



April 27, 2026, 18:00-20:00

ABERYSTWYTH STUDENT'S UNION

April 2026 SENEDD





Agenda

Welcome

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

Ideas

5. Idea one: Senedd Approval of the Full-Time Officer to Serve on University Council alongside Llywydd UMCA
6. Idea two: Should Undeb Aberystwyth discontinue the use of the term BAME (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic) to use GEM (Global Ethnic Majority)?

End of meeting comments

7. Any other Business.
8. Date of next meeting.
9. End of meeting.



Minutes

Senedd

27/10/2025

Francesco Lanzi (Chair)

Millicent Hackett (FTO)

Nanw Hampson (FTO)

Ffion Johns (FTO)

Esperanza Bizama (FTO)

Tanaka Chikomo (FTO)

Natasha Goodwin (VO)

Billy Smith (VO)

Harley Harrison (VO)

Kathleen Hinton Pritchard (VO)

Livvy Hagget (SOC)

Spencer Tinklin (FO)

Mesh Tamilchelven (VO)

Mason Gee (VO)

Priyanka Singh (VO)

Laura Young (VO)

Melissa Eyre (VP)

Gwenno Roberts (UMCA)

Tomos Parry (UMCA)

Florence Rawlinson (AR)

Ula Archer (AR)

James Shepherd (SPORT)

Mathias Pavlides (SPORT)

Janos Vranek (SPORT)

Max Rycroft (SPORT)

Saul Ashton (SPORT)

James Ashfort (SOC)

Kate Crowther (SOC)

Alex Marsh (SOC)

Members in attendance:



Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

Ash Perfitt

Francesca Betz

Varsha Raj (FO) Apologies Not Sent

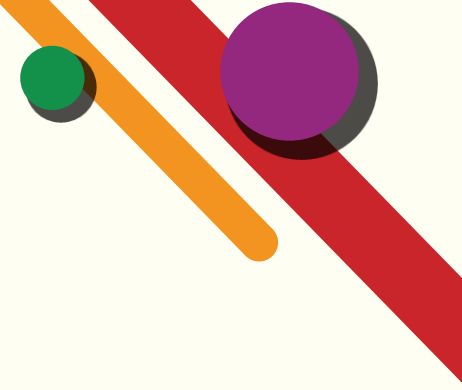
Blue Bell (VO) Apologies Not Sent

Eliw Mair (VO) Apologies Sent

Duraab Arshad (VO) Apologies Sent

Fresno Rhys Thomas (VO) Apologies Not Sent

Absent:





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: 6:10			
	Apologies for Absence	No Apologies for Absences			
	Last Minutes Meeting and matters arising	A couple of names were misspelled on the last minutes. This has been updated.			
Lapsing Policy	Updates	The Union should reduce buying from Amazon Internally.			
Officers' Report	Officers to say what they have been working on and their priorities for the year.	<p>Officers gave an update on what they have been working on.</p> <p>Questions: Millie – None Tanaka – None Ffion – None Espe – What academic soc spoken to – maths physics history and another I now cant remember the name off. Nanw – None</p>			
Idea 1: The Union should change the name of the Independent Officer to the Aber Cares Officer	Proposer Speech	<p>Spoken on by Kathleen (VO).</p> <p>Kathleen spoke on the idea. She said the current name was vague, and people don't know what it means. Aber cares relates to the bursary students can access. Some students think the independent student is someone living independently from their parents.</p> <p>Against the idea: No one</p>			
	Questions Comments				



		<p>James (SOC) – would it still be for the same students – yes just a different name</p> <p>Millie (FTO) – when applying for funding on Wales student funding - it is called Independent or estranged. Nothing else mirrors the unis stuff. I agree to change the name but not sure on Aber cares and this feels too much like uni.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is hard to think of the name that represents all. Independent students don't feel like they are independent. <p>Harley (VO) – if Aber cares changes would this change the name</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is free advertisement for the bursary. Being more direct about it can help independent students. 			
	Feedback from Group Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nanw (FTO) agree with Millie – that it is a University thing, the cross over can be a bit strange. The independent officer's name is better but needs better signposting as to what that is. The Welsh translation is also bad. • Ffion (FTO) we agreed and didn't. We think a name change is good but maybe not Aber Cares. I would be worried the officer would be seen as an admin assistant. They are meant to signpost though. I would be worried of duplication. • Espe (FTO) change name but not Aber cares • Millie (FTO) Aber cares makes me think of just carers so that's worse than independent officer. It is hard to come up with something else. Other union have estranged and carers officer. It may be a long name. It may be a marketing issue to show what it actually is. 			



