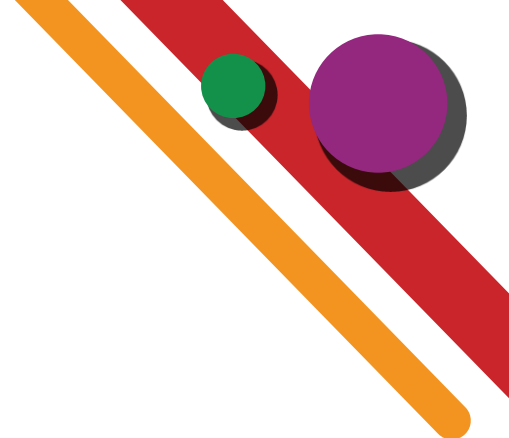




SENEDD!



Policies Lapsing in 20/21

Senedd

2/11/2019



Online Connected Campus

Wifi - Free - Everywhere** (In Aberystwyth)

Details:

As the world is becoming more and more online, I believe the university should primarily look to increase the download speed on Eduroam and have complete online connectivity across campus. Perhaps wifi points in every lamppost. When you walk anywhere on campus you should be able to get online, with free internet access that Eduroam gives to the student body. Progressing this in the future, firstly look to have the campus and all accommodation with full wifi connectivity anywhere on campus. As Aberystwyth town is small and closely linked to the university, the university should look to progress its relationship with town and seek out complete connectivity within the town, they should work closely with Ceredigion County Council on this matter.

Status: We are working on it

Officer Responsible: Union President

Submitted By: Bruce Fraser Wight

Passed: 03/10/2017, Senedd

Lapses: 03/10/2020

Actions:

The President has met regularly with the Director of Information Services (IS) who have confirmed that there is an investment plan for upgrades to our IT network and infrastructure. A pool of funds has been gradually growing in value, and is reserved for specifically upgrading our IT network.

The focus of this policy is to upgrade the internet network connectivity on campus and in university accommodation, achieve more reliability, increased speeds and further range. Discussions have revealed various options for how this could be achieved, for example fibre optics could be utilised in such a way to bring Gigabit speeds on campus.

The exact details of what an upgrade to our network would look like will vary due to



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the scale and complexity of the University IT network, and those details will be handled by IS when it comes to upgrade. The University is yet to set a date for rolling out an upgrade of this kind and the next step is for the President to follow-up progress.





ERASMUS Post-Brexit

AberSU should lobby at all levels for the UK to maintain access to ERASMUS for AU students and should be actively involved in any national campaigns run by NUS (Wales/UK) regarding ERASMUS. AberSU should regularly seek assurances from Aberystwyth University on its lobbying activities around ERASMUS (and more generally Brexit).

Details:

The Facts:

1. The UK voted by a margin of 52% to 48% to leave the European Union.
2. It is currently unclear from the UK Government what their goals are from the leave negotiations.
3. It is also unclear precisely when Article 50 will be triggered.
4. Aberystwyth University in the wake of the Referendum sought to reassure EU applicants that AU would remain an open institution for applicants.
5. AU has a Modern Languages department which requires all its students to take a year abroad, many of whom take up ERASMUS.
6. Since the referendum, it is unclear as to whether ERASMUS will continue.

The Opinions:

1. ERASMUS is an invaluable scheme for students studying at Aberystwyth University.
2. All efforts should be undertaken to lobby (at every level) to maintain access to ERASMUS for AU students.
3. The reciprocal nature of ERASMUS enhances Aberystwyth whereby EU students will come and study here.
4. Aberystwyth is seen as a welcoming place to come and live and study and this should continue to be.

The Solutions:

1. AberSU should lobby at all levels for the UK to maintain access to ERASMUS for AU students.
 2. AberSU should be actively involved in any national campaigns run by NUS (Wales/UK) regarding ERASMUS.
 3. AberSU should regularly seek assurances from Aberystwyth University on its lobbying activities around ERASMUS (and more generally Brexit).
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Status: We are Working on it

Officer Responsible: Academic Affairs

Submitted By: Lauren Marks

Passed: 27/02/2017, Senedd

Lapses: 01/02/2020

Actions:

The Academic Affairs Officer has and will continue to ensure that the impact of Brexit on students is at the forefront of discussion.

