**Minutes**

**Senedd**

**24/04/2023**

# Members in attendance:

* Felix Smart (Deputy Chair of Senedd. Sports. Chair of Meeting)
* Aisleen Sturrock (FTO)
* Rachel Barwise (FTO) – *left meeting following Idea 4*
* Dafi Jones (FTO)
* Elizabeth Manners (FTO)
* Cameron Curry (FTO)
* Josh Rutty (Socs)
* Elena Bloomquist (VO)
* Zoë Hayne (VO)
* Bayanda Vundamina (VO)
* Tanaka Chikomo (VO) – *left meeting following Idea 4*
* Aimé Tonkin (Sports)
* Xavier Powley (VO)
* Bamikole Akinsehinde (VO)
* Dylan Cashon (VO)

# Also in attendance:

* Jacob Webb (Head of Student Voice)
* Angus-Alastair Walker
* Rebecca Hodgetts
* Charlotte Davies
* Luzie Völckers
* Elain Gwynedd
* Lloyd Warburton

**Absent:**

* Danny Deeprose-Brenan (Chair)
* Edward Buxton (VO)
* Matt Owen (Socs)
* Rowan Scholes (VO)
* Lowri Ellen Bebb (VO)
* Will Rutton (Socs)
* Thea Stott (VO)
* Mingshan Fan (VO)
* Kirsty Usher (VO)
* Dylan Lewis (Sports)
* Maddy Hill (Sports)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda** | **Item** | **Notes** | **Voting Breakdown** |
| **Yes** | **No** | **Abstain** |
| **Welcome and Opening Remarks** | The Deputy Union Chairperson welcomed everyone present at the meeting  | 15 Senedd Members were in attendance and the meeting was deemed quorate.  |  |  |  |
| Apologies for Absence | Apologies were received from Rachel Barwise, Tanaka Chikomo for leaving early. Isaac Peat and Zoe Bainbridge apologised for being unable to attend and resigned prior to the meeting.  |  |  |  |
| **Officers' Report** |  | Aisleen Sturrock, Elizabeth Manners, Cameron Curry, and Rachel Barwise reported on Union activity. The Written Officer Report can be found [**here**](President%20Report%20April%202023%20English_.pdf). There were no questions.  |  |  |  |
| **Idea 1:** Should the Union hold an annual SHAG week? | Proposer speech  | Aisleen Sturrock presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * **Charlotte D –** asked about HIV stigma and birth control. Questioned Kink workshop – mentioned kink promotes eroticised violence against women. There was an absence of sex education that addressed contraception and STIs. Aisleen clarified that sex education was addressed (e.g. Clitorarti & Kink workshop and on social media.)
* **Allister W –** asked if it could be brought forward as it is held late in the year.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Zoë** **H –** suggested for more educational elements in the future. Emphasized the value in talking about issues not openly talked about (e.g., Kink).
* **Luzie V –** appreciated the great emphasis on consent.
* **Elizabeth M –** suggested it should always be based around student involvement and student interest. Noted it doesn’t have to occur at the same time each year.
 |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed** | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| **Idea 2:** Should the University and AberSU suspend their banking with fossil fuel investment banks and switch to a more ethical, green bank instead? | Proposer speech | Luzie Völckers presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions  | * **Josh R** – asked how much it is going to cost. Aisleen was not able to give specifics but emphasized the need for a local branch as the SU accepts cash. Elizabeth also clarified it would not affect Sports and Soc funds.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Zoë** **H –** noted the need for additional research to be done on how to implement.
* **Alastair W** – raised concerns about cost.
* **Elizabeth M –** should get Student input
* **Bayanda V –** said the idea provided a basis to hold next year’s team to
* **Josh R –** suggested having a vote on the final bank the Union proposes.
 |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed** | 92.86% | 0% | 7.14% |
| **Idea 3:** Should AberSU reduce the number of Faculty Officers? | Proposer speech | Zoë Hayne presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * **Xavier P –** asked how it would affect the vote just done.
* **Josh R** – asked how would it affect Senedd positions and how would PG students’ interests be filled if all positions are filled by UG students. Zoe said they would use the Academic Representation network to get feedback. Elizabeth said all full-time officers represent UGs and PGs.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Zoë** **H –** noted it would have limited impact on the number of elected officers in practice as there are rarely more than 3 (out of 6) Faculty Officer positions filled.
* **Bamikole A –** suggested students should be encouraged to take up the posts. Nothing to lose to keep them.
* **Josh R –** the role hasn’t been filled in 5 years; the idea would not make much of a difference.
* **Dylan C –** stated if no one has filled the role, doesn’t mean no one ever will.
* **Alastair W –** suggested the electoral cycle being out-of-sync with the PG application cycle may be one of the causes.
