**Policies Lapsing**

**in 21/22**

**Senedd**

**01/11/2021**

**Sex Work is just that, Sex work**

**Details:**

During the Student Sex Work Project, around 5% of the respondents were found to be sex workers. In the recent NUS Student Sex Worker’s Survey, 71% of Student Sex Workers identified as Women, 17% as Non-Binary, over 70% as LGBTQ+, and over 55% identified as having a disability. Many of these people come from already disadvantaged backgrounds and participate in sex work for varying reasons, whilst it is not our place to discuss why someone may go into sex work, a majority are motivated purely by a lack of money and a need to survive. These people use sex work to fund living expenses, bills, food, rent, clothes, or resources for their education. Sex work is a flexible revenue that allows a student to work around university hours in their job. This situation can only increase with inflation and the rising costs of being a student.

There are many risks to being a sex worker, 65% of respondents had faced harassment and 47% had experienced sexual assault. It is important to remember that just because a sex worker engages in sexual acts it does not mean that they do not have boundaries that can be crossed, nor that consent is always a given. Given that 48% of respondents said they would be uncomfortable going to the police, this means that harassment and assault goes unreported and uninvestigated for these people, who fear that the law will go against them rather than perpetrators. In terms of accommodation, there can be far reaching consequences for sex workers working from their own homes (around 47% of respondents), where landlord “morality clauses” mean that if found out a sex worker could face a forced eviction, without getting their rent back, and making them face more financial difficulty, and possibly homelessness. In some universities Sex Workers may face expulsion or suspension for their work, which can be extremely harmful for their wellbeing, and again force them further into the conditions that drove them to sex work in the first place. Additionally, due to their work, many may find it difficult to talk to others, or to talk to staff at universities for fear of repercussions that might affect their finances, education, wellbeing, or lead to legal action against them, leading to a high level of loneliness amongst sex workers.

These problems are widespread with only 15% of respondents in the survey saying that their institution or students union provided sufficient support. This is what we must change. Therefore, this motion calls for AberSU to back decriminalisation of Sex Work, whilst sex work itself is not illegal, many of the acts around sex work are. Decriminalisation would; increase safety, enhance health, protect sex workers, end criminal records, stop rapists, and free up police time. In addition to this the union should campaign to the end of morality clauses, or at least identify landlords without morality clauses, to make sure the university does not discriminate based on sex worker status, and make sure that the conditions that drive people further into sex work are not allowed to be created. In addition the university should make sure that people are aware that a status such as sex work does not affect the help given through university run services, and the students union should aim to set up confidential support groups to make sure that those in sex work can access the support groups they need with the confidence that they will not be discriminated due to this.

**Status:** We are working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Samuel Smales

**Passed:** 22/10/2018, Senedd

**Lapses:** 22/10/201

**Actions:**

The Wellbeing Officer has been in contact with The Student Sex Work Project, which was a research project created by Swansea University. The Wellbeing Officer completed an online training which covered the different types of sex work there are, how many students are sex workers and what problems they face.

Having contacted founders of the project we were able to secure a copy of the survey that was used for the project and to develop the training. We are currently developing our own version of this survey by the end of the 2019/20 academic year, so that the AberSU can get an idea of how many students are engaging in sex work and then look at what provisions need to be put into place to protect these students.

As a result of COVID-19, work on a survey has unfortunately been delayed until the 2021/22 academic year.

The Wellbeing Officer is preparing a survey to better understand the needs of student sex workers. The survey will enable the Students Union to provide the correct level of support and advice.

**Make Aberystwth the UK’s first Palm Oil Sustainable University**

**Details:**

Many of the products used and sold at Aberystwyth University contain Palm Oil, a substance which is produced in predominantly Asian nations and used extensively throughout the UK and Europe. Palm oil has been and continues to be a major driver of deforestation in some of the world&rsquo;s most bio-diverse forests, destroying the habitat of already endangered species like the Orangutan, expected to be extinct within 10 Years and the Asian Elephant which may be within the next 20 if action isn&#39;t taken today. It also has the damaging effect of emitting significant amounts of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change and impacting on the habitats of many other species around the globe. By making the sale and use of Palm Oil products at Aber Uni limited to those which are sustainable we can help begin to tackle these problems and save many species from their potential extinction. Our ambition is to make the Uni Palm Oil sustainable by January 2020.

