



Minutes

Senedd

29/04/2024



Members in attendance:

Joe Thomas (Chair)

Bayanda Vundamina (FTO)

Anna Simpkins (FTO)

Helen Cooper (FTO)

Tiff McWilliams (FTO)

Elain Gwynedd (FTO)

Dax FitzMedrud (VO)

Elena Bloomquist (VO)

Xavier Powley (VO)

Bamikole Akinsehinde (VO)

Niamh Novelle (VO)

Ifeyinwa Ankinsehinde (VO)

Dylan Cashon (FO)

Saffron Luxford (FO)

Tristan Wood (FO)

Will Parker (SOC)

Oscar Pearcey (SPORT)

Bethany Letts (SPORTS)

Trys Hooper (FO [Non-Voting])



Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

Dewi Price

Marty Fennell

Carwyn Davies

Kieran Norton-Walder

Paxton Bastian

Emily (Mo) Morgan

Rebecca Collins

Rebecca Collins

Cai Phillips

Sam Hopkins

Alex Molotska

Ioan Phillips

Absent:

Harriet Goodchild (FO) Apologies Sent

Felix Smart (SOC) Apologies Sent

Lowrie Morgan (SPORT): Apologies Sent

Beca Wright Hughes (UMCA): Apologies Sent

Nanw Maelor (UMCA): Apologies Sent

Ren Feldbruegge (VO): Apologies Sent

Sully AP Najeeb (VO): Apologies Not Sent

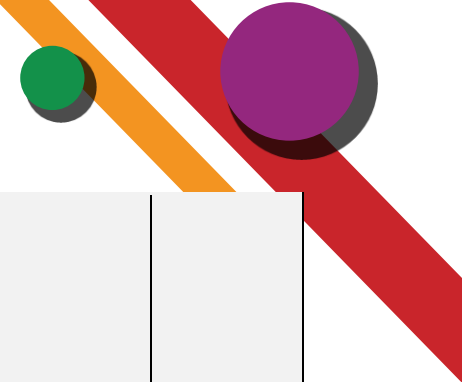
Josh Ruddy (SOC): Apologies Not Sent

Billy Calladine (SOC): Apologies Not Sent

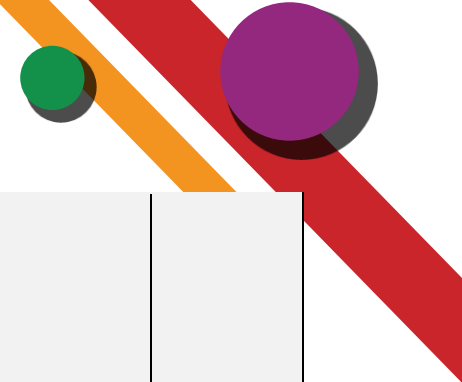
Jodie Mott (SOC): Apologies Not Sent



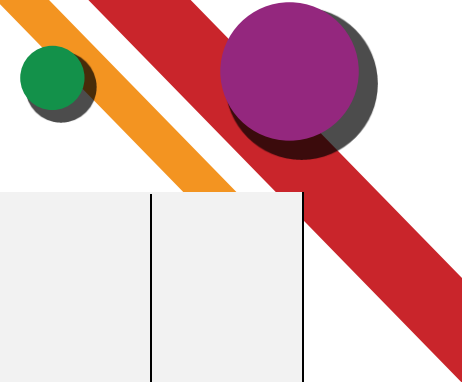
Agenda	Item	Notes	Voting Breakdown		
			Yes	No	Abstain
Welcome and Opening Remarks	The Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting	Union Chairperson welcomes everyone to the meeting. Meeting started 18:06			
	Apologies for Absence	Apologies Sent by: Harriet Goodchild, Felix Smart, Lowrie Morgan, Beca Wright Hughes, Nanw Maelor.			
	Last Minutes Meeting	Mins were not included in the agenda and will be approved over email after the meeting.			
	Matters arising	Ash (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator) gave an update on the NUS Policy we submitted to NUS Wales. The policy did not go through to Conference, but NUS Wales said they would look into the idea.			
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	'Let there be two' Policy lapsed on the 29/04/2024. Ash (Campaigns and Democracy) gave an update on the policy. The policy has been completed and students are allowed to run as a pair. This policy will now be placed in the lapsed policy section of the website, but students can re-submit this as an idea in the next Senedd meeting if they want it to continue as a current policy.			
Idea 1: Petition for Free Laundry Services for Full-Time Residence.	Proposer speech	Proposed: Nadia Benjelloun (Member) spoken by: Anna Simpkins (FTO). Aberystwyth University is ranked number 1 for student satisfaction but those using these services have lots of complaints. It affects our wellbeing and finances. It is very			



