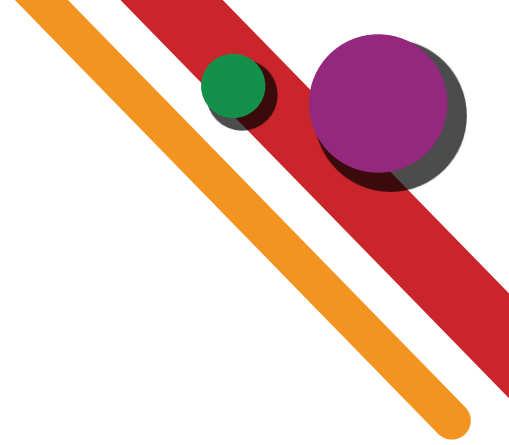




**SENEDD!**



# **Policies Lapsing in 19/20**

**Senedd**

**4/11/2019**



## Peer Mentors for all Students

For AberSU to work with the University to implement a system in which there are a number of peer mentors with more focus on personal aspects than academic.

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### **Details:**

The Facts:

1. There is currently a system for academic mentors, however this does not cover all the myriad aspects of university life.

The Opinions:

1. Improving peer support will look after the wellbeing of the student population for years to come, as well as giving people ties across years and studies.
2. This is also an opportunity for people to enrich their CVs, stating that they mentored someone at university.

The Solutions:

1. Implement a system in which there are a number of peer mentors, who would be available once a week (or more?) to mentor either a single student or several.
- 

**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Jordan Harvey

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 12/1/2019

### **Actions:**

The Wellbeing Officer is working with the Student Support Committee, ensuring that the University across all institutions are providing peer mentoring through 'signpost' and through this, volunteer students are given multiple first year students who are perceived to be at risk – such as international students or students from low income backgrounds - to mentor and support, not just



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academically, but also to ensure the wellbeing of the student stays positive throughout the year. We're also currently working to open the peer mentoring scheme up to those who wish to opt in throughout 2nd and 3rd year if possible. 'Signpost' provides the training for all students involved therefore making the system consistent across the board.

The University was able through Student Support, the Students' Union and colleagues across departments to commit to each having a mentoring scheme a year ahead of schedule in 2017/18.

The Students' Union is a key partner in this work, regularly attending termly meetings between Departmental Scheme Coordinators and Student Support. We supported the first mentoring conference in February 2018, introduced a Student Mentor of the Year award at our 2018 AberSU Celebrates awards, supported recruitment and provided numerous mentors with recognition through our Aber Award.

Work continues with the development of training, supporting resources and recognition while also looking how best to support peer mentoring at Aberystwyth in the future.

The Wellbeing Officer continues to be involved in these discussions and to raise issues and seek feedback through the Wellbeing Zone and Volunteer Officers.



## Update our Elections Bye-Law

Update Includes a clear complaints and appeals process and ensures we will have a fair and transparent election.

---

### Details:

The Facts:

1. The current Elections Bye-Law is too long, complicated and restrictive.

The Opinions:

1. By simplifying the Elections Bye-Law, the language and processes are easier to access and participate in. The proposed format seeks to make the Elections more inclusive, and sets out clear deadlines to maintain a democratic and consistent Election.

The Solutions:

1. Current Bye-Law: [pdf link].
2. Proposed Byelaw (clearly labelled front page): [pdf link].
3. Includes a clear complaints and appeals process.
4. Ensures we will have a fair and transparent election.

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**Status:** Revoked

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, Senedd

**Lapses:** 12/1/2019

### Actions:

Elections Bye-law was adopted by the meeting.

Policy superseded by 2016 Role Review.



## Yik Back

To remove the ban on the social media platform 'Yik Yak' implemented by the University.

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### **Details:**

The Situation:

1. In recent days the university has undertaken the action of banning YikYak from our university network, an action the NUS tried to do but our own NUS delegates abstained against. While bullying is a disgusting aspect of human interaction and is found on all forms of social media banning YikYak is not the answer.

The Opinions:

1. I have faith in the authorities in dealing with such behaviour however banning is not the answer. All it does is drive this behaviour to elsewhere where it is harder to deal with and the fact that we can access YikYak via data packages and private property broadband means the ban is itself ineffective.

