

UWTSD Students' Union - Annual General Meeting Minutes

3pm Thursday 26th May 2022

GP – Vanessa Liverpool (Group President & AGM Chairperson)

CCP – Becky Bush (Carmarthen Campus President)

LCP – James Barrow (Lampeter Campus President)

SZ – Samina Zia (Deputy Chairperson)

CJ – Christine Joy (Deputy Chairperson)

Please note - This meeting took place on Microsoft Teams with fluctuating numbers throughout. 50 students were required for Quorum. At various points during the meeting quorum was briefly met, however at the point of each vote being held the meeting did not have the required number of students for quorum. (For reference quorum means the minimum number of members of an assembly or society that must be present at any of its meetings to make the proceedings of that meeting valid).

Item Number	Agenda Item Title	Minutes
1	Welcome and Introductions	<p>GP (Group President) introduced themselves and welcomed all students.</p> <p>GP went through some housekeeping around muting mics etc.</p> <p>GP explained quorum, byelaws and voting. It was noted that the number of attendees was 42 and as such voting would be encouraged, but decisions are not quorate.</p>
2	Apologies	<p>GP stated there were no apologies for AGM.</p> <p>GP talked about the purpose of AGM and what will happen in the meeting. GP thanked students again for their time.</p> <p>Georgi Dimitrov asked when motions deadline was for motions to be submitted to this AGM.</p> <p>GP explained motion deadline was the 11th of May.</p> <p>Georgi asked if they needed to resubmit motion for future AGM.</p>

		<p>GP stated yes.</p> <p>GP passed onto Samina Zia (SZ) as Deputy Chair.</p>
3	Officer Reports	<p>SZ stated that officers were asked to update on their reports.</p> <p>A) Carmarthen Campus President Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SZ passed to Carmarthen Campus President (CCP) to discuss their report. • CCP mentioned work around WiFi issues on Carmarthen campus. CCP would have preferred more feedback than was received. • CCP spoke about the Ground floor space in Carmarthen and that it will be due to be open for Welcome week. Students' opinions were taken on board for the re-development of the space. • CCP launched 'Eat Meet Greet' in order to check in with students on campus to see how everything is going and how the union can better engage with students. • CCP worked with Parent and Carers PTO to create a survey on a space for students who are parent and carers on campus and need a space for their dependents. CCP has had some impactful responses to the survey and seeks

		<p>more opinions from across campuses. However, it was noted that this development is only for Carmarthen campus at present.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCP has worked with the university's Student Services Directorate on Period Dignity. CCP has attended two Period Dignity workshops with Brooke and has also ensured that the SU campuses have free period products available to students. • CCP also provided a weeklong Mental Health Awareness campaign which had blogs and webinars for students to enjoy and ended the week with a cwtchy/cuddly duvet day which was well engaged with. <p>CCP gave their email for all students if they want to contact the president in future.</p> <p>CCP passed back to SZ.</p> <p>SZ asked if students approve the vote to pass Becky's update, as we now have quorum in the call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 votes approved • 2 votes against • 1 vote to abstain
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		<p>Carmarthen Campus President's officer report approved</p> <p>B) Lampeter Campus President Report</p> <p>SZ passed to LCP for officer update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCP stated a lot has been happening in Lampeter. • Increasing accessibility on Lampeter campus: Progress has been made in regards to accessibility as disabled parking has now been provided closer to halls. • Transparency between the University and the students. LCP noted that this has been completed with better communication with students regarding the University. Opportunities have also been made for students to be involved with strategy and planning. • Sustainability work has been ongoing and has been going really well. A project called Canolfan Tir Glas which the Students' Union has been involved in, advocating for local produce and proposing places to plant dozens of trees; this initiative has been creating opportunities for internships in sustainability and catering.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintroduction of opportunities from the Students' Union. The Students' Union has run a number of events; the Old Bar is now open 4 days a week, and the Union is also close to opening Extension shortly. • LCP noted work has been undertaken to engage and support the international students from St Vincent and the Grenadines. LCP noted these students have engaged in Students' Union activity and have also hosted their own events. • The Sinology department has also started to positively engage with the Students' Union. <p>LCP thanked students for listening and passed back to SZ.</p> <p>SZ asked for approvals on vote for James's officer update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 approved. • 0 against update. • 2 abstained from update. <p>Lampeter Campus President's officer report approved</p>
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		<p>SZ passed over to Group President for their update.</p> <p>C) Group President Report</p> <p>GP stated there are three main points on her manifesto tracker.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employability has been something she has been working on. The University has been helping more with CV writing and also inviting guest speakers. GP has also been discussing the possibility of internships in the University. • GP has introduced 'Student Experience Groups' which has allowed more feedback from students from Cardiff, Birmingham, and London. • Regarding diversifying the curriculum, GP has been working with the library to increase the diversity of authors on reading lists. • A major issue GP found in London and Birmingham specifically was students leaving their courses early. GP has reduced this number by ensuring the University are offering Dyslexia screening tests and more study skills workshops. • GP is working on an ongoing project for Black students. GP is eager to hear more about the experiences of students from this community to help support them better during their time at university.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SU has an office based in London and a staff member who travels between London and Birmingham to offer more opportunities and in person support from the SU. • GP mentioned London campus move will be happening and opinions from students on the distance etc. for this campus would be great. • London campus is celebrating 10 years. This year was the first graduation for London. GP noted that Anita, Student Voice Rep, represented the SU at graduations in London. • GP noted that they are part of many working groups and students are welcome to email to talk about those working groups. • To end their report GP also mentioned the successful Black History Month content that went out in October 2021. <p>SZ thanked GP and asked for votes on approving GP's report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 approved. • 1 against.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 abstained. <p>Group President's officer report approved</p> <p>SZ stated any questions on these reports can be asked at the end. SZ passed back to GP.</p>
4	Budget	<p>GP read through the information stated on the Audited Accounts; including surplus funding designations and the deficit of SUSS pension.</p> <p>GP stated if there are any questions on budget, students can get in touch via the main SU email address.</p>
5	Sabbatical Trustee Questions	<p>GP passed over to Christine Joy (CJ) to chair this section.</p> <p>CJ greeted students and explained the types of questions students can ask and to raise their hands if they have any questions. CJ noted any questions not answered during the meeting will be answered via email.</p> <p>Q: Catalin Rusu asked question around exceptions to in-person teaching due to medical condition.</p> <p>A: GP asked Catalin to email them to discuss the issue outside of the meeting.</p> <p>---</p>