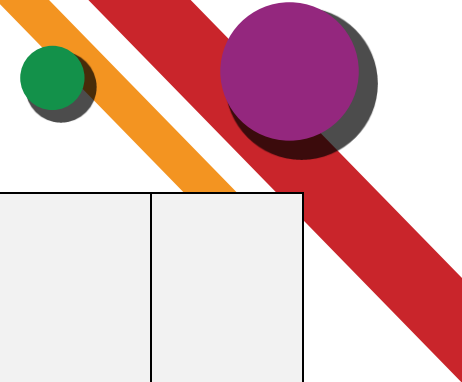
		<p>expensive compared to town or other Universities. Many other Universities have gotten rid of Circuit Laundry or provide free laundry. Many students don't buy food or go out to afford clothes or don't wash clothes for a while. A cheaper more sustainable option is fine but only after we prove it is last resort.</p> <p>Could come with a token for certain amount of money a month / term.</p>			
	Amendment	<p>Amendment for this policy submitted and spoken on by Cai Philips (Member)</p> <p>We know Circuit Laundry is very expensive and unethical. Most of the time it doesn't work. The minimum amount of money we can put on account is no less than £5. Students will also never be able to reach £0. You can also only claim money back over £5 which also comes with a £3 fee to do it.</p> <p>The company have made lots of profit in last few years. I propose if University cannot make laundry free that we drop circuit and bring in a low cost, more ethical provider. We should get best quality services we deserve in Aberystwyth.</p> <p>No one spoke against the amendment.</p>			
	Questions and Comments <i>on Amendment.</i>	<p>Xavier (VO): do we know what other Universities are using as the alternative companies?</p> <p>Cai (Member): University of Sterling uses 'Washco'. With this company, you pay using your personal card, not through an app. University of Warick uses, 'Washpoint'.</p>			



		<p>Sam (Member): Circuit Laundry is unreliable, and many times just doesn't work. Circuit Laundry should be providing good services and should come and fix machines through their contract. If we have a free service, we may end up with a cheap service that doesn't work.</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): Agree with the idea. However, the University is in financial crisis. The University may see this as a capital project – we would need to replace all the machines as Circuit Laundry own them. I think the University isn't in a financial position to consider this and I understand its bad but for the next two years it may just be talking instead of doing.</p> <p>Cai (Member): I would disagree. The University is striving for student satisfaction and students should have a good time in accommodation. The VC said he wants to develop the campus and estate. The cost would be less as the company we go with would bring in machines.</p>			
	Vote on Amendment	Passed	76.47	11.76	11.76
	Proposer Speech	<p>Spoke against the idea: Trys Hooper (FO [non-voting]) It does feels unrealistic. There is a hardship fund for if students are struggling but accommodation can't do it. In these Universities where the laundry is free the accommodation prices are a lot more expensive than they are here. It feels unreasonable for the University. We should look into the supplier and see if we can get a better deal and put pressure on Circuit Laundry to Improve their services, but this isn't the right way to do it.</p>			



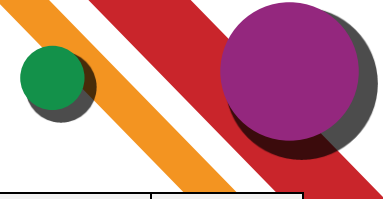
	Questions / Comments	<p>Tiff (FTO): We can lobby the University for this, but they may not be able to do anything for a couple of years. However, even when discussing it with the University, they still may say no to specifics, so we don't need the specifics figured out yet.</p> <p>Bamikole (VO): Having free Laundry may be difficult for the University due to the financial status. We would need to make sure that if we change that it is good quality, and every student is able to afford it. We should be entitled to free laundry with accommodation but should at least change for a better company.</p> <p>Tristan (FO): While I lived in accommodation, I had to wash clothes in my home sink as I couldn't afford to use the laundry services. Many students have the same issue. As the Students Union we should acknowledge this to show that the Union care. Students can't afford to do laundry. They pay for something that doesn't work and they lose money. We should at least try to do something about it. It is a big problem for students. It's the worst part about living in accommodation.</p>			
	Feedback from Group discussions.	<p>Procedural motion to go to vote from Tiff McWilliams (FTO) Yes: 23 No: 1</p>			
	Other Comments				
	Vote	Passed	62.5	31.25	6.25
Proposer speech	Proposer Speech given by: Bayanda Vundamina (FTO)				