The Solution:

1. I call upon the Students' Union to apply pressure on the university to relieve this ineffective ban as quickly as possible, we would not ban Facebook or Twitter even though students have negative experiences on those apps is a daily occurrence on those apps.

---

**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Ieuan Joy

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 12/5/2019

### **Actions:**

AberSU President 2016/17 contacted the university to inform them of the student democratic decision. Yik Yak was unblocked following a temporary block on the university network only.



## **Aberystwyth Student Union should encourage Aberystwyth University to become a fair pay campus**

To encourage AU to become a fair pay campus, through publishing the ratio between the highest and lowest paid workers, pledging to pay staff the living wage, and ensure contractors pay their staff the living wage.

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### **Details:**

#### The Facts:

1. Pay differentials within universities are significantly above other public sectors. There is a massive difference in pay between those at the top and those at the bottom, with the lowest paid having to work on average 18.6 years to earn the annual salary of the head of their university.
2. Currently the vice-chancellor of Aberystwyth University earns £252,000 a year. Meanwhile, hundreds of staff earn under the Living Wage, with many of these on the Minimum Wage. The Minimum wage at the moment is £7.20 an hour. Assuming a 40-hour working week, an employee on the minimum wage will earn less than £15,000 a year, around 17 times less than the vice-chancellor.

#### The Opinions:

1. There is no clear correlation between a university performing well and its staff being paid accordingly. There are six universities that pay a higher top wage than the University of Cambridge, while performing below it in the league tables.
2. There would be enough money in the system to pay all staff a Living Wage if pay practices did not focus on paying a minority of staff high wages.
3. The Living Wage is an independently set rate of pay at a level that allows people to live decently and to provide adequately for their families. The guiding principle behind it is that people should be paid enough to live, not just exist. It currently stands at £8.45 per hour.
4. Low pay is not the only problem that needs to be tackled and should not be looked at in isolation. Increasing inequality has been widely found to heighten social conflict, weaken social ties and be detrimental to everyone, rich and poor.

#### The Solutions:

In order to become a fair pay campus, we encourage Aberystwyth University to do the following:



1. Publish the ratio between the highest and lowest paid worker.
2. Commit to working towards a 10:1 ratio on campus.
3. Pledge to pay directly employed workers the Living Wage.
4. Ensure contractors pay their workers the Living Wage.
5. Publish the pay of Vice Chancellors and senior management.
6. There should be no negative effect on staff employment or working hours as part of this scheme.

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**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Iolo Jones

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 12/5/2019

**Actions:**

Abersytwyth University began implementation of the Real Living Wage in April 2018 when the majority of staff were placed on the Real Living Wage rate, this roll out was completed in August 2018 when we received agreement from the Agricultural Wages Board to vary the national framework terms upon which our farm workers are employed on. Therefore from August 2018 all staff employed by the University receive the minimum of the Real Living Wage rate. It also encourages contractors to pay the Real Living Wage too.

<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/news/archive/2018/11/title-218321-en.html>

The University has confirmed that figures relating to employees' wages, including the Vice Chancellor's salary, are published annually in the Pay Statement and Financial Accounts.



## **Aberystwyth Student Union should encourage Aberystwyth University to divest from fossil fuels**

For AberSU to encourage the university to become more environmentally friendly by moving its money away from fossil fuel investments, research and awards to industry leaders. The University should be transparent about its ties to the fossil fuel industry

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### **Details:**

#### The Facts:

1. In the recent People and Planet league table, Aberystwyth University was ranked 110 out of 150 in the UK for sustainability. It also scored 0% for ethical investment, for the following reasons:

- Aberystwyth University has £2,122,752 (Source: People and Planet) invested in fossil fuels.
- It also receives £377,496 in research funding from the fossil fuel industry, and has put no funding towards researching renewable technologies since 2001. (Source: People and Planet).
- The university currently has no commitment to divest from fossil fuels.

2. In the recent sustainability survey conducted among Aberystwyth University staff and students, 91% of respondents said the university should do more to reduce its impact on the environment, and 92% said the university should divest from fossil fuels.

