiritual counsel to assist them.

Student Senate Believes:

1. The University and Student's Union should provide service Humanist Chaplain to aid students ranging from existential issues to moral dilemmas.

2. Non-religious students may feel uncomfortable using the service of religious chaplains due to their theological viewpoints and may receive the same as their religious student counterparts.
3. A Humanist Chaplain would add to the diversity of the Chaplaincy, allowing a greater and more accurate representation of the student populace.

Student Senate Resolves:

1. Supports, encourages and desires all efforts to have a Humanist Chaplain within Cardiff University.

Submitted by: Usman M. Bukhari

II. Submitted Items 5. Recorded Senate Meetings

Recorded Senate Meetings

Student Senate notes:

1. Current Student Meetings are not being recorded in video format.
2. Recognises Gair Rhydd has attended the meeting to take notes and then publish a newspaper article in their respective paper.
3. This academic year's AGM was recorded in a video format and uploaded on YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBoZsU_jH7c).
4. Legitimately and/or excused absent senate member can still participate virtually and potentially vote on Senate motions, when they have the means to access the discussion and debate.
5. Every Parliament in the UK is recorded by the BBC
6. Each senator's voting record is available on Cardiff Student's Union webpage. Thus how they vote is not a clandestine affair.

Student Senate believes:

1. An increase in accessibility and further openness of student senate meetings would enable students to see how senate operates, creating more trust in the senate due to transparency.
2. It would combat the general political apathy students are having with politics by the transparency measures proposed.
3. Senators are making policies on behalf of their fellow students and students have a right to see how they are representing them in the senate.
4. This allows senators who are voted on their manifestos to be further faithful to their manifesto.

5. This would be particularly useful for Heath Park students whom due to proximity are often less inclined to travel down to Park Place to attend meetings.

Student Senate resolves:

1. To invite Cardiff Union TV, or any other media outlet in which the senate or union feel adequate to record Senate meetings.

Submitted by: Usman M. Bukhari

II. Submitted Items 6. This is Wales

This is Wales, We Want Ales

Student Senate notes:

4. There are no ales being served the Taff currently.
5. Due to the carbonated nature of Lagers, it most likely that students will drink more than they ought since they 'burp out their stomachs', leading to the sensation that their stomachs are empty, whilst Ales will 'sit' in your stomach meaning people will tend to drink far less in comparison to lagers, thus will be taking a healthier option
6. Wales is home to some of the oldest Breweries such as Brains (1882) and Felinfoel (1878), thus are massive part of Welsh Culture & Heritage & promoted by the Welsh Board of Tourism (<http://www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/attractions/food-and-drink/welsh-beer-and-ale>)

Student Senate believes:

1. Due to the massive historical place ales have in Wales, students not from Wales, particularly outside the British Isles would be sampling what is a distinctive type of alcohol as well as its culture and heritage.
2. Following belief 2; this house believes that the consumption of Ales is almost a uniquely a British experience and thus is promoting British Culture as well as adding to their 'Welsh Experience'

Student Senate resolves:

1. The Taff should serve, at least one draught of Ale (ideally Welsh), to its students to help and facilitate with their cultural experience, as well as students who desire to consume ales, instead of lagers.

Submitted by: Usman M. Bukhari

II. Submitted Items 7. Time to Change Pledge Renewal

Time to Change Pledge Renewal

Senate Notes:

1) 'Time to Change' is a campaign led by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness which are mental health charities. The Time to Change pledge is a public statement of aspiration that an organisation wants to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination.

2) The pledge is not a kite mark or accreditation, and is not an endorsement by Time to Change, but the pledge does involve organisations taking some meaningful action which is set out the student's union action plan in response to the pledge taken back in 2013.

3) A 2016 Time to Change survey of over 7,000 people living with mental health issues found that 64% were feeling isolated, 61% worthless and 60% ashamed of their condition. They explained they felt this way because of the stigma and discrimination they regularly face.¹

3) A 2013 major NUS survey with 1,093 students discussing mental health on behalf of the all-party parliamentary group (APPG) showed:
-78 percent of respondents said they believe they have experienced mental health problems in the last year, (whether diagnosed or undiagnosed).
-87 per cent have felt stress; 77 per cent have suffered anxiety; and, 69 percent have felt depressed in the last year.
- 33 per cent have had suicidal thoughts – around double the figure (17%) for the general population. Of respondents who did not identify as heterosexual, 55% reported suicidal thoughts.²

5) Other Students' Unions have signed the pledge including Oxford University Students' Union, Warwick University Students' Union and Nottingham University Students' Union.

