**Minutes**

**Big Meeting**

**20/02/2023**

[Full Agenda Here](https://www.abersu.co.uk/pageassets/changeaber/thebigmeeting/Big-Meeting-Agenda-and-Ideas-for-website-update(1).pdf)

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| **Agenda** | **Item** | **Notes** | **Voting Outcome** |
| **Welcome and Opening Remarks** | The Deputy Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting | The Union Chairperson was not in attendance. No apologies were sent. |  |
| **Ratification of Minutes** |  | There were no minutes to ratify |  |
| **Receive the Report of Trustees** | Aisleen Sturrock, SU President, Chair of trustees, presented the summary of the Trustee report. | full report is included in the [draft annual accounts here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abersu.co.uk%2Fpageassets%2Fchangeaber%2Fthebigmeeting%2FSU-financial-statements-30-June-2022-draft.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caa76898408c848fbd89308db1010f64e%7Cd47b090e3f5a4ca084d09f89d269f175%7C0%7C0%7C638121437253928540%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GUutPJmNoWE0G8q7Uo50KfSvrhWjhaYJ9mwZJ24ysTU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| **Receive the annual accounts** | Trish McGrath, the Union CEO, presented the Annual Accounts. | [draft annual accounts here](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.abersu.co.uk%2Fpageassets%2Fchangeaber%2Fthebigmeeting%2FSU-financial-statements-30-June-2022-draft.pdf&data=05%7C01%7C%7Caa76898408c848fbd89308db1010f64e%7Cd47b090e3f5a4ca084d09f89d269f175%7C0%7C0%7C638121437253928540%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GUutPJmNoWE0G8q7Uo50KfSvrhWjhaYJ9mwZJ24ysTU%3D&reserved=0) |  |
| **Appointment of the auditors** | FRANCIS GRAY CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS Chartered accountants & statutory auditor,  32 Queens Road  Aberystwyth  Ceredigion  SY23 2H | Questions were asked about cost. Fee: £9500, Turnover: 3milion. | Approved |
| **Approving Affiliations** | * NUS Charity =£4115 (2023-24) * British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) - £6338 (2022-23) (plus team entries of BUCS Affiliation 22/23 £6337.65 / BUCS Affiliation 21/22 £5994.00 plus BUCS transport costs) * Advice UK = Membership 21/22 £263.00 * Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) = User Licence 21/22 £683.00 * Real Living Wage: £150 * Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) (Free) * HALO (Free) * Mindful employer (Free) * Tourettes Friendly Employer and Organisation (Tourette’s Action) (Free) |  | Approved |
| **Constitutional Changes 1:** Should the Student’s Union should make the proposed changes to the  Constitution? | Proposed by Aisleen Sturrock   * Gender neutralised * Enable the use of hybrid senedd * Clarify the term ‘Meeting’ and Chair Clarify method to call all student vote * Correct grammatical errors |  | Approved |
| **Constitutional Changes 2:** Should AberSU appoint its Student Trustees (instead of electing them) and change the composition of Appointments Committee? | Proposed by Aisleen Sturrock | * Shouldn’t be tearing down the democratic process * Ill thought out change, needs amendments before yessing * Would it be a paid position? It would be volunteer * By appointing trustees, would we get more effective candidates? * 2 student trustees, and 1 external would be used to appoint the trustees. * Not planning to take away the elections for Officers (*N.B. Student Trustees are not Officers*) * Elections regardless of voting numbers are better than no elections | Rejected |
| **NUS UK Affiliation:** Should the Union stop affiliating with NUS UK? | Proposed by Aisleen Sturrock   * NUS UK and NUS charity, NUS UK has been focusing on Russell group universities * £4000 to NUS Charity, * £16,000 to NUS UK * **Con**: National voice lost * **Pro**: Extra money | * **Q**: How are Russell group more represented * **A**: Policies are submitted each year, * As an SU we should stay affiliated * Ensuring a political voice is important, the national voice is important * **Q**: Would it also disaffiliate us from NUS Wales? * **A**: Yes * Not happy to be disconnected from NUS Wales * The NUS was instrumental for covid algorithm * NUS puts pressure on the Government * A waste of money, we could just send people to Cardiff. * **Q**: Where is NUS specifically supporting Russell Groups more… * **A**: No off the top of her head * Liberation conference, international students are represented. * **Q**: Is this about cost, is this a protest to issues of NUS UK recently * **A**: It wasn’t from these internal issues * All student vote recommended. * Would there be another way we could gain are national voice back? Would there be another option? * The process of leaving takes 18 months. * Student’s opinions were wanted. | Rejected |
| **Your Ideas** | **Should the SU support UCU strikes?** Proposed by Hector Duncan. | * **Q**: What would support involve? * **A**: It would be a political stance, * The working conditions are not good for staff. * The longer the picket line, the shorter the strike. * Staff are striking for understaffing. With more UG’s being accepted, there are more students per class. Staffing issues will very much directly impact students education * Should this go to a referendum? * The striking staff suggested that their salary should be put in the hardship fund. The university rejected this. * The SU should challenge negativity against lecturers. * The strikes aim to get students a better education in the end. * Without strikes the standard of teaching will decrease * What could the SU do? Ask students to strike? Give information on student rights | Approved |
|  | **Should the Student’s Union trial a weekly Strength and Conditioning session run by an instructor for clubs to be able to make use of?**  Submitted by Chris Thomas. Proposed by Bayanda Vundamina to speak on his behalf. | * **Q**: What would the trial period fee be? * Aber surf, couldn’t afford SC on their own * Best way forward will be investigated. * Should this be open to more students who can’t be in the room? * **Q**: what would the cons be of trial run * **A**: if unsuccessful, it would be wasted money. * The trial assesses how effective the provision of Strength and Conditioning in the long term could be. * **Q**: Does this have to be an SU issue? * **Q**: Some clubs have already lost training sessions in the cage, would it cause more strain? * **Q**: how many sessions would be in the trial? * **A**: To be determined. * **Q**: For trial, will big clubs be prioritised? * **A**: no specific clubs will be benefitted over another * As there is the money to do this, if sports people care for it, we should do it * This should free up space in the cage | Approved |
|  | **Should the SU commit to the Green Impact Students’ Unions (GISU) programme and lobby the University to become more sustainable?**  Proposed by Hector Duncan | This will put pressure on the SU and University to be greener  Its’ an important first step in the environmental debate. The university is behind on its commitment on environmental areas (*N.B. The SU has already been undertaking Green Impact for the 2022-23 academic year*)  Could accommodation have solar panels installed?  The University is already divesting from fossil fuels and investing in solar panels. There are some just by Fferm Penglais.  We need to make changes now to sort out the future. | Approved |