



Minutes

Senedd

12/05/2025



Members in attendance:

Will Parker (FTO)

Emily Morgan (FTO)

Tiff McWilliams (FTO)

Francesco Lanzi (CHAIR)

Tristan Wood (VO)

Heather Kerby (VO)

Livvy Haggett (VO)

Beca Wright Hughes (VO)

Marty Fennell (VO)

Jade Guildford (SPORT)

Katie Mason (SPORT)

Alex Molotska (VO)

Rory Young (VP)

Bradley Powell (SOC)

Ollie Hall (SOC)

Millie Hackett (FO)

Jo Buys (FO)

Nanw Maelor (UMCA)



Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

Sera Talea

Harley Harrison

Billy Smith

Blue Bell

Luke Jones

Rebecca Edwards

James Ashford

Esperanza Bizama

Absent

Elain Gwynedd (FTO) – Apologies Sent

Ifeyinwa Anaduaka (VO) – Apologies Not Sent

Dewi Price (VO) - Apologies Not Sent

Evy Gwynne (SPORT) - Apologies Not Sent

Deborah Osarieme (SOC) - Apologies Not Sent

Bruni Kington Brady (SOC) - Apologies Not Sent

Ozzy Humphreys (SOC) - Apologies Not Sent

Mariam Elsergany (UAR) - Apologies Not Sent

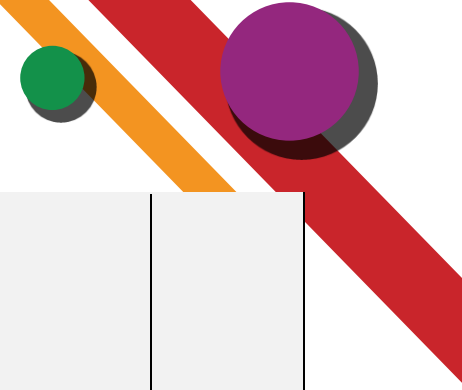
Catrin Alaw Jones (UMCA) - Apologies Not Sent

Clare Foley (VO) - Apologies Not Sent

Agenda	Item	Notes	Voting Breakdown		
			Yes	No	Abstain
Welcome and Opening Remarks	The Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting	Union Chairperson welcomes everyone to the meeting. Meeting started: 18:05			
	Apologies for Absence	Apologies Sent by: Elain (FTO)			
	Last Minutes Meeting	Nothing to note			
	Matters arising	No matters arising			



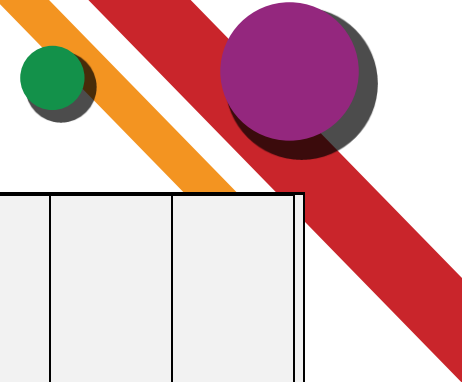
Idea 1: Should Undeb Aber resist and campaign against the UK Supreme Court's ruling on Gender?	Officers' Report	Officers to say what they have been working on and their priorities for the year.	Officers gave an update on what they have been working on. See report here.			
	Lapsing Policy:	Update on any Lapsing Policy	No Updates to announce.			
	Proposer	Proposed: Emily Morgan (FTO)				
	Proposer Speech	Mo (FTO) wanted to ensure she communicated everything accurately and respectfully, so she read the idea directly from the agenda. She referenced the statement released by the Union, which was read aloud to the room by Tiff (FTO). Mo explained that the purpose of the motion is to empower the Union to campaign and actively support students who are already involved in campaigning efforts. She then outlined a list of potential actions the Union could take.				
	Opposition speech	No one spoke in opposition.				
	Questions / Comments	Harley (member): The University goes off self-identification. What happens if this becomes law? Would the Union break the law? Ash (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator): No but we would find ways around it.				
	Feedback from Group discussions.	Ollie (soc): What has the Union already done to start? Mo (FTO): The Union released a statement basically saying we will ignore it and try our best to support students. Ollie (SOC): We should defiantly lobby against it as its about rights.				



