



Monday 10th March 2025, 18:00-20:00

ABERYSTWYTH STUDENT'S UNION

BIG MEETING 2025





Agenda:

- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Receive report of trustees
- [Receive the annual accounts.](#)
- Appointment of Auditors: PJE Accountants and Advisors - The Old Convent, - Aber - SY231EY
- Approving the list of affiliations (affiliations for July 2025-2026):
 - NUS UK £17,400, NUS Charity =£4350 - total = £21,750
 - British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) = £6400 (est) plus BUCS transport costs)
 - Advice UK Membership = £280.00
 - Real Living Wage: £150
- Free affiliations or schemes joined:
 - Welsh Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)= don't pay currently
 - HALO
 - Mindful employer
 - Tourettes Friendly Employer and Organisation (Tourette's Action)
- Your Ideas
 - Trustee Term Extension
 - Reducing the Full Time paid elected Officers (also called officer Trustees in the constitution and schedules) to four roles.
 - Trustee Board Chair
 - Wellbeing focused Role
 - Welsh and UMCA Focused Role
- Any Other Business
- Next Senedd Meeting date (30th April 2025- 18:00-20:00 SU Picturehouse)



AGM Role Review and Trustee Term Ideas

Role review:

On the 6th Feb 2025 The Trustee decided on a number of votes to go AGM on:

1. Reducing the full time paid elected Officers (also called Officer Trustees in the constitution and schedules) from five roles to four roles
2. The names of the Welsh/UMCA focused and the Wellbeing focused roles.
3. The Chair of Trustee Board - AGM to vote on how the Chair of Trustee Board will be decided

These decisions follow and consider a consultation exercise with students and key staff which identified the main roles and responsibilities that stakeholders identified as Officer Trustee priorities and consider a full range of relevant factors.

All ideas are presented by Bayanda Vundamina, Union President as Chair of the Trustee Board this will allow for interested Officers to speak in support for or against options if they wish.

Idea 1: Trustee Term extension

From 2026, do you agree with the following change of maximum terms of office for external Trustees from two to three terms? The constitution will change as follows:

60) External Trustees may serve a maximum of 3 terms which may either be consecutive or non-consecutive. A Trustee Board needs assessment must be conducted and considered by the Board of Trustees at the end of each External Trustee term before any consecutive terms are offered.

1. Yes
2. No
3. Abstain

Idea 2: Reducing the full time paid elected Officers (also called Officer Trustees in the constitution and schedules) to four roles.

The Trustee Board first agreed to reduce the number of Officer Trustees as part of a full SU staff and Officer restructure in 2016. This change was to:

- Consider the national average ratio of student numbers to full time Officers (with extra consideration to Welsh language representation. The National average is 1 to every 4000 students and in Aberystwyth five Officers is currently 1 to 1,400 students)
- Consider the recommendations from the National Union of Students (NUS), which suggest having at least five staff members for each officer to provide enough support. Right now, Aberystwyth has about 2.8 staff members for each officer.



The Trustee Board decided to delay changes to the Officer roles after two independent reviews didn't seem suitable for Aberystwyth. However, due to increased financial challenge and the need to use SU resources more effectively—including cutting staff costs by one person in 2024—they believe that having five Officers is no longer practical or necessary for our smaller student population.

The Students' Union ran 13 in depth consultations with specific students and some staff with a range of engagement in Students' Union and student life activity. Participants were asked to consider a range of duties and tasks associated with current paid full time elected officer roles, consider what might be missing and need representation, and to group into themes before choosing 4 to individually prioritise.

The outcomes of all of these sessions and summary of discussions have been considered by the Trustee Board alongside other considerations such as student demographics, student needs insight, the range of committees currently attended, University structures and any other SU duties and requirements. Taking all considerations into account the Trustee Board are asking vote on the following idea

Voting content:

Undeb Aberystwyth should change the Officer Trustees (paid elected Officers) to the following four roles (listed in order of consultation priority) from July 2026 (including amending all relevant parts of the Articles of Association and schedules) - No substantial changes are being proposed to existing role descriptions for the remaining roles:

- Welsh focused role – name to be decided in the next vote
- Llywydd Academic
- Llywydd Opportunities
- Wellbeing focused role – name to be decided in the next vote

1. Yes
2. No
3. Abstain

Idea 3: Trustee Board Chair

Currently the elected President is the de facto Chair of the Trustee Board. If the reduction to Officer Trustees passes, then the role of President will cease to exist on the 1st of July 2026. AGM therefore needs to agree who the Chair of Trustee Board will be from that date.

Considering that:

- 1) The consultation showed that people have different opinions about who should be the Chair of the Trustee Board and there was no clear direction.
- 2) In terms of Undeb governance the Trustee Board is not part of the Students' Union democratic processes. Instead, the Trustees are individually and collectively accountable to the board itself and each other for making decisions in the best interests of the charity.

Trustee Board propose that the Chair should be one of the four Officer Trustees, who will be elected by the whole Trustee Board at the first Trustee Board meeting of year. If agreed



this will amend all relevant parts of the Articles of Association and schedules including:

15.8 Chair and Deputy Chair

15.8.1 The Chair of the Trustees will be an Officer Trustee elected by the Trustee Board. The Chair will positively promote the work and objectives of Undeb Aberystwyth by acting as the spokesperson of the Union to stakeholders and media.

15.8.2 The Trustees shall appoint an external Trustee to be Deputy Chair of the Trustees and may at any time remove them from office. The role of the Deputy Chair will be to support the Chair and performance manage the CEO on behalf of the Trustee Board.

15.8.3 In the absence of the Chair and the Deputy Chair, another Trustee appointed by the Trustees present shall preside as chair of the meeting.

Voting text: The Chair of Undeb Aberystwyth's Trustee Board should be an Officer Trustee, who will be elected by all Trustees at the first Trustee Board meeting of the Officer year (July to June) (including amending all relevant parts of the Articles of Association and schedules).

1. Yes
2. No
3. Abstain

Idea 4: Wellbeing Focused role

Currently the Wellbeing focused role is called the Wellbeing Officer.

Voting content: From July 2026 Should the Wellbeing focused Officer trustee (paid elected Officer) be called (including amending all relevant parts of the Articles of Association and schedules):

1. Llywydd Wellbeing & Liberation
2. Llywydd Wellbeing
3. Abstain

Idea 5: Welsh and UMCA focused role

Currently the Welsh and UMCA focused role is called the Welsh Culture Officer and UMCA President. UMCA is the Welsh Students Union which works as part of Undeb Aberystwyth to represent Welsh language students at the highest University committees, provides a calendar full of activities for Welsh speakers and learners, and works to ensure access to Welsh medium education and opportunities.

Voting content: From July 2026 Should the Welsh and UMCA focused Officer trustee (paid elected Officer) be called (including amending all relevant parts of the Articles of Association and schedules):

1. Llywydd UMCA & Welsh Culture



2. Llywydd UMCA
3. Abstain