ABERYSTWYTH STUDENT’S UNION

**December 2023 SENEDD**

*Monday December 4th, 2023, 18:00-20:00*

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.

Ideas

1. Idea 1: Should the university reintroduce cash to campus?
2. Idea 2: Should the SU add volunteer project representation to Senedd?
3. Idea 3: Amendment to Elections Bye-Law to consider increased flexibility of Students’ Union Opt out and eligibility to stand.

NUS Ideas

1. NUS Conference Policy Idea Discussion

Vote which idea we will send to NUS Conferences this year

End of meeting comments

1. Any other Business.
2. Date of the next meeting.
3. End of meeting.

**Minutes**

**Senedd**

**30/10/2023**

# Members in attendance:

# Joe Thomas (Chair)

# Bayanda Vundamina (FTO)

Anna Simpkins (FTO)

Helen Cooper (FTO)

Tiff Mcwilliams (FTO)

Elain Gwynedd (FTO)

Sully AP Najeeb (VO)

Dax FitzMedrud (VO)

Elena Bloomquist (VO)

Xavier Powley (VO)

Bamikole Akinsehinde (VO) (Left at item one at 18:38)

Niamh Novelle (VO)

Ifeyinwa Anaduaka (VO)

Ren Feldbruegge (VO)

Dylan Cashon (FO)

Saffron Luxford (FO)

Tristan Wood (FO)

Harriet Goodchild (FO)

# Josh Rutty (SOC) (Left before last idea: 19:19)

Billy Calladine (SOC)

Will Parker (SOC)

Jodie Mott (SOC)

Felix Smart (SPORT)

Lowrie Morgan (SPORT)

Kaydien Gunter (SPORT)

Oscar Pearcey (SPORT)

Bethany Letts (SPORT)

Bace Wright Hughes (UMCA)

Nanw Maelor (UMCA)

# Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

* 10 student observers

**Absent:**

Gareth Tuen Griffiths (VO) (Apologies sent)

Tana Huggins (VO) (No apologies sent)

Dafydd Gwilym James (VO) (No apologies sent)

Fflyff Mclaren (FO) (No apologies sent)

