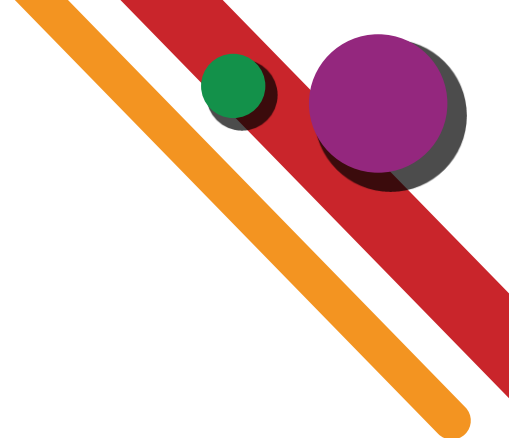




SENEDD!



# Ideas

**Senedd**

**30/11/2020**



## Let There Be Two

Allow students to job share Volunteer Officer or Full-time Officer roles.

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted by:** Nate Pidcock

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### Details:

It's proposed that two individuals be able to job-share a single position in Volunteer or Full-time Officer roles from the 2021 Officer Elections onwards. Ultimately any pairing would be treated in principle as a single position with aspects split accordingly by agreement where absolutely necessary e.g. Senedd Voting etc. The Union would put in place appropriate measures and processes to support this principle as required.

Currently students have to take on roles as individuals and manage their time very carefully, which is great in an organisation that does allow such flexible working. We believe we can go further, and it would be possible for two students to be able to balance a position between themselves, where they may have other commitments. This would make positions more accessible to a host of students, such as those with disabilities or caring responsibilities. It would enable friends or students with shared views to run and tackle barriers relating to confidence or imposter syndrome.

Both Warwick and Wolverhampton Students' Unions have already implemented such measures either in part or fully. I believe it would be very possible within our Students' Union with positions having the same access to resources as others.

I think it would be a great step toward making the Students' Union and its roles more accessible to all students.

Nate Pidcock



## **P\*SSED about P\*SSED re-sits**

During the disruption of Covid-19, students with special circumstances should be allowed to resit passed modules!

**Officer Responsible:** Academic Affairs Officer

**Submitted by:** Chloe Wilkinson-Silk

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### **Details:**

**Some Context** - Last academic year, students were abruptly thrown into arguably one of the most difficult situations ever faced by young people in education. Teaching was suddenly unavailable how we once knew, assessments were being changed last minute, and the gaps in university support structures were becoming clear.

As a result, the university introduced a number of emergency regulations for academic progression - including an amended version of the current special circumstances process. Under these temporary rules, students were able to opt into an UNCAPPED resit for any assessment impacted by Covid-19, whether their original result was a PASS or a FAIL. Students were also not required to submit any special circumstances documentation, as the rules were applied automatically.

**The Problem** - On Wednesday 18th December, University Senate passed the decision to remove these measures for this academic year, replacing them with some much lesser mitigations. Under these changes, students impacted by Covid-19 will now have to apply for special circumstances, justify their level of impact, and hope that this application is granted by their department. With this, granted SC applications will only come into effect if the impacted module/assessment is failed or incomplete. This means that should a student face a severe impact this year due to covid-19 but still pass all their modules, these mitigations will not come into play and they will not be entitled to an uncapped resit.

**Desired Outcomes** - The Academic Affairs Officer will lobby the university to allow students with a granted special circumstances application the right to resit PASSED modules/assessments impacted by Covid-19.

Chloe Wilkinson-Silk



## Take a stand in solidarity with Polish Protests

Encouraging the SU to actively stand alongside the Protest against ban of abortion in Poland.

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted by:** Marta Donato

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### Details:

On 22 October 2020, the Constitutional Tribunal of Poland declared the law authorizing abortions for malformed fetuses to be unconstitutional. As of today, there are only 3 cases in which an abortion can be carried out legally in Poland:

1. When the woman's life or health is endangered by the continuation of pregnancy.
2. When the pregnancy is a result of a criminal act.
3. When there is a high probability of a severe and irreversible fetal impairment.

However, most of the times the procedure is not as easily accessible as it may seem and, in most cases, abortion is still denied to women who request it. In Poland, the vast majority of abortions take place illegally, as obtaining a legal abortion is very difficult, both due to the restrictive legal grounds and because many doctors refuse to perform lawful abortions. Many women resolve to travel to another country in order to seek medical support. Abortion in countries like Poland is still considered a very controversial topic and as shown by a poll from 2020: 22% of respondents support abortion on demand to the 12th week of pregnancy, 62% support it only in certain circumstances, 11% support making abortion fully illegal while 5% are undecided.

The decision taken by the Polish Government last October represents again another violation of basic human rights. The results were a series of protest, carried out not only by Polish people but also on a worldwide scale. Millions of people walked the streets of Poland and many other nations, in protest against the Polish authority.