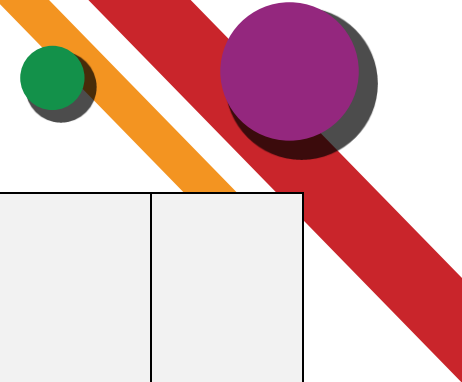
<p>Idea 2: Reserve Conference Position for Union President.</p>		<p>Every year the Student’s Union sends students and Officers to NUS Conferences. We currently don’t have anything in our Constitution to say the Union President should go to NUS National and NUS Wales. Most other Student’s Unions have this in their Constitution. The job title for the Union President is being the public and democratic voice for our students. It makes sense for the President to then go to the biggest conference.</p> <p>The only thing to consider is NUS have a policy that 50% of delegates who go to conference must identify as women. Next year for NUS National for example we would only be able to elect a woman.</p> <p>This would also be optional for the Union President so that if they don’t want to go or are unable to then they don’t need to.</p> <p>No one spoke against the proposal.</p>			
	<p>Questions Comments</p>	<p>Elena (VO): If NUS would only allow women, is there a way around this?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): It is NUS policy so we couldn’t get around this.</p> <p>Trys (FO): What happened to bring this idea in?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): I ran to attend this year and didn’t go which is fine, but when at NUS Wales conference many other unions explained that they have reserved positions for their President.</p> <p>Dax (VO): It makes sense as NUS Conferences structure doesn’t really make sense if you don’t have context of SU’s. Coming into it can be intimidating and so having a reserved position makes sense as the President will know things and</p>			



		<p>have experiences of Union's and NUS so will make them a better representative at these conferences. They will know the problems and how to represent us. It seem to be in our Students best interest.</p> <p>Dylan (FO): Has there been issues in the past with not sending the Union President? Bayanda (FTO): Not really in the past as the Union President has just tended to go.</p>			
	Feedback from Group Discussion.	<p>Dylan (FO): Our Group think it's better if the people who are most knowledgeable about the policies should go who may not necessarily be the President. Bayanda (FTO): The delegates are elected in October but policies are passed in March time so we wouldn't know who is best to send.</p> <p>Niamh (VO): Our group agree with the idea. I went to NUS Liberation Conference as a volunteer officer, and I didn't understand the way things work so it makes sense for the Union President to go. We also think there are other ways around it when we need to send a woman at 50%.</p> <p>Saffron (FO): We like the idea that the Union President can opt out so they are not forced to go.</p> <p>Dew (Member): We agree with Bayada's idea. I went to NUS National with Anna. It would be good for current students to attend as well.</p>			
	Other Comments	No other comments			
	Vote	Passed	81.25	6.25	12.5
Idea 3: Academic	Proposer speech	Proposed Speech delivered by: Bayanda Vundamina (FTO)			



Representation on Senedd		<p>We are losing three faculty officer and so three academic voices. We should replace these to make sure we have academic representation.</p> <p>We have suggested two reps as we have one new volunteer position so would even out.</p> <p>No one spoke against the proposal.</p>			
	Questions Comments	<p>Xavier (VO): We are now combining Postgraduate and Undergraduate. Will we make sure it is a voice for Postgrad and Undergrad?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): Would just bring in Academic Reps.</p> <p>Ash (Campaigns and Democracy): Can look into this when it comes to the details of this role.</p> <p>Anna (FTO): Supportive of it being a Postgraduate Rep and Undergraduate Rep. Tristan (FO) and Will (SOC) agreed on this statement.</p> <p>Saffron (FO): How would the Reps be elected?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): It would be the same as sports and soc Senedd rep process.</p>			
	Feedback from Group Discussions	<p>Procedural motion to skip to vote:</p> <p>Yes: 22</p> <p>No: 2</p>			
	Other Comments	<p>Bayanda (FTO): I do also like the Postgraduate and Undergraduate rep so this is something we can look to implementing.</p>			
	Vote	Passed	93.75	0	6.25
Idea 4: Should Aberystwyth University replace	Proposed Ideas	<p>Proposed Speech delivered by: Sam Hopkins (Member)</p> <p><i>Joe (Chair) said that he does have a friendship with Sam but has was not involved in the creation of this idea.</i></p>			



Starbucks with a more sustainable, local coffee brand.

