



IDEAS FOR COUNCIL

26/02/2018





Emergency Idea

Let's Strike Together

AberSU should support striking lecturers and encourage students to do so with a stronger statement and access to resources.

Details:

We call on Aberystwyth Students Union to fully support the UCU Strike. This means calling on students not to cross the pickets and making a statement in solidarity with lecturers.

We propose this statement is to the effect of:

"We stand by our staff's choice to take industrial action. Lecturers at the university work hard to give us the education we deserve and the proposed changes to their pensions put this, and their livelihoods, at risk. We believe a teaching staff without the security of pensions will hinder Aberystwyth university in the long and short term. We believe that a dedicated and quality academic staff in the long-term is not sustainable without financial security. The acceptance of the attack on pensions indicates that the university do not value academic staff and their expertise, and this means these people are less and less likely to want to stay in the higher education sector. We want to stand up for future generations of staff and students, who want the highest standard of education in Aberystwyth, and refuse this step in the direction of the marketization of education."

The UCU dispute is over the future of USS (the Universities Superannuation Scheme), the pension scheme that many academic members of staff are part of. UUK are planning on investing pension funds in the stock market, making them dependent on it. If these plans go ahead the average member will lose an annual £10,000 from their pension.

As a part of this motion we ask the Students Union to: publish a more forceful statement in support of UCU members at the University and tell students not to cross the pickets; call on the Vice Chancellor and the University Executive Group to use their position to defend staff and oppose the changes to the USS pension scheme; and facilitate students organising to support lecturers by providing access to SU spaces and equipment.

Submitted by: Ammaara Nalban





Care for Criminology, Don't shut us out

Make Criminology a priority, not a minority

Details:

As of 2016, The department of Law and criminology changed it's name to the Aberystwyth Law School, this was done with no talks with students with how we would feel about this, as well as lecturers who were only aware of the change a week before it happened. Since then, we've had a petition to change it back, this is for the Criminologists who feel we are getting shut out and getting left behind, not to mention our poor module choices due to understaffing. At the end of the day, it's our education, and it should be up to us about things like name changes.

AberSU should lobby Aberystwyth University to consider the following options:

- Changing the name of the department back to 'The Department of Law and Criminology'
- Run a student consultation on the name of the department allowing students to decide

Submitted by: Rhiannon Perrett





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.

Submitted by: Bruce Fraser Wight





Toilets for Everyone

Introduce gender neutral toilets, where possible, across campus.

Details:

Gender neutral toilets have so far been a success within the Students Union, and with the current plans for gender neutral toilets to be included in the new Level D of the Hugh Owen Library this is a great step forward, however there is still some way to go. The Union should encourage the University to make sure that gender neutral toilets are included within new builds and projects undertaken by the university, and where possible they should be implemented across current university buildings. This action should only be taken where budgets and planning restrictions allow, as regulations state that there must be at least one set of gendered toilets within a building, and taking into account the fact that Disabled toilets are provided for those with disabilities and therefore are not suitable for gender non-conforming students who are not disabled.

This action would cost relatively little for the university as it only requires a change in signage to make these toilets fully accessible to all students. While this change may not make a large difference to most of the student population, it would be greatly beneficial to those who do not conform to the binary male/female genders. As there would be a gendered set of toilets in each building it would allow for those with reason not to use gender neutral toilets, such as for religious or personal reasons, to continue to be able to use gendered toilets if they wish.

Submitted by: Samuel Smales





Bilingual Policy (See Attached)

Ensure that AberSU works bilingually and supports Welsh Language Students.

Details:

AberSU should operate bilingually at all times. The previous bilingual policy lapsed and needs replacing.
AberSU should adopt the proposed Bilingual Policy.

Submitted by: Gwion Llwyd





We won't take this BUCS-hit!

The University agreed to free up Wednesdays - So why are there compulsory/assessed lectures and trips during our free time?

Details:

Facts:

1. The University currently has policy stating that no lectures or seminars are to be timetabled after 1pm on Wednesdays.
2. There is verbal agreement with the university to allow students to miss lectures and seminars to travel to BUCS away games.
3. Students are representing both the university and the Students' Union when playing their BUCS games and it is in the best interest of the university to allow students to continue to compete in and win BUCS games.

The Opinions:

1. Students currently have to attend compulsory events (field trips, assessments, etc.) on a Wednesday afternoon, directly going against their policies.
2. Students are unable to travel to BUCS games due to compulsory events and or timetabled lectures and seminars on Wednesday mornings and afternoons.
3. BUCS games are vital to a students' sporting experience and the act of competing in these games directly relates to AberSU's strategy to give students the best foot forward.

The Changes:

1. Not have and avoid having compulsory/assessed lectures and trips all day Wednesdays.
2. Lectures or seminars or events placed on a Wednesday at any time should not count towards the overall grade of the student.
3. Lecturers should be informed that students can miss lectures in order to travel to BUCS games and this should be supported by evidence from the Students' Union; with the agreement that students will catch up on any work missed.

Submitted by: Jessica Williams





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.

Submitted by: Gwion Llwyd

