Monday 09th March 2026, 18:00-20:00

Undeb Aberystwyth

The Big Meeting 2026

SENEDD

Agenda:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Receive report of trustees
- Receive the annual accounts.
- Appointment of Auditors: To ratify the Trustee Board decision to appoint LHP as Auditors (based in Aberystwyth)
- Approving the list of affiliations (affiliations for July 2026-2027):
    - NUS UK £18,817, NUS Charity = £4,277- total = £23,094
    - British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) = £6400 (est) plus BUCS transport costs)
    - Advice UK Membership = £280.00
    - Real Living Wage: £150

  Free affiliations or schemes joined:

    - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)= don't pay currently
    - HALO
    - Mindful employer
    - Tourette's Friendly Employer and Organisation (Tourette's Action)
- Your Ideas
- The Students' Union Trustee Board should appoint a third student Trustee that would represent a group demographically underrepresented by the Board at the time.
- Should Undeb Aber and the University implement a BDS-compliant policy?
- Should Under Aber Promote peace by reducing militarism on campus and lobbying the university to do the same.
- Should Undeb Aber ratify Amnesty UK's Defend Dissent Charter into its policy?
- Any Other Business
- Dyddiad cyfarfod nesaf y Senedd (27 Ebrill 2026- 18:00-20:00 Picturehouse UM)

The Students' Union Trustee Board should appoint a third student Trustee that would represent a group demographically underrepresented by the Board at the time.

Submitted by: Millie Hackett

Details:

Proposed constitutional changes:

14.3.1 Up to two Student Trustees shall be elected by secret ballot by the Members at an election to be held in accordance with Bye-Law 1-Elections. There should be one undergraduate and one postgraduate student.

14.3.2 Up to one Student Trustee shall be appointed by the Trustee Board. The board should take care to prioritise this role for a student from a demographic currently less represented by existing elected student and officer Trustees

14.3.3 Each Student Trustee must be a Student at the time of their election (and must continue to be a Student for the duration of their term as a Student Trustee).

14.3.4 Student Trustees shall remain in office for a term of two years commencing in accordance with Schedule 2. The term of office may be shorter or longer on a transitional basis to coincide with the alteration of the year start or end.

14.3.5 A Student Trustee may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

Should Undeb Aber and the University implement a BDS-compliant policy?

Submitted by: Ella Ward

Summary

Undeb Aber and Aberystwyth University should implement BDS-compliant policies, by refusing to partner with businesses named on the boycott lists (Domino's Pizza), and disallowing the university from using the Union building to sell boycotted products (Costa Coffee and Coca Cola).

This would include: not selling any products on the BDS (boycott, divestment, and sanctions) lists, disallowing the University-owned outlets to sell products on the BDS list in the union building, and refusing to partner with businesses named on the boycott lists.

Details:

Many students are deeply concerned about the ongoing genocide that Israel have been committing against the Palestinian people in Gaza for over 2 years, as well as the decades of occupation, apartheid and use of administrative detention against the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank. There have been international calls to boycott corporations that are complicit in this, including Coca Cola (who own Costa Coffee) (FOA | Peace in Palestine - #BoycottCocaCola & Everything You Need to Know: Why We Boycott Coca Cola | Boycat Times) and Domino's Pizza (Should You Boycott Domino's Pizza? | BDS List (2025)). The benefits of cutting ties with these corporations as a Student Union is that it would allow us to invest in and support local businesses and support the local Welsh economy and community, as well as providing students that are engaging with the boycott to still spend money within the Union! I'm sure most students would rather purchase coffee from a local supplier than a chain.

The Union to work to stop selling:

- Coca Cola & subsidiaries (Costa, Fanta, Sprite, Monster energy, Innocent smoothies etc)
- Domino's Pizza (at Freshers fair or providing leaflets)

All new products must be checked through the BDS list.

Should Under Aber Promote peace by reducing militarism on campus and lobbying the university to do the same.

Submitted by: Samuel Thomas Andreetti

Summary

The SU should commit to not working with/promoting military aligned groups

Details:

Explanation of what you want

This proposal asks Aberystwyth Students' Union to adopt a clear, practical pro-peace position on campus. The aim is to reduce the normalisation of militarism in student life by setting boundaries around the presence of the military and arms/defence companies in SU spaces, Concretely, the SU would:
(i) not host the armed forces (apart from university societies affiliated with the armed forces) at Freshers fairs or other SU events;
(ii) not platform or promote the armed forces, on social media, updating the contract with contactor native
(iii) lobby for the University to adopt transparent, binding investment standards

(iv) lobby for the University to adopt transparent, binding research standards with acknowledgement that this is a difficult task

(v) lobby for the university careers department to stop working/promoting military/ arms service employment

What is the problem?

Militarism can become embedded in campus culture when military organisations gain routine visibility and credibility through Welcome events, careers activity, and institutional

relationships that are not always transparent to students. Freshers is a uniquely formative moment: new students are orientating themselves socially and practically. student-run spaces can blur the line between community-building and enlistment. Likewise, SU platforms carry an implied endorsement; hosting or promoting military recruiters, arms companies, or defence contractors risks presenting military employment as an uncontroversial pathway, despite legitimate ethical concerns among students. Beyond recruitment, University defence-linked research funding and investment exposure raise wider issues of accountability and consent: students may reasonably expect their institution's partnerships and finances to align with civic responsibility (including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015). There is also a heightened concern that institutional partnerships or investments with arms manufacturers and defence contractors can create material complicity in grave human rights abuses, including in the ongoing genocide in Gaza, making transparency and ethical scrutiny especially urgent. Without clear standards, students lack a durable mechanism to challenge militarism's presence and influence in university life.

Why is your idea a solution?

This Peace Agenda offers a proportionate, workable way to reduce militarism on campus Keeping Freshers events free from military recruitment protects the integrity of student-centred integration and wellbeing. Finally, structured lobbying for binding ethical research and investment standards (rooted in transparency, investment exclusions) turns broad principles into practicable expectations and provides an implementation pathway for University leadership.

Should Undeb Aber ratify Amnesty Uk's Defend Dissent Charter into its Policy?

Submitted by: Samuel McCarthy Vicente

Summary

We are seeking to adopt Amnesty UK's Defend Dissent charter into the Students' Union policy to protect academic freedom, freedom of expression, and the right to protest.

Details:

We are hoping to tackle the issues around free speech, right to protest, and academic freedom on campus by adopting Amnesty UK's Defend Dissent charter into the Students' Union constitution. The charter includes provisions intended to accomplish each of the following: guarantees freedom of expression and assembly, scrapping restrictive protest rules, ending the misuse of disciplinary actions, ending intrusive monitoring and data sharing, avoiding discrimination, confronting Islamophobia and anti-Semitism, being transparent and accountable, creating an independent mechanism for accountability, establishing appropriate services for students at risk, and acting when freedom of expression is threatened. By adopting the Defend Dissent charter, the Students' Union will mitigate risks of potential censorship and will be accountable to the student body in the case of crisis or censorship.