



# AberSU

## SU Elections: Information Sessions

**What is a  
Trustee ?  
SU and  
Democracy**





# Contents

- **What is a Trustee?**
- **Who are the Trustees in the Union?**
- **Board of Trustees Chair**
- **Democratic Structures**
- **Zones**
- **Senedd**
- **AGM (The Big Meeting)**
- **Board of Trustees.**





# Introductions

- **What is your name?**
- **What is your involvement with the Students' Union currently?**
- **Why did you choose to attend today?**
- **What would you like to get from today?**



# What is a Trustee?

**"An individual person or member of a board given control or powers of administration of property in trust with a legal obligation to administer it solely for the purposes specified."**

**You would be held responsible if anything bad happened. It sounds scary - this is very unlikely but it is to show how important you are if anything bad happened. It sounds scary - this is very unlikely but it is to show how important you are.**

**All trustees on the board have a shared responsibility for the healthy and sustainable running of the organisation. You are responsible for checking over the budgets and making sure we are not losing money as well as making sure all events and activities are safe and properly risk assessed to limit potential injuries.**





# What is a Trustee? - AberSu

**"Your Union is governed and strategically led by the Board of Trustees. They are ultimately responsible for making sure that we operate in line with our charitable objectives. AberSU Trustee Board is made up of 12 members and meets at least four times a year to carry out its business on behalf of you"**





# **Who are Trustees in the Union?**

**All five Full-time Officer (President, Academic Affairs,  
Student Opportunities Officer, Welsh Culture and  
UMCA President, Welfare Officer)**

**Student's Union CEO Trish**

**Student's Union HR Annmarie**

**1 Undergraduate Student Trustee**

**1 Postgraduate Student Trustee**

**5 External Trustees (based on professional skills  
experience and knowledge)**







# Board of Trustee Chair

**The President of the Student's Union is the chair of the Board of Trustees**

## **Their Role:**

- **Keep the structure of the meeting.**
- **Keep pace of the meeting flowing.**
- **Allow everyone to speak and share their mind.**
- **Make sure all members are being treated with respect.**
- **Keep order and make sure only one person speaks at a time.**
- **Keep discussions on topic.**
- **highlighting proposals that are made in the meeting summarising what committee members have said.**
- **Summarise what has been said and indicate clear decision.**
- **Help find common ground with opposing views.**
- **Clarifying what members are voting on and casting a vote in the event of a tie**

**A good chair is someone who allows people to contribute, ensures everyone understands the discussion and gets a decision made within the time available. A chair should understand the constitution and the rules relating to meetings, understanding how structured those meetings should be.**



SU

Democracy





## **Board of Trustees**

Meets 4 or 5x per year includes FTOs, Students and Externals.

## **Big Meeting**

Held once per year and open to all members – also known as AGM.

## **Senedd**

Meets 4x per year and sets Policy of the Union

## **Forums**

Split into four (Wellbeing, Academic Affairs, Sports, Societies) and chaired by relevant officer.





**c8000 students**  
(UG=77%, F=53%, 18-25=80%, FT=86%, UK=73%,)

**Zones:**

FT Officer accountability,  
general discussion and idea  
shaping groups

**Senedd (SU policy making body):**

All students can submit ideas, attend and debate  
Only the roles listed below can vote  
*5 Full Time Officers, 11 Volunteer Officers, 6 Faculty Officers  
2 UMCA Exec, 5 Sports Clubs Reps, 5 Societies Rep*

**FT Officers:**

Academic Affairs  
Student  
Opportunities  
President  
Wellbeing  
Welsh Culture

**Board of Trustees:**

Responsible for governing in line  
with charitable objectives and  
managing risk and responsibilities.  
*5 Full Time Officers, 1 elected UG,  
1 elected PG, 5 Externals*

**Staff:**

Responsible for  
delivery of Strategic  
Objectives and org  
development  
*13 FT Staff  
4 student staff*



# Forums

**Each of the Officers will have an evening where students can come and ask any questions or talk about anything related to that officer.**

## Who has Forums?

- Academic Affairs
- Student Opportunities Officer
- Wellbeing Officer
- Welsh Culture and UMCA President

**If you have ideas they can either be a quick fix or the Officer will suggest the idea goes to Senedd for students to vote on.**

**The Officers will have a couple of questions that they will ask you and then will answer any questions**

**Each Officer will be accompanied by a full-time SU Staff member to help with any questions they may not know the answers to and to take notes.**





# Submitting an idea to Senedd or Quick Fix

**Anyone can submit an idea and it will go to either a quick fix or it will be voted on at Senedd or AGM.**

**If voted for, the full-time officers will take them as policies to work on.**



**SHARE AN IDEA OR AMENDMENT!**

Before we get started please provide the following details so we can verify you are a current student and keep in touch whilst we process your Idea.

Full Name\*

University Email\*

Student Number\*

**IDEA OR AMENDMENT**

Idea

**YOUR IDEA**

Please make sure to read all of the information and if you have any questions feel free to get in touch for help and advice.

Title

A short and simple Title for your idea...

Which Officer should be responsible?

Union President

The Full Details ?