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alex (SOC) we agree with everyone else. It also seems like mental wellbeing instead of being independent. Like they are looking out for your wellbeing. <p>Fran (Chair) – if people want to change the name but not this name, reject the idea and we can work on different names to come back to Senedd</p>			
	Other Comments				
	Vote	This idea was REJECTED	3.85	96.15	0
Idea 2: Approval Process for UMCA President Election	Proposer Speech	<p>Spoken on by Nanw (FTO).</p> <p>Nanw spoke on the idea and stated why this idea was needed. She explained how it currently works and where the problems are with the current way the UMCA President is elected. She explained how it would work going forward if the Senedd is happy to approve.</p> <p>Speak in opposition: No</p>			
	Questions Comment	<p>Melissa (VP): would similar process be implemented with other minority groups?</p> <p>Fran (Chair): explained how voting works for volunteer officers. However, this cannot be implemented by as it would go against charity law as full time officers are trustees.</p> <p>James (SOC) – what’s the idea you want it to be changed to</p> <p>Nanw – it would have to be confirmed with elections. We are not 100% sure of the logistics. There may be a gap between closing standing and announcing candidates where they would be able to meet with the core committee (but not if they are standing in the election) and this would allow the Core UMCA committee to vet the candidates. It shouldn’t impact the time frame of everyone else.</p>			



		<p>Harley (VO)- how will you ensure the process is not abused by the committee? Nanw – we are talking about how it is fair and represented without excluding anyone. It will need to be justified if they do decide to exclude anyone. It would just be to avoid someone saying they want to get rid of Welsh language activity – it would need to be extreme but will be working with the CEO on the criteria for this.</p> <p>Mesh (VO) – would this mean the UMCA committee would reject the president Nanw – if you want to currently stand for UMCA role the things you need is quite weird and strange. This would be more of just a conversation as at the moment you could be valid to stand for the role but not have done any of the other things. Mesh (VO) are there safeguards for someone to come in for an idea that goes against the current committee but is still a good platform. Like if the current committee just doesn't like them. Nanw – we would have to discuss the voice veto but it is a difficult one</p> <p>Elliw (VO) – any rejection has to be justified. The process is in early days. We are not 100% sure on the process but we are aware of this as a flaw. Nanw: It is a voice for Welsh language student, so we need to make sure the person who is elected in is represented of Welsh language students.</p> <p>Tomos (UMCA) – Not everyone here is a member of UMCA so can you explain how UMCA membership feel about this as well. Nanw(FTO)- it falls into the constitution work being done for UMCA. This is a big concern from UMCA members so think this is something we need to keep in mind</p>			
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		<p>when discussing this. Facing this vote can be a concern each year.</p> <p>Harley (VO) what about conflict of interests work Nanw (FTO) - if someone is running in the election they will not be allowed to be part of any part of the process as this would be a conflict of interest.</p> <p>Millie (FTO) what you could do is have a union member of staff or external trustee to also sit in this meeting to mediate it and support in the validation of the process Nanw (FTO) This will be fed back</p> <p>Harley (VO) – will the justification be final and is there anything that can or cannot be included. Fran (Chair) - I think discussion may be going into the process of it. I will allow this question, but this is more stuff that we are currently working on as this is not what we are debating. Nanw (FTO) – any process would be decided with Jacob and Trish to make sure there is a fair process.</p> <p>Elliw (VO) – as the voice of someone taking part in the process that we are in the beginning of the process. We are going through a very old constitution and updating it alongside the union. If you have any concerns, please do talk to us as it is good for us to consider these points.</p>			
	Feedback from group discussions	<p>Gwenno (UMCA) – happy with the idea of the process. Being fluent in Welsh isn't enough – it is more about beliefs. The process is needed to protect UMCA.</p> <p>Millie (FTO) – we are supportive. We know if someone was in the role who hated UMCA it would be detrimental to them. With the upcoming political state is safeguards Welsh in the uni – the uni also wouldn't stand for it</p>			