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| **Agenda** | **Item** | **Notes** | **Voting Breakdown** |
| **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
| **Welcome and Opening Remarks** | The Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting  | Joe welcomed everyone and said how excited he was for the year and introduced who he was.  |  |  |  |
| Apologies for Absence | Apologies were received from two Senedd members, emails noticed mid meeting and so were not mentioned at the start. No matters arising from minutes.  |  |  |  |
| **Electing a Deputy Chair** | The Union Chairperson to ask for who would like to be Deputy Chair and the Senedd Voted.  | Three Senedd members stood for the role of Deputy Chair, and all said why they think they would be good at it. Will (Society Rep) was elected.  |  |  |  |
| **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.  |  |  |  |
| **Lapsing Policy: 5 Officers** | The Union President gave an update on the Policy and the Senedd voted if we would extend it. | Bayanda (FTO) spoke on the policy and what the updates were. – we got results back from a review and the review made some suggestions. Question Will (SOC): what would the result be if we voted to not keep this policy?Bayanda: That we would not do another review.  | 92.3  | 7.4 | 0 |
| **Lapsing Policy: Compulsory Consent Training** | The Wellbeing Officer gave an update on the Policy and the Senedd voted if we would extend it. | Helen (FTO) spoke about keeping training as a priority for committee members. | 96.66 | 3.33 | 0 |
| **Idea 1:** Re-statement of Support for Striking Staff.  | Proposer speech  | Sully (VO) presented the idea to Senedd on behalf of an absent proposer. Sully (VO) For: spoke about how important it is to support the strikes and that we need to support their right to live. Bayanda (FTO) against: We already have a policy and don’t know what is happening with strikes. The main issue is the university funding is currently a massive issue. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * Will (SOC): Would voting no be saying not to support the strikes or just the re-statement?
* Bayanda (FTO): no to restatement.
* Felix (SOC): we already have support due to another policy.
* Josh (SOC): The motion was for only the current striking action but this one would be we support for three years.
* Bayanda (FTO): It would be to support the strikes no matter what for three years.
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| Other Notes | Feedback from groupsWill (SOC) –Those who are striking know we support them. Don’t want to support stuff that may not be in our interest as students. Joe (Chair): updated the current policy is about support current strikes. Tristan (FO): in favour of supporting the strikes as supports us in the long run. What we would like to see from the Union is support for students who are severely affected by strikes. Student Observer: it supports everyone, and teachers get the hardest deal. Elain (FTO): We need lecturers who want to be in the lessons. Josh (SOC): We support future strike action not just the current one. Sully (VO): Integrating support for strike and saying to students what counts as supporting the strikes and what it means for students. Sully (VO) summarised: we should show our support for the staff, so they know we support them and so students from the new intake no what this means for them.  |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed**  | 51.85 | 29.62 | 18.51 |
| **Idea 2:** Replace the Traitor King. (Replace the Statue of Edward VIII) | Proposer speech | Dyaln Grant presented the idea to Senedd.Dylan spoke through the proposal stating we cannot be seen to idealise a man who was a Nazi. Don’t want a man based on hate to be idealised by an institution who stand for openness and acceptance. No one to speak against itJosh (SOC) mentioned about an Amendment that was made. The Senedd changed the name from “Replace the Traitor King” to “Replace the Statue of Edward VIII”.  |  |  |  |
| Questions  | * Mitchel (VO): is the statue on campus or in the town?
* Josh (SOC): It is at the old college.
* Mitchel (VO): what happens to people in the town? What are their opinions?
* Xavier (VO): last year there were pushes from people to the council asking to take it down. People tend to want to take it down but as it is on university ground the students wanted to share their opinions.
* Tristan (FO): It is on university ground and so is university property, students should have a say in what is representing us.
* Student Observer: is it listed?
* Tristan (FO): If it is listed, we can move it into a museum.
* Will (SOC): Will it cost us as the Union? Any financial burden?
* Anna (FTO): The union won’t pay for the removal of the statue. In terms of staff resources we already work on policy so it may just be spoken about in meetings.
* Student Observer: What is the Universities opinion?
* Anna (FTO): We are unsure. Will discuss it with the university.
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| Other Notes | * Josh (SOC) called a procedural motion to straight to vote - passed
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| Vote | **Passed**  | 96.15 |  | 7.4 |
| **Idea 3:** Sex Work is just that, Work  | Proposer speech | Helen Cooper presented the idea to Senedd.Helen spoke about why the policy is needed to be able to support students who chose to do this as a career or who are doing it due to financial pressures to make sure they are safe.  |  |  |  |
| Questions | * Josh (SOC): How would this effect students who are living on campus accommodation? The University and accommodation team won’t be endorsing facilities being used for sex work.
* Anna (FTO): There is a rule you can’t bring the university into distribute. It should be fine if the University logo is not in any sort of material.
* Helen (FTO): This is why we want to openly talk about this as we can educate students on what they can and can’t do at the University. Also, to take a pro-sex work stance to support students already doing it instead of encouraging those to do it.
* Student in attendance: Sex work is very broad so what is this talking about? A fferm Penglais student got in trouble for doing only fans in their dorm.
* Will (SOC): If people are doing it anyway, may as well do it safely – harm reduction.
* Student in attendance: Some do it because that’s what they want to do - not just because of financial difficulties - would it also support that.
* Helen (FTO): Yes, it’s for anyone. It is just now being spoken about more due to the current economic climate.
* Dax (VO): Can we bring it back to next Senedd with the details?
* Mitchel (VO): How far would the union support the work?
* Helen (FTO): When we say stance it’s so students can come to the union for support and advice.
* Anna (FTO): We encourage support instead of shame.
* Mitchel (VO): If someone got into complications, how much support can the union offer them?
* Dax (VO): It would probably be treated like any other type of work.
* Will (SOC): The proposal is to remove the stigma and support those doing it – remove the negative.
* Xavier (VO): Is anything already in SHAG Week about it?
* Helen (FTO): We want to add some stuff about online identities but using this to back it up. We don’t want to put it out if people don’t want to see it.
* Felix (SOC): Can we amend the wording slightly? Clarify saying we are a support system for sex work. Clearly state where we stand.
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| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Procedural motion called to go straight to vote – passed.**

