November 23rd, 2026, 18:00-20:00

ABERYSTWYTH STUDENT'S UNION

November 2026 SENEDD

SENEDD

Agenda

Welcome

1. Welcome and Apologies for any Absences.
2. Approval of last meeting minutes
3. Any matters arising from the minutes
4. Officers Report
5. Lapsing Policy (For Information)
6. Quick Fix (For Information): Students For Swifts

Ideas

7. Idea one: Should the SU introduce a dedicated sports fair outside of freshers and refreshers?
8. Idea Two: Should we Host an Annual Shag Week?
9. Idea Three: The Undeb should provide female and gender non-conforming students with a self-defence class at the beginning of each term.
10. Idea Four: Should the Postgraduate Volunteer Officer be split into Postgraduate Taught and a Postgraduate Research roles.

End of meeting comments

11. Any other Business.
12. Date of next meeting.
13. End of meeting.

Minutes

Senedd

26/10/2026

Members in attendance:

Tomos Padel (CHAIR)

Alice Leroy (FTO)

Francesco Lanzi (FTO)

Laura Young (FTO)

Gwenno Roberts (FTO)

Nick Green (VO)

Maggie Peirce (VO) Left at 20:00

Mesh Tamilchelven (VO)

Rowan Peill (VO)

Tia Narayana (FO)

Kiernan Cullimore Torrellas (SOC)

Max Rycroft (SOC) – Left 19:51

Jonah Barnett (SOC)

Daniel Hartley – Ames (SOC)

Hannah Smith (SPORT) Left at

Eleanor Bobe (SPORT)

Tishah S Vijaya Kumar (SPORT)

Christopher Molife (SPORT)

Jack Smith (SPORT)

Edward Cowper (SPORT)

Logan King (VP)

Grace Elliott (AR)

Florence Rawlinson (AR)

Tomos Parry (UMCA)- Left 19:51

Siwan Williams (UMCA)

Also in attendance: (Student Observers)

Adam Davies Sheehan

Absent:

Elliw Mair (VO) – Apologies Sent

Kyra Ellis (VO) – Appologies Not Sent

Bryn Talbot (VO) – Appologies Not Sent

Natasha Goodwin (VO) – Apologies Sent

Anisa Mudassar (VO) – Apologies Not Sent

Jack Squire (VO) – Apologies Sent

Helen-Eva McCamley (VO) – Apologies Sent

Megan Taki (FO) – Apologies Sent

Meghana Dinius (SOC) – Apologies 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: 6:10 Chair said update of sharing attendance and how members have voted. You can see the breakdown of this on the Undeb Aber website.			
	Apologies for Absence	Elliw, Jack, Megan, and Meghana sent their apologies for the meeting.			
	Last Minutes Meeting and matters arising	No minutes or matters arising to approve			
	Introductions	Everyone in the room introduced themselves.			
Election of deputy chair	Asking who would like to stand and voting.	Chair explained the purpose of the Deputy Chair. Chair asked who would like to stand. 1. Logan King: Explained they will have good attendance. They are responsible and a good communicator. They are already engaged with the Union and University and want to support change through this. 2. Kiernan Cullimore Torrellas: She explained she can cope with the workload. They currently hold multiple positions and know she would be able to support Tomos effectively. She explained that she is responsible and will show up. 3. Edward Cowper: He said he understood the importance of a voice of reason in debates and voting. He said he was committed and would give it his all. 4. Tisha S Vijaya Kumar: She explained that she has done this role before but would like to gain new experience. She			

		wants to help Tomos in what he needs. The Senedd did a hands up vote for the Deputy Chair. Edward and Logan drew on the first round. After a second vote between Edward and Logan, Logan was voted in as Deputy Chair. Elected as Deputy chair: Logan King			
Lapsing Policy	Updates	1. Should AberSU reduce the number of Faculty Officers? 2. We should host an annual SHAG Week 3. The University and AberSU should suspend their banking with fossil fuel investment banks and switch to a more ethical, green bank instead. 4. Bring Back RAG Charity/ies 5. Replace the Statue of Edward VIII 6. Sex Work is Just That, Work			
Learn Welsh	UMCA Reps taught members of the Senedd key Welsh Words	Gwenno and UMCA Senedd Reps did the Welsh lesson.			
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. Questions: No questions for Alice (FTO) or Fran (FTO) **Laura** Kernan (SOC): what is Defend Dissent Laura (FTO): Amnesty UK have a charter they want Unions and Universities to sign. There are 8 points (10 points) and we are working on how to do bits from the charter with the University. Tomos (CHAIR): where and when is the diabetes event? Laura (FTO): 4th November 13:00-14:00 Picturehouse			