		<p>Espe (FTO) – agreed it made sense – no concerns.</p> <p>Ffion (FTO) same as others. Many of us are not UMCA so makes sense to listen to the people who are being represented.</p> <p>Harley (VO) when solidified will the process be brought back to Sender Chair – no we vote here and will be raised issues. It will then be planned and organised in details will be worked by the union.</p> <p>Millie – final approval will have to go to the Trustee board.</p> <p>Nanw – we are considering everything that has been raised today. we are looking into these things.</p>			
	Other Comments	<p>Nanw – as a minoritised group in Aber and with the financial troubles with the uni it is important we protect UMCA and the Welsh language</p> <p>Harley (VO) – I support in principle and believe we should protect UMCA and the Welsh language, but I have a mild concern of abuse in the procedure but that is logistics stuff.</p>			
	Vote	This idea was PASSED	100	0	0
Policy: Free Laundry Services in University Accommodation	Questions and comments	Fran (CHAIR) explained why we are bringing this idea back to the Senedd to discuss what we can do.			
	Question 1: What are the challenges facing students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Espe (VO) We understand where the issues have been. Would it be worth talking to other unions to see what they are doing and making a commotion to say if students are paying for it, it should work better. - Harley (VO) – terrible service and very expensive. The company doesn't treat workers well. I have heard stories of mould in washing machines. 			



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tanaka (FTO) maintenance problems. Students would have more faith in the system if they knew regular services were happening. Students don't expect much from it. - Millie (FTO) the price you pay should reflect. 3 are down last week so people are cramming more laundry in to those that work. You can message to get your money back if the stuff doesn't work and maybe the union can advertise this. EG, if you dry your clothes and it doesn't work you can get money back – you need to be persistent. 			
	<p>Questions 2: What is the most important and ideas for the union</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millie (FTO) – advertising piece telling people how much to put in a load and what to do when something is broken. We need to investigate who fixes (circuit or the uni) If its uni maintenance can we report it through uni systems? - Tanaka (FTO) – posters in laundry to say 'hey did you know you can get money back if it doesn't work.' Give cheaper alternative likes hand washing if you cannot do the laundry. Find out the key contact at the uni who is in contact with circuit laundry. - Harley (VO) help student reduce dependency on circuit laundry. Say all accommodation has a clothes horse. - Elliw (VO) the union needs to show that this is something the union is working on. Do we need to do more to promote policies to students. - Espe (FTO) build a relationship with circuit laundry. On their website it says they have laundry ambassadors and a manager who overseas students but they don't say who it is. 			



Any other business		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Millie (FTO) sustainability piece to say how often we need to wash clothes. Also advertise you can use other machines in different accommodation areas. - Harley (VO) hand washing – we could provide washboards. - Laura (VO) washing inside out so things don't get damaged. 			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories for Change Training • Campaign Planning – Union Priority • No Excuses training • Sports Soc and Volunteering Project Advisory Board 			
Date of next Meeting		AGM – 9 th of March.			

FTO=Full Time Officer

VO=Volunteer Officer

FO = Faculty Officer

Sport=Sports Rep

Soc=Societies Rep

UMCA = UMCA Rep

VP = Volunteer Project Rep

AR = Academic Rep

Member = Member of SU but not a Senedd Member



Senedd Approval of the Full-Time Officer to Serve on University Council alongside Llywydd UMCA

Submitted by: Millie Hackett

Details:

For approval:

The proposal is to amend Schedule 2.2 - Officer Trustee Roles and Responsibilities to include the following addition:

6. University Council Membership

1. Two Officer Trustees shall serve as the student members of Aberystwyth University Council (in accordance with Aberystwyth University Ordinance 8 - The Council: Membership).
2. The Llywydd UMCA shall be an ex-officio member of University Council for the duration of their term of office.
3. The second student member of University Council shall be elected from among the Officer Trustees by Undeb Aberystwyth Senedd following the conclusion of the Officer Elections.
4. Any Officer Trustee (other than the Llywydd UMCA) may put themselves forward for this position. Interested Officers shall present to Senedd, outlining their reasons for wishing to serve on University Council.
5. Student Senedd shall elect the second student member of University Council by anonymous paper ballot (first past the post). The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be appointed.
6. The term of office for the elected student member of University Council shall run concurrently with their term as a Full-Time Officer.
7. This process shall be overseen by the Deputy Returning Officer or their nominee to ensure fairness, transparency and compliance with Undeb Aberystwyth democratic procedures.



