



# Minutes

**Senedd**

**04/12/2023**

## **Members in attendance:**

Joe Thomas (CHAIR)

Bayanda Vundamina (FTO)

Anna Simpkins (FTO)

Helen Cooper (FTO)

Tiff McWilliams (FTO)

Elain Gwynedd FTO) (Left: 19:10 – Approved beforehand)

Sully AP Najeeb (VO) Arrived 18:32 (Approved)

Dax FitzMedrud (VO)

Elena Bloomquist (VO)

Xavier Powley (VO)

Bamikole Akinsehinde (VO) Arrived: 18:24

Ifeyinwa Anaduaka (VO)

Ren Feldbruegge (VO)

Dylan Cashon (VO)

Saffron Luxford (FO)

Tristan Wood (FO)

Will Parker (SOC)

Felix Smart (SOC)

Lowrie Morgan (SPORT)

Oscar Pearcey (SPORT)

Bethany Letts (SPORT)

Trys Hooper (FO)





## Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

Dewi John Price (Member)

## Absent:

Niamh Novelle (VO) (Apologies Sent)

Harriet Goodchild (FO)(Apologies Sent)

Kaydien Gunter (SPORT) (Apologies Sent)

Beca Wright Hughes (UMCA) (Apology not sent)

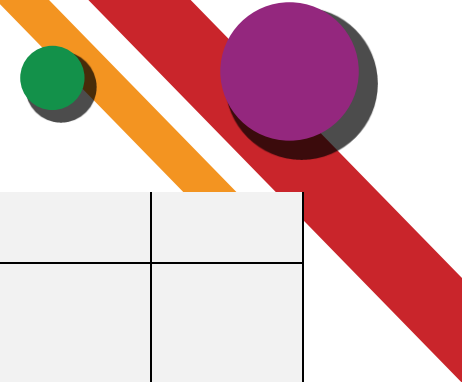
Josh Ruddy (SOC) (Apologies not sent)

Billy Calladine (SOC) (Apologies Sent)

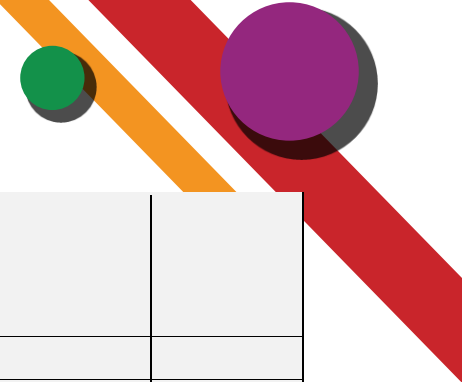
Nanw Maelor (UMCA) (Apologies Sent)

Jodie Marie Mott (SOC) (Apologies Sent)

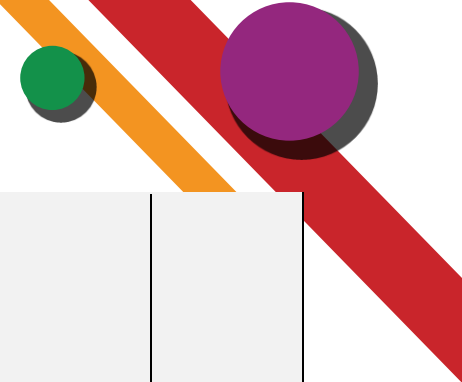
Agenda	Item	Notes	Voting Breakdown		
			Yes	No	Abstain
<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	The Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting	Union Chairperson welcomes everyone to the meeting.			
	Apologies for Absence	5 apologies were sent for this meeting			
	Last Minutes Meeting	Dylan names is spelt wrong in the last minuets – will update this.			
	Matters arising	Ash (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator) gave an update on 'the sex work is work policy' and Helen gave an			



		update on how this policy will work and what resources we are going to be using to support us on this policy.			
<b>Officers' Report</b>	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. <a href="#">See report.</a>			
<b>Lapsing Policy:</b>	Update on any Lapsing Policy	No Lapsing policies to note.			
<b>Idea 1: Cash on Campus</b>	Proposer speech	<p>Proposed Speech delivered by: Xavier (VO)</p> <p>Xavier said you can use your Abercard and bank card around campus but you are not able to use cash. Sometimes students may only be able to use cash (International students, students with a disability who find it hard to use local banks, if a student has just forgotten to bring their card). This means some students can't have any food or drink when on campus. There is the ability to put cash on your Abercard at the SU reception, but if you do not have your Abercard then this isn't possible. We also have people on campus who are not students.</p> <p>Speaker against this proposal by: Lowrie (SPORT) and Bayanda (FTO)</p> <p>Lowrie (SPORT): Spoke with bar staff within the Students Union and they had concerns over safety and staff wellbeing. Some may struggle with maths and so may struggle working on the bar. Not having cash also means less abuse from people who are not students.</p>			



