

Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Senate

Tuesday 2nd February 2021
Via Zoom videoconferencing 5pm

PRESENT

Members:

Alfie Potter	
Angie Flores Acuña	
Ashly Milena Alava Garcia	
Bruce Hunt	
Charlotte Mallinson	
Christopher Dunne	Chair
Daniel Mapatac	
Darshan Dalal	
Elizabeth Champion	
Emily Long	
Georgia Day	
Hannah Doe	Sabb representative
James Taylor	
Janet Williams	
Julia Komar	
Kate Owen	
Katherine Waldock	
Lucas Jakabovic	
Luke Caesari	
Megan Dee	
Orla Tarn	
Polly Denny	
Rebecca Hardy	
Roma Eccles	
Simran Mahajan	
Tomos Evans	Sabb representative
Zachary Edge	

Also in attendance:

Tim Fry	Student Voice Coordinator
Hannah Fatkin	Student Voice Coordinator
Eleanor Peters	Student Voice Assistant (Minutes)
Sam Tilley	Submitter of Item A

Section I Standard Items:

A. Apologies

Lola Brin
Madalina Toea
Megha Roy
Owain Beynon

B. Minutes from previous meeting

AGREED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15/12/2020, subject to:-

- AA name to be spelt correctly.

Section II Students' Union Submitted Items:

A. SABB Update

TE explains Sabb team are currently talking to the university regarding tuition fee refunds, accommodation refunds and safety net policy. Reminds everyone that it is Speak Week and encourages people to submit comments. Reminds everyone that elections are open for nominations for Sabb roles and other positions. JW asks for an update regarding the money allocated to universities by the Welsh Assembly. TE explains that the university has only just received the allocation of the money (£10.5 million) and it will be split three ways; a student hardship fund, a fund for students most likely to be affected by Covid, and finally student wellbeing and support. The university has not actually received the money yet but they do intend to give it to those in need by the end of April. JW asks for students to be kept updated and TE agrees.

B. AGM Update

TE speaks on behalf of Steve Wilford and explains that the Board of Trustees decided that holding a 500 people AGM was impractical and decided that different aspects of the AGM will be broken down and presented in different ways. The decision-making part of AGM will be delegated to Student Senate. More information will be sent by Steve Wilford soon. AG asks for dates and TE says dates are not confirmed but likely end of March or start of April.

Section III Chair's Items

A. Resignation of Asha Armin

CD explains that AA has stepped down due to health reasons from Student Senate and Scrutiny Committee. Asks Student Senate if they want to hold a by-election for the vacancy. TF explains that it is possible to hold the election alongside the Spring elections that the nomination period ends next Friday so a position for Student Senate can be added to this.

Motion is approved.

B. Removal of by-law 5.7

CD suggests removing this by-law because the information explained in it is also explained in Section 6, making it redundant. Explains that the next amendment proposed [by-law 6.1.1] is in regard to changing the composition of committee from 5 elected and 5 appointed members to 10 elected members. Explains that all three proposed amendments can effectively be considered the same as they lead to the same overall outcome and that these amendments were popular amongst students.

Amendment is approved.

C. Amendment to by-law 6.1.1

OT asks CD if he wants to explain amendment 6.1.1 and 6.5.1 again or go directly to vote. CD agrees to go to a vote on both.

Amendment is approved.

D. Amendment to by-law 6.5.1

Amendment is approved.

Section IV Submitted Items:

