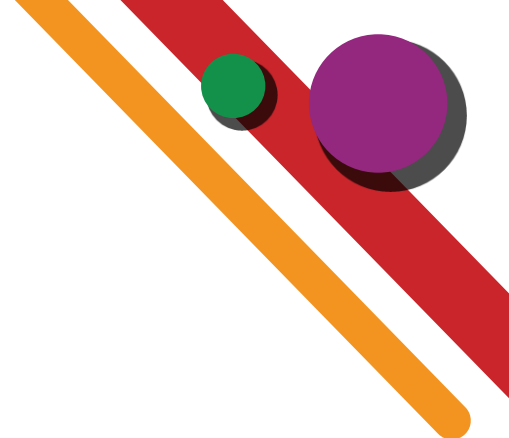




SENEDD!



Ideas

Senedd

19/04/2021



SENEDD!

Be a Part of #AntiRacistWales – Race Alliance Wales

Becoming a part of Race Alliance Wales for #AntiRacistWales

Officer Responsible: Union President

Submitted by: Darya Koskeroglu

Details:

This policy proposes to ensure our Students' Union makes a public commitment to anti-racist work and becomes a member of Race Alliance Wales (RAW). RAW is an initiative that aims to connect and support organisations interested in achieving race equality in Wales. Their manifesto has 10 goals, which include: · Collecting ethnicity data in the workforce and various sectors, · Developing a strategic race equality plan, · Including anti-racist education in the New Curriculum for Wales, · Supporting the improvement of Wales' legal response and access to justice and safety for minority ethnic individuals, · Investing in physical and mental health support for ethnic minority people. By becoming a member of this organization we can; collaborate in their campaigns, organise petitions, and attend Race & Equality Cross party group meetings and policy circle meetings. I believe becoming a part of this organization will support our "No Excuses" campaign and reflect positively on our university's BAME community.



SENEDD!

Animal Sentience

Support the campaign for a post-Brexit animal sentience law

Officer Responsible: Union President

Submitted by: Beth Wright

Details:

Due to Brexit there is no longer a UK law or legislation on animals being recognised as sentient beings. Animal sentience legislation was promised to be included in post Brexit law. Despite the government committing to create this legislation by January 2021, they haven't. Compassion in World Farming is an animal welfare organisation that has created a pre-written letter that individuals can email to their local Member of Parliament to encourage them to put pressure on the DEFRA Secretary of State to have legislation passed to support animal welfare. For Aberystwyth University students, this letter would be emailed to Mr Ben Lake, the Ceredigion MP. My proposal is to have the university promote this campaign on SU social media to encourage students to each send Compassion in World Farming's pre-written letter to Ben Lake or their home MP in order to get the promised law passed.



SENEDD!

Assignment Grace Period and Penalties

Reduce deadline stress and create a grace period for submitting assignments.

Officer Responsible: Academic Affairs Officer

Submitted by: Beth Wright

Details:

Rather than missing an assignment deadline and automatically getting a fail, I am proposing that there be a grade penalty for each day late the assignment is submitted. This could be done in one of two ways. Firstly, by reducing the marked grade by a set percentage each day late the assignment is submitted. For example, a 3 day grace period after the deadline where each day a penalty of say 5% is taken off the earned grade. So an assignment that earns 70/100 but was submitted 2 days after the deadline would instead receive 60/100. Alternatively, this could work by reducing the total possible grade, e.g, by 5% each day. So an assignment submitted 2 days after the deadline can only receive a maximum of 90/100. Obviously the length of the grace period and the percentage the earned grade/total mark is reduced by would be up to the university. The ultimate benefit of this would be reducing student stress, plus reducing the academic impact of potentially unavoidable circumstances that may otherwise lead to a failed assignment, module or year.



SENEDD!

Electoral Qualification Amendment

Bring elections into compliance with the Students Charter and SU Constitution.

Officer Responsible: Union President

Submitted by: Aaron Mark Daniels

Details:

Under the Electoral Qualifications of the Students Union Elections, currently there is nothing in place to disqualify candidates who have previously and publicly expressed harmful views against the students they may go on to represent. Currently, the only behaviour that will disqualify a candidate from the election, is voter fraud. Currently elections provide a unique period where the student charter and SU Constitution rules do not apply equally as they do the rest of the year. Complaints about students conduct prior to the election period, is not taken into account due to not occurring during the election cycle. Therefore we suggest an amendment to Point 2, Electoral Qualifications. The amendment is to add a fifth sub-point, worded as follows: If evidence is provided, then any student shall have their eligibility forfeited for publicly sharing or publishing views that are in direct violation of the Aberystwyth University Students Charter, and/or the Aberystwyth Student's Union Constitution, during their time as a student of Aberystwyth University/ Member of the Students Union.



Got Proof?

AberSU should lobby Aberystwyth University to permanently introduce a self-certification approach to Special Circumstances and Extension requests

Officer Responsible: Academic Affairs Officer

Submitted by: Chloe Wilkinson-Silk

Details:

Some Context - Aberystwyth University are currently trying to give the current 'special circumstances' process a much needed glow up, as being pushed by external bodies such as HEFCW and the OIA. As part of these changes, I propose that AberSU should use this opportunity to lobby for the introduction of self-certification to our current processes - basically, let students apply for special circumstances without evidence where it is difficult to provide it. The Problem at Present - all Aberystwyth students are expected to provide evidence in support of an application for special circumstances or an extension. This wouldn't be so bad if the list of acceptable pieces wasn't so... small. If a student loses a loved one? Death certificate. Had a medical issue? Full medical transcript. When facing hard times and unable to perform, students are being put in a position comparable to that of a treasure hunt to fight for supporting documentation, when they should be focusing on completing their work to the best of their ability during a tough situation. To make matters worse, there are countless barriers students must face to acquire this evidence, from an already stretched NHS to GDPR and privacy as just some examples. There is no 'one size fits all' when it comes to life and how it may affect a student's academic performance, yet we approach special circumstances in a way that is cut and dried, and insensitive when it comes to acquiring proof. The Idea - Aberystwyth University should adopt the good practice of other universities (Bangor, York and Nottingham to name just a few) and introduce a self-certification policy, allowing students to occasionally apply for special circumstances without supporting evidence. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, our institution trialled this approach with success, and there is no reason this should not continue as a permanent change. Action - AberSU should lobby Aberystwyth University to permanently introduce a self-certification approach to Special Circumstances and Extension requests.



SENEDD!

Extra Credit

Extra credits that allow students to do extra work for better final grade.

Officer Responsible: Academic Affairs Officer

Submitted by: Ewa Idzikowska

Details:

We have all received a really low mark at some point of our Uni experience meaning we have had to resit that module. I would like to propose the possibility of opting for an "extra credit" assessment in order to increase your final grade instead of resitting the whole module. Where a student has received a lower mark, the module would create an opportunity to complete an additional assignment for "extra credit" from this module. This way if a student receives a low mark for an assignment (for example 60%) the extra assignment submitted would contribute to the final mark, and reduce the weighting of the original (for example 30% and 30%).