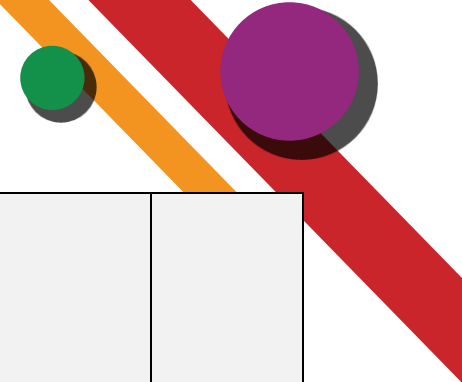
		Bayanda (FTO): This policy may clash with ethical banking one we have. Not accepting cash means we have more choice on ethical banks. The university is potentially less likely to switch banks if we pressure them for cash.			
	Questions	No questions – straight to group discussions.			
	Feedback from Group discussions.	<p>Helen (FTO): When working in the bar within the Union, it was hard to accept cash. We would need to get new tills and make sure they are kept in a safe room. There would be a lot of safety concerns and so would need a lot of work to get this done. We got rid of cash because of Covid but I would still be concerned with cash and sanitation. It would also disrupt schedules for staff. Would mean we need to train staff again and they would have more responsibilities with no increase in wages. May also mean staff need to work more. However, a benefit is cash is not trackable which is important for someone who may be experiencing any sort of violence.</p> <p>Bethany (SPORT): We have seen kids who bring cash on campus struggle but haven't noticed anything wrong for student.</p> <p>Elena (VO): It is an issue for international students. More a convience issue more than a need. There are ways to get around it.</p> <p>Dax (VO): International students also may be more likely to have their Abercard's on them as they need to clock into lecturers as their attendance is monitored more.</p> <p>Felix (SOC): Our group fell in the middle. Saw benefits of staying contactless but if someone doesn't have a card and</p>			



		<p>needs food then it's not great. Potentially a place to exchange cash for food. CKs is also up the road.</p> <p>Tristan (FO): We like the idea as have been caught out with not having an card.</p>			
	<p>Other Comments</p>	<p>Xavier (VO): A student can put money on your Abercard without your card but you need the card to be able to pay for anything.</p> <p>Helen (FTO): You should be able to use your email to pay for things if there is money on your Abercard.</p> <p>Elena (VO): It is student responsibilities to always have your card on them.</p> <p>Tristan (FO): It is easy to remember your card if in student accommodation as it is your key to your room, but if in external accommodation it is easy to forget your card.</p> <p>Lottie (SPORT): if you have a long day you should have your Abercard to log attendance.</p> <p>Xavier (VO): but if you do forget your Abercard you may not have time to go home to get it.</p> <p>Ren (VO): In the international forum, it was mentioned if we are cashless can the Abercard pay for alcohol and cigarettes?</p> <p>Helen(FTO): We are lobbying for this at the moment.</p> <p>Dax (VO): You can top up your Abercard at the SU reception but this can be a problem if on campus on the weekend. Could be good to have a top up location for the weekends and outside of SU business hours.</p>			



		<p>Ifeyinwa (VO): Could we create an app or website so that you can use your Abercard on your phone to pay for things. Could also be a QR code.</p> <p>Xavier summaries the policy.</p>			
	Vote	<b>Rejected</b>	10.52	89.47	0
<b>Idea 2: Volunteer Representatives in the union Senedd</b>	Proposer speech	<p>Proposer Speech given by: Ren (VO)</p> <p>Ren: There are currently two student led projects and have spoken with socs coordinator. Things are set up for clubs and societies but not for us. They should have a voice.</p> <p>There are certain things clubs and societies are able to get that those in volunteer projects don't such as a voice in the Senedd. There are currently two student led projects and have spoken with the Societies and Volunteering Coordinator about our representation and getting more groups set up. We should have a voice.</p> <p>No one wanted to talk against the proposal.</p>			
	Questions	<p>Bayanda (FTO): Is this for Representation or for another Officer role?</p> <p>Ren (VO): Representation in the Senedd.</p> <p>Dax (VO): Would it be one for each project or one rep for the full thing?</p> <p>Ren (VO): This will be the same for club and societies. So not everyone would have a rep but people would represent them as a whole.</p>			

