



Officers' Report Council 29/01/2018

Emma – Academic Affairs Officer

Emma has published our new postgraduate employment charter and is working with the VC on fairer pay for postgraduate teachers, as well as more comprehensive and consistent training across all departments. She is working with NUS Wales on a big Academic Rep conference which is being held in Aberystwyth in February, as well as planning the Postgrad Conference and Student Led Teaching Awards for later this semester. She has met with all our Institute Reps to discuss their first semester and is looking on how to progress this in semester two.

Submitted an SU document on the changes to the UK Quality Code, which oversees how universities run their courses and their support systems to ensure you get the same quality of education as any other university student around the country. She has been working closely with AQRO (Academic Quality and Records Office) on this and we've submitted lots of feedback to ensure this policy is working in the interests of students. Following several mistakes made with exams over the January exam period, she has begun working closely with the University to run an audit on the way exam papers are printed and proof-read, ensuring that students are treated fairly following any errors. I am also working on back-to-back exams with the timetabling office.

Jessica – Opportunities Officer

Is currently working hard in preparation for a heavy semester full of opportunities for students, starting with Refreshers Fairs for sports clubs and societies to promote themselves and recruit new members for the semester two. She is also helping to prepare even more opportunities for Volunteering Week (19th-23rd February) giving students the chance to gain experience in various activities by being Volunteers. And finally - arguably the biggest event in the Aberystwyth Students' Calendar – Superteams; Jess is working non-stop to make this year's event bigger and better than ever!



Molly – Wellbeing Officer

On the 9th Feb, she is hosting and performing alongside students and our CEO, Trish in Vagina Monologues; tickets are available online now - get them before they go! Has just organised and ran a very successful Puppy day, so stress filled students have the chance to pet cute puppies and raise awareness about Guide dogs for Dogs' Trust. Ran a very successful panel event on gender-based violence against women back in semester one with a whole host of speakers with the likes of Rhian Bowen Davies, Wales' Former National Advisor for Violence Against Women; Ruth Fowler, Aber Uni's Equality Officer; Jo Hopkins, Home Office (Wales), Siân Kirk, Independent Inquiry Into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA); & Gwyneth Sweatman, NUS Wales Women's Officer; the event was highly successful with a lot of positive feedback.

“After many months of working back and forth with the university, students are now able to change their gender on their student record and when they apply to the university. On the edit and personal details page, ‘SEX’ now gives you the option to change to male, female or other. This is such a huge step in the right direction and I am so proud of the work that has been done, not just by myself and those on the Trans working group but by those before me so a huge shout out to everyone for working hard to make this a reality. I am literally bouncing on my seat writing this, as I know this will make such a difference to so many students. Thank you, Aberystwyth University. Thank you!”

Gwion – Welsh Culture and UMCA President

Pantycelyn - we convinced the University council to core fund the project to ensure Panty is re-opened by September 2019. This is a huge win for Welsh medium students to see the renowned hall of residence back on track to be reopened by 2019.

Rhyng-gol! Welcomed 600 students from Bangor, Cardiff, Carmarthen, Swansea and Liverpool! There was a gig here on the Saturday night, with a variety of Welsh language bands performing. Has started his campaign to promote Welsh Music and has created a Spotify playlist, so that each week a new Welsh song will be advertised through UMCA to get the Welsh language to the forefront for Aber students. UMCA has also got it's own freshers' fair going on through the medium of Welsh, so if you fancy getting more involved with Welsh Culture feel free to attend.

If you want to know more about each individual officer, the next zones are on the 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th of February. Please note, the Sports and Society Zone has moved to Thursday, as many clubs have training on a Monday night; Welsh Zone is now on the Monday.



Bruce – Union Development Officer

So, updates now from myself:

With the progress made by the University on the Sustainability Implementation Plan, I have been raising this progression with the departments being affected by each phase of it. Primarily with TFTS students in semester, one and more recently with History and Welsh History Students, making sure that your voice and concerns are being heard by the top University Executive during this testing time for the University.

Set up the first official freshers group on Facebook to stop students being scammed out of buying fake tickets online before they've even start here at Aber. Also looking to continue this into semester two and have next year and following years in place to make sure future students at Aber are not being misled by online groups which aren't legitimate.

Meetings with the Vice-Chancellor about many different topics, trying to give the best overview about what students want in Aberystwyth. Within my role, I'm doing my best to make sure that us a student body are being heard from the highest point of the University Executives.

Had the pleasure of meeting the Ukrainian Embassy to honour the tragedy of Holodomor.

NUS Wales visited - with Gwyneth Sweatman and Steve Coole came along to give us an update from them, which was useful to see how and what NUSW does for us.

I would like to note my thanks to Sir Emyr - the Old Chancellor and Chair of University Council for being brilliant during his tenure, he will be dearly missed by the Union.

Sports Bursaries are being offered out more and now should be accessible to more students for the next academic year; just waiting on confirmation on who can apply, no longer just for applicants.

If there's anything else you would like to know from myself or anything you would like me to take a look at, feel free to contact me on sudevelopment@aber.ac.uk