#### The Opinions:

1. If it is wrong to wreck the climate, then it is wrong to profit from that wreckage. Too many UK universities support the fossil fuel industry directly through their research, their endowments and investments and their partnerships with some of the biggest fossil fuel companies in the world like BP and Shell. We call on Aberystwyth University to break all of its ties with the fossil fuel industry which is putting profit before people.

#### The Solutions:

1. Move its money.
  - Screen for and exclude the fossil fuel industry from the University's investment portfolio.





- Immediately freeze any new investment in fossil fuel companies.
  - Divest from the fossil fuel industry and shift funds to positive, ethical investments within 5 years.
2. Support a clean energy future and green jobs.
- Provide Aberystwyth students with ethical careers advice and opportunities
  - Refocus research & expertise on climate solutions and phase out climate-damaging fossil fuel research.
  - Demand more research funding for renewables from fossil fuel companies and government.
3. Stop the greenwash.
- Publish full details of its financial and other ties to the fossil fuel industry.
  - Stop giving out honorary degrees to fossil fuel industry CEOs.
  - Stop accepting sponsorship and advertising from fossil fuel companies.
- 

**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Iolo Jones

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 12/5/2019

**Actions:**

The President contacted the Director of Finance and Corporate Services, who confirmed the Investment Committee was currently reviewing the University investment policy, which includes a statement on socially responsible investment.

It was highlighted that it may not be possible to completely identify the sums invested in fossil fuels or to completely separate them from future investment decisions. This is because the University has a statutory obligation under Charities Law to maximise returns, including those of pooled funds over which it cannot directly influence the investment policies.

The Director agreed to investigate the issue further with the University's investment advisers and feed the Union's position into the review of the current policy and its application.

The University's current Investment Policy can be found using the link below:



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<https://www.aber.ac.uk/en/media/departmental/finance/pdf/Investment-Policy----January-17.pdf>

The updated policy would need to be brought to University Council in the near future, where the President would be able comment before approval.

Since then we have tried to make arrangements with relevant people regarding increasing the renewable energy sources on campus. Meetings have been arranged to discuss the implementation of the policy.



## Sexual Harassment Policy

To adopt the new Sexual Harassment Policy.

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### Details:

The Facts:

1. In 2010, Union Council passed the "Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment in our Union" policy which mandated AberSU to adopt a policy on Sexual Harassment.

The Opinions:

2. Students should feel safe in our Union and this policy clearly states what to do if you are a victim of sexual harassment, how to access support and outlines the disciplinary process for those who undertake inappropriate behaviour.

The Solution:

3. For members of Union Council to vote for AberSU to adopt the proposed policy.

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**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

**Lapses:** 12/5/2019

### Actions:

In 2019, AberSU launched its 'No Excuses' campaign targeting bullying and harassment on campus. This included working in partnership with the university to develop a new Student Code on Dignity and Respect as well as new systems of reporting and support. The reporting system includes the ability for both anonymous and third-party reports. Promotion of this work continues.



## The use of energy the union/university uses.

For AberSU to encourage the University to use solar panels as the main source of energy and consider other, more creative forms of renewable energy to make up the gap in seasonal fluctuations.

---

### Details:

#### The Facts:

1. At the moment, it relies on the national grid and is not renewable which does not provide renewable energy. Therefore, it is unsustainable and bad for the environment.

#### The Opinions:

2. Moving to a more sustainable energy production will be better for the environment and climate change. In the long run, the investment will also drive down energy costs of the union and university as they will be able to supply some of this themselves.

#### The Solutions:

1. To encourage the University to use solar panels as the main source of energy.
2. To use solar panels as the main source of energy. A solar farm concept and inspection of university building roofs is being conducted and this idea will push for the support of renewable energy in Aberystwyth to continue the implementation of solar panels.
3. Use other, more creative forms of renewable energy to make up the gap in seasonal fluctuations when it is unable to generate solar. Look into a community project with the community to make energy generation more efficient.