Senate Believes

1. Mental health is an important issue for students and we should recognise the work achieved by the University and the Students' Union student led services and elected officers so far to support students' mental health and to improve support in the future.

2. 1 in 4 students suffer from mental health issues (statistic published by NUS)

¹ <http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/news/englands-biggest-ever-survey-state-stigma>

² [https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/2161132/APPG%20on%20Students%20-%20December%20-%20Speaker%20briefing%20-%20Mental%20Health%20\(002\).pdf](https://www.nus.org.uk/PageFiles/2161132/APPG%20on%20Students%20-%20December%20-%20Speaker%20briefing%20-%20Mental%20Health%20(002).pdf)

3. The number of clients at the Counselling Service at Cardiff University has doubled from 2006-2013, demonstrating a rise in demand for the services, also taking into account the system change to allow more students to be seen.

4. 65% of clients who had been considering leaving the Cardiff University prior to counselling declared that counselling helped them to stay.

Senate Resolves:

1. That the Students' Union will renew the signing of the 'Time to Change' pledge.

2. To mandate the elected officers to continue working with the university in the various activities helping promote campaign's and works towards the pledge goals.

3. For the student's union to review the action plan formed back in 2013 and adapt the plan to the new support systems and developments today in the union as well as the university in tackling mental health.

Proposed by: Chiron Hooson

Seconded by: Emmaline Rice

II. Submitted Items 8. Put liberation and campaigns at the centre stage

Put liberation and campaigns at centre stage

Senedd notes:

1. Cardiff University Students' Union ("the Union") has 7 paid, Sabbatical Officers and 9 Campaign Officers that undertake their duties on a voluntary basis. During the Cardiff Student Elections this year, a Mental Health Campaign Officer will be elected for the first time ever. All of these officers are elected into their positions by a cross-campus vote of the student body to serve for the preceding academic year.

2. Ensuring equality, liberation and diversity in all aspects of the education sector and every aspect of society has always been a core value of the student movement; that continues to be true to this day.

3. The Union's main governing document³, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, states that one of the Union's guiding missions is to achieve the following at all times:

³ <https://www.cardiffstudents.com/pageassets/about-cusu/governance/mem-arts/CUSU-Memorandum-and-Articles-of-Association.pdf>

“(i) ensure that the diversity of its Student Membership is recognised and that equal access is available to all Student Members of whatever origin or orientation;

(ii) pursue its aims and objectives independent of any political party or religious group; and

(iii) pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate participation of groups discriminated against by society.”

4. Concerns that Campaign Officers are side-lined have been raised time and time again. However, the Union has ducked the issue. For example, in a meeting between the Campaign Officers of 2015/16 and the SU President and Director of Membership Services on 29 February 2016, concerns of that nature were raised; the Union leadership vowed to tackle the lack of publicity given to Campaign Officers and to provide them with lanyards/identity cards in order for them to access the Union building and for students to identify them. The undertaking was not acted upon. In the first Student Senedd meeting of 2016, a Campaign Officer stated that the arrangements for financing those officers and their liberation campaigns was insufficient; in the 2016 AGM, concerns that liberation officers are side-lined were also expressed.

5. There is no mention of the existence of Campaign Officers on the graphic displayed on the front of the Union building nor on the graphic erected in the new re-development near the Union’s rear entrance on Senghennydd Road; on the Union’s main website homepage; on pop-ups raised throughout the campus to promote the Union’s work nor on the marketing TV screens within the Union building⁴.

6. The positions and responsibilities of Sabbatical Officers are outlined in the Appendices to the Bye-laws⁵, but the same isn’t true of Campaign Officers.

7. Campaign Officers are granted the following resources to undertake their roles: Email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts, clothing, and access to a workstation within Student Voice (hot desk), as well as training from Student Voice.

