



**Union Council Minutes**  
**Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> February, 6pm.**  
**Students' Union Main Room**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Notes / Outcome</b>
<b>1. Welcome and Opening Remarks</b>	Welcome	The Union Chairperson James welcomed everyone present at the meeting.  Total attendees for this meeting: 79
	Apologies for Absence	Thanks to those who provided apologies via the RSVP link.
	Approval of minutes from the previous Meeting	The previous meeting was not quorate and there are no minutes.
<b>2. Strikes Session</b>	Joe Ironside/John Gough (UCU) and Bec Davies (Aberystwyth University) will present an update on the strikes action followed by a Q&A	<p>Questions and Answers:</p> <p>Q: Are we required to have taught ourselves topics missed due to strikes and will these topics come up in exams? Will we get special circumstances?</p> <p>A: No assessment or exam can be based on content that hasn't been taught.</p> <p>Q: Are we going to be getting compensation for cancelled lectures? Putting the PowerPoints on blackboard is not what we paid for.</p> <p>A: Agreed, not what full teaching is about. We are looking at how we can mitigate some things you have missed. Don't predict you will be in that position. Can't see a need for refunds.</p> <p>Q: How will this effect international students' attendance record?</p> <p>A: We are working with the international office to ensure your attendance record will not be affected.</p> <p>Q: Are you willing to improve employer contributions to pensions?</p> <p>A: Our income is student fees, if we increased USS (we pay 18%), would add significant costs and result in this money being allocated away from staff roles and students.</p> <p>Q: What do I do if I'm not getting replies to emails from striking lecturers?</p>



		<p>A: Let us know through tell us now! We are working with departments. Let us know if there's an issue, however I am aware of several extensions in place.</p> <p>Q: Will the continuity of lectures be affected?</p> <p>A: Lectures are sequential, you shouldn't miss any content.</p> <p>For more information about the Strikes action, how it affects you or any other feedback or queries, contact <a href="mailto:suacademic@aber.ac.uk">suacademic@aber.ac.uk</a></p>
<b>3. Officers' Report</b>	The Officers will report on their activities and this is a chance for you to find out what they have done for you.	Individual officer reports are now presented during Zones. The Union Development Officer (UDO) gave a report on behalf of all the FTO's and can be found on the website.
<b>4. Council - Your Ideas</b>	We'll discuss and vote upon the Ideas that have been submitted to Council.	
<b>1</b>	<b>Let's Strike Together (Ammaara Nalban)</b>	
	Statement for Emergency Idea	<p>The reason this is submitted as an emergency idea is because the SU released its statement on the strikes on the 14th of February, 2 days after the deadline for Ideas for the meeting. The Idea seeks more support and a stronger statement from the SU, so could not have been submitted before the SU released its statement.</p> <p>James: I have accepted this Idea onto the agenda, however will include as the last item on the ideas list to be discussed and voted upon. this is because the other ideas have been tabled in previous meetings and we want to ensure they are debated and voted upon within the time limit of this meeting. (See 1 continued at the end of these minutes)</p>
<b>2</b>	<b>Care for Criminology, Don't shut us out (Rhiannon Perrett, waived to Lizzie Rocher)</b>	
	Vote	PASSES
<b>3</b>	<b>I wanna gym on the Weekends (Bruce Wight)</b>	
	Questions	<p>Q: Have you evaluated the cost and where is it coming from?</p> <p>A: The costs would be covered by the increase in use of space during these times, 'pay as you go'.</p> <p>Q: But have you considered that the Sports Centre provides free membership to students in university accommodation [wouldn't increase income for the center]?</p> <p>A: The University would have to review its budget.</p>



		<p>Q: During the week there's 8 people cleaning, on weekends there's only 3, how will they be affected?</p> <p>A: Cleaning hours would be consistent over the seven days.</p> <p>Q: The opening hours look fine to me, why not put money to better use?</p> <p>A: The Idea is to help sports clubs by providing more time options for training.</p> <p>Q: How much interest have you had in this?</p> <p>A: I've had regular emails since the start of the year, this is what I came up with.</p>
	<p>Invitation for additional speakers (For or against)</p>	<p>Points raised against the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healthy body, healthy mind, my issue is you can go for a walk, or kick a ball. There are more important issues.</li> <li>• Although the amount of people using the facilities has increased, the free membership for accommodation means that this doesn't bring in enough funding.</li> <li>• If they opened more, they could charge more.</li> </ul> <p>Points raised in favour of the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jess (Opportunities Officer): the sports centre just break even, although the amount of students they have daily has tripled. This will likely take 3 years to accomplish but we can get it on the table now.</li> <li>• If you increase the hours, more clubs will use the facilities and everyone wins.</li> <li>• I support this Idea because BUCS teams need those facilities, with as much time as possible. We much prefer training in a gym than on the seafront.</li> </ul>
	<p>Vote</p>	<p>PASSES</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Toilets for Everyone (Sam Smales)</b></p>	
	<p><b>Questions</b></p>	<p>Q: If were getting rid of gendered loos let's get rid of urinals?</p> <p>A: The University is unlikely to be able to afford to reform them all, we will lobby any new ones to have cubicles.</p>



