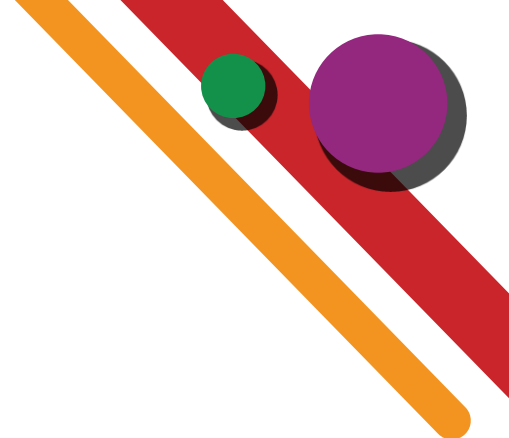




**SENEDD!**



# **Ideas**

**Senedd**

**4/11/2019**



## Investment transparency and voting capacity for students

University investment transparency and voting capacity for students.

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted by:** Ruth Hogg

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### Details:

The University's investments should be fully transparent. This would ideally mean that they would be listed in detail on the Aberystwyth University Website. Students should be able to vote regarding which companies the university invests in, and an ethical investment policy should be discussed and drawn up if voting students agree.

## Amendment to the Idea "Investment transparency and voting capacity for students"

Hold a separate vote for investment transparency and voting capacity for students

**Submitted by:** Sivert Hellvik Havso

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### Details:

The matter of voting capacity for students should be a separate debate/vote from the matter of investment transparency and ethical investment policy. Passing this amendment would allow Senedd to vote separately on the following parts before being included in the final policy:

1. The University's investments should be fully transparent. This would ideally mean that they would be listed in detail on the Aberystwyth University Website.
2. Students should be able to vote regarding which companies the university invests in, and an ethical investment policy should be discussed and drawn up if voting students agree.



## Hold an Aberystwyth University Arts Festival!

Hold an Aberystwyth University Arts Festival hosted by the Students' Union to bring disillusioned students and societies closer to the Students' Union, give societies another opportunity to be more involved and celebrate/represent the arts on campus as well as sports.

**Officer Responsible:** Opportunities Officer

**Submitted by:** Iris Kalian

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### Details:

There are sports orientated events held by the Students' Union for example Superteams and Varsity, but not many Societies orientated events, even less so those held in honour of the arts. It is appreciated that the Aber challenge is more societies orientated, however for the arts, a chance to exhibit work and celebrate work (music, film, drama, dance, crafts etc.) themselves through performance and exhibition is an opportunity which is accepted with excitement for the majority of artistic communities and individuals. Although it's unfair to compare sports teams and societies in such a black and white way, this is how the Students' Union is commonly viewed by the majority of students which I know anyway, with or without artistic focus.

An Arts Festival would not only bring artistic and creative Aberystwyth students and societies closer to the Students' Union and iron out any disillusion there may be, but would also attract members of the public to similarly exhibit their work and enjoy and appreciate art and creativity as well.

The arts act as an outlet which when academically studied are found to relieve anxiety and help with mental health issues such as depression. The arts aren't just a hobby that people do to complement studies and work, they are an important part of modern life, including modern issues and so should be similarly represented and celebrated.

Ideally this event could consist of a daytime exhibition, and an evening performance by societies and individuals willing to showcase their creativity and artistry, maybe even a few public workshops run by willing participating societies. The idea is only just formed, if accepted by Senedd then further details can be refined.

Presidents of creative/artistic societies and the Opportunities Officer could work together to put on this event ideally, or a student committee specifically for this event could be formed.



## Healthcare for our Trans students

Getting appropriate healthcare as a trans student is daunting, difficult and downright confusing, we can do more to help.

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted by:** Lyra J Hawkins

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### Details:

Transgender Students face many difficulties during their university experience. Accessing healthcare related to their transition, and the pathway involved is complicated, convoluted and confusing to navigate. This is made worse by different GP services and healthcare professionals having different opinions on the correct way to process these students.

I'd like for AberSU to face some of these difficulties by approaching student support, the university and local GP services to educate them on the correct ways to handle such cases and to effectively streamline the process of accessing healthcare. This will also include appropriate ways on handling other aspects of the Trans-student life relating to their overall wellbeing (such as name changing and gender changing services and accessing private healthcare if desired)



## Sweatshop Free Campaign

The University must affiliate with electronics watch and complete a full audit of their supply chain to ensure that the supply chain is free from sweatshop labour.