		<p>Q: Ivan Georgiev asked about the Group President's involvement in the successful careers fair and if they attended.</p> <p>A: GP stated they were unfortunately unable to attend but noted that the careers fair was a positive opportunity.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Q: Vasil Stoev directed a question to GP about Birmingham job fair and business mentors, and if this event will be happening again in Birmingham. The second question Vasil asked was about creating a Marketplace for students, which was mentioned previously in Birmingham Student Experience Group.</p> <p>A: GP mentioned the careers fair was from the University with her support and not from the SU. GP noted that the opportunity will happen again and that the Dean for Birmingham is positive about more fairs.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Q: Iliya Radichev asked if there is any opportunity to study online. GP stated that the SU senior management and the University have been discussing this and at the moment this is not a possibility.</p> <p>A: GP asked that Iliya sends her an email to discuss this outside of the meeting.</p> <p>---</p>
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		<p>Q: Mercea Manolache had the same question around working online, due to students being concerned about the continuing pandemic.</p> <p>A:GP asked Mercea to email about this matter.</p> <p>---</p> <p>Q: Bode Williams directed question to GP. Bode would like two classes, one physical and one online.</p> <p>A: GP stated to email about this matter.</p> <p>Q: Bode mentioned about the employability issues of students</p> <p>A: GP asked Bode to email about this to resolve separately.</p> <p>---</p> <p>CJ stated we need to now move on due to timings, and asked that any questions missed are sent to the Students' Union to be answered after this meeting.</p> <p>CJ handed back over to GP.</p>
6	Affiliations	<p>GP explained affiliations and stated we now need to vote on these affiliations; also mentioned that if an affiliation is not approved, this will trigger a referendum.</p> <p>A) Vote on BUCS</p> <p>12 approved.</p>

		<p>2 against.</p> <p>14 abstained.</p> <p>BUCS affiliation approved</p> <p>B) Vote on NUS affiliation</p> <p>21 approved.</p> <p>4 against.</p> <p>4 abstained.</p> <p>NUS affiliation approved.</p>
7	AOB	<p>GP stated this brings us to end of the meeting and that the next AGM will be later this year on the 1st of December.</p> <p>GP mentioned staff positions and Trustee positions will be coming out on our website as of next week. So there may be potential jobs for those about to graduate and those still in study.</p>

		GP closed AGM 2021/22 at 16:19pm.
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