Undeb Aber
Trustee Board Meeting
4th February 2026
In person and via Teams

Present

Millie Hackett (MH)	- President & Chair
Dan Fow (DF)	- External Trustee & Deputy Chair
Nanw Maelor (NM)	- Welsh Culture Officer & UMCA President & Trustee
Tanaka Chikomo (TC)	- Wellbeing Officer & Trustee
Esperanza Bizama Monnier (EBM)	- Academic Affairs Officer & Trustee
Ffion Johns (FJ)	- Student Opportunities Officer & Trustee
Dr Debra Croft (DC)	- External Trustee
Alan Roberts (AR)	- External Trustee
Bob Hart (BH)	- External Trustee
Tristan Wood (TW)	- Postgraduate Trustee

In attendance

Trish McGrath (TMcG)	- CEO
Annmarie Evans (AE)	- Head of People & Wellbeing (notetaker)

MEETING ADMINISTRATION

1. **Apologies for Absence**
   Apologies received from Muhammed Fuadd.

2. **Declarations of Interest**
   TW declared they had an interest in the Costa Coffee change.
   Noted

3. **Minutes of the previous meeting**
   Minutes of the previous meeting held October 2025 were approved.
   Approved

4. **Matters Arising**
   Organising development sessions and briefings for Trustees - we will explore the possibility of AR delivering a development session immediately before the next scheduled Trustee meeting.
   Relationship mapping – ongoing due to the current Transformation Programme at the University
   Trustee membership – on agenda to be discussed

5. **Decisions taken between meetings**
   Blinds: Approved expenditure of £5,500.
   Real Living Wage: Agreed to apply the RLW from November 2025.
   Cost of Living Increase: Approved a 3.94% uplift in line with the University.
   Complaints Policy: Policy approved.

Annual Accounts: Signed off. Auditors required completion before the end of October, so the Board approved the accounts via email.

STRATEGY

6. Annual Statements/Accounts and surplus narrative

TMcG presented the annual statements and accounts from the Auditors, including an overview of surplus management. They confirmed that the University Finance Director has been informed of the surplus and the reasons behind it, and that meetings have been arranged with the University's Finance Department to review budgeting and related processes. TMcG also highlighted the key income areas that contributed to the surplus.

Noted

7. Finance: Management Accounts

TMcG presented the Management Accounts to December 2025. They noted a more significant salary saving than budgeted, due to EBM working 20 hours per week over the summer instead of the budgeted 35, and MH not yet paying National Insurance due to age.

Finance & Operations: Higher-than-expected income from bank interest was reported, along with other significant variances.
Comms & Engagement: Advertising income is higher than forecast. Within Student Voice, salary variances relate to timing. A query was raised regarding expenditure on elections.
Advice: TMcG drew attention to the spending lines within the Advice budget.
Opportunities: A £3k surplus was noted in account income, relating to unspent funds from closed clubs and societies.
BUCS: No significant variances to report. A question was raised regarding second teams that currently self-fund, and whether we wish to continue this approach.
DC queried the timing of invoicing; Catrin will bring this forward for discussion at monthly meetings with Heads of Department.
Office expenditure remains consistent, with the exception of the blinds purchase already approved.
Noted

8. Mid-year Financial Reforecast

TMcG presented the assumptions underpinning the mid-year financial reforecast. The Board reviewed each assumption and confirmed the following:
Team Aber Membership: Assumption to remain unchanged.
£5k Budget Line: No change required.
Varsity: Forecast reduced by £4k. If a surplus remains later in the year, the potential purchase of Varsity stash will be explored.
7s Tournament: Surplus funds to be restricted for use within Clubs and Societies grants.
Minibus Costs: Assumption agreed as presented.
Staff Training: If underspend remains by April, options for reallocating funds will be brought to the next Board meeting, with the possibility of pooling unspent amounts.
Campaigns: Budget to be protected and carried forward where appropriate.
Opportunities: Assumption to remain unchanged.
Elections Expenditure: Keep the current assumption; further consideration of election spending to take place.

Utilities: Reduced to £10k.
BUCS Facilities: Increased by £3k - approved.
BUCS Transport Costs: Assumption agreed as presented.
COL – no contingency

The projected year-end surplus is currently £14k. TMcG will follow up with the Board via email once the final position is confirmed. The Board discussed potential uses for any confirmed surplus, with BH highlighting student loneliness as a priority area and suggesting that options be explored to support students in this space.

9. KPI Progress

TMcG provided an overview of the updated KPIs, noting that overall performance remains strong. An update was also given on Metr, confirming that BH is supporting our Communications team in developing the associated communications strategy.
Noted

10. CEO Update

TMcG stated that was nothing to draw attention to but if the Board saw anything in the CEO report, please ask.
Noted

11. Officer updates

Officers gave an update on work completed in their priorities to date.
Noted

12. Wetherspoons

TMcG reported that there had been no movement and would be taken off the agenda until next year.
Noted

GOVERNANCE

13. Auditor Appointment

CH provided a summary of the requirement to appoint new external auditors, noting that the current auditors are no longer able to provide audit services. Trustees reviewed the options presented in the paper.

DC expressed a preference for separating the roles of accountant and auditor, retaining the current accountants (PJE) to prepare the draft financial statements while appointing a different firm to undertake the audit.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to appoint **Option 3: LHP Auditors** as the external auditors, while retaining PJE as the charity's accountants.
Approved

14. External Trustee Recruitment

The Board approved the appointment of Alwena Hughes Moakes as External Trustee.

Approved

15. UMCA Bye law (including the Llywydd UMCA approval process)

The Board considered the proposal to create Byelaw 5: UMCA – Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Aberystwyth, and to amend the Elections Byelaw to incorporate the Llywydd UMCA approval process.

Trustees expressed their appreciation for the approach taken by UMCA, noting the positive engagement, constructive conversations, and thorough questioning that had taken place during the development of the proposal. The paper had also been passed at Cyf Cyf.

The creation of Byelaw 5 was approved.

The Board also agreed to enact the required amendment to Byelaw 1 in line with Senedd policy, confirming their approval of the updated Elections Byelaw.

Approved

16. Incorporation

This agenda item will be brought back to a future meeting.

17. President Committee Responsibilities

TMcG will send a paper out via email and will be brought back to the board on the process.

Noted

18. Policy

The Board considered the policy approved by Senedd on 24/11/2025, which establishes an approval process for UMCA President candidates to protect the voice of UMCA members.

The policy was ratified by the Board.

19. Risk Register

The updated Risk Register was presented, with new items highlighted in blue to reflect emerging risks relating to Medr. Trustees were invited to review the updates and to email TMcG with any questions or comments.

Noted

20. Appointed Student Trustee

Idea to AGM for an appointed Student Trustee -

PEOPLE

21. People Report (July to Dec 2025)

Next meeting

22. Employment Rights Act

The Board noted the considerations relating to the Employment Rights Act and the potential impact on the Undeb.

Trustees discussed the two options presented: establishing a Trade Union Recognition Agreement or developing a Trade Union Access Agreement. Trustees expressed interest in understanding staff views before progressing further. The Board agreed to explore an Access Agreement and to consult with staff, including the use of an anonymous poll to gather feedback.
Action – AE/TMcG

ADMIN

23. A.O.B.
A further letter was received from a student regarding a longstanding complaint previously considered and concluded by the Trustees. The Board noted that the matter had already been fully addressed and agreed that a minimal response would be issued, confirming that no further correspondence will be entered into. The student will be reminded of their right to submit a Subject Access Request or to contact the Charity Commission should they wish to pursue the matter further.
Noted

24. Date of Next Meeting
24th April 2026 at 2pm