Sam (Member): Starbucks is the main coffee in three locations on the University campus. This should be changed to a more sustainable brand. Starbucks has a history of environmental and ethical issues and have no contribution to our lives.

The coffee company used in the Gwendolen Rees Building our Ceredigion based and employ local Welsh people. They use 100% renewable energy.

The University and Union are keen to promote sustainability and the Welsh culture.

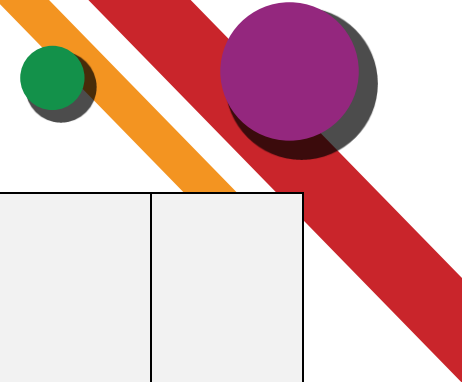
I have had conversations with Jeremy Mabbutt (the head of hospitality at the university) and they said that the University is not contractually linked to Starbucks and so wouldn't take too much to get rid of them. The Food Hall is already getting rid of Starbucks. They have Starbucks through a scheme called 'We Proudly Serve'. This works by the University paying Starbucks a small fee and they send us coffee and tell us what machines to use and provide training for staff. If we did want to get rid of them, we wouldn't need to replace the coffee machines.

The only things to consider as a downside is the local coffee company does not provide cold drinks. Jeremy Mabbutt did say they would look into ways around this.

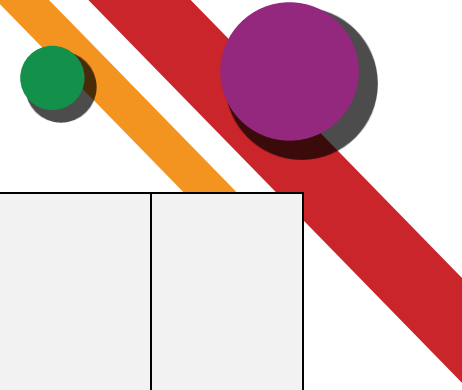
The University would not change the price of coffee.

I do want to acknowledge that Starbucks is a popular company, and some will buy a coffee from them just because it is Starbucks. However, many are also boycotting Starbucks due to ethical concerns and so this may level out.

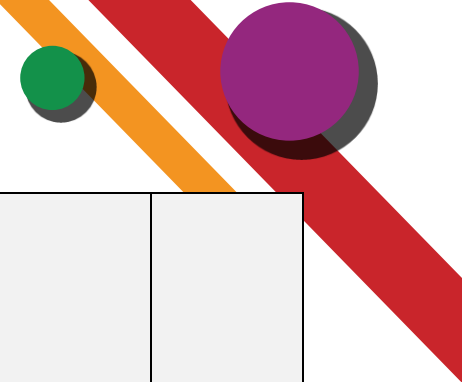
Spoke against the proposal - Bayanda (FTO): I agree with the moral principle. I spoke with the bar located in the Students Union and got a few points. In the bar they would



