

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Student Senate**

Held on: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020, at 4pm via Zoom

**PRESENT**

**Members:**

Caroline Pilat  
Charlotte Mallison  
Chris Dunne  
Edel Anabwani  
Flavie Ios  
Hannah Doe  
Janet Williams  
Joelle Tham (JTh)  
Josephine Tanner (JTa)  
Josh Prior              Chair  
Liam Powell  
Marshall Tidsdale  
Nick Fox              Sabb representative  
Orla Tarn              Sabb representative  
Ronan West  
Sidhi Khale  
Thomas Mahony-Kelross  
Yimin Zuo  
Zach Edge  
Melika Nabaei

**Also in attendance:**

Tim Fry              Student Voice Coordinator (AHSS)  
Steve Wilford        Director of Engagement and Participation

**1. Standard Items**

**a. Apologies for absence**

Ashly Alava Garcia  
Kavian Shirkoohi  
Poorvi Ravindra Agarwal  
William Danks

**b. Minutes of the Previous Meeting – 28 January 2020**



**AGREED:** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2020, subject to:-

- RW and JTh were in attendance
- JTa had sent apologies.

JTa later emailed to say she was actually present on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January.

## 2. Students' Union Submitted Items

### a. Re-appointment of External Trustees

Bethany Walsh was reappointed as an External Trustee.

### b. Appointment of a new External Trustee to the Board of CUSU

Natasha Applesamy was appointed as an External Trustee.

## 3. Chair's Items

### a. Invitation for Senate Members to Stand for Election to become Chair of the Senate 2020-21

CD, OT, and ZE all nominated themselves to be the Chair of Senate for the Academic Year 2020-2021. All candidates made a speech outlining why they felt they should be elected to the position. CD asked whether the election would be via FPTP (First Past the Post) or STV (Single Transferrable Vote). JW clarified that it should be STV

CD was elected as the Chair of Senate for the Academic Year 2020-2021 with a majority of first choice votes.

### b. Replacement of Scrutiny Committee Members

JP explained that a number of members has been deemed to have resigned for this academic year by having missed three or more meetings without good reason. He said that his view was that no election should be held to fill these positions as there is only one meeting left in the year. JP and CD clarified that there had not been enough resignations for that provision in the byelaws to be used.

Senate voted not to hold an election.

### c. Rachel Beaney Resignation

JP informed the Senate that Rachel Beaney had resigned, and advised the Senate against holding an election due it being the last meeting of the year.



Senate voted not to hold an election.

**d. Bye Laws Amendments**

As they are JP's proposed amendments CD chaired for the duration of this item.

**4.8**

JP introduced the amendment to 4.8 and argued why the timeline for an Extraordinary Members' Meeting should be extended

*Amendment was approved.*

**5.2.1a**

JP argued Sabbatical Trustees should sit on the Student Council for the entirety of the entire term, rather than swapping and changing on a meeting-by-meeting basis. NF said that Sabbs should swap in and out based on the motions tabled. JP clarified that Sabbs would still be welcomed to attend and speak, but that only two should be able to vote.

*Amendment was rejected.*

**5.2.1c**

JP wanted the Senate's views on removing the quota reserved for self-defining women on the membership of Senate. This has meant that in the past that not all 25 positions can be filled. OT raised concerns about a gender imbalance and JW shared these concerns. JP said imbalances come and go in waves according to who was running in that year. RW asked for clarification as to whether the quota has meant that the Senate could not function if not all places were filled. JP clarified that in his first year (2017-18) not all 25 Senators had been elected as not all 12 positions for women has more votes than RON

*Amendment is rejected.*

**5.2.1f**

JP argued that the Chair of Student Senate should be a member of the Senate due to the expertise gained throughout the year. The Chair has been elected in the previous year, and still has a mandate. JP said this wasn't a power-grab as the amendment wouldn't be enacted, if passed, until the following year, instead likening it to the Chair of the Board of Trustees. OT spoke against the motion as she felt that the Chair should be impartial and that the position should be a vehicle for student voice. This is especially important during AGM. CM asked for clarification on the election of Chair. JP clarified that the chair is elected from the last meeting of one year to chair the next year.



*Amendment is rejected*

### 5.9.2

JP said that, as Senate can sometimes find it hard to reach quoracy, if someone resigns quoracy should be changed so that it can be reached. CP argued against that this, saying in the extreme, it could allow on three members in which only two needed to show up to be quorate. JP amended the proposed amendment to include that quorum cannot dip below 13 members.

*Amendment is approved*

NF questioned whether a bye law can be amended in a meeting as he thought the previous Head of Student Voice had argued against this. JP and CD decided that it could as the governing documents did not say that it couldn't. (Bye Law 17 did not mention amendments during meetings, neither did Article 50).

### 6.1.7

JP stated that there is no provision allowing Senators to attend Scrutiny Committee meetings. This should be changed as Senators are more engaged and may ask more insightful questions. OT asks if this affect 6.1.8. JP said yes. ZE argued that opening this to all Senate Members would allow full and part time officers which would cause a conflict of interest. JP allayed JW's concerns that there wouldn't be a room big enough, as Student Senate's membership is greater. JP amended the proposal to only allow elected Senators, and not FTOs and PTOs. OT asked whether the Senate needed to vote on amendments. JP stated that as the proposer, he does not need a vote to accept an amendment to his own proposal. CP requested to ask a question but CD said the time had expired on the discussion.

*Amendment is approved*

### 6.1.8

JP stated that this addition only applies if the prior has passed. The addition seeks to clarify the status of the Senators at the Scrutiny Committee meeting.

*Amendment is approved*

### 6.2.2

JP stated that this clarifies the bye law

*Amendment is approved*

### 6.2.3a



JP declined to speak in favour. NF asked whether this would be affected by resignations. JP was unsure, but argued that this is irrelevant to the proposed change. ZE proposed the amendment to word it ‘scrutiny member positions’ rather than ‘scrutiny members’. CD and JP agreed to this as a friendly amendment so it now reads ‘half of the scrutiny member positions available plus one’

*Amendment is approved*

### 6.2.3c

JP clarified that this was to agree to amend the wording to ‘a majority of the members of any one of the Sabbatical; Trustee’s executive committees’, rather than all of them. OT asked what would happen for Sabbs who don’t have their own committee. JP said he would amend the wording to ‘a majority of the members of any one of the Sabbatical; Trustee’s own executive committees.’

*Amendment is approved*

### Replacement of Bye Law 6.3.5 with 6.3.4

JP explained this was to make Scrutiny Committee faster, ZE argued against saying that it was a valid outlet for officers. JW agreed with ZE.

*Replacement is rejected*

### Addition of Bye Law 7.4

JP wanted it clarified in the bylaws that officers can have an executive committee if they want one.

*Addition is approved*

### Amendment to Bye Law 16.1

JP advised that this was again to clarify wording.

*Amendment is approved*

### Appendix 2 Section 1 4b

JP confirmed this is to remove scrutiny of election candidates as it doesn’t happen anyway.

*Motion is approved*

### Appendix 2 Section 1 9c



JP said that a Sabbatical Officer would only be replaced (if they resigned or removed from office) if the Senate agreed should be changed to a Sabbatical Officer would be replaced unless the Senate disagreed.

*Motion is approved*

Amendment to Appendix 3

JP argued that any student should be able to propose a motion of no confidence in an elected officer. NF argued against this saying that is incredibly difficult for an officer to please every student and that senate would be dominated by student complaints. He also argued ‘what’s the point of running to be a senator if all students can do as a senator does?’

*Amendment is approved*

Amendment to Appendix 3 7c

JP argued in favour saying two by-laws contradict each other and need to be in agreement.

*Amendment is approved*

*JP asked for a show of hands on cutting the speech times in half from here on. This was approved.*

Stop timetabling exams on consecutive days

JP explained that the motion is for exams on a specific subject to be as spread out as possible. CM did not propose the motion but spoke in favour of it. CP spoke against it saying it could cause exams to be scheduled on weekends, which she would rather keep for revision. RW said he thought there were already exams on Saturdays. NF agreed there were, but not many. He said a working group had looked at ways to eliminate Saturday exams.

*Motion is approved*

Supporting mature students at Cardiff University

EA proposed the motion and spoke in favour of it.

*Motion is approved*



### Carers and Parent Association

JW explained this was passed in 2018 but membership was only available this year. In the event of her not being here next year she wanted to ensure it was promoted. NF said he thought the motion was great but asked if he could remove the names of the mandated staff (Jane Harding from Student Advice and Gareth Davies from Student Support). JW agreed to remove them. OT made the point that without relevant members an association would close down and asked JW what members of staff JW had spoken to you to ensure this didn't happen. JW said that she hadn't due to the university and union closures. It was agreed that the association didn't currently have members to continue next year, but JW explained that the lack of members was due to the fact it had not been live for long before lockdown and that she had not received support in the promotion of the society. JW agreed there was no elected officer tied to the association as she didn't think it should be linked to the Mature Students Officer. JP suggested the motion should be to mandate the VP Welfare, VP Heath Park and VP Postgrad to support and advertise the Carers and Parents Association. JW agreed. OT tabled a procedural motion not to vote on this, which CM seconded. OT said she did not feel the Senate should mandate members of staff to do something which is against existing laws. NF spoke against the procedural motion saying it had taken too long to get the Carers and Parent Association to this point and that it didn't go against the by-laws. The procedural motion was not approved. SW clarified that the aim of the motion was to ensure the association had momentum.

*Motion is approved*

### Carers Awareness Week

JW explained that this motion was to remove the dates of the previous policy so it automatically gets renewed. She also wanted to attach VP Postgrad.

*Motion is approved*

*JP confirmed that there was not lapsed motion to discuss.*

### **4. Any other business**

CD and JW thanked everyone for their input this year.

JP tabled one further motion:

### Life Membership to 2019/20 Sabbs



JP said that there was provision in the bylaws to grant honorary membership of the SU and that he would like to give membership to the current Sabbs. EA seconded this motion.

*Motion is approved*

*JP confirmed that senators would still need to ratify the appointment of student trustees but there would be no further tasks this academic year.*

## **5. Date of Next Meetings**

There is no date currently arranged for the next meeting. There will be no further meetings this academic year.



## Student Senate – 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 - Action List

| Item   | Action  | Responsible         | Timescale      | Progress |
|--------|---|---------------------|----------------|----------|
| 1b     | Amend Senate minutes from 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 to show that Joelle Tham, Josephine Tanner and Ronan West were present. | TF                  | June 2020      |          |
| 2      | Inform Kate Owen of the Senate approval of the new and returning trustee  | TF                  | April 2020     |          |
| Bylaws | Summarise the votes that the Senate has approved and send to Steve Wilford for consideration by the Board of Trustees           | TF                  | April 2020     |          |
| Exams  | Officers to lobby university not to schedule exams on consecutive days  | VP Education        | Ongoing        |          |
| C&PA   | JW to work with SW and OT and next Societies VP to find a way to ensure C&PA keeps running next year                            | Societies VP and JW | September 2020 |          |

