**Swansea Union Council Minutes – 01/12/2021.**

**In attendance:**

Vanessa Liverpool (Group President) - VL

Liam Powell (Swansea Campus President) - LP

Becky Bush (Carmarthen Campus President/Chair) - BB

Florinel Biciusca (Student Voice Rep – IMH) - FB

Bryleigh Draycott (Student Engagement Officer) - BD

Andrea Margaret Lee (Sustainability Officer) - AML

Lyndsey Anne Kissick (Postgraduate Students Officer) - LK

**Students’ Union Staff**

Euan Morrison (Student Voice & Advocacy Coordinator) - EM

Rebecca Crane (Student Voice Coordinator) Minutes – RC

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| Agenda | Purpose | Minutes |
| 1. Welcome and Introductions | N/A | BB welcomed everyone and introduced herself as chair.  BB asked each of the students to introduce themselves.  BB then asked all SU staff to introduce themselves. |
| 1. Apologies | Info | 2 apologies from Hannah Thomas (Student Voice rep) and Adrienn Dema (Disabled Students Officer). |
| 1. The Minutes of the Previous Council | Approval | BB asked if students had any comments on previous meeting minutes.  No comments.  BB asked if students could raise their hands to vote on whether they were happy with the previous minutes.  Result:  For: 4  Against: 0  Abstain:0  Majority vote approves previous minutes. |
| 1. Actions of the Previous Council | To Consider | BB read through the previous actions.  BB asked if anyone could speak for these actions.  LP stated mindfulness sessions have taken place.  LP confirmed that RC and Jenny spoke, and Jenny led one of the networks for their last year of university.  LP said that unfortunately as he wasn’t in power last year, that there is no update on rent strike.  LP and EM did not know what has happened with the last action regarding Carwyn.  **Action: LP to find out what happened around Carwyn and hitting maximum engagement.** |
| 1. Chairperson's Update | Info | VL updated students on Black History Month, her BAME mental health campaign and also encouraged students to take part in the Liberation networks as well as SU events that are happening currently. |
| 1. Discussion Item - Terms of Reference   [View Council Byelaws](https://www.uwtsdunion.co.uk/bye-laws#Campus%20Student%20Council) | To Consider | BB asked if anyone had comments or questions about the byelaws.  No comments or questions. |
| 1. Discussion Item – Nominate Union Council Representatives | Approval | LP explained what Union council is and how it affects students and the university. He told students what would be expected of them if they were to go for a seat on the Council.  LP mentioned previous campaigns that came out of Union council such as a ‘Period Poverty Campaign.’ He explained that students can really utilise council to push for what students want.  AL asked LP about transport for meetings. LP stated they are likely to be online only due to Covid-19.  BD asked about finding out more in their PTO 1-2-1.  LP said in response to BD that we need people to nominate themselves now.  LP asked that if anyone is interested in Union council they should volunteer now.  AL nominated themselves for Union Council.  BB asked to vote on AL going to Union Council.  Result:  For: 5  Against: 0  Abstain:0  BB stated unanimous approval for AL to attend Union Council. |
| 1. Discussion Item – QAA Student Written Submission. | To Consider | BB asked if anyone would like to speak on this.  LP explained what QAA is and why It is important. He explained how it is being submitted to the university and that the QAA inspection team may come to talk to students in person.  LP spoke of a few highlights from the QAA report:   * Griffith Library repurposing this space. * Graduate attribute modules.   LP asked that students get in touch to get involved with ideas in the QAA document.  LP asked if students had any questions.  BD said they will advise other arts students about the Griffith library. |