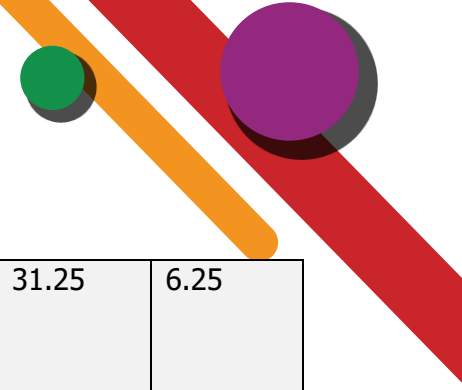
		<p>need to replace everything and calculated it would cost £15 thousand. With no identifiable brand they don't know how much they would lose. The bar is already working at a loss and the coffee is the biggest seller. There may be a risk of no coffee within the union building.</p> <p>If people are against Starbucks, there are other places to go and have coffee.</p>			
	<p>Questions Comments</p>	<p>Xavier (VO): Who would we be lobbying? The University or Union?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): The bar in the Union is owned by the university.</p> <p>Xavier (VO): There is something reliable in using a recognisable brand. They are known for certain things such as allergens. I eventually stopped going to other coffee locations due to uncertain allergies.</p> <p>Trys (FO): Allergens are required by law and so this seems like it may have been an issue with that particular coffee company instead it being about Starbucks.</p> <p>Oscar (SPORT): If we had a new company, would they take some of the profit or would it all go to the University? The company may invest into the University to get their brand on campus.</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): Unsure how it would work but how we do it now is that the University buys the coffee and then marks up the price to sell price.</p> <p>Will (SOC): If we move away from Starbucks how would we deal with unused stock?</p> <p>Sam (Member): Hot drink cups are recyclable and cold drink cups are not but know the Union is already working on this.</p>			



		<p>Tristan (FO): Due to the moral backing of Starbucks I agree with the proposal, and we should be moving to support local business and the Welsh economy. Starbucks are already everywhere so we should support locally. I would rather support local in a time where people are struggling.</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): The bar in the SU just doesn't have the resources for this. If we pressure them to swap, then we may have no coffee.</p> <p>Tristan (FTO): I know we are representatives, but would it be worth getting other students' opinions on this?</p> <p>Dax (VO): I am in favour of getting rid of Starbucks and lecturers have also said they want to get it rid of it.</p> <p>Will (SOC): If people don't want Starbucks there is other options to go somewhere else.</p> <p>Trys (FO): I appreciate the SU's position, if we pass this it does not mean that they have to implement this immediately. The change can be implemented when the SU, and university, are in a better position</p> <p>Ifeyinwa (VO): How much is the most expensive coffee?</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): Compared to the rest of the town we sell it cheaper.</p> <p>Ifeyinwa (VO): Would Starbucks be cheaper than the local brand?</p> <p>Sam (Member): The other place on campus is cheaper.</p>			
	Feedback from Group Discussions	<p>Elain (FTO): Our group had mixed views.</p> <p>Sam (Member): The common point was saying how much money it may take to do. Would be worth looking into how much the new brand would be able to support us. We are</p>			



	<p>the biggest coffee sellers in the area so they may want to support us.</p> <p>Bayanda (FTO): I am a big supporter of the Welsh coffee company but also big fan of having coffee.</p> <p>Sam (Member): This motion wouldn't get rid of coffee, it would look into switching providers.</p> <p>Saffron (FO): We are in agreement. There are issues with changing things, but this idea won't happen overnight anyway.</p> <p>Kieren (Member): Student will buy coffee anyway no matter what the brand is.</p> <p>Elena (VO): Regarding concerns of finances, we think it's worth the public stance of the student voice and let the University figure it out.</p> <p>Rebecca (Member): The main point is Starbucks has large human rights issues but if we look at student body and who really cares about this compared to just want coffee is most people just care about coffee – which I know isn't great, but it is the truth. We can't make people care. Would people just complain and want it back? Student body may not be happy with change.</p> <p>Tristan (FO): We are in favour of changing it. However, when considering accessibility, people say you can go other places but places like the Arts Centre are not accessible. We should also try to embrace local companies. In favour of replacing Starbucks and asking the local business to help with the cost of this.</p>			
	Other Comments			



	Vote on idea	Passed	62.5	31.25	6.25
Any Other Business	<p>Business from the Chair: Said thank you to all who have participated in the Senedd this year. Including the AGM, we have managed to pass (12) policies this year to make a positive difference to student life. This week is Celebrates week so well done to all who have been nominated for an award. We are also launching our new name, voted in on by the AGM of Undeb Aberystwyth. Senedd members are reminded to log their volunteer hours. The Students Union will be running Autumn elections at the start of the next academic year, if you are a student or know someone who would be good at any of these roles, please do encourage them to stand.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senedd Chair • Postgraduate Officer • Independent Students Officer • Mature Students Officer • Undergraduate Trustee <p>We will also be elected next year's Senedd reps during this election.</p> <p>Any other business: No other business.</p> <p>Next Senedd: Next Academic Year Meeting Finished: 19:58</p>				

FTO=Full Time Officer

VO=Volunteer Officer



FO = Faculty Officer

Sport=Sports Rep

Soc=Societies Rep

UMCA = UMCA Rep

Member = Member of SU but not a Senedd Member