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**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Kelly Furlong

**Passed:** 12/5/2016, The Big Meeting

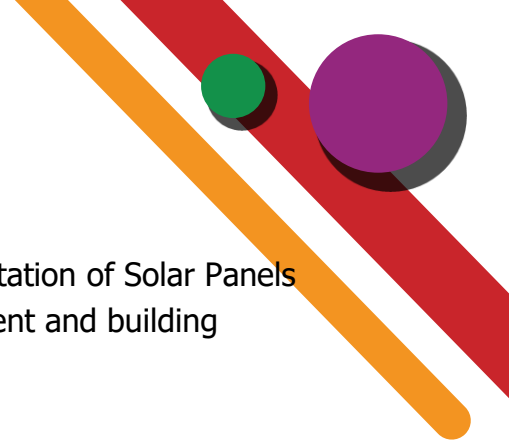
**Lapses:** 12/5/2019



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**Actions:**

The Union has asked the University to consider the implementation of Solar Panels and other renewable energy forms into any of it's refurbishment and building work.





## **AberSU & Hywel Dda Health Board – A Partnership**

AberSU Officers should work constructively in partnership with HDHB representatives to ensure that the student voice is heard directly by HDHB. AberSU will revoke their VNC in HDHB.

We should regularly survey students on local health services, publishing the results and reporting them directly to HDHB representatives, attending where relevant and where possible, local health forums and meetings, and work with HDHB to ensure that the student voice is represented on all relevant local committees. AberSU should continue to host forum events for students to meet directly with representatives of HDHB who should consult with students and AberSU Officers (as student representatives) on changes to services which will impact the student population.

---

### **Details:**

The Facts:

1. In 2014, AberSU passed a motion of No Confidence in Hywel Dda Health board (HDHB).
2. Students have had a lack of voice on local health issues in the past.
3. HDHB regularly meet with the university but in the past have not met directly with students.
4. Students are a large stakeholder in local health services.
5. In November 2016, AberSU ran a student survey on local health services and presented this to HDHB, opening a new channel of communication and starting a new working relationship.
6. In February 2017, AberSU hosted a forum for students to meet with representatives of HDHB directly.

The Opinions:

1. It is essential that students have a voice on local health services and issues affecting them.
2. Local health services should be able to support the student population of Aberystwyth.



3. AberSU, as the voice of students, has a responsibility to work in partnership with HDHB to ensure that the student voice is heard and that HDHB work in the best interest of students.

The Solutions:

1. AberSU Officers should work constructively in partnership with HDHB representatives to ensure that the student voice is heard directly by HDHB.
2. To ensure true partnership, AberSU should revoke their Vote of No Confidence in HDHB.
3. AberSU Officers, in partnership with HDHB, should regularly survey students on local health services, publishing the results and reporting them directly to HDHB representatives.
4. AberSU Officers should ensure that HDHB representatives respond to correspondence on issues relating to student health.
5. AberSU Officers should attend, where relevant and where possible, local health forums and meetings, and work with HDHB to ensure that the student voice is represented on all relevant local committees.
6. AberSU should continue to host forum events for students to meet directly with representatives of HDHB.
7. HDHB should consult with students and AberSU Officers (as student representatives) on changes to services which will impact the student population.

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**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Naomi Cutler

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**

Research into local health services was undertaken in 2016/17 (report published on AberSU website).

Student health forum was held in 2017.

AberSU Officers have been meeting proactively and regularly with HDHB.

An update blog will be provided by our Wellbeing Officer.



## Assessment & Feedback

AberSU Officers should continue to work with the university to ensure the full implementation of the Assessment & Feedback policy ensuring all staff members are aware of it and have necessary tools. AberSU Officers should promote the National Union of Students (NUS) principles of feedback and assessment to the university as standards of good practice in this area and support Academic Representatives in raising issues relating to assessment and feedback. AberSU Officers will run relevant campaigns relating to assessment and feedback.

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### Details:

#### The Facts:

1. Last academic year, AberSU Officers were involved in the development of a new, robust and comprehensive Assessment & Feedback Policy for the university.
2. Feedback comes in a wide variety of forms, and is an important component of the learning process.
3. Feedback does not simply reflect achievements, but should be used as a tool for improvement for students for future assessment.