**Status:** We are Working on it

**Officer Responsible:** President

**Submitted By:** Harry Basnett

**Passed:** 03/12/2018, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 03/12/2021

**Actions:**

The University’s Commercial Services has confirmed that the Shop in the Students’ Union only stocks products which either use sustainable palm oil or are palm oil free. Discussions are ongoing to extend this campus wide.

**I Wanna Gym on the Weekends**

2+2 is 4 , extend the gym hours more!

**Details:**

The sports centre operates on a reduced hours service on weekends. If the sports centre were open longer on weekends, it would improve access to students and provide more opportunities for sports clubs to train.

AberSU should encourage the Sports Centre to change its weekend opening hours to the same as weekdays, providing a consistent 7-day service.

**Status:** We’re Working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Opportunities Officer

**Submitted By:** Bruce Fraser Wight

**Passed:** 26/02/2018, Senedd

**Lapses:** 26/02/2021

**Actions:**

The Opportunities Officer in cooperation with the President has met on multiple occasions with the Head of Commercial Services and the Sports Centre Manager to discuss the policy, agreeing that it cannot be implemented in its current form.

However with refurbishment works planned at Y Sgubor next to residences at Fferm Penglais and Pentre Jane Morgan the University is currently looking into the creation of an open access fitness space which would be available to students at all times. This, it seems, would be a workable alternative to the policy put forward.

**Legacy Funding for Sports**

Funding for Sport a 10 year plan.

**Details:**

Sports Facilities Refurbishments for our Students - a two to ten year plan This policy is for the stuff outside of your degree. My viewpoint is you’re here to complete your degree, you have a fantastic 24 hour library, and the National Library of Wales which is just 5 minutes off campus. I think personally we are pretty excellent at the Academic side of things. Hence why, we have won Academic Teaching Quality 2 years in a row. So, this policy is about legacy and asking the university to invest into sport for the future. Participation levels have increased in sport, due to the free gym membership that is offered to those staying within Halls of Residences, but this has highlighted the fact that the sports facilities are not adequate for such a high usage. It’s fantastic to see this increase as more students are being active and using our University facilities to exercise, but this has highlighted the problem that we need better community sporting facilities. As a Students Union I believe we should have a set stance for us to lobby the university to commit funds in it’s budgets into refurbishing it’s community sporting facilities. These funds can come from anywhere, not just university funds. The university should be working in collaboration with Ceredigion County Council to help grow sport in the local community and area. Fundamentally the issue is not having the adequate sports facilities for all our students to use. If this policy passes, - I would like to action the All Full time officers to lobby for better sports facilities for the longevity of sport at this university. - See that the University Executive and further University Council puts an action into improving sports facilities by 2020 and maintain reinvestment for the next 10 years once the university is in a better financial standing. - To improve community facilities so we can engage with local communities to engage sport within Ceredigion and help improve the Student and Locals relationship. - The Students Union Full Time Officer Team to produce a report around the priorities it wants for it’s sports facilities and feed this back into Estates at the University. Attached is a summary of responses from the 284 participant to the Google Form I sent out over the weekend via social media, in a personal capacity. Highlight - Sports is the basis of success in my opinion;. Better facilities = higher standard of people coming to the uni. Higher standard = higher university results. Higher results = More University recognition. More recognition = Higher placed in league tables. Higher place in league tables = Better all-round academic results. And the process repeats. It’s no coincidence that the universities that are at the top of the league tables are also the ones with the highest academic results and the ones also topping the BUCS leagues. Encouraging sport at the highest level should be something the University prides itself in, at the moment for many (students, modules, courses and lecturers) it seems like an inconvenience.

**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Student Opportunities

**Submitted By:** Bruce Fraser Wight

**Passed:** 25/03/2019, Senedd

**Lapses:** 25/06/2022

**Actions:**

The Student Opportunities Officer has contacted the Chief Executive Officer of the Students’ Union for update concerning this policy. The actions and further work towards the fulfilment will be updated as soon as the information is available.