Aberystwyth is home to a vast number of Polish students, the majority of which are women. Polish, as well as women of any nationality, deserve to see their rights respected, deserve freedom of choice, freedom to be in charge of their own future and in control of their own bodies.

As a Students' Union, I would like us to show our support to this cause, even if we only decide to stand alongside the protests and use our social media profiles to spread awareness. We could then think of launching other online campaigns - creating original content such as blog-posts, video interviews etc. – with the help and contribution of Aberystwyth University students and staff.

Marta Donato



## The Aber Independent Students Accommodation Alliance

Making it easier for Independent students to get housing in Aberystwyth, so they can focus on what really matters, their education and university experience

**Officer Responsible:** President

**Submitted by:** Mark Marshall

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### Details:

This policy has one aim, to make it easier and more accessible for Independent students to get accommodation while at University.

When a student becomes estranged, securing accommodation without having a guarantor, is just one of the problems they face when trying to enter the private accommodation sector. While the University has pledged to always offer accommodation to Independent students, this is not always ideal to an individual's needs. Living in university halls with the constant stress of needing to move accommodation between summer and term time, the lack of private space, as well as simply an Independent Student wanting to live with friends in town.

This policy would address some of the barriers facing Independent students wanting to enter the Private Accommodation Sector, and will work towards resolving them over the period of 3 years, making the process a smoother experience.

The policy would work towards creating an alliance between Aberystwyth University, Aberystwyth Students Union, accommodation providers such as estate agents and landlords, as well as other mutually interested parties. The aim would be to make private accommodation providers more Independent student friendly and accessible.

This alliance would address three issues. Firstly, it would create awareness for each type of Independent student, and promote change tailored to their needs. Secondly, it would raise the profile of Independent students making the private accommodation providers in Aberystwyth better equipped to understand this kind of tenant's needs. Finally, it would promote best practice and standardise a method in how accommodation providers work with tenants who are Independent students.

--- It would make estate agents fully aware of the procedures for care leavers and the ways in which Local Authorities support them through 'corporate parenting' principles. In particular, how this affects them as a tenant or audience.

--- It would address the issues estranged students have when trying to find appropriate places to live. It would both raise awareness and create a mutually agreed method of supporting them as tenants and potential clients.

--- It would address the problem where parents in education find themselves being 'locked out' of Student Accommodation, due to their personal situation. It would look



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into making sure that estate agents can be best equipped to understand the needs of these kinds of tenants.

--- It would also allow further developments with university offered accommodation, as well as restarting talks surrounding an 'Estranged Student Guarantor Scheme'.

The University, having previously considered a guarantor scheme to Independent students this would not be revolutionary, but it would encourage the University to take the initiative. Instead, it would encourage the University to reconsider the proposal, but also look at different methods of solving the issue, apart from becoming a guarantor if such an agreement could not be agreed.

This policy would allow AberSU to ignite change in creating a solution and method of standardising practice. Often, the process leads to them needing to justify their situation and makes the process of securing accommodation embarrassing, and more dangerously takes away their focus from their degree.

While this scheme is certainly ambitious and would need proper strategy planning, I am confident that, with the correct support, it has the ability to make a ground breaking positive change for Independent Students here at Aberystwyth University.

Mark Marshall



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## **Create a cycle path from Penparcau to the University**

Encouraging the SU to work with the council to create a cycle path from Penparcau to the university.

**Officer Responsible:** President

**Submitted by:** Alan Chamberlain

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### **Details:**

It would be great for the Students' Union to lobby the County Council to get a cycle path from Penparcau through Trefechan and into town to the Uni. There are lots of people in the area, but there aren't any safe cycling routes from Penparcau. Would be great for people's wellbeing.

Alan Chamberlain



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## **Veganuary**

Encouraging people to not only help the environment we live in but Also live a longer, happier and healthier lifestyle!

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted by:** Angel Cooper

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### **Details:**

Say goodbye to January and start the new year with veganuary!

- Posting leaflets out to campus accommodation.
- Create a group/society to help people come together and help each other.

Show amazing food/meals that are already out in the supermarkets, or even what easy meals can be made for students. Showing that being vegan doesn't mean all you eat is vegetables!

Angel Cooper





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## **Ensure RAG Funds the wellbeing pot to support Aber Students**

Use RAG funds to help Aber Students

**Officer Responsible:** President

**Submitted by:** Nate Pidcock

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### **Details:**

RAG has been changed to now fund a central wellbeing pot to go towards the wellbeing of all Aber students. I think that this should stay in place as a legacy in Aber, to represent the community we are a part of and to show the Aber family as helping one another. The key aspect is to ensure that Aber students are helping Aber students. This wellbeing pot can be used by officers of the su to support many different ideas to keep our students healthy and happy.

Nate Pidcock