 |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed** | 53.85% | 7.69% | 38.46% |
| **Idea 4:** Should AberSU continue to support trans and gender non-conforming students by providing gender affirming products? | Proposer speech | Rachel Barwise presented the idea to Senedd on Cameron Curry’s behalf. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * **Dylan C –** asked about how to access the gender affirming products. Cameron said to [email/speak to Wellbeing Officer or Head of People and Wellbeing](https://www.abersu.co.uk/changeaber/campaigns/beyondthebinary/).
* **Elena B** – asked what type of packers are used. Cameron noted they were from [Spectrum Outfitters](https://spectrumoutfitters.co.uk/).
* **Rebecca H –** asked why we need this as policy given the initiative already exists. Rachel said it is one of Cameron’s priorities and clarified it is not Union policy.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Aisleen S –** emphasized that the products are safe.
* **Xavier P –** appreciated that the items can be picked up at the SU.
 |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Passed** | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| **Idea 5:** Should the Students’ Union work to end its use of single use plastic? | Proposer speech | Aisleen Sturrock presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * **Josh R –** asked how to mitigate against not being able to use single use plastic cups. Aisleen suggested deposit cups.
* **Alastair W –** asked how it would affect products such as condoms.
* **Josh R –** asked if it would also apply to balloons. Aisleen said SU already have a policy against balloons.
* **Elena B –** asked whether the SU can ensure single use plastics are enabled when essential for Health & Safety.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | * **Zoë** **H –** said it supports the university work and stated single use plastics are not needed at Fresher’s Fair.
 |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Not Quorate by 1 member** | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| **Idea 6:** Should the Union help campaign for the University to take down the statue of King Edward VIII and replace it with someone better? | Proposer speech | Angus-Alastair Walker presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions | * **Josh R –** asked how long it would take to take statue down? Aisleen said it is unknown but believes the university will be OK with doing so.
 |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) |  |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Not Quorate by 1 member** | 92% | 0% | 0% |
| **Idea 7:** Should the Senedd and Students Union reiterate its support and solidarity for all staff members taking industrial action - up to and including strike action - in this, and future, disputes? | Proposer speech | Angus-Alastair Walker presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions |  |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) |  |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Not Quorate by 1 member** | 83.33% | 0% | 16.67% |
| **Idea 8:** Should AberSU enable students to be able to re-open nominations for Volunteer officer positions? | Proposer speech | Aisleen Sturrock presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions | **Rebecca H –** asked about the difference between VONC (vote-of-no-confidence) and RON (re-open nominations).**Josh R –** asked why it cannot be implemented to FTOs. Elena said it would mean someone loses their job. **Alastair W –** asked how to get rid of officers. Aisleen said 250 students would need to sign a petition for VONC. Same would be needed to RON. Alastair raised possibility of constant elections due to low threshold. **Charlotte D –** mentioned that she had experienced abuse when people attempted to VONC her. She asked if someone has been RON’ed, can they run again? Aisleen said she is unsure. A VONC puts an individual on trial, while RON less so. |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) | **Bamikole A –** said it shouldn’t only apply to volunteers. Rebecca said there are legal aspects in employment laws for FTOs.**Rebecca H –** said it provides an alternative to avoid abuse. Although there must be a good reason for RON or VONC. Students should speak to staff or FTOs. |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Not Quorate by 1 member** | 91.67% | 0% | 8.33% |
| **Idea 9:** Should AberSU lobby the University to ensure it keeps to its Plastic Free commitments? | Proposer speech | Aisleen Sturrock presented the idea to Senedd. |  |  |  |
| Questions |  |  |  |  |
| Invitation for additional speakers (for or against) |  |  |  |  |
| Vote | **Not Quorate by 1 member** | 100% | 0% | 0% |
| **Any Other Business** | **Next Senedd**: 2023-24 Academic Year |

**FTO=Full Time Officer**

**VO=Volunteer Officer**

**Sports=Sports Rep**

**Socs=Societies Rep**