



Byelaw 5
UMCA: Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth

BYELAW 5: UMCA

This Byelaw outlines the respectful and mutually beneficial relationship between Undeb Aberystwyth and UMCA.

1. The Relationship

1.1 UMCA and Undeb Aberystwyth work closely together for the benefit of Welsh-speaking students at Aberystwyth.

1.2 UMCA operates with the greatest degree of autonomy practicable in its activities and representation of Welsh-speaking students while legally part of Undeb Aberystwyth.

1.3 Day to day UMCA is governed by the UMCA Executive Committee and its internal processes. The SU should only engage in UMCA governance to the smallest degree possible and only when legally required to do so.

2. Link with Aberystwyth Students' Union

2.1 UMCA will have two seats as UMCA Representatives on the Aberystwyth Students' Union Senate.

2.2 Representatives from the UMCA Executive Committee and Undeb Aberystwyth support staff will meet at the start of each term to discuss responsibilities and events for the year.

2.3 Undeb Aberystwyth will provide resources for regular events held by UMCA (e.g. *Sŵn*, the Inter-collegiate Dance, the Inter-collegiate Eisteddfod, Freshers' Fairs).

3. Objectives/Role within Undeb Aberystwyth

3.1 The objectives of UMCA are:

3.1.2 To promote and safeguarding the academic, linguistic, political, cultural, social and welfare interests of Welsh speaking students.

3.1.3 To provide community peer support and guidance to members.

3.1.4 To act as a recognised representative body between Welsh speaking students and Aberystwyth University and any other external body.

4. Equal Rights

4.1 UMCA is committed to equal opportunities.



4.2 UMCA will be an open union for any student who wishes to live through the medium of the Welsh language without prejudice on the basis of race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, faith, age, ethnicity, social class or any other personal or protected characteristic.

5. Finance

5.1 UMCA's funds will be kept in a separate sub-account within the Union.

5.2 Undeb Aberystwyth will not impose any additional rules on UMCA expenditure beyond what is legally required.

5.2 Responsibility for overseeing UMCA's expenditure and finances lies with the UMCA President and UMCA Treasurer.

5.3 The UMCA President and UMCA Treasurer will work with Undeb Aberystwyth's finance department to monitor the financial situation and consult on financial matters.

5.5 Although Undeb Aberystwyth will not provide block funding to UMCA, it shall employ the UMCA President as one of its full-time sabbatical officers in order to implement this constitution.

5.6 The UMCA President shall also be able to use funds from the Undeb Aberystwyth Campaigns Fund to support campaigns.

6. UMCA President

6.1 The role of UMCA President will be a sabbatical position within Undeb Aberystwyth.

6.2 The UMCA President will be elected centrally through Undeb Aberystwyth's election system with candidates subject to UMCA approval before being formally announced

6.3 To stand for the role of UMCA President, individuals must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Bye Law 1: Elections which are:

6.3.1 Be a committed member of UMCA during the year prior to the election.

6.3.2 Be fluent in Welsh, spoken and written, by meeting at least one of the following conditions:

- a) They have previously studied to the level of GCSE first language Welsh, A level first language Welsh
- b) They hold a Welsh Language Skills Certificate – 'Tystysgrif Sgiliau Iaith'.
- c) At least one third of their undergraduate degree is taught through the medium of Welsh.
- d) They receive a Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol full scholarship.

6.4 If the candidate does not meet one of these conditions, another test of their language ability shall be held.



6.5 The President may also delegate any work to the Executive Committee where appropriate.

6.6 The UMCA President will be the main contact for UMCA members with Undeb Aberystwyth.

6.7 A vote of no confidence in the UMCA President must be proposed under Undeb Aberystwyth policies.

6.8 If the UMCA President is dismissed by the Union or leaves the role early for any reason, the UMCA Core Committee will take over the President's functions, with the Vice President acting temporarily, until UMCA and the Union decide on appropriate next steps.

6.9 An UMCA Handover Document shall be passed on annually to the next President as guidance for the new President.

6.10 Approval

6.10.1 As the UMCA President represents UMCA in addition to the Students' Union there is an UMCA approval process in place for UMCA President Candidates.

6.10.2 Standing for the UMCA President will close at the same time as all other Full time Officer roles. The Undeb Aberystwyth Deputy Returning Officer (DRO) will provide a list of candidates to the Llywydd UMCA (or nominee if there is a conflict of interest).

6.10.3 The UMCA Core Committee (President, Vice President, Chair and Secretary) shall meet with candidates on the same day following the close of nominations and before the candidates briefing. The purpose of this will be to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria set out in the electoral qualification in the Elections Bye-Law and understand the values at the heart of UMCA and its members. For fairness, all candidates shall face the same questions from the Core Committee which must relate solely to the eligibility criteria outlined in the Undeb Elections Byelaw which are listed in 6.3 in this UMCA Bye Law

6.10.4 Appeals: Where the UMCA Core Committee has determined that a candidate is ineligible to stand for the role of Llywydd UMCA, the candidate has the right to appeal the decision to the Undeb Aberystwyth DRO.

6.10.5 To submit an appeal, the candidate must complete the elections appeals form available on the Undeb Aberystwyth website before 12noon the day after a decision is made. The DRO will consider the grounds and content of the appeal and reassess the candidate's eligibility against the role's eligibility criteria. If the appeal is upheld, the candidate will be permitted to stand in the election.

6.10.6 There will be no announcement of UMCA President candidates until all appeals have been dealt with.

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6.10.7 Where a Core Committee member is standing for the role of Llywydd UMCA, they must not be involved in assessing the eligibility of any candidates or attend the eligibility meeting.

6.10.8 All Core Committee members must declare any conflicts of interest to the Undeb Deputy Returning Officer prior to the eligibility checking process. These declarations must be taken into account when determining a candidate's eligibility and retained for reference in the event that the Core Committee's decision is appealed or overturned.

7 UMCA President Committees

7.1 The President shall sit on a number of university committees which may vary from year to year. The President's seat on the following committees is essential:

- i. University Council
- ii. University Senate
- iii. University Governance and Culture Committee
- iv. Welsh Language Executive Group
- v. Welsh-medium Studies Committee
- vi. Aberystwyth Branch Committee of the Coleg Cymraeg

7.2 The role of the President is to be the voice of UMCA members on these committees.

8 Amendments to this Bye-Law

8.1 This Bye-Law may only be amended by UMCA Cyf Cyff or by the Students' Union Board of Trustees (who should seek to amend and approve through UMCA Cyf Cyff unless strictly necessary). This reflects the unique constitutional status of UMCA within the Students' Union and ensures that the Bye-Law cannot be altered by students who are not members of UMCA.