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted by:** Dhan Ramnatsing

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### Details:

This Union Notes:

1. That the global electronics industry is a high-risk industry for modern slavery.
2. That the UK Modern Slavery Act (2015) seeks to address slavery, forced labour and human trafficking taking place today. On 29 October 2015, the transparency in supply chains provisions of the Act (section 54) came into force. The provisions require commercial and public interest organisations, including universities, to publish a statement setting out steps the organisation has taken to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains and in any part of its own business, often referred to as an “anti-slavery statement”.
3. That, according to the International Labour Organization around 25 million men, women and children around the world are in a form of forced labour. Globally, there are 5.4 victims of modern slavery for every 1,000 people, and 1 in 4 victims of modern slavery are children.i
4. That the electronics industry is a high-risk industry for modern slavery. Sadly, these conditions are common in the electronics and technology, mining and minerals and shipping industries.
5. That Electronics Watch (EW) is a European-wide labour rights monitoring organization, conducting investigations of working conditions in factories around the globe. Their primary focus is the labour practices of factories that make electronics goods.ii
6. That, since its formation in 2013, 52 UK Universities have affiliated to Electronics Watch, including every publicly-funded University in Scotland.
7. This means that all electronics suppliers to those University affiliates are now monitored for labour rights practices in their supply chains.



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8. That, while this is a great step forward, our University is also a major purchaser of electronics.

This Union Believes:

1. That our University should also monitor its supply chains.
2. The affiliation of universities to EW has enabled workers to have a number of major successes in defending their rights.
3. That EW is the only monitoring organisation that is credible with workers and their organisations, and is explicitly dedicated to monitoring university and public authority supply chains.
4. That more universities affiliating will lead to a greater collective weight of purchasers in dealing with labour rights abuses in the electronics sector.
5. That the University should affiliate to EW.

This Union Resolves:

1. To mandate the FTO team to lobby the University to affiliate to EW.
2. To mandate the FTO team to request student representation on all of the University's purchasing committees.
3. To mandate student representatives who sit on purchasing committees to push affiliation to EW.
4. To mandate all student representatives who sit on the purchasing committees to push for more ethical and more sustainable electronics from University procurement managers.

i Reference: International Labour Organisation, Forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/forced-labour/lang--en/index.htm>

ii Reference: Electronics Watch, <http://electronicswatch.org/en>



## NUS Liberation Conference Policy

Relationship and sexual education is changing, I'd like to bring this matter to the attention of the NUS on behalf of AberSU to ensure this is a change for the better.

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted by:** Mark Marshall

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### Details:

This year the government is changing how LGBT relationship education is being taught in schools with the RSE 2020 Act. (Relationship and Sexual Education) This mostly focuses on ensuring diverse and equal sex education is taught in all schools by law. However, the act also states that LGBT Relationship education is also now a requirement.

Although, this is a great change, the proposed policy at current has a rather worrying lack of detail and safeguards; in regard to how the LGBT segment is going to be taught, with the only detail being on homophobia and transphobic backlash. Obviously, these are key areas but the policy needs a lot more work, as it is expected to be implemented to be next September.

As a generation of LGBT+ Students who were failed by the school system it is essential that it is done right this time. To guarantee that future students get the education which we were not allowed. With teachers not having no clue in how they are expected to deliver the teaching, with a potential to harm LGBT+ students welfare if done wrong, or to miss crucial areas of teaching such as the importance of pronouns: or not wanting to teach certain areas such as Queer sexual education. Or to only teach one area of this diverse subject and exclude others. To counter this I will suggest an action plan for NUS to follow I will suggest the following target areas for them to work on :

Make sure the education is taught to a high quality. What this means is that teachers will have a detailed Syllabus to follow not just the vague suggestions which is proposed at this moment in time. This includes teaching resources which are accessible in various forms etc. Video and textbook. With examples not just being on one area etc. Include minorities and are not just focused on one area. For example, in Primary schools when teaching about family diversity it will include both male and female partnerships. If Gender education is taught make sure teachers are aware informed on Trans issues or less recognised areas (such as sexuality)

Accountability to the LGBT community and students. Is performed to a high standard, and has proper training and further guidelines established.

By seeking the mandate of Senedd, I will be able to then have the mandate of the Uni, which is required to present this proposal at conference.

I will also suggest an action plan for the NUS, such as having the Vice President of Education to work directly with teaching unions, Stonewall and the Department of Education.