		Gwenno Adam (MEMBER): When is the next paned a sgwrs? Gwenno (FTO): This Wednesday 16:00 in the Pantycelyn canteen.			
1. **Idea One: The Union should add Housing Reps to the Senedd**	Speaking for and against the idea.	Laura spoke on the idea. See Agenda for what was discussed. No one opposed the idea.			
	Questions and comments	**When would they start?** Alice (FTO): Would this come into effect next meeting or next academic year? Laura (FTO): We would be trying to have them elected and here for the next Senedd meeting. **Connection to RA's** Mesh (VO): What is the difference between these representatives and the RA's and how would we say to students who to speak to? Often students will go to the RA's or the accommodation office if there is an issue, would this not be confusing? Laura (FTO): We would still encourage students to go to RA's with housing issues. These representatives are just bringing the issues up with the Union to help strengthen relationships between Resident Life and the Union. Maggie (VO): How would you ensure good communication between the Advisory Board and Res Life? Laura (FTO): It would be good to have meetings with permanent staff, but I am currently unsure. **The Split of the Roles.** Max (SOC): How would the seven reps be split? Laura (FTO): There are nine reps that was a mistake on the agenda. Laura explained the breakdown of the reps which can be found on the agenda.			

		Kiernan (SOC): What is the proportion of reps? There are five (six) for the University and three for the town. Is it not based on how many students live in town and campus. Laura (FTO): It isn't based on the proportion of students. There are so many different types of campus accommodation. We had thought about separating private accommodation into a north and south rep but we also don't want to take over the Senedd with too many reps. **What would Housing Reps have a say in?** Kiernan (SOC): What would the Housing Reps get a say in. For example, would they have authority surrounding how much first year students pay to live in campus accommodation as prices have gone up each year. Laura (FTO): They would be an advocate for it and if that is what is discussed could work on conversations with the university. They could advocate for caps.			
	Feedback from group discussions	Mesh (VO): Our group spoke about the practicality of the idea. We thought it was a good idea but perhaps tweaking it a little as there feels to be a little overlap between the RA role and the proposed idea. Could it be more just conversations with the RA's instead of electing new people. We also spoke about the effectiveness of an external rep and how much influence the Union would have with them. Kiernan (SOC): We wondered if the Housing Reps would be able to use University resources to help them in the role. We also wondered that if the elections were in the Spring, the students may not be in that house anymore so they would not be effective reps. We spoke about the			

		cost of living and how the University are constantly putting up the fees of accommodation. Aisleen (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator): Clarification, if this idea passes, it would work the same as the other Senedd rep elections which would take place in the Autumn (September – October time). Francesco (FTO): The purpose of reps on the Senedd is to represent student. Everyone in this room will be living in town or a student accommodation block. Just because you represent one group, does not mean you cannot represent other areas as well with your own experiences. Not all the responsibility will be on them. Logan (VP): There is a difference in quality and treatment in university accommodation. There are issues in certain accommodations that's common place so having one rep for each type of accommodation is a good way of doing it. Tia (FO): We supported the idea. Housing is a big part of the student experience. It crosses with wellbeing, academic and quality of life. Having reps to know what is going on with housing is useful. The RA's deal with individual issues but this would represent general issues on campus and in town. We like the number of reps and believe adding too many more could cause a conflict or saturate the Senedd.			
	Any other comments	Nick (VO): Would the Housing Reps abstain from issues that don't centre around housing? Ash (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator): No, all Senedd reps vote on every idea that comes through to them, not just the ones about the group they represent.			