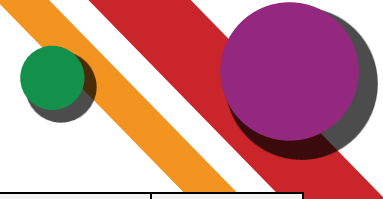


		<p>Tiff (FTO): UMCA have 2 reps but clubs and socs have 5 each as they are larger. Will probably be closer to UMCA representation.</p> <p>Oscar (SPORT): Would the roles defiantly be filled? Will people go for it?            Ren (VO): It would start next year and would depend on the volunteer projects but hopefully we would.            Oscar (SPORT): Are lots of students involved in the Volunteering?            Ren (VO): Spoke about how many people were in each of the volunteer projects. Is a big group. Two volunteer projects are dormant at the moment but hopefully these will be filled within the next year.</p> <p>Sully (VO): What defines a volunteer projected than a society?            Tiff (FTO): It is how they are set up and the operational side of it. You need to be interviewed to run a volunteer project and to be a lead on it.</p>			
	Feedback from Group Discussion.	<p>Dylan (FO): We agreed. Xavier made a good point, as reducing faculty officers next year, these roles could then be filled by other people.</p> <p>Oscar (SPORT): We thought it was a good idea. Could someone in the SU promote Volunteering projects more. Lots of promotions of socs and clubs but could encourage people to join them.</p> <p>Elena (VO): we liked the idea.            Lottie (SPORT): We don't see anything negative with it.</p>			
	Other Comments	No other comments made.			

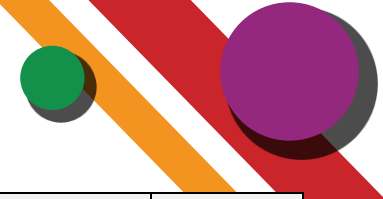


<b>Idea 3: Amendment to election by-law</b>		Ren (VO): Summaries. Said they will be working with the Societies and Volunteering Coordinator on this.			
	Vote	<b>Passed</b>	100	0	0
	Proposer speech	Proposed Speech delivered by: Bayanda (FTO)  Bayanda: It is a few changed to the elections bye-laws to add a rule to students who are opted out of the students union membership. You can opt in any time but you need to have done so before standing opens so that you can run in the election.			
	Questions	Sully (VO): Asked if this was a targeted idea to any individuals. Joe (CHAIR): Said this was not about any names but a needed update in the bye-laws.  Trys (FO): Are you opted in automatically or do you need to make a choice to opt in? It wouldn't happen by accident? Bayanda (FTO): You are opted in automatically and need to make the choice to opt out so this wouldn't be done by accident.  Felix (SOC): Current rule is if your opted out you could run? Bayanda (FTO): There is no rule so we are filling in the blanks.			
	Other comments	Procedural motion to go to vote: passed			
	Vote	<b>Passed</b>	100	0	0
<b>NUS Conference Idea Submission</b>	Proposed Ideas	<b>Idea 1: Support for PHD Students and Researchers with Finances and Ownership Rights.</b>  Proposer: Bamikole (VO)			





