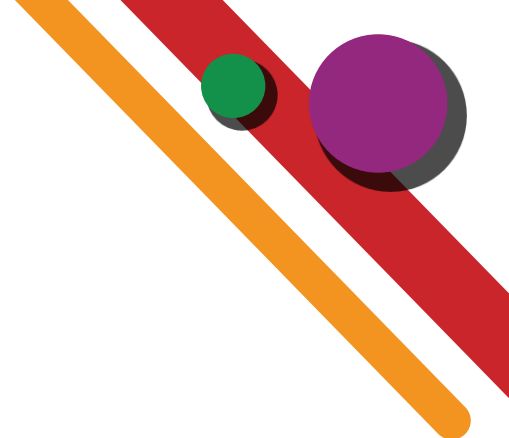




SENEDD!



Officers' Report

Nate Pidcock

Senedd

30/11/2020



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President's Summary:

So Senedd.2 here we are – get ready for your updates of the past four weeks. The first thing that I am extremely proud of this month would be the connections we have formed with Ben Lake and Elin Jones – I have met up with them to discuss problems our students are facing, and have more meetings planned for the future to ensure a close relationship between our students and the wider community.

Secondly, I am extremely proud of all the hard work that SU staff have been putting in to preparing for the holidays! We have a number of projects ranging from care packages for care homes, to Christmas decorations and Santa visits on campus! We understand that this year a lot more students will be staying in Aberystwyth this festive season, and are planning a range of activities to help with isolation.

I spent a lot of time arranging a campaign calling for Mark Drakeford to make decisions for students allowing them to go home, only for Mark Drakeford then to announce his plans the day my campaign started! So that one was not a major win! Myself and Moc also attended a major donor workshop, learning more about how our university receives donations from alumni to fund new projects for students. We hope to be more involved in this process in the future – I actually have a call next week with an American donor who donated \$5000 last week, a very generous donation.

Our zones have been more popular than ever, with them being online! Even more students are attending these, meaning we get more student feedback to directly influence the work we do. This led to several quizzes hosted during the Welsh firebreak by our team – which were received brilliantly.

The past week has been University Committee week, which your officers sit on to directly include the student voice into all decisions. These have been very successful, and we have all been heard and listened to. For this Senedd, I have submitted a policy I want future presidents to work on in the future that means a lot to me, and also an emergency idea regarding elections that I think will bring a brilliant new idea to the union.

Woj – Opportunities Update

Opportunities Officer has been working on a few different projects over the past weeks. Organisation of Aberystwyth University Challenge Team, with the 2nd Trial taking place on the 27th of November 2020, was the major one. Opportunities Officer is working on organising Aber Challenge 2021 event; also arranging meetings to prepare for Arts Festival 2021, Superteams 2021, and Varsity 2021. All of these



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will be announced and confirmed soon. Among new projects, Opportunities Officer has been collating an 'Aber Advent Calendar' to go live on the 1st of December 2020, which will inspire students to stay active and happy through the Advent period. The biggest ongoing work, surrounding the administration of Aber All Star Scheme is taking most of the time in the recent weeks. More information to follow at the next Senedd in 2021.

Connor – Wellbeing Update

Creating foundations of campaign 'Stick With It' aimed at academic retention; creating links with accommodation office to find ways to make student living better, preparation for different events such as Trans-Remembrance, World AIDS day, etc. and de-stress activities. Attending Students Minds developmental days for SU officers. Currently working on various Christmas activities, including making Christmas packs. Worked with Opps Office for delivery of No Excuses campaign to clubs and socs.

Moc – UMCA and Welsh Culture Update

The free UMCA Welsh lessons were started a few weeks ago, and they've been received well by students, with 42 students attending the first session, forcing us to split the lessons into smaller groups, which is incredible. UMCA translation keeping us busy as more and more people are choosing to use the service. Had committee meetings with Pwyllgor UMCA and Pwyllgor Pantycelyn; nothing too major to report back, students happy to be out of Firebreak. Been working on Pack a Parcel with Chloe to get gifts to Care Homes and have contacted the care homes to see which of their residents are Welsh speakers so UMCA students can send them a card for the holidays.

Chloe – Academic Affairs Update

This month has been an extremely busy one for myself and the team! Firstly, this month's Academic zone focused on digital accessibility, with particular focus on the strengths and weaknesses of blended learning. This was arguably the most successful zone I have ever hosted as an officer, and your feedback has led to the university subscribing to a closed captioning service for Panopto! This month also saw the first annual AberSU 'Rep Festival', a conference style event exclusively for elected academic reps to develop their skills in a number of areas key to their role as a voice of students. We were super excited to host a number of workshops run by both SU staff and external trainers, and I'm very proud to say that the event was a



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success. Since last Senedd I have also teamed up with Connor (Wellbeing Officer) to create a campaign called 'Stick With It' targeting 3 of the main reasons students may consider withdrawing from university; their academia, their home, and their community. As part of the campaign, we aim to tackle some of the challenges students have been facing in each category, by lobbying the university on student issues and hosting a number of action days. As part of my priority work on Academic Socs, I met with staff from the Aberystwyth Business School to encourage them to support their students in starting a society. As a result, Tom (Societies Development Coordinator) and I hosted a Q&A session for students in the department, and we hope that some of those that attended will look to becoming committee members for a brand new academic society! Finally, a huge focus for me this month has been on working with the university on their academic regulations, challenging AU to keep some of their 'emergency' rules from last academic year in place for this one. Unfortunately, these were not implemented for this year, and as such I am now focusing on other means of helping students mitigate for the ways in which Covid-19 has impacted them this year. This included hosting a 'Covid-19 & Academic' advice drop-in session last week, as well as submitting an idea to this Senedd meeting.