8. Sabbatical Officers are granted the following resources to undertake their roles: Email, Facebook, and Twitter accounts, clothing, business cards, as well as training from Student Voice, a laptop that is provided as their workstation and a mobile phone.

9. Disparities between Campaign Officers and Sabbatical Officers can be identified with regards to elections⁶.

10. Further information obtained by the Union executive for the purposes of forming this motion can be seen in Appendix 2.

Senedd believes:

⁴ See Appendix 1

⁵ [3https://www.cardiffstudents.com/pageassets/about-cusu/governance/mem-arts/CUSU-Bye-Laws-Appendices-17th-Dec-2015\(1\).pdf](https://www.cardiffstudents.com/pageassets/about-cusu/governance/mem-arts/CUSU-Bye-Laws-Appendices-17th-Dec-2015(1).pdf)

⁶ See Appendix 2

1. That a more prominent and central place should be given to Campaign Officers and to liberation campaigns within the Union.
2. That all officers - whether they be Sabbatical Officers or Campaign Officers - are full-time, elected officers tasked with representing students, leading the Union and form part of one strong officer team; the Union should thus treat all of its officers as equals and afford them the same platform.
3. That Campaign Officers should be equipped with all the necessary resources to effectively undertake their duties as elected student representatives and they should not be under any personal disadvantage as a result of fulfilling their duties.
4. That standing as a student officer candidate in the Union's elections should be a practical option for every Member, which shouldn't be hindered by concerns such as personal finances.
5. That the work and contribution of Campaign Officers should be celebrated and recognised as such work is undertaken out of a passion and conviction for equality, whilst following full-time degree programmes and without pay.
6. That Campaign Officers in many cases are champions for liberation campaigns, and in that capacity have a key role to play in raising awareness of liberation issues amongst the student body in its entirety.

Senedd resolves:

1. That the pictures and names of Campaign Officers should be displayed alongside the names and pictures of Sabbatical Officers at the front of the Union building and in the re-development, near the Union's rear entrance on Senghennydd Road, as soon as possible at the start of the new semester and as a matter of practise during preceding academic years.
2. That when the Union gives publicity to the Sabbatical Officer team in its entirety (including, amongst other things, when erecting pop-up banners on campus, on TV screens within the Union building and on the Union's website home page), it should give the same publicity to the Campaign Officer team.
3. That the phrase "Elected Officers" shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union's elected officer team in its entirety - to include both Campaign and Sabbatical Officers; that the phrase "Sabbatical Officers" shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union's elected Sabbatical Officer team; and that the phrase "Campaign Officers" shall be used by the Union to refer to the Union's elected Campaign Officer team.
4. That the nature of resources made available to the Campaign Officer team should be equitable to those made available to the Sabbatical Officer team, in order to allow all elected officers of the Union to fulfil their duties effectively. Senedd specifically resolves that lanyards/identity cards should be provided to Campaign Officers as soon as possible during the new semester; and that the Union should plan ahead to ensure that the Campaign Officer team have access to the appropriate equipment to effectively undertake their duties, such as business cards, clothing, IT equipment and mobile phones - without prejudicing the exact method of implementing this desire, and as

determined by the executive team, having consulted with those parties deemed appropriate – from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.

5. To place a duty on Sabbatical Officers to consult with Campaign Officers on any matter affecting the latter's remits and responsibilities, to share any relevant documents with them and to include them in coming to a decision on those matters; to invite the current Sabbatical and Campaign Officers to develop a protocol to ensure that liberation officers shall not be publicly undermined on any matter which relates mainly or solely to a liberation campaign led by them, should a situation arise whereby officers' views differ.

6. That Campaign Officers shall be invited to the Union's Partnership Board with the University.

7. To invite the executive team to bring forward amendments to the Union's By-laws to the next meeting of Senedd in order to include and recognise the positions of elected Campaign Officers within the Union's governing documents, as is the case for Sabbatical Officers.