		Rowan (VO): What is the difference between representing identities v where you live? Laura (FTO): It would be something that we need to discuss. Mesh (VO): Is Rowan trying to avoid students being sent back and forth if they go to one Officer or the other. Alice (FTO): I believe it depends on what the main issue is. If it's a transphobic incident in a house, the transphobia is the issue not the house, so they would go to Rowan. If it is mould in the house, they would go to the housing rep. Volunteer officers are here to represent minorities groups. Other reps have different things. Officers lobby for change which reps represent students' views. It would be working together, not separately. Tia (FO): The crossover already happens and it is more important to have the representation than not have them at all.			
	Summary	Laura (FTO) gave a summary of the proposed idea. Opposition summary: Nick (VO): The students union has Officers who are elected to do certain things. I feel this would undermine the current representation and becomes more conscripted and doesn't allow minorities representation.			
	vote	**With 24 votes, this idea has PASSED**	83%	17%	0%
1. **Idea two: Senedd Members Should Have a**	Speaking for and against the idea	Francesco (FTO) spoke on the idea. See Agenda for what was discussed. No one Opposed the idea.			
	Questions and Comments	**Re-electing** Kiernan (SOC): Would it be possible to re-elect someone if they do not show up instead of removing the vote completely?			

Loss of Voting Privileges for Failure to Attend Two Meetings Without Apology		Francesco (FTO): There would be way too many elections if we were to do that and we would risk people not voting in the main elections. Tomos (CHAIR): If you do not turn up in term one, would you re-elect in term two? Francesco (FTO): No it would be a void position until the next academic year. **Representation** Hannah (SOPORT): Who would student go to, to represent their views? Francesco (FTO): Any student is able to submit an idea to be discussed in the Senedd. However, if the representative is not attending anyway, they are already not having their views represented. **What meetings are included?** Max (SOC): Would this include meetings like the AGM or Advisory Boards? Francesco (FTO): No this is just in relation to the Senedd meeting. **Sending Apologies** Mesh (VO): What is the cut off to send apologies? Aisleen (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator): As early as possible but as long as you send apologies before the meeting it will be accepted. Rowan (VO): What would happen if you sent apologies after the meeting because something went wrong? Francesco (FTO): It would be a case by case situation. **General Questions** Ava (VO): So if you miss two meetings, that would mean you lose voting for the rest of the meetings? Francesco (FTO): There are only three meetings in a year. If you have			

		not turned up to the first two, then we do not want to hope you will attend the last one as normally these students will still just not show up. Jack (SPORT): As we are a shared position, what happens if only one of us attends? Aisleen (Campaigns and Democracy Coordinator): I would still strongly encourage the other person to send apologies, but as long as one of you is here that is okay.			
	Feedback from group discussion	Jonah (SOC): We think this idea seems fair. We spoke about how it would work and if it would start from now. Francesco (FTO): Yes, it would begin from now. Ava (VO): If new Officers did not know about apologies, would it start from now? Francesco (FTO): Yes. Florence (AR): We thought this idea made sense as it reflects the real world. I attended the last meeting of the year last year and it was stressful when we nearly didn't have quoracy. Tia (FO): We are on board with the idea. We are here to represent. Rowan (VO): We thought it made sense. Also the people voting on this idea are here today. If we don't meet the numbers needed it waists everyone's time. Maggie (VO): We agree Eleanor (SPORT): We love the idea.			
	Any other comments	No other comments			
	Vote	**With 22 votes, this idea has PASSED**	100 %	0%	0%

Union Priority	Update from last year	The Chair gave an update on what was worked on last year surrounding the Cost-of-Living priority. The Union focused on hidden course costs and transport onto campus for students. The Senedd today will discuss what they believe the next area of focus should be in relation to the cost-of-living priority.			
	Discussion group feedback	Tia (FO): We spoke about our personal issues vs what the University is priorities. We have a mix of home and international students in the group which showed a divide in expenses. We are unsure how to tackle the issue or what to focus on though. Rowan (VO): We established that the shop in the SU is not owned by the SU but it is still expensive. We also spoke about students spending more money when it comes to assignment and exam times. To save time and their place in the library students are more likely to use vending machines which are more expensive. We also spoke about the things that are already there being used – maybe more promotion of the community kitchen. Nick (VO): We know that the University could not subsidence things, but could they look at their contracts to see if they could choose a cheaper option. Do a tendering process? Jack (SPORT): We focused more on issues affecting us in lacrosse. The main issue it members being able to afford kit. We can provide club kit, but it is not great quality, and budget does not allow us to buy any more. We also spoke about our contract with Macrone. They do not provide lacrosse tops, so we have to spend a lot of money on kit what does not			