Background information:

Following a resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting of Undeb Aberystwyth in March 2025, the number of Full-Time Officer positions was reduced from five to four. As part of this restructuring, the position of President was removed, and its duties and responsibilities were redistributed among the remaining Full-Time Officers.

The President and the Welsh culture & UMCA president are automatically a member of university council as student governors. As the Union no longer has a President role, there is one vacancy now that isn't automatically tied to an officer role (Llywydd UMCA will remain on council) the Senedd will be responsible for determining which other Officer will fill the student governor vacancy.

What is University Council?

Aberystwyth University Council is “the supreme governing body of Aberystwyth University”. It is responsible for “determining the university's strategic direction and for the conduct of the university financial, administrative and other affairs, in accordance with its objects”. The Council ensures that the University operates effectively, remains financially sustainable, and complies with all legal and regulatory requirements, while supporting the institution’s long-term mission and values. The council’s constitution, powers and functions are provided by ordinance.

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/governance/newordinances/05---The-Council---Statement-of-Primary-Responsibilities.pdf>

Membership of the Council includes independent external members appointed for their expertise and experience, representatives of university staff, and student representatives. Collectively, the Council holds the University’s senior leadership to account and makes high-level decisions affecting the University as a whole.

For comparison, University Council performs a role broadly equivalent to that of the Students’ Union Trustee Board, but with responsibility for the entire University.

Attendance at Council carries significant responsibility, as the Council considers matters of substantial institutional importance, including strategic priorities, financial pressures, and decisions with long-term impact on students. There is also a significant time commitment that comes with the position as attendance to several in person council meetings a year alongside the numerous subcommittees that underpin council.

Appointment of the Additional Student Governor

At the final meeting of the Senedd following the conclusion of the Spring Elections, the Senedd shall determine which Full-Time Officer (in addition to Llywydd UMCA) will serve as the additional student Governor on University Council.



All incoming Full-Time Officers (who are not automatically on council) shall be eligible to nominate themselves for this role. Each nominee shall be given the opportunity to present their rationale for appointment to the Senedd, following which the Senedd shall vote to appoint the Governor.



Should Undeb Aberystwyth discontinue the use of the term BAME (Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic) to use GEM (Global Ethnic Majority)?

Submitted by: Tanaka Chikomo

Details:

We would like the Undeb to reflect an updated stance on the race and ethnicity by changing the terminology. In its report, published on 31 March 2021, the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities found that aggregate terms like 'BAME' (black, Asian and minority ethnic) were no longer helpful and should be dropped, advocating instead a focus on understanding disparities and outcomes for specific ethnic groups.

The government's response to the Commission's was published on 17 March 2022. This sets out a ground-breaking action plan intended to tackle negative disparities, promote unity. It also includes a commitment to no longer use the term 'BAME' in government.

But why does this matter?

'BAME' is frequently used to group all ethnic minorities together. BAME seems to favour some racial groups over others. For instance, Irish Travellers would be classed under BAME as Minority Ethnic along with other groups with different identities and experiences. BAME does not accommodate ethnic identities in the way that GEM, for example, would. GEM, though not perfect within an Aber context, creates some kind of balance. The use of BAME could disguise huge differences in outcomes between ethnic groups. For example, we know that the picture of educational attainment across different ethnic groups is complex.

In 2019, a higher than average percentage of children in state-funded schools from Chinese, Indian and Bangladeshi groups achieved strong passes in English and Maths GCSEs. But looking at these results from a 'BAME' perspective would have skewed the picture, masking the success of those particular groups and under-performance by others.