#### The Opinions:

1. Feedback & Assessment is consistently a lower scoring category than others for Aberystwyth University on the National Student Survey (NSS), and is a particular enhancement focus for the university.
2. Some academic staff members do not uphold all elements of the policy regularly, leaving some students at a disadvantage.
3. Students have the right to timely, comprehensive, accurate and positive feedback that also supports them to improve in the future.

#### The Solutions:

1. AberSU Officers should continue to work with the university to ensure the full implementation of the Assessment & Feedback policy.
2. AberSU Officers should work with the university to ensure that all academic staff members are aware of the policy and have the tools to utilise assessment and feedback mechanisms fully.





3. AberSU Officers should promote the National Union of Students (NUS) principles of feedback and assessment to the university as standards of good practice in this area.
  4. Support Academic Representatives in raising issues relating to assessment and feedback.
  5. AberSU Officers will run relevant campaigns relating to assessment and feedback.
  6. Monitor the university's implementation of policies which align with the Assessment & Feedback policy, such as Lecture Capture policy, Required Minimum Presence for BlackBoard and TurnItIn usage guidelines.
- 

**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Academic Affairs Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**

The Academic Affairs Officer will continue their work to monitor these policies and encourage the university to uphold them to their fullest extent, and to raise issues and seek feedback through the Academic Zone and the Academic Rep System.

The Academic Affairs Officer regularly provides opportunities for students to feedback in person and via social media on matters relating to Assessment and Feedback - the only issues raised in the 2018/19 academic year relates to Dissertation Printing and adherence to the University's Policy on electronic submission which has been incorporated into the Chasing Course Costs Campaign.

Where issues that impact students are discussed in University Committees, the Academic Affairs Officer has and will continue to make comments in line with current policy.



## **BlackBoard, Panopto & Turnitin Usage**

For AberSU Officers to work with the university to ensure the implementation of the Required Minimum Presence and Enhanced Minimum Presence policy for BlackBoard, a Lecture Capture Policy and an Assessment and Feedback Policy. AberSU will encourage the university to update and adapt policies where new technology and standards come into effect, ensuring all academic staff members uphold their responsibilities in using the above online tools.

---

### **Details:**

#### The Facts:

1. BlackBoard, Panopto and TurnItIn are online tools designed to support and aid student learning activity.
2. There is a disparity between academic staff on the usage of the above online tools.
3. The university has a Required Minimum Presence and Enhanced Minimum Presence policy for BlackBoard, a Lecture Capture Policy and an Assessment and Feedback Policy in place to ensure the full use of the above online tools in student learning.

#### The Opinions:

1. Student learning is dramatically enhanced and supported by the proper use of the above online tools.
2. All academic staff members should use these online tools to the same high standard.
3. No student should feel at a disadvantage because of the actions of academic staff members in not properly utilising these online tools.
4. Students with specific learning needs can be placed at a disadvantage when these learning tools are not properly used by academic staff members.

#### The Solutions:

1. For AberSU Officers to work with the university to ensure the implementation of the above policies.
2. For AberSU Officers to encourage the university to update and adapt policies where new technology and standards come into effect.



3. For AberSU Officers to mandate the university to ensure all academic staff members uphold their responsibilities in using the above online tools.

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**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Academic Affairs Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**

The Academic Affairs officer will continue their work to monitoring these policies and encourage the university to uphold them to their fullest extent, and will raise issues and seek feedback through the Academic Zone and Academic Rep System.



## 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).

---

**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Academic Affairs Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**

The Academic Affairs Officer has and will continue to repeatedly highlighted the importance for the UK to maintain access to Erasmus for Aberystwyth University students post Brexit, both internally and externally.

After the release of the EU Withdrawal bill in February 2019 the Union lobbied Ben Lake, MP for Ceredigion, to consider the implications of Brexit on Erasmus when voting on related legislation as part of the withdrawal process. The campaign included supporting other students to do so also by emailing and writing to Ben Lake, using a template letter.

<https://www.abersu.co.uk/news/article/umabersu/ERASMUS-POST-BREXIT/>

The Academic Affairs Officer and the Student Advisor have met regularly with the International Office and Student Support Service to organise info sessions for students both in relation to Erasmus and Brexit alike and we will continue to do this as the withdrawal process continues.