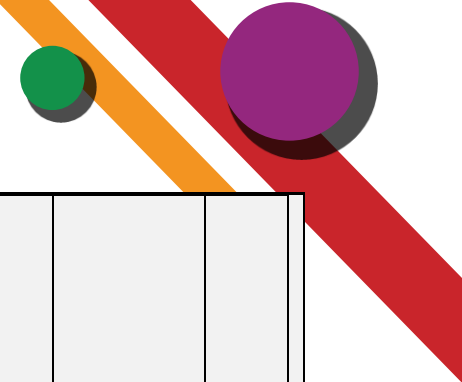
		<p>Harley (Member): What would be the plan after the statement?</p> <p>Mo (FTO): It allows the Union to fully campaign and support students to campaign. Also means if it comes into law we can defend ourselves depending on the guidance.</p> <p>Will (FTO): yes, not much to discuss</p> <p>Tiff (FTO): we just don't think its right to debate people's life</p> <p>Tristan (VO): It's a harmful ruling for so many people and it doesn't protect women. It is too complicated to understand but we should work on it and explain it to people. The union could do a lot with this.</p> <p>Jade (sport): We should resist. We are a self-identifying university so it is in our best interest to protect rights to do that.</p>			
	Other Comments	Mo summaries the idea: We should protect transgender, Intersex and Gender Non-Conforming students.			
	Vote	17 votes PASSED	100%	0%	0%
Idea 2: Should Undeb Aberystwyth end use of their "X" profile, and lobby the University to do the same?	Prosper	Francesco (Chair)			
	Prosper speech	Francesco (chair): stepped down as chair for this idea and the Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator chaired this section of the meeting.			



		Francesco spoke on this idea on behalf of the student who submitted the idea but was unable to attend the meeting. X has gone under changes that undermines its place as a safe place. The Union and University have active X accounts used to communicate with staff and students. Many other places have decided to step away from X including Bangor. The Union can should not support X as it does not align with their values and policies.			
	Opposition speech	No One spoke in opposition			
	Questions/comments	Harley (member): will other social media be continued? Francesco (Chair): Yes, accounts like Facebook, Instagram and TikTok will still be used. The Union very rarely uses X anyway. If the Union wanted, they could move to Blue Sky which does the same thing as X but is more ethical. We lose nothing but gain in showing that the Union cares. Ollie (SOC): would we pause or terminate it? Francesco (chair): No just delete it.			
	Feedback from groups	Jade (SPORT): If no one uses it then fine. My only concern is where do we draw the line on social media. Facebook has equally dangerous views. Why is X bad but Facebook and Instagram are not? Francesco (CHAIR): If someone feels that Facebook is too dangerous or does not alight with Union values they can bring it forward as policy. I believe Elon Musk to be more harmful. Tristan (VO): Even just today I have seen some disgusting tweets. It has become a pit for the far right, extremist views that have no place on this campus.			



		<p>Tiff (FTO): Twitter has the least engagement which is always dropping. We are not worried that this will affect student engagement with the Union.</p> <p>Heather (VO): We were also in agreement but also spoke about where the line is drawn. Maybe the Union should share issues on the other platforms- showing awareness of problematic social media use.</p> <p>Harley (Member): This should not be the end of the conversation regarding problematic social media use.</p>			
	Other comments	<p>Francesco (CHAIR): summarised – The Union should just click delete. The other part of the police is convincing the University and its departments to do the same.</p>			
	Vote	<p>17 votes PASSED</p>	88.24	0	11.76
<p>Idea 3: Should UndebAber and the university transform the botany gardens into the 'Penglais Botanic Gardens', a dynamic, productive space</p>	Prosper	Rebecca (Member) and James (Member)			
	Prosper speech	<p>Rebecca (member) and James (Member): we use the previously unused glass houses and have revamped them. They date back to 1950 and host rare and exotic plants. Since the loss of a permanent member of staff its struggling. It can be used for teaching, wellbeing and research. Many of our ideas (see agenda) can be used for fundraising. It could even host events like the poetry festival.</p> <p>Lots of potential for science and research. The University could use it as an external research collaboration as it homes many things not common in Wales.</p> <p>It also provides Volunteer experience. Phyte club has put a lot of hard work into it. They campaigned for a part time member of staff which we</p>			