Before the UK withdrew from the EU on January 31st, the 'Purple Postbox Project' campaign was launched by AberSU, encouraging students, staff and members of the wider community to lobby their local MP for the protection of ERASMUS+ post Brexit. As part of the campaign, over 500 postcards were sent to nearly 200 MP's across the UK highlighting the importance of maintained ERASMUS+ access. A breakdown of the postcards sent can be found on the campaign page of the AberSU website. The campaign has since been recognised nationally for its success and outreach, receiving the NUS Wales (NUSW) 'Education Award' as the best education-based campaign to come from a Welsh Students' Union in 2019/20.

The Students' Union has also worked closely with local MP Ben Lake on this initiative, who has shown overwhelming support for the campaign. In October 2019, Ben visited AberSU along with the NUSW president at that time Rob Simkins, to attend a panel discussion about the importance of ERASMUS+ and what we can do to raise concerns about the potential loss of ERASMUS+. Ben has also shown keen interest in providing the SU with frequent and relevant updates on Parliament's stance and progress with ERASMUS+ which is vital in ensuring students are well informed on this issue.

The Academic Affairs Officer, through networking and external lobbying, has also had the opportunity to meet with key stakeholders in European politics. In January 2020, they were invited by former Liberal Democrat MEP Louisa Porritt to visit European Parliament in Brussels. On this trip, they met with a group of young campaigners from across the UK to share ideas on current initiatives and learn about the impact Brexit will have on students in the coming years. They visited the parliamentarian, had a guided tour of the chamber and office buildings, and attended a private Q&A lunch with Louisa herself to ask the important questions about ERASMUS+ and the wider impacts of Brexit.



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The Academic Affairs Officer has also worked with NUS Wales on their initiatives toward the protection of ERASMUS+. NUSW have recently launched their #SaveErasmus campaign, which has and will continue to be circulated and supported by AberSU.

Due to the coronavirus, active lobbying for the protection of ERASMUS has been largely interrupted. However, new challenges have arisen regarding the security of international placements, and the Academic Affairs Officer will continue to prioritise that students have safe and secure access to education abroad.



I Wanna Gym on the Weekends

2+2 is 4 , extend the gym hours more!

Details:

The sports centre operates on a reduced hours service on weekends. If the sports centre were open longer on weekends, it would improve access to students and provide more opportunities for sports clubs to train.

AberSU should encourage the Sports Centre to change its weekend opening hours to the same as weekdays, providing a consistent 7-day service.

Status: We're Working on it

Officer Responsible: Opportunities Officer

Submitted By: Bruce Fraser Wight

Passed: 26/02/2018, Senedd

Lapses: 26/02/2021

Actions:

The Opportunities Officer in cooperation with the President has met on multiple occasions with the Head of Commercial Services and the Sports Centre Manager to discuss the policy, agreeing that it cannot be implemented in its current form.

However with refurbishment works planned at Y Sgubor next to residences at Fferm Penglais and Pentre Jane Morgan the University is currently looking into the creation of an open access fitness space which would be available to students at all times. This, it seems, would be a workable alternative to the policy put forward.



Welsh Tunes in the Union

The intention of this policy is to introduce Welsh Music across the Students' Union, ensuring that Welsh Culture is exhibited and promoted towards students.

Details:

The intention of this policy is to introduce Welsh Music across the Students' Union, ensuring that Welsh Culture is exhibited and promoted towards students. The current music system 'SubTV' allows students to choose from a preset library that has limited (if any) welsh music available.

AberSU should work with the University to review the current system and explore the functionality to have a set time where Welsh music is played every week in the Students Union commercial spaces (e.g Tuesday 4-6pm) in addition to including Welsh music as part of the standard music used in these spaces.

Status: We're working on it

Officer Responsible: Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President

Submitted By: Gwion Llwyd

Passed: 26/02/2018

Lapses: 26/02/2021

Actions:

There are currently 5 Welsh songs on the SubTV system played in the Cwtch in the Students' Union Building.

SubTV is used in unions across the UK and they work with record labels to get rights to use songs by their artists. This can be a long process, although they are working with Welsh record labels to get rights to use their artists' songs.

We are currently awaiting further updates from SubTV, but the Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA will continue to follow-up discussions in the months ahead