The Academic Affairs Officer has also been in contact NUS UK and NUS Wales to discuss further lobbying of policymakers.

## Private Accommodation

AberSU should provide literature and information to students looking for private accommodation which could include, but is not limited to, accommodation checklists and guidance on signing contracts. We should continue to host the annual Housing Fair to provide a central opportunity for students to find private accommodation and work with local estate agents and landlords to voice student concerns on local private accommodation. AberSU should work towards developing an online forum for advertising and rating private accommodation for students. In the case that a platform already exists, AberSU should check the validity of this platform and promote to students if appropriate.

---

### Details:

The Facts:

1. Finding private accommodation can be a daunting and confusing task for students.
2. The quality of private accommodation in Aberystwyth is varied, and can be poor.
3. There is currently no formal system in place at AberSU to help students find the best quality affordable housing for them.

The Opinions:

1. More information should be available to students who are looking for private accommodation to support them in their decisions.
2. Estate agents and landlords locally should be held accountable for the quality of accommodation available to students.

The Solutions:

1. AberSU should provide literature and information to students looking for private accommodation. This could include, but is not limited to, accommodation checklists and guidance on signing contracts.
2. AberSU should continue to host the annual Housing Fair to provide a central opportunity for students to find private accommodation.
3. AberSU should work with local estate agents and landlords to voice student concerns on local private accommodation.
4. AberSU should work towards developing an online forum for advertising and rating private accommodation for students. In the case that a platform already



exists, AberSU should check the validity of this platform and promote to students if appropriate.

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**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**

The Wellbeing Officer supported by Students' Union staff developed and distributed a Housing Guide in November 2017, which was subsequently updated in 2018 to support students during their time in Aberystwyth.

The Students' Union Advice Service has also developed online guides on some of the most common queries it receives in relation to housing and accommodation issues.

<https://www.abersu.co.uk/advice/housingandaccommodation/>

The Students' Union continues to organise an annual Housing Fair as part of its calendar of events, inviting a range of providers and partners to attend. The Students' Union has developed its own presence at the fair in recent years, not only giving advice and information but with interactive activities designed to engage students on trending topics.

The Wellbeing Officer and Student Advisor continue to engage with the local Landlord Forum, as well as other initiatives through Ceredigion Council and Aberystwyth University relating to Student Housing and Accommodation. In 2018 the Union carried out a planned bi-annual Rate your Landlord survey into the experiences of students living in university and private accommodation.

While an online rating system for private accommodation has not yet been introduced, the Union continues to consider platforms for this.



## Promoting Responsible Drinking

AberSU will promote a culture of responsible drinking and provide information to students on the consequences of misuse of alcohol. AberSU will ensure the safety of its members at all AberSU-led social events and provide Clubs and Society committees with training on their responsibilities regarding the safety of members at social events.

---

### Details:

#### The Facts:

1. AberSU has a responsibility over the safety of its members.
2. AberSU recognises that for some students, consuming alcohol is part of the student experience and University life.
3. AberSU has a responsibility to promote a positive social culture, but not being restrictive or overly prohibitive of what its members can or cannot do.
4. The misuse or over-consumption of alcohol can lead to health problems and associated risks to AberSU members.

#### The Solutions:

1. AberSU will promote a culture of responsible drinking.
2. AberSU will provide information to students on the consequences of misuse of alcohol.
3. AberSU will provide Clubs and Society committees with training on their responsibilities regarding the safety of members at social events.
4. AberSU will ensure the safety of its members at all AberSU-led social events.

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**Status:** We're working on it

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/1/2020

**Actions:**





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The Wellbeing Officer sits on the University Health and Safety Committee and regularly checks on promoting safe drinking.

Committee roles relevant to drinking (social and wellbeing secs) are trained on safe drinking.

We will be planning more non-alcohol events for the SU for the year ahead.

The Students' Union no longer runs a bar or events.



## **Student Life: More than just a Degree (Sports Funding)**

AberSU believes that students should not have to pay excessive costs to participate in sport or student group activity which should be treated as partners and not as 'customers' by the University Sports Centre.