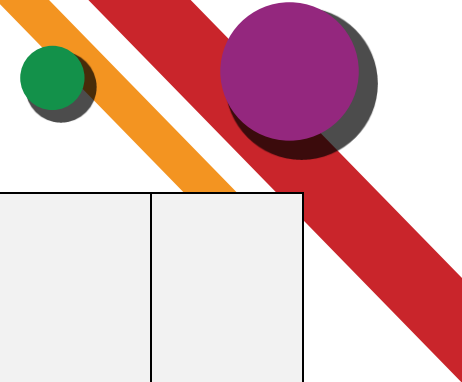
		<p>Bamikole: Could NUS advocate for more support for PHD students and research in the UK. PHD and researchers face lots of financial difficulties. UK students face highly competitive environments with many not receiving financial help. This affects the quality of research in the UK. Research is also owned by the university not the student doing the research. Could NUS Advocate for ownership rights and support for PHD students and researchers.</p> <p>Questions/ Comments on policy: Tristan (FO) The AberDoc only limited because it covers the tuition and extra money for living. The University finance is in extreme amounts of dept. There isn't loads of funding. Trys (FO): Would NUS hold application to ask for funding – would NUS do like a scholarship or a grant? Would this be a financial strain on the NUS? How would they give support. Bamikole (VO): Unsure how NUS would do this but would be to start the conversations. Myself, I pay for my education, but the work is not mine, the university has ownership on my work that I am paying for. Dax (VO): PHD study in other countries is work study. You work for the university to help with teaching and you get money back. Ren (VO): USA schools are sponsored which means that is how they can afford more things.</p> <p><b>Idea 2: Reduce Fees for International Students.</b> Proposer: Bamikole (VO) Bamikole (VO): The difference between fees are very major. International students having to do lots more work to get</p>			
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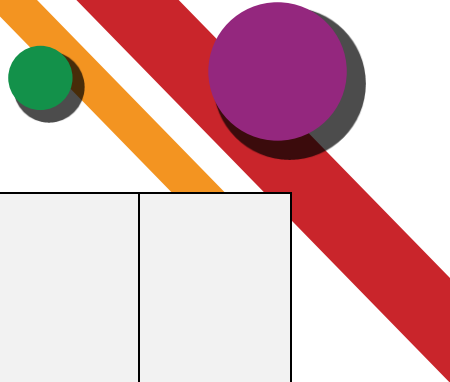
		<p>money. We should engage in dialogue about making tuition better and not so different from home students. These students contribute towards so much of our societies here in the UK. It isn't fair.</p> <p>Questions / Comments on Policy.</p> <p>Sully (VO): most universities wouldn't be able to run if they didn't charge international students as much. They don't get enough off domestic students finance. They are also already in dept and so would need to cut back a lot to be able to do this.</p> <p>Xavier (VO): Aberystwyth charges international students less as we have a policy which means international students have guaranteed accommodation. If you are British and have a year abroad, you get more money to help. Universities worldwide charge international students more.</p> <p>Bamikole (VO): Just because everyone is doing something does not mean it is right.</p> <p>Dax (VO): NUS Liberation policy from last year was to support international students which included the issue of tuition fees and so NUS are already doing this. It would repeat a previous policy. The policy would then be to continue on the policy that came from last year's conference.</p> <p><b>Idea 3: Transgender students in Sport within their SU's.</b></p> <p>Proposer: Tiff (FTO)</p> <p>Tiff (FTO): I sit on WSS (Wales student support) about sharing best practice in sport. Every other union conform to BUCKS regulations meaning Transgender students cannot complete in the team they identify in. In Aber SU we let</p>			
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		<p>students self-identify when competing in sport at the university (we cannot control BUCKS rules) others don't in Wales.</p> <p>Questions / Comments on Policy: Xavier (VO): UK government are awful for Transgender people at the moment. They are trying to block all self-identification. What would happen? Tiff (FTO): NUS don't have this view and would make this clear. They would be very pro this.</p> <p><b>Idea 4: Standardised Equality in Accessibilities in Universities.</b> Proposer: Xavier (VO) Xavier (VO): Standardised equality and accessibility across the board for universities. This would have ties to accessibility training. Different universities have different policies. Training can be inadequate. Universities are not told what to teach in relation to accessibility and equality and is up to the university what they teach. The UK is ahead compared to other countries but still not great. Wales tends to lack behind England a lot in this regard. We should require training on a more frequent basis. In Aberystwyth we give training, but they are not required to do this. The only time they had to do it was 2010 as the equality act came in. There is no way to see if university staff are doing the training.</p> <p>Questions / Comments on policy: No Questions or Comments.</p>			
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		<p><b>Idea 5: Stop baking with Barclays across the UK.</b>          Proposer: Sully (VO)          Sully (VO): NUS should work with Universities to transition away from Barclays bank. This may be an idea to go to future NUS conferences. The idea would be to ask Universities and Union to divest from Barclays.</p> <p>Questions / Comments on proposal:</p> <p>Helen (FTO): It has been brought to the attention of the NUS. NUS are aware and tried to educate officers in Welsh universities. They have a sustainability policy but this may not be directed to Barclays.</p> <p>Trys (FO): Why bring it up with NUS and not the government? We should be putting on pressure but from this direction.</p> <p>Sully (VO): We are not asking universities to not accept Barclays funding; it is to just not bank with Barclays.          Ifeyinwa (VO): Is it individually we should be doing this or as the school we should? No one is offering an alternative.          Sully (VO): As an institution we shouldn't bank with Barclays. Individually yes too but that is a different thing.</p>			
	Other Comments	No other Comments made about the policies.			
	Vote on idea	<p>Idea 1: Support for PHD Students and Researchers with Finances and Ownership Rights. <b>2 Votes</b>          Idea 2: Reduce Fees for International Students. <b>1 vote</b>          Idea 3: Transgender students in Sport within their SU's. <b>14 Votes.</b></p>			



		<p>Idea 4: Standardised Equality in Accessibilities in Universities. <b>2 Votes.</b></p> <p>Idea 5: Stop baking with Barclays across the UK. <b>0 Votes</b></p> <p><b>Policy to send to NUS Conferences: Idea 3: Transgender Students in Sport within their SU's.</b></p>			
	Vote on which conference to send to	<p>NUS National: 0</p> <p>NUS Wales: 20</p> <p>NUS Liberation: 0</p> <p><b>Sending the policy to NUS Wales</b></p>			
<b>Any Other Business</b>	<p>No other business</p> <p><b>Next Senedd:</b> 4<sup>th</sup> March 18:00-20:00 Main room (AGM)</p> <p>Meeting Finished: 20:08</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**