		<p>Q: Can you clarify is it for new builds?</p> <p>A: All new builds, but also lobby to update existing buildings bearing in mind the need to keep at least one set of gendered toilets (potential religious reasons) and accessible toilets in place.</p>
	<p>Invitation for additional speakers (For or against)</p>	<p>Points raised against the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm happy with g.n loos but don't get rid of urinals</li> </ul> <p>Points raised in favour of the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm non-binary and the most comfortable in the loos in this building (gender neutral). Knowing I don't have to go into the females and have people assume who I am, and what I am, makes a huge difference.</li> </ul>
	<p>Vote</p>	<p>PASSES</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Bilingual Policy (Gwion Llwyd)</b></p>	
	<p>Vote</p>	<p>PASSES</p>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>We won't take this BUCS-hit! (Jess Williams)</b></p>	
	<p>Questions:</p>	<p>Q: Is this for all day?</p> <p>A: Yes</p> <p>Q: Wont there be problems for timetables etc?</p> <p>A: They should make extra effort</p> <p>Q: Most of the student wellbeing workshops are Wednesday afternoons. Could we try and move these too?</p> <p>A: We can raise it.</p> <p>Q: What is BUCS?</p> <p>A: British uni colleges sports, all the uni's! very big deal for putting down on a cv, table tennis has gone to nationals. could be the best in Britain!</p> <p>Q: If your proposing taking time out of the day, would other days be extended or fit into current timetable?</p> <p>A: We understand there will be issues, but will work with the university to ensure the best outcome.</p> <p>Q: The uni has freed Wednesday afternoons for BUCS</p>



		<p>etc, but employability talks and sessions are often on Wednesday afternoons, should this just be for sports?</p> <p>A: This policy is to remove assessed/compulsory contact, but we can assess in the future whether to limit all activities on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Q: I'm not familiar with BUCS, couldn't they take place on the weekend?</p> <p>A: BUCS has been established a very long time and matches have always happened on Wednesdays.</p> <p>Q: Would this be outright, or dept by dept?</p> <p>A: I don't have that answer, we will see how the uni reacts and what they can offer.</p> <p>Q: Have you run a consultation on this?</p> <p>A: Students are welcome to, and have in this case come to talk to me about this issue.</p> <p>Q: The rhetoric is confusing, would this change special circumstances to include BUCS?</p> <p>A: I can include that in ideas to go to the uni</p>
<p>Invitation for additional speakers (For or against)</p>		<p>Points raised against the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I'm concerned that losing 4 hours will be an issue, and Llanbadarn Campus teaching moving to Penglais will reduce teaching space too.</li> <li>• Im worried this would be a BUCS only day and not benefit students who don't take part in BUCS</li> <li>• There is a difference between assessments/lectures, and it is difficult to get them moved. I don't know if it will be part of the negotiations, but can we include making them optional?</li> </ul> <p>Points raised in favour of the Idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who aren't doing BUCS on Wednesdays, there's nothing to stop you from learning, go to the library, write your essays. We're only here to learn, lessons on the pitch are just as valuable.</li> <li>• I'm very academic, but I can still see the benefit of having Wednesdays off. Depts do run optional workshops, and there would be more time to do</li> </ul>



		<p>academic things without attendance. Making them optional would reduce contact time, so should be implemented slowly across depts with less hours</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Societies take advantage of Wednesdays for rehearsals etc so this benefits them too. Implementing dept by dept would work</li> <li>• Fully in support, participating in BUCS was amazing. I met different people from the UK, and it's great socially and for your health. We're representing the uni, and having recognition would do good things for the uni reputation. Prospective students will be attracted.</li> </ul>
	Vote	PASSED
<b>7</b>	<b>Welsh Tunes in the Union (Gwion Llwyd)</b>	
	Vote	PASSES
<b>5. Any Other Business</b>	<p>The chance for anyone present to raise an issue not already covered or simply update people on anything big happening that week was offered.</p> <p>The Chair reminded everyone that standing in the AberSU Elections, including for his successor as the next Chairperson, closes at midnight.</p>	
<b>6. Save the Date!</b>	Next Council Meeting: 30 <sup>th</sup> April; Idea deadline 16 <sup>th</sup> April	