8. To mandate the SU President to write to the President of NUS Cymru to ask what progress has been made on the motion entitled 'The 1994 Act is Problematic' agreed at the 2015 NUS Cymru Conference⁷; to invite her to bring forward a report sharing the response to the next meeting of Senedd (or at the earliest convenience) and to present proposals regarding a comprehensive recognition package to Campaign Officers, whether that be financial or otherwise, that could be introduced from the 2017/18 academic year onwards.

9. That as the work of forming the Union's budget for the next financial year takes place, to call on the Board of Trustees to include an expenditure line containing protected finance to fund liberation campaigns and the campaigns of Campaign Officers within the budget, in addition to the Student Voice/other budgets for that financial year and preceding financial years.

Submitted by: Steffan Bryn

(Note: Appendix in attached papers)

II. Submitted Items 9. Tuition Fees should not rise with TEF in Wales

Tuition Fees should not rise with TEF in Wales

Proposer: Mo Hanafy – VP Education

Seconders: Chiron Hooson – Student Senator

⁷ [http://s3-eu-west-](http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/13590/fa3e5b24d8ec484a956ec0d1498153ac/Motions%20Final%20English%20Format%20Amendments.pdf)

[1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/13590/fa3e5b24d8ec484a956ec0d1498153ac/Motions%20Final%20English%20Format%20Amendments.pdf](http://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/nusdigital/document/documents/13590/fa3e5b24d8ec484a956ec0d1498153ac/Motions%20Final%20English%20Format%20Amendments.pdf)

Senate Notes:

1. Tuition fees, having been tripled in 2012, currently stand at £9000 per year for full-time UK undergraduates.
2. The Higher Education and Research Bill (hereby referred to as HE Bill) was first read in the House of Commons in May 2016, it is currently at the committee stage in the House of Lords.
3. Within the HE Bill, lies the Teaching Excellence Framework (hereby referred to as TEF).
4. TEF is a new measure which ranks universities as Gold, Silver or Bronze based on various metrics relating to teaching quality.
5. Official TEF Guidance confirms that TEF will be in-effect for students entering education in autumn 2017.
6. TEF will allow eligible universities to raise their fees in line with inflation. Inflation in the UK has risen by an average of 2.3% each year over the past 10 years.
7. Both Welsh and English Universities are participating in TEF however, only (eligible) English Universities are set to raise their fees. The Welsh Government has pegged the tuition fee at £9000 in Wales, for now.
8. Recent news has shown that some Welsh Universities are afraid of appearing as “second class” universities compared to those who are able to raise their fees in England.
9. The Welsh Government have only confirmed tuition fees to be pegged at £9000 for the academic year 2017/18.
10. Some Welsh institutions are publicly advertising that their fees are subject to increase in future years in line with government policy.
11. This could very much lead to an increase in tuition fees in Welsh Universities if the Government sees that many Welsh institutions would favour that. This increase could start taking effect in the academic year 2018/19.

Senate Believes:

1. An increase in tuition fees in Welsh institutions means:
 - a. Students in Wales will graduate with even more debt.
 - b. The clear advantage that Welsh universities currently have over English ones will be withdrawn.
 - c. Fees could keep on increasing with no real ‘cap’ since inflation has not dropped below 0% in the past 20 years.
 - d. Students from less advantaged backgrounds will be even more put off going to university.
2. That we must think of the next generations to come and how inaccessible education could become for them.
3. That in order for our concerns to reach the Welsh Government, National Union of Students Wales must be mandated to lobby the Welsh Government.

Senate Resolves:

1. That Cardiff University Students' Union will submit this motion to NUS Wales National Conference.
2. This motion mandates NUS Wales to lobby the Welsh government for a commitment to no rise in fees for the next 5 years.

III. Any Other Business - Lapsed motions

III. Any Other Business – 1. Lapsed Motions 1. Cynnig Ilety Cymraeg - First year accommodation for Welsh speakers

Cynnig Ilety Cymraeg - First year accommodation for Welsh speakers

Passed by Student Senate 03/12/2013

Issue:

An issue which dominated my election campaign to the Student Senate was the concern shared by many that the University's Residences department are not showing the Welsh language and Welsh speakers due respect. According to the University 'Some flats at [Senghennydd Court](#) and [Talybont North](#) are reserved for Welsh speakers and learners of Welsh wishing to be grouped together.' However, upon my election, the Residences department confirmed that they failed to meet the needs of every student who wished to be placed in a Welsh speaking flat.