## What is an Idea?

An Idea is what we call a submission from any student that asks AberSU to:

- Start a new activity
- Stop or change a current activity
- Adopt or change a stance
- Update or change current Policy

...and much more! An Idea could be anything, as long as it effects Aberystwyth Students.





## Is there a 'Quick Fix'?

Sometimes we get an idea that has easy solutions and no opposition.

A few examples could include:

- Ideas that have no major political or financial implications.
- Requests to change the way we present certain information, or to make more information available e.g. website resources
- A simple request to make a small change to the building e.g. signage
- A request that doesn't relate directly to AberSU, but we can raise the issue in relevant committees with the University e.g. changes to commercial services

Of course there won't be a 'quick fix' for every idea, and we will always work with the submitter to ensure they are happy with the outcomes.

If your Idea has a quick fix, we will be in touch to let you know what we can do!



### Attended by:

- Full-Time Officers
- Volunteer Officers
- Faculty Reps
- NUMBER Society Reps
- NUMBER Club Reps
- Head of Student Voice/Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator

### Structure

1. The Full-time Officers will do an update on what they have been working on.
2. Ideas that have been submitted are announced - the person who submits the idea explains why - Senedd Members split into groups to discuss - Senedd members vote on the policy.

# Senedd

**Chaired by the Volunteer Chair Person**

**Only Senedd members can vote on policies.**





# **AGM**

## **(The Big Meeting)**

**Needs to have 100 students there for the meeting to go ahead!**

### **Structure**

- 1. Full-time Officers will give an overview of what they have been working on.**
- 2. CEO goes through the Unions accounts.**
- 3. Students agree/disagree to affiliations**
- 4. Policy ideas submitted (Similar to Senedd)**



**All students can vote!**

**This years AGM is next week - don't miss it!**

# Board of Trustees

**They meet every quarter  
(Twice a term)**

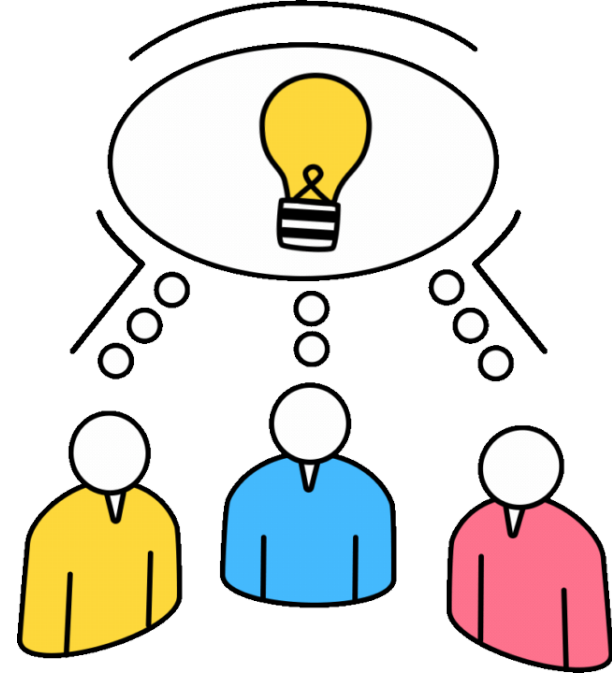


**This is where all the policies votes on go to for final approval.**

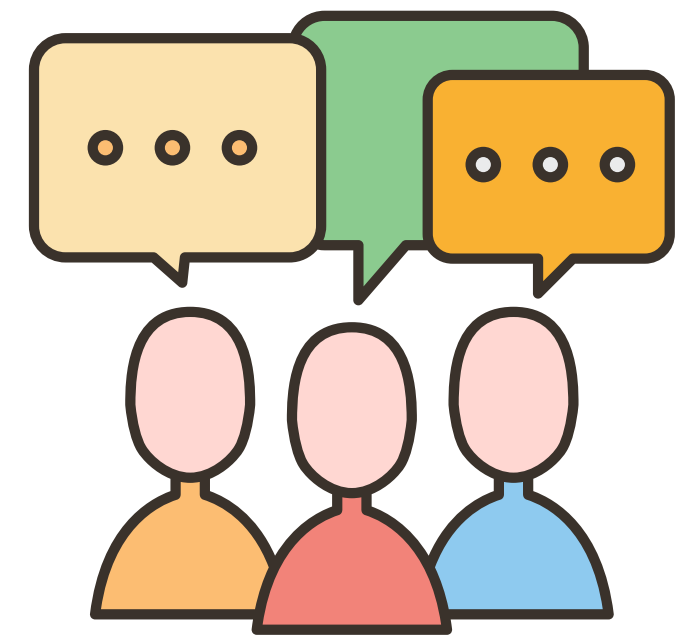
**There is a chance the Trustees will reject a policy but this is very unlikely. This will happen if the consequences of having the policy will affect the Union in a negative way.**







# **AGM** **(The Big Meeting)**



**Monday 4th March @6pm in the Student's Union  
Main Room**

**We need 100 students to attend to allow  
it to go ahead - tell everyone you know!**



**Great chance to see Studnet's Union democracy take  
place!**

# Questions?