		even fit us. Each year people are having to spend more money which could mean students do not join. There are a lot of hidden costs in sports groups. Christopher (SPORT): Cheerleading can also be very expensive. There are a lot of hidden costs that people do not think about. It is really hard to make things cheaper without making it more expensive from the start. Logan (VP): We spoke about the increasing tuition fees and maintained loans not matching it. This may be stopping people from staying or starting their course. Grace (AR): Find a job is very hard in Aberystwyth. Could there be more jobs for students on campus. Ava (VO): International Tuition fees are about triple than home students so it would be interesting to see where that money is going. Alice (FTO): As an international student I am outraged by how much I have spent on my degree. How it works at the university is home students on average cost the university thirteen thousand a year. International students tuition covers their tuition and covers the gap for home students. Kiernan (SOC): It also costs more to educate STEM than humanities.			
	Next Steps	The Chair explained that the Union will go through the feedback from today's meeting and compare with cost-of-living survey information from last year. The Union will update the Senedd on the next focus and will invite them to a campaign planning session.			
Any Other Business	**Any other business:** Chair said to log volunteer hours. Please come for photos if you don't already have them to go on the website.				

	Next Senedd: 23/11/2026 Meeting Finished: 20:15

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

(Quick Fix: Not for debate) Students For Swifts

Submitted by: Sam Gunn

Summary

Install swift boxes on campus to protect an endangered species and help students engage with the natural world.

Details:

We are a group of students who want the university to support nature on campus by installing swift boxes. We want boxes on all suitable buildings, but our focus is on Fferm Penglais due to the surrounding fields and woodland, which could provide food and habitat. We want to see Fferm Penglais become a "swift village" where students can live alongside nature and gain an appreciation for the natural world.

We are proud of Aberystwyth University's track record in promoting sustainability on campus, including the solar farm, wildflower meadows and Living History Garden. We believe that the university can go further by installing swift boxes. Swifts have been red listed in Wales since 2022 due to a decline in insects and nesting sites (NRW, BTO, and RSPB, 2022), and a recent study has recommended that nest boxes be installed across the UK (Finch et al., 2023). This aligns with the university's Biodiversity Objective to "protect and encourage the safeguarding of species and habitats found across the institution" (Aberystwyth University, 2025). There is known to be a population of swifts in Aberystwyth, which may significantly benefit from more nesting sites. The university would also be following the lead of the Dyfi Biosphere, which has investigated local swift populations and installed over 200 swift boxes in the region. (Dyfi Biosphere Swift Project, 2024; Hall, 2025).

We want the support and advice of Undeb Aber to help us achieve this. We are willing to explore different options for the installation of swift boxes, including student volunteers and contracted work. We intend to reach out to local expertise such as the Dyfi Biosphere and Ceredigion Swift Project to discuss feasibility, nest box sourcing and possible sites for installation. Through this project, we hope to help students engage with nature, raise awareness of swifts on campus and develop connections between the university and the local conservation community.

References:

Aberystwyth University (2025) Aberystwyth University Biodiversity Plan. Available at: https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/healthsafetyenvironment/Aberystwyth-University-Biodiversity-Plan-2025.docx (Accessed: November 3, 2026).

Finch, T. et al. (2023) "Demography of Common Swifts (Apus apus) breeding in the UK associated with local weather but not aphid biomass," Ibis, 165(2). Available at: https://doi.org/10.1111/ibi.13156Digital%20Object%20Identifier%20(DOI).

Newell, D. (no date) Action for Swifts. Available at: https://actionforswifts.blogspot.com/?fbclid=IwAR1TAY9PF0XDVuTYbaFcPcXw6zLvVvJEV6nFCdM2McdQYP0rv-rxquvqek4 (Accessed: November 3, 2026).

Dyfi Biosphere Swift Project (2024) Dyfi Biosphere. Available at: https://www.dyfibiosphere.wales/swifts (Accessed: November 3, 2026).