Benefit:

First and foremost, this is ultimately a welfare issue. As we all know, the transition to University life is challenging enough as it is, without having the added burden of not being able to communicate through your first language in your new surroundings – if that was your desire. However, apart from having a negative effect on individual students, this issue is likely to have wider repercussions on the numbers of students coming to Cardiff University as a whole; competing Welsh universities of Bangor and Aberystwyth each have whole designated halls of residence for Welsh speakers, whereas Cardiff University fails to even guarantee prospective students accommodation in a contained Welsh speaking flat within a mixed halls.

Action:

The Students' Union should:

- recognise the importance of Welsh speaking accommodation provision in terms of individuals students' welfare and as a wider key contributor in marketing the 'Cardiff

brand’;

- put pressure on the University to immediately work alongside elected representatives, Students’ Union officers and members of the University’s Welsh speaking community to develop and implement a Welsh language policy - in terms of the University’s accommodation provision –ahead of the 2014 student intake.

Submitted by: Steffan Thomas

III. Any Other Business – 1. Lapsed Motions 2. Support Equal Access for Asylum Seekers to Higher Education

Support Equal Access for Asylum Seekers to Higher Education

Passed by Student Senate 03/12/2013

What’s the issue?

According to Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "Everyone has the right to education... and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit".

An asylum seeker is someone who has lodged an application for protection on the basis of the 1951 UN Refugee Convention.

Officially, current Cardiff University policy on asylum seekers is that they must pay international fees and meanwhile they are:

- not allowed to take out student loans;
- not allowed to apply for grants and bursaries;
- unable to study in another country;
- denied the right to work in the UK;
- sometimes required to wait like this for years while a decision is made as to whether they can stay in the UK.

Asylum seeker students are charged overseas fees, yet their situation and needs are different to those of international students: chiefly, they are not here by choice.

A number of UK universities have amended their admissions policies to allow asylum seekers to pay ‘home’ tuition fees, or have waived fees entirely. These include: Manchester University, Leeds University, Royal Holloway University of London & Salford University. This policy is entirely at the discretion of individual universities and is not mandated by national government.

This campaign is a national campaign by Student Action for Refugees (STAR), of which Cardiff STAR is a part and NUS.

Why is this important to Cardiff Students?

Universities are institutional citizens. They are uniquely placed to affect such change and are in a unique position to take a moral and pragmatic stand. If the government sees that universities wish to enfranchise students seeking protection then there is a real chance of changing policies at the national level too. STAR and NUS are part of a coalition of organisations known as the Higher Education Working Group who are lobbying for national policy change to HEFCE funding. This will make government funding available to students seeking protection in Britain.

Asylum seekers did not come to the UK by choice. They are fleeing persecution and looking for protection. Studying at a UK university is the only opportunity asylum seekers have to access higher education as they cannot leave the country while claiming asylum. They are not allowed to work so cannot raise funds themselves. Many asylum seekers came to the UK as children and have grown up in the British education system alongside friends and then are prevented from progressing further, regardless of abilities and commitment.

Asylum seekers often have to wait for many years to get a decision in their asylum application. As asylum seekers are unable to work, attending university gives them an opportunity to build skills that will help them to build their life in the UK, or when they return to their country of origin. It is unreasonable to expect everyone to put their life on hold because the Government has not made a decision.

What action should the Union take?

- Publicly support the Equal Access campaign.
- To lobby the university to sign the Equal Access Pledge and remove financial barriers preventing students seeking refugee protection from studying here. Specifically to:
 - Enable all those seeking refugee protection to be able to study as home students
 - Recognise that, like other vulnerable groups, students seeking refugee protection have additional needs and give them access to additional support, such as fee waivers, bursaries, scholarships and grants.
- For the executive team to sign a letter to the Vice Chancellor to outline the benefits of providing equal access to higher education to this university and to liaise with Cardiff STAR in the creation of this letter.
- For the executive team to request a meeting between the Vice Chancellor and representatives from Cardiff STAR to discuss how this can be achieved.

Submitted by: Tristan Thomas