



Big Meeting (AGM) Minutes
Monday, 3rd December, 6-8pm.
Aberystwyth Students' Union, Main Room

Agenda	Item	Notes / Outcome
1. Welcome and Opening Remarks	Welcome	The Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting and introduced herself, and how the meeting will run.
	Quorate	The Union Chairperson confirmed quoracy had been reached for the meeting to go ahead with 157 members recorded as being present.
2. Matters of the Big Meeting	Trustee Report	The Union President presented the annual Trustee report on behalf of the Board Trustees and invited questions from the floor. No questions were asked and the report was received by the meeting. The full report can be found in the meeting papers.
	Audited Accounts	Unfortunately the Students' Union President was unable to present the annual audited accounts as these were still being finalised by the auditor. They provided an initial overview of the Union's current positive position and clarified that final audited account will be available on the union and charity commission website once approved by trustees.
	Appointment of Auditors	The Union President proposed Francis Gray Chartered Accountants to act as our Auditors for the current financial year and invited questions from the floor. No questions were asked and the appointment was approved by the meeting.
	Approving Affiliations	<p>The Union President proposed a list of Affiliations for the current academic year and invited questions from the floor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One question queried why the room was being asked to approve affiliations whole rather than individually. It was clarified that with in excess of 50 affiliations when you include the Union's Clubs and Societies this was deemed the most efficient way with the time allowed. The Chair invited members who had concerns about any specific affiliation to raise this so it could be considered individually. <p>No individual affiliations were highlighted and the list of affiliations was approved by the meeting.</p>
	Approving the Returning Officer	The Union President proposed the National Union of Students to act as the Returning Officer for the current academic year and invited questions from the floor. No questions were asked and the appointment was approved by the meeting.
3. Officers' Report	The Officers will report on their activities and this is a chance for you to find out what they have done for you.	<p>Individual Full-time Officer reports for Academic Affairs, Student Opportunities, Wellbeing and Welsh Culture are now presented at the relevant Zone.</p> <p>The Union President gave a report on behalf of all the Full-time Officers. No questions were asked by the meeting. The full report can be found in the meeting papers.</p>



4. Your Ideas	This section of the meeting discusses and votes upon the Ideas that have been submitted to Council. All ideas passed at the meeting are done so pending final approval by the Board of Trustees.	
Idea 1	Change the Voting System Lyra Hawkins on behalf of Kieran Metson – Society and Sport Reps on Senedd	
Idea - Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification was required on some suggestions, such as putting the voting system online. It was then established that the Students' Union would produce the final system. • How will representatives be held accountable using an anonymous voting system? How representatives vote should be made public, or they should be willing to provide an answer if asked. 	
Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Senedd is a smaller meeting, and using voting cards makes it very obvious who voted for what. ○ Your representatives are still accountable, as you should be able to ask which way they voted. ○ You should have faith in your representative and their accountability, and that they don't give in to the peer pressure as an elected member. 	
Idea – Vote	IDEA PASSED 77 For, 51 Against, 17 Abstaining	
Idea 2	Team Aber Mascot Bruce Wight – Union President on Behalf of Harry Straw	
Idea – Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which BUCS fixtures will the mascot be attending and will there be support for non-BUCS teams? It was confirmed this would be at the discretion of the Opportunities Team. 	
Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's just a costume at the end of the day. ○ If we can afford it, it makes sports clubs feel included. ○ We haven't got enough information to approve this. ○ Smaller teams currently don't receive an even amount of funding with the bigger teams; why should they justify money they need going towards a costume? 	
Idea – Vote	IDEA PASSED 99 For, 20 Against, 21 Abstaining	



Idea 3 (Including Amendment)	We want to see funding for Sport Bruce Wight – Union President	
	Idea – Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would it take away funding from the academic side? Funding would ideally come from a variety of sources including external funders such as the Welsh Government, BUCS and Sport Wales. It was proposed that for every new academic related refurbishment or new build there should be two sport related (the policy states this should be one for one).
	Amendment: Inclusion of Astro turf as a Priority Bruce Wight – Union President	
	Amendment - Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where would an Astro turf go? The University have already been scouting locations for a new Astro turf, if in town it would benefit locals. • How is an Astro turf equal to a library on a university campus? It is not, but it is still a worthwhile investment to improve student wellbeing. • What type of Astro? It was suggested that a new Astro would be a version that is multi-use so it could be used by multiple clubs.
	Amendment - Invitations for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Enriching the student experience – it is not the equivalent to a library but gives us better facilities to compete with other universities. ○ Helps the local community and can be used for multiple sports. ○ Sport is vital for mental health and keeps people happy at university. ○ Everything will be budgeted, there's more to a university than just the academic experience. ○ We should not be prioritising an Astro turf over a library. ○ Should come from external funding bodies. No one is against investment in sports, the money just shouldn't come from the university. ○ We don't have the same sort of budget as bigger universities.
	Amendment - Vote	AMENDMENT PASSED 99 For, 46 Against, 12 Abstaining
Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ It's a form of stress relief. ○ Having to travel 40 minutes to play a home fixture wastes time and money. ○ Loss of training time because facilities aren't always ready. ○ Facilities aren't good enough for BUCS games, equipment gets lost and we need to improve the services we have for existing teams. ○ You don't come to university to play sports, therefore the academic experience should be prioritised. 	