A. A referendum on supporting potential industrial action

CD asks TF who proposed this item. TF explains it was ST but as he is not an elected Senator then he can only observe Senate and not speak. CD says they are happy to speak on ST's behalf. TF explains that it is not clear in the by-laws if a non-senator proposer can speak and that ST is in the waiting room. CD agrees for ST to speak. ST proposes that there is a campus wide referendum on the issue of potential strike action. Cardiff UCU held a ballot last month committing to strikes if the University continued asking them to work in unsafe conditions. The motion held last year's at AGM does not hold and that we currently have no official stance if strikes do occur. A referendum is the most democratic way for all students to have their say on the matter. CM clarifies that the indicative ballot did not carry favour, so they do not believe that there is enough indication to hold a ballot regarding this issue. ST explains the ballot did indicate favour for strike action, but it was not a legal ballot because there was a low turnout of voters. If the referendum is passed it would only be triggered if the National UCU ordered a ballot and of Cardiff UCU accepted. It will be a failsafe, just in case AGM is unable to be held this year. This is purely as a back-up because the wording of last year's AGM does not hold. TE asks for clarification regarding the wording. ST responds saying it was noticed at the last AGM, corrected and said that it was a typo. TE accepts this and says that holding a referendum may be hasty as there is no evidence that there will be a strike. ST disagrees saying it is very likely. This referendum is a fail-safe if there is a strike called. GD asks how a referendum would be held. TF explains it would be held online via the website. HD proposes an amendment that this motion would only happen if a strike was confirmed. ST agrees to clarifying the wording. CD asks if anyone wants to step forward to clarify wording. ST proposes an amendment to the motion. That there be a pre amble stating before the question, which would clearly state why UCU are striking, a brief history of strikes and Student Union support for strikes and a note saying this would not come into effect until the national UCU have officially arranged a ballot and the local UCU has approved on the terms of an indicative ballot. CD asks what the proposed timeline would be. TF says they checked the bylaws and found that a referendum can be created quickly on the website. CD says their understanding of referendums is that if it were to pass today, it must be held within 10 days of the vote. TF reads part of the by-laws aloud and agrees with CD. CM asks if it is possible to delay this motion until we have more information. DD agrees with CM. ST explains that the next Senate meeting is 23rd March and ideally would want this referendum at the same time as Spring Elections. CD says that their understanding is that if the referendum is passed this evening then it must be held within the next 2 weeks. HD asks when it will be

formally triggered as it is hard to write the preamble if a strike has not formally been called. HD suggests that this referendum happen 10 days after strike action is officially called. CD explains that if this motion is approved in the meeting then the referendum must happen within two weeks, regardless of whether strike action is officially called. ST explains that students will be voting based on the indicative ballot. This vote result will not be acted on unless strike action is formally mandated. It is essentially a vote to prepare us for the time. At present, the Student's Union has no stance. AG asks if last year's vote happened before or after strike action was announced and also asks for the benefit of having a stance for something that may not happen. ST explains the benefits would be a clear stance by the SU on strike action. There is confusion amongst students regarding this issue. It will protect the Sabb reps and SU from backlash. ST then explains that we did know that striking would happen before the vote at AGM, but this was lucky timing that the striking happened at the same time. This year is different as an AGM is unlikely to happen. CD interjects that the AGM decision making aspects will be carried out by Student Senate. ST explains that a referendum is the most democratic way to get the views of a wider range of students. A referendum is the closest you can get to an AGM in terms of student engagement. JW suggests that the preamble say "would you support a strike by UCU on the following grounds..." Do not want to put too much information, as students will not read it. ST explains that it would contain the results of the indicative ballot and the SU's history of strike support. It would be short and direct. ZE asks if it is possible to call an emergency senate meeting if strikes are officially called. CD explains that if the majority of Sabb officers, campaign officers or senators want a meeting then it can be held. ZE proposes that everyone agree to holding an emergency meeting in the circumstance where the strike action is triggered. CD refers to TF if this is possible. TF says this is possible because the by-laws do not disagree. CD asks if ST accepts this hostile amendment. ST refuses the amendment. CD explains that ZE and ST will need to explain their opposing amendments, starting with ZE. ZE says that as we do not know the exact reasoning behind potential strike action, they propose an emergency student senate meeting be held if action is officially triggered and senate then vote if a referendum should happen, to determine an official stance. ST withdraws their opposition as they realise that they are willing to accept this amendment. CD clarifies that ZE's amendment has been accepted. JW asks where to vote on the voting card and CD confirms section 4a. CM raises concerns that ST did not understand the wording of ZE's hostile amendment. CD repeats the amendment and ST confirms their acceptance.

Motion is approved.

Section V Any Other Business:

1. Lapsed motions – none submitted

CD reminds everyone that it is Speak Week so encourages people to submit comments. Also reminds that election nominations closing next week. CD thanks everyone for their attendance.

The next meeting will take place at 5pm on Tuesday 23rd March via Zoom