



Monday April 29, 2024, 18:00-20:00

ABERYSTWYTH STUDENT'S UNION

April 2024 SENEDD





Agenda

Welcome

1. Welcome and Apologies for any Absences.
2. Approval of Last meetings minutes.
3. Any Matters arising from the minutes.
4. Presidents Report.

Lapsing Policy (For Information)

5. Let there be two.

Ideas

6. Idea one: Petition for Free Laundry Services for Full-Time Residents. (Amendment)
7. Idea Two: Reserved Conference Position for Union President.
8. Idea three: Academic Representation on Senedd.
9. Idea four: Should Aberystwyth University Replace Starbucks with a more Sustainable, local coffee brand.

End of meeting comments

10. Any other Business.
11. End of meeting.

Petition for Free Laundry Services for Full-Time Residence.

Officer Responsible: President

Submitted by: Nadia Benjelloun

Details:

This appeal requests Aberystwyth University's University Council to make laundry services free for on-campus residents, emphasizing the impact on student wellbeing, financial strain, and the university's commitment to inclusivity and student satisfaction.

Aberystwyth University has rightfully earned a reputation for being a student-first institution, consistently ranking number one in student satisfaction. However, we, the undersigned students, have observed setbacks in addressing student concerns, particularly related to living conditions. We are proud to be members of this institution and would like to reinforce the university's commitment to student wellbeing and satisfaction, but believe it or not, laundry services on campus is standing in the way of that.

In order to preserve a supporting living environment, we ask that laundry services be made free. Being residents on campus, we should be entitled to free laundry as part of our accommodation fees. The current fees are grossly higher than what you find in town or in other universities. In fact, a lot of other universities have free laundry for their students anyway.

This erases the burden it has on students from low-income families, or those dependent on scholarships and financial aid to study. Financial integrity falls under the category of inclusivity that Aberystwyth University is constantly promoting, and changing the laundry services would count as meeting the students' needs.

To showcase just how important laundry is, consider how it affects a student's day to day wellbeing. Students have often found themselves skipping meals and/or cancelling social plans in order to schedule laundry in because of its expenses, or drag out how long they can keep on wearing dirty clothes; this burden would be cut down immensely if one felt that they could do laundry anytime because it was free.

Clean clothes is integral to a student's sense of dignity and self-worth. It shouldn't have to control when they can eat, socialise, and engage in various activities based on the availability of clean clothes and the financial resources to cover laundry costs. Making laundry free should be considered as an investment in the mental, emotional, and social wellbeing of the student body.

We respectfully request your consideration of this proposal and hope that Aberystwyth University continues to lead by example in placing students at the forefront of its priorities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ammendment

Submitted By: Cai Phillips

Details:

If the Aberystwyth University's University Council fails to agree to implement Free Laundry Services for Full-Time Residents, the Student Union should lobby that Circuit Laundry, as the main provider of laundry services, be changed to a more ethical and low-cost (but good quality) option for students.

The University is under considerable financial strain and will have to find savings in many areas of University life. There could be unintended consequences of implementing free laundry services on campus, and this might include raising accommodation costs putting even more financial hardship on students.

Therefore I propose as a compromise that Circuit Launderette Services LTD should be discontinued as the provider of laundry services at Aberystwyth University. And instead, a more ethical and low-cost (but good quality) launderette service should be introduced.

Anyone who has lived in student accommodation on campus has experienced the bad quality of service that Circuit Laundry 'provides'. These range from clothes not being washed properly, clothes not being dried properly or the complexity and failure of the Laundry card or app! In addition, as the idea mentions, the cost of washing and drying is extreme. The customer service is terrible. And don't try to get your money back as refunds on unused credit on top-up cards cost a £3 admin fee, and you can't get anything back if it's under £5.

These issues are not unique to Aberystwyth and many Universities across the UK are turning the tide on Circuit and switching to a better system. Let's make sure that we get the best quality service that we deserve here in Aberystwyth and that this service is either free or as low-cost as possible.

Reserved Conference Positions for Union President.

Officer Responsible: President

Submitted by: Bayanda Vundamina

Summary: Union presidents should have reserved positions as delegates for UK wide and Wales conferences.

Details:

NUS Conferences are the biggest conferences on the student calendar and its where SUs can promote themselves on a national level. Most student unions reserve a delegate position for the President as they are the “the public voice of the Students’ Union and students.”

Currently we don’t have this policy at Undeb Aberystwyth and I think if that is how the union see’s their President they should be guaranteed positions at National and Wales NUS Conferences.

Academic Representation on Senedd.

Officer Responsible: President

Submitted By: Bayanda Vundamina

Summary: Academic reps should replace the lost faculty reps.

Details:

With the SU reducing the amount of faculty volunteer officers from 6 to 3, we are losing 3 key academic representation places on the Senedd. My proposal is to replace these positions with 2 Academic Reps to ensure that there is sufficient academic representation on the Senedd.

The reason why I say only 2 academic reps is because Senedd already voted to have a volunteer rep so with the addition of a volunteer rep and 2 academic rep this would cover the 3 lost places from faculty reps.

These reps would be voted into Senedd like any other members.

Should Aberystwyth University Replace Starbucks with a more sustainable, Local Coffee Brand.

Aberystwyth University positions itself as an environmentally conscious, Welsh culture-and-economy supporting organisation. So its juxtaposed partnership with one of the largest and most harmful corporations on Earth is frankly quite embarrassing.

Officer Responsible: President

Submitted By: Sam Hopkins

Summary: Replace Starbucks with a more sustainable, local coffee brand

Details:

Currently, the SU, Food Hall, and Ysgubor in Fferm Penglais are partnered with Starbucks as their main coffee supplier. All three are under the control of the Uni hospitality services. Starbucks is infamous for its human rights violation and greenwashed sustainability commitments, not to mention that they're a multi-billion-pound corporation providing zero contribution to the local economy and society. Meanwhile, CaffiBach in the Gwendolyne Rees building uses Teifi Coffee, a Ceredigion-based company whose production line runs entirely off renewable energy, supports local projects, and is partnered with the Woodlands Trust in a carbon contribution scheme.