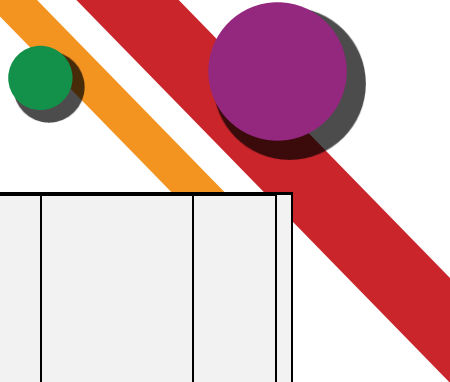
for science, learning, and wellbeing?		<p>now have. Botany garden committee meets with staff once a month and talks over what is and should happen. Tiff from union has been helping with this.</p> <p>Contacted open garden scheme which is a charity that sets up places for the community to visit. They seem keen to get involved. Have also got a grant to help with pest control.</p> <p>We sell the plants and use a space that would otherwise be empty all year.</p> <p>Only so much we can do as students. We ask the union to support in a name change and signage to show where it is. Semester progress report and future planning. Longer term, we want full time member of staff. Part time worker has made so much improvement. SU can help with student voice.</p>			
	Opposition speech	No One spoke in opposition.			
	Questions/co mments	<p>Millie (FO): Do you know if the University would support the name change?</p> <p>James (Member): Tim Macy from estates had a meeting with us and they seemed positive about it.</p> <p>Will (FTO): What are you asking the Senedd for?</p> <p>James (Member): It is hard as students to be fully taken seriously by the University. The student voice could help with support in campaigning for what we need.</p> <p>Tristan (VO): How would the permanent staff member be funded?</p> <p>James (Member): before we pushed for the part-time member of staff it was obvious no one worked there. The place needs a lot of maintenance and support. The current part-time staff member does a lot</p>			



		<p>and he does it well, but he just needs more time to be able to do everything.</p> <p>Rebecca (Member): From one year, the society was able to raise a lot of money, and we received a grant and that was with only two people on a committee. If the Students Union can campaign and get more exposure to the space, we believe there is a lot of economic potential.</p> <p>Ollie (SOC): How long have you had the part time member of staff?</p> <p>Rebecca (Member): 6 months. Has just started and will work over summer. Past that we not sure but we want to push it.</p> <p>James (Member): guy before this one stopped working last Christmas and he was there for many years. Used to always be someone working there but it's gone downhill since as there isn't enough support.</p> <p>Millie (FO): I think it would bring community connections. The town gardens and university gardens have long waiting list for people to use. Is there space the community could use or would we need to make space.</p> <p>James (Member): there is so much space for the community to use.</p> <p>Harley (Member): lots of momentum has come from society the society. What happens if for any reason the soc would collapse – contingencies?</p> <p>James (Member): That is why we are here; it would be policy for 3 years so the union could carry it if for whatever reason we die.</p>			
	Feedback from groups	<p>Will (FTO): We discussed logistics. The university doesn't have loads of money. If it was this or something else, I don't think the university would put money to this. Potentially change name and signage now but I am unsure this will get completed.</p> <p>James (Member): WE understand this isn't just a small job.</p> <p>Rebeca (Member): That's why its split into short term goals and long term goals. It creates a big step forward.</p>			



	<p>James (Member): The University can also use it for open days. It is flaunted a lot but then they don't use it. Can be used to recruit students and be use after.</p> <p>Tiff (FTO): We get lots of polices and we may not be able to complete it in 3 ears doesn't mean we shouldn't do it.</p> <p>Millie (FO): As next year's president I would love to support this. Renting it to the community is great. If it's just dust shelves and we can turn it into a money opportunity I can't imagine the university will push back. We can do a lot in 3 years, but we can extend when needed.</p> <p>Jo (FO): There is also nothing wrong with greener and it's a great change to use for research on biology. Having this so close to the university is a lovely idea.</p> <p>Tristan (VO): Sounds great. Tell the university they can make money, and they will love it. This is my fifth year in Aber and every time I walk past, I wish something could be done. May as well use it and would benefit people. If paying with grants, then great. The fact you are getting funding is already amazing.</p> <p>Heather (VO): Every time I go past I see so much potential. It should be utilised as it supports wellbeing.</p> <p>James (Member): One of the beds cleared out next to the pond and a bench is now going on so you can sit – wellbeing. People were sitting on the floor, but we are now getting a bench that Rebecca has designed. People can chill next to the pond.</p> <p>Halrey (Member): It's a great idea. May require commitment from SU but is something SU should commit to. This should be the next positive thing. As next year's disability officer I would love to be involved to help with accessibility side of this project.</p> <p>Ollie (SOC): is there space to set up an office for work?</p>			
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	Other comments	James (Member): It's a wasted resource that we can utilise.			
	Vote	17 votes PASSED	88.24	5.88	5.99
Any Other Business	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>The chair reminded the Senedd to log their Volunteer Hours. They have until the end of May to do this.</p> <p>Chair thanked everyone for being Senedd members this year. It has been a proactive and lovely environment.</p> <p>Next Senedd: next Academic Year</p>				

FTO=Full Time Officer

VO=Volunteer Officer

FO = Faculty Officer

Sport=Sports Rep

Soc=Societies Rep

UMCA = UMCA Rep



UGA = Undergraduate Academic Rep

PGA = Postgraduate Academic Rep

Member = Member of SU but not a Senedd Member