---

### **Details:**

#### The Facts:

1. Student opportunities (sports, societies, volunteering, student group activity etc.) are an important part of student life.
2. Student opportunities help students develop skills for future employability.
3. Student opportunities help keep students happy, health and active.
4. Student opportunities are important to students and should be preserved, maintained and developed for future students.
5. Participation of AberSU clubs in British University and College Sport (BUCS) is a key asset for student recruitment.
6. Sports make up a large part of student opportunities.
7. Sports can be expensive to facilitate and participate in.

#### The Opinions:

1. Students should not have to pay additional costs to participate in student groups.
2. Aberystwyth University promotes AberSU clubs and societies and uses them as marketing tools to encourage applicants to Aberystwyth University.
3. Aberystwyth University operates a Sports Centre, priority use of which we believe should be given to students, student groups and staff.
4. Aberystwyth University is making changes to their own sports funding model, leaving AberSU clubs on the side-lines.

#### The Solutions:

1. AberSU believes that students should not have to pay excessive costs to participate in sport or student group activity.
2. Student groups and AberSU should be treated as partners and not as 'customers' by the university Sports Centre.



3. Aberystwyth University should show its support for sports clubs and student groups by working in partnership with AberSU to help it fund sports and student groups appropriately.
  4. Aberystwyth University should provide adequate core funding to the Sports Centre to provide access for student groups to training and match playing facilities.
- 

**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Opportunities Officer

**Submitted By:** Jasmine Cross

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/27/2020

**Actions:**

New sports funding model was introduced in May 2017 - the university committed to funding AberSU £50k which is ring-fenced for BUCS provision.



## The Great Repeal Bill

AberSU should proactively amend policy to ensure it remains up-to-date with the latest Officer roles and titles and should update all current policy with the new titles of the latest role review.

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### Details:

#### The Facts:

1. In March 2017, AberSU will host its annual elections for (amongst other positions) the Full-Time Officer Trustees.
2. In January 2017, AberSU completed the commissioned Officer Role Review, which resulted in changes to the Officer titles and portfolios.
3. AberSU has many years' worth of policies that refer to various incarnations of officer titles.
4. Names of some Part Time Officers have also changed as a result of the Role Review.
5. The new Officer structure will be elected to in March 2017, and will be in full effect from 1st July 2017.
6. AberSU replaced the part-time Deputy Welfare, Sports, and Societies Officers with formal "Zones" (forums) to ensure student voice in these areas was maximised.

#### The Opinions:

1. Policy must be kept current and up to date.
2. AberSU has failed to adequately ensure policy is updated to reflect changes in officer/union structures over the years.
3. It is futile to continue into the future after a significant restructure with policy that refers to old incarnations.
4. Going forward AberSU should proactively seek to amend documentation as-and-when there are changes to Officer titles/roles.

#### The Solutions:

1. Any instance of an officer being listed in policy where the officer position no longer exists should be referred to the President.
2. For the following to take effect from July 1st 2017:



- 2a. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'President' to 'Union Development Officer'
  - 2b. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Education Officer' (or equivalent) to 'Academic Affairs Officer'
  - 2c. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Welfare Officer' (or equivalent) to 'Wellbeing Officer'
  - 2d. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Activities Officer' (or equivalent) to 'Opportunities Officer'
  - 2e. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Welsh Affairs Officer and UMCA President' (Or any combination thereof) to 'Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President)
  - 2f. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Sustainability and Ethics Officer' (or equivalent) to 'Environment and Sustainability Officer'
  - 2g. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'LGBT+ Officer' (or equivalent) to 'LGBTQ+ Officer'
  - 2h. Replace in all instances in AberSU policy of 'Black and Minority Ethnic Officer' (or equivalent) to 'Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Officer'
3. AberSU should proactively amend policy to ensure it remains up-to-date with the latest Officer roles and titles.
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**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Ryan Myles

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/27/2020

**Actions:**

All active policy available has been updated to reflect the policy.



## Free Condoms

AberSU should continue to promote and provide free condoms to students where they can access them out of working hours, in a place which is accessible to all students. AberSU should work with local health services to promote and develop local Sexual Health.