**Voted that yes = pass.** **no = rejection.** **abstain is bring back to next Senedd with amendments**  |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed** **Recommendation to bring back to next Senedd with amendments.**  | 48.14 | 7.4 | 44.44 |
| **Idea 4: Establish a Trans+ Volunteer Officer among the Liberation Officers Elected each year by AberSU.**  | Proposer speech | Dax Aziraphale FitzMedrud presented the idea to Senedd.Dax spoke about why this Volunteer position is needed. He said that they are already splitting the LGBT+ Officer role in this way with their co-volunteer officer. They don’t want Trans+ people to be potentially left behind in the future depending on new LGBT+ Volunteer Officers. No one spoke against this policy.  |  |  |  |
| Notes | * Dyaln (FO): If the Trans+ officer came in, would the LGBT+ Officer be called something else?
* Dax (VO): Name would stay the same and would still include Trans and could work closely together. Trans+ is the language the union already uses. The ‘+’ means Trans and Gender Non-Conforming, questioning and non-binary.
* Will (SOC): I have spoken to pride society, and they support the idea.
* Sully (VO): Lots of liberation groups are voted on by only self-identify groups, for Trans liberation there is a lot of change. Logistically how would this work?
* Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator: If this motion is passed the logistics behind this will be worked out then. Happy to bring an update back to Senedd.
* Student Observer: would having a trans officer make it easier to know what support is available?
* Dax (VO): yes I think the outreach would be better in the long run.
* Will (SOC): NUS already have this role as a separate delegate in their NUS Liberation Conference. AberSU seem behind in not already having this.
* Student in attendance: Thanks Dax for bringing this to the Senedd.
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| Vote | **Passed**  | 95.65 | 4.34  | 0 |
| **Any Other Business** | Sully (VO): Wanted to talk about Green Banking and share and details about an organisation who are supporting people to change their bank to a more green bank. Questions about moving away from Barclays were asked as only in person bank that supports International students and only accessible bank in town. Sully (VO) and Ren (VO) agreed to start working together on this.  Joe announced the next meeting and called the end of the meeting. Finished at 19:47**Next Senedd**: 4th December 2023 6-8pm SU Picturehouse  |

**FTO=Full Time Officer**

**VO=Volunteer Officer**

**FO = Faculty Officer**

**Sport=Sports Rep**

**Soc=Societies Rep**

**UMCA = UMCA Rep**

**Matters Arising: Give verbal update on the Sex work is just that, work Policy and how it will work going forward.**

Should the university reintroduce cash to campus?

**Officer Responsible**: President

**Submitted By:** Xavier Powley

**Summary**: Cash should a valid form of payment on university campus within shops.

**Details:**

As it currently is, you are unable to buy anything from shops on campus without the use of bank or Aber card transactions. While you can use cash in certain points to place money on your Aber card, this relies on you having this on your person.

Should any student find themselves in a situation without their bank card or Aber card, this makes it impossible for them to buy food or drink on campus. Should a student have lessons near back to back from 9-6, this can mean that it is not possible for them to have access to food or drink for the whole day.

We are also a family campus, and have many people coming onto campus who are not staff or students here, which means that not everyone on campus has the option of using an Aber card to buy things from any shops on campus. There can be people who do not have access to bank accounts for various reasons on campus, which means that they have no way to pay.

By reintroducing cash onto campus, it would give an extra option for payment which can be the difference between someone being able to eat while here.

Should the SU add volunteer project representation to Senedd?

**Officer Responsible:** Opportunities

**Submitted By**: Ren Feldbruegge

**Summary:** The SU Senedd should add Volunteer Project representation, to allow them to have a voice.

**Details:**

In the Senedd there are representatives for sport clubs and societies, however, there are non representatives for volunteer projects. Currently, there are two active volunteer projects and two volunteer projects who are lacking members. Volunteer projects are separate from clubs and societies but they are linked together, which is causing volunteer projects to not get the adequate help. While clubs and societies do. By including volunteer projects presentation to Senedd, it helps extend their platform to join the student community, along with giving them a voice, and shows that their projects matter.

Amendment to Elections Bye-Law to consider increased flexibility of Students’ Union Opt out and eligibility to stand

Officer Responsible: President

Submitted by : Bayanda Vundamina

Details:

Propose to change the Elections byelaw as follows:

From:

2. Electoral Qualifications

2.1 Only full ordinary members of AberSU may stand and vote in AberSU elections, subject only to:

a. No member can stand for election for more than one position of each type of role.

b. Members are limited to two terms of office as Officer Trustees.

Change to:

2. Electoral Qualifications

2.1 Only full ordinary members of AberSU may stand and vote in AberSU elections, subject only to:

a.            No member can stand for election for more than one position of each type of role.

b.            Members are limited to two terms of office as Officer Trustees.

c.             Must not be opted out of Students’ Union membership on the date that nominations open