Hall, B. (2025) Is there a clear relationship between river health and common swift (Apus apus) survival? Dyfi Biosphere. Available at: https://www.dyfibiosphere.wales/_files/ugd/f2889b_b521373a8b5d4df59682d341c3536eda.pdf (Accessed: November 3, 2026).

Natural Resources Wales, British Trust for Ornithology, and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (2022) Birds of Conservation Concern Wales. Available at: https://www.bto.org/sites/default/files/birds_of_conservation_concern_wales_4_2022.pdf (Accessed: November 3, 2026).

Update:

The Union has began to work on this.

Should the SU introduce a dedicated sports fair outside of freshers and refreshers?

Submitted by: Max Rycroft

Summary

It is important that students get as many opportunities as possible to participate in sports as not only are they good for fitness and wellbeing but are an excellent way to meet new people.

Details:

Freshers fair and the subsequent refreshers fair are incredibly busy times for most students and many don't get the opportunity to turn up to try a sport as they are preoccupied doing other jobs.

Without the freshers and refreshers fair timings, it can be very difficult for people to join a new sports club and they can often feel isolated without that sport. The sports fair offers all students another chance to talk to people in different sports clubs and get as much information as possible on sport within Aberystwyth with sport at the focus.

The aim is to introduce a designated sports fair in the SU main hall which gives all students an opportunity to discover sports clubs that they can get involved in. The fair will also offer the timings of local sports clubs if students want to go and play sport outside of the university constraints. The sports fair is also designed to allow for sports clubs to interact with each other and create positive conversation on subjects around sport.

The problem I am trying to solve is that students should have the freedom to be involved in sports however, it takes a lot of courage to go up to a sports group when you know no-one. The sports fair gives people that extra opportunity to join a sports club in a friendly, chatty manner.

Should we Host an Annual Shag Week?

Submitted by: Ava Conlon

Summary

The annual Shag week policy is about to lapse and we should pass it again to ensure that Shag week is held every year due to its significance.

Details:

The policy for holding an annual Shag week was passed in April 2023 and lapses this upcoming April. We want to pass it on again to make sure Shag week is continued every year because the topics of safe sex, consent, healthy relationships, and etc are very important. We want to get student feedback and see if this is something we think should be continued annually.

Find the previous policy here: https://www.abersu.co.uk/changeaber/policy/lapsedpolicy/

The Undeb should provide female and gender non-conforming students with a self-defence class at the beginning of each term.

Submitted by: Alice Leroy

Summary

Empowering minority groups and working on safety.

Details:

This idea is that student populations who are more at risk of getting physically assaulted can engage with a self-defence class to get basic information and rehearse defence moves with a professional who is used to teaching those in an environment made for them.

Should the Postgraduate Volunteer Officer be split into Postgraduate Taught and a Postgraduate Research roles

Submitted by: Laura Young

Summary

We should split the current Postgraduate Volunteer Officer role into two separate positions. One for Postgraduate Taught and the other for Postgraduate Research students.

Details:

Currently, there is a single Volunteer Officer role responsible for representing all postgraduate students, including both Postgraduate Taught (PGT) and Postgraduate Research (PGR) students.

However, these two groups experience university life in very different ways and face distinct challenges. Postgraduate Taught students, such as those studying for a master's degree, generally attend regular lectures and seminars, work alongside a cohort of peers, and have structured opportunities to engage with the wider university community.

In contrast Postgraduate Research students, such as those undertaking an MPhil or PhD, often work independently and can experience significant isolation. They typically do not attend regular lectures or seminars, may have limited interaction with other students on similar programmes, and are often expected to contribute to teaching, supervision, or other university activities alongside their research.

Given these differing experiences, it can be difficult for a single representative to effectively advocate for the needs and interests of both groups. Creating separate Volunteer Officer roles for Postgraduate Taught and Postgraduate Research students would ensure that each constituency has dedicated representation from someone with a direct understanding of their specific experiences, challenges, and priorities.

This change would strengthen postgraduate representation and help ensure that the diverse voices of postgraduate students are properly heard and represented within the Students' Union.

If passed, I would hope this role update be reflected in the Spring 2026 elections for the next academic year.