| 1. Campus President Manifesto   [View Manifesto Tracker](https://www.uwtsdunion.co.uk/liam) | Approval | BB asked LP to speak on his manifesto.  LP stated he would like students to be honest and hold him accountable if they don’t think he has done his job properly so far.  Extenuating circumstances:  LP spoke about reviewing extenuating circumstances. LP has negotiated with the university to continue allowing students to self-certify after the pandemic. LP advised this will be reviewed at Senedd. LP advised that self-certification can only be used once a term.  Fighting for non-tradition students:  LP stated that 70% of our students are mature and over 25, which makes them a non-traditional student.  LP has been working with the international students to set up an event to meet other students and have a sense of community. LP wanted this to happen before Christmas, but did not get round to this as quickly as he would have liked. LP said he hopes to have an event in the new year, and wants to keep working to create space on Swansea campus for international students to spend time together.  AL asked if there could be a forum created for international students. LP agreed this could happen after the event.  FB thinks this idea will be brilliant and agrees with AL on having a forum in the future.  LP said he wants to do more for international students and speak with the university to improve this from their side and in the SU.  LP updated regarding student parents and carers. LP mentioned he worked with front line workers during the pandemic and a lot of them were parents and carers; this experience gave him an idea of what it may be like for our students who are also parents and carers.  LP’s last update mentioned that cafeteria prices are unlikely to change as they are already lower than other competitors. However, they will look to get more options hopefully for Vegans/Vegetarians etc.  BB asked students to vote on whether they approved LP’s manifesto.  Result:  For: 4  Against: 0  Abstain: 0  BB stated vote is unanimous approval. |
| 1. Part Time Officer Update | Info | BB asked for each PTO to update.  BD said they did not write a manifesto, but they plan to engage with students on social media and also run a quiz to get students to understand what the students’ union is.  AL wants to encourage students to recycle books, food and clothes to become more sustainable.  BB asked everyone to take a 5-minute break. |
| 1. To make Gender Identity Officer include Intersex Students by Jennifer Sargisson | Approval | BB checked that everyone was back.  BB read idea to students.  LP explained the definition of intersex.  BB explained intersex students are sometimes left out of the LGBT+ community and this idea is for more inclusiveness.  BB asked them to vote on whether they approve this idea.  Result:  For: 4  Against:0  Abstain:0  BB stated majority approved this idea. |
| 1. To update the LGBT+ officers (open & women) to be display Queer in it title by Jennifer Sargisson | Approval | BB read out idea and asked students to vote on whether they approve this idea.  Result:  For: 5  Against: 0  Abstain:0  BB stated vote is unanimously approved. |
| 1. Opt in/out system for physical/printed Lecture Handouts by Tamara Bowie | Approval | BB read out idea and asked students to vote on whether they approve this idea.  FB thinks handouts are better, and the university does not waste as much as corporations like McDonalds.  LP agreed McDonalds is probably wasting a lot, but they are much bigger than our university. He also explained the opt in/opt out system and how this gives students choice.  BD said most paper handouts end up being lost and misplaced. Or “left under the bed”.  Result:  For: 5  Against:  Abstain:  BB stated vote unanimously approved. |
| 1. To update the pregnancy policy to be more inclusive to trans-men and non-binary student by Jennifer Sargisson | Approval | LP discussed this idea.  BB asked students to vote.  Result:  For: 5  Against:  Abstain:  BB stated vote unanimously approved. |
| 1. Softwear support by Isabella Poh | Approval | BB read out the idea and ask if someone would speak about this idea.  LP stated this is something the university already provide, and they have spent a lot of money on digital resources. They just haven’t advertised them very well.  LP proposed an amendment to lobby the university to improve communication on digital learning recourses and ensure those recourses are available to all students.  EM explained how an amendment works and how students vote on this and the original idea.  BB asked if anyone has any questions on the proposed amendment. She then asked if everyone could vote on this amendment.  Result:  For: 5  Against: 0  Abstain:0  BB stated that the idea with the amendment has been unanimously voted to Council. |
| 1. President Manifesto Timeline by Anonymous | Approval | EM discussed the idea and explained how the SU has changed how they present manifesto ideas progress since this idea was submitted.  LP asked to clarify that if they don’t believe this is relevant anymore, do they vote against?  EM stated yes to clarify LP’s question.  LP discussed how he did not agree with this idea.  BB asked students to vