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| A red circle with black letters and a black background  Description automatically generated **Minutes of Fforwm Meeting** | | | | |
| **Date:  07/12/2023** | | **Time:  15:00** | | **Location: Zoom** |
| Chair: | Deio Owen | | | |
| Minutes: | Efa Prydderch | | | |
| **Apologies:** | | | | |
| Staff: | | | Student Representatives: | |
|  | | | * Leon Roelleke (CARBS) | |
| **Present:** | | | | |
| Staff: | | | Student Representatives : | |
| * Deio Owen * Michaela Hennessy | | | * Sara Elan Jones (WELSH) * Llio Evans (WELSH) * Beca Williams (WELSH) * Efa Maher (MATHS) * Poppy Goggin-Jones (JOMEC) * Glain Eden (LAWPL) * Angharad Langford-Hughes (LAWPL) * Hanna Morgans (JOMEC) * Lynne Davies (SOCSI) * Lucas Palenek (MUSIC) | |
| **Update from the Union:** | | | | |
| This is the first year of the full-time sabbatical role responsible for the Welsh language in Cardiff Student Union. In light of this, this forum has been established to collect opinions and feedback from students regarding all things Welsh language in the University and Union. The student voice is paramount in implementing change and we must ensure that our voices are heard. This year, a ‘student view’ document will be made setting out student experiences in relation to the Welsh language and noting the changes we’d like to see. The new Vice-Chancellor’s role is also an opportunity to implement change and have an influence on the Welsh language’s role within the University.  **The feedback from the forum will be used in a number of ways as and when it is necessary, and an update will be given in the next forum.** | | | | |

Feedback

1. The standard of Welsh on digital platforms (SIMS, Learning Central, the website etc.) is inconsistent and at times unintelligible.
2. Insufficient information about the Welsh language during the induction period. It being discussed once during the first week with no further mention after this. Lack of respect towards the Welsh language as a result, mainly due to the lack of awareness amongst students outside of Wales / no explanation that Cardiff University is a ‘Welsh’ university.
3. Welsh is not treated equally by schools which do not offer courses taught fully through the medium of Welsh; inconsistency across schools, and failure to sufficiently promote courses which offer some Welsh language provisions.
4. Lack of information before the commencement of study regarding how Welsh provisions are delivered; how much of the learning will be done in Welsh, the resources available, how sessions will be delivered etc.
5. In need of Welsh language accommodation to provide more opportunities to socialise and live in Welsh. The Welsh flats are currently in blocks K and D in Senghennydd with some in Talybont North but there are no connections between both locations leading to the lack of natural opportunities to socialise and experience living through the medium of Welsh.
6. Non-Welsh language students being placed in flats reserved for Welsh speaking students, turning the language of the flat to English, whilst some Welsh speaking students have been unable to get a place in a Welsh flat. Insufficient number of available Welsh language flats in accommodations other than Senghennydd.
7. The Welsh used in correspondence and on SIMS etc. is complex and difficult to understand. Correspondence and content should be provided bilingually where possible instead of one language at a time. Students having to alternate between Welsh and English on SIMS to understand the contents. Even where Welsh has been chosen as the preferred language for SIMS, some headings etc. are still in English.
8. Some schools have made a great effort to find Welsh speaking individuals to mark work and ensure that support is available – this effort is appreciated by the students.
9. Schools are good at promoting events at the end of sessions and ensuring that students are aware of what events are being held in Welsh.
10. Students agree that we should start, or at least trial ‘opt-out’ Welsh modules as the idea of studying in Welsh can seem daunting to those unsure about studying through the medium of Welsh. Students also in agreement that they should be able to study modules in Welsh with other schools if their school does not offer Welsh language provisions.

Any other matters:

* Thankful for the establishment of this forum and its role in providing a means by which the voices of Welsh students to be heard.
* JOMEC Cymraeg have recently celebrated 10 years and the events held were good examples of informal Welsh language activities.
* The Welsh language should be used more often by schools beyond the academic field.
* In agreement that the University’s logo needs to be changed so that Welsh is on top.