	Idea - Vote	IDEA PASSED 110 For, 20 Against, 11 Abstaining
The Chair confirmed a 10 minute break.		
Upon returning from the break a quoracy count was held, confirming 124 members were still present for the meeting to proceed.		

Idea 4	Make Aberystwyth the UK's First Palm Oil Sustainable University! Bethan Phillips speaking for Harry Basnet	
	Idea - Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we make sure it's sustainable? The initial proposer of the idea was not present, so this point couldn't be answered. • What percentage of palm oil in university outlets is currently sustainable? It was confirmed while unaware of a figure that further work to establish this was noted in the idea. • How do we know companies that claim to use sustainable palm oil are not lying to us? The initial proposer of the idea was not present, so this point couldn't be answered.
	Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Palm oil is a pressing issue for more than just food products - we need to take every measure possible to improve the situation. ○ Palm Oil contains palmitic acid which has a negative effect on cholesterol. ○ A step towards something better and making a statement of intent. ○ You can't just get rid of something wholly straight away, we need to find alternatives.
	Idea - Vote	IDEA PASSED 119 For, 2 Against, 0 Abstaining
Idea 5	Clear cut and concise – a change of procedure regarding Emergency Ideas Lyra Hawkins – Societies Rep on Senedd	
	Idea - Questions	No questions were asked by the meeting.
	Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Emergency ideas get brought in before the meeting; there's no chance to add amendments. This idea gives a period of time at the meeting to allow amendments that would be useful for the idea.
	Vote	IDEA PASSED 83 For, 2 Against, 22 Abstaining



Idea 6 (Including Amendment)	Counter to the Decision to Boycott Prevent Strategy Daniel Mockridge speaking for Jack Clare	
	Idea - Questions:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why should AberSU as a charity, comply when other charities do not? It would put students at risk if they don't take part in it; it's our responsibility to safeguard students.
	A proposed Amendment due to be discussed was withdrawn prior to the start of the debate.	
	Idea - Invitation for additional speakers (For and Against)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% of people who conducted attacks in the last year could have been helped using Prevent. It's irresponsible not to comply. Most of the people who committed the 5 major attacks in 2017 were British Nationals; someone must have had a chance to radicalise them. Issues with Prevent have been sorted with the British Government. Prevent is not something that is needed in the Students' Union, it is a symbolic vote. Prevent is used for unnecessary fearmongering and encouraging a lack of awareness. Many different boards admit Prevent isn't adequate, including counter terrorism watchdogs. 1 in 10 people are singled out by Prevent, and subsequently face possible damage to their lives.
Idea - Vote	IDEA PASSED 70 For, 46 Against, 9 Abstaining	
At this point a number of attendees left the room and a quoracy count was held; with only 79 voting members present the Union Chairperson explained the meeting would be adjourned.		
Idea 7	Emergency Idea: Candidates and Students' Union Membership Megan Hatfield – Academic Affairs Officer	
	Emergency Idea - Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does this actually mean, what are students not able to do? Candidates are currently not able to stand in elections or vote.
With a large number of attendees having left the room and with the meeting running at almost 3 hours, it was brought to the attention to the Union Chairperson by members that the meeting may now be inquorate. A quoracy count was held; confirming 79 voting members were still present.		
As result of not meeting quoracy of 100 voting members the Union Chairperson explained the meeting would be adjourned, with outstanding business going forward to the next meeting.		



Before ending the meeting, the Union Chairperson asked for a non-binding indicative vote on the current idea to provide some indication to the Union of the strength of feeling amongst students about the issue presented. The majority of members present indicated that they would be in favour of taking forward the idea presented.

5. Any Other Business	The chance for anyone present to raise an issue not already covered or simply update people on anything related to the meeting happening that week was offered, including open questions to trustees.
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6. Save the Date!	Next Senedd Meeting: 25th February 2019; Idea deadline 11th February 2019.
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