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### Details:

The Facts:

1. AberSU offers free condoms to students.
2. Free condoms are available from the AberSU Officers, AberSU Reception and from the AberSU Student Advisor.
3. These services are only available during working hours.

The Opinions:

1. Condoms are an important contraceptive tool which help prevent STIs and unplanned pregnancy.
2. Condoms can be considered expensive to purchase from retail outlets.
3. Sexual Health Services are also only accessible during working hours and sometimes by appointment only.
4. The provision of free condoms ensures peace of mind, decreased financial burden, and contraception for students.

The Solutions:

1. AberSU should continue to provide free condoms to students.
  2. AberSU should invest in a dispenser for free condoms so that students can access them out of working hours, in a place which is accessible to all students.
  3. AberSU should promote that they offer free condoms to students.
  4. AberSU, where possible, should offer latex-free condoms.
  5. AberSU should work with local health services to promote and develop local Sexual Health Services.
  6. AberSU should offer information and guidance on safe sex and consent.
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**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Wellbeing Officer

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/27/2020

**Actions:**

In May 2017, AberSU re-launched their free condoms (latex and latex free) alongside new free sanitary products. AberSU invested in dispensary containers for the free condoms and sanitary products. AberSU produced posters for the SU building and published social media to inform students of the free condoms and sanitary products. AberSU have been productively working with the local health board on matters relating to sexual health and sexual health services.

Following the creation of the Officer Hub in the underground space of the Students' Union in September 2018, students can now access free condoms and sanitary products in this space, which we continue to promote.



## Policy Clean Up

To tidy and improve accessibility for AberSU Policy, revoking several old policies and replacing some with updated versions. For AberSU to regularly review its policy and to support its members in policy writing for ideas to Council or AGM.

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### Details:

#### The Facts:

1. AberSU holds many active but out of date or irrelevant policies.
2. Out of date policy can be problematic as it restricts what we can do with the policy, as information is no longer accurate.
3. Students feel that some policies should no longer apply in the current situation of AberSU.
4. The policy list on the AberSU website is not up to date and so is not transparent.

#### The Opinions:

1. Cleaning up the current active policies will make it clearer to students as to what AberSU believes.
2. Out of date policies will no longer restrict AberSU in how it can work for students.
3. AberSU should be transparent in what policy it holds and how it is acting upon this.

#### The Solutions:

1. Revoke the following policies: Our Guild - Not for Profit, Real Ale, Bring the War Memorial Back to the Union, Financial Contingency Fund in Wales, Opening Up Elections to All, Reduction of Canvassing Period, 2015 SU Role Review.
2. Revoke the following policies but replace them with up to date and less restricting alternative policies, to be voted upon separately once the old policies are revoked:
  - 2a. Inconsistencies with the use of Blackboard among Staff (Idea 2: BlackBoard, Panopto & TurnItIn Usage).
  - 2b. Learning Difficulties Recognition (This policy will be replaced at the next Union meeting, as this is being developed alongside current Education campaigns).
  - 2c. Assessment and Feedback (Idea 3: Assessment and Feedback).
  - 2d. Promotion of Free Condoms (Idea 4: Free Condoms).





- 2e. Private Accommodation Forum (Idea 5: Private Accommodation).
  - 2f. Keeping Your Promise...Keep ERASMUS (Idea 6: ERASMUS Post Brexit).
  - 2g. No More Carnage (Idea 7: Promoting Responsible Drinking).
  3. AberSU Officers should work with the AberSU staff team to ensure that all AberSU policies are clearly listed on our website and that the list remains up to date.
  4. AberSU Officers should regularly review policies before they lapse to ensure that the wording is up to date and remains workable for AberSU, amending democratically where necessary.
  5. AberSU should offer support to students in writing policy to those who would like to submit policy motions to Union Council or AGM, ensuring that we can make the most of student ideas.
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**Status:** Completed

**Officer Responsible:** Union President

**Submitted By:** Lauren Marks

**Passed:** 2/27/2017, Senedd

**Lapses:** 2/27/2020

**Actions:**

Policy was actioned within the council meeting of 02/2017. AberSU needs to clarify how students can seek support with writing policy and motions for future council meetings. AberSU has set up a regular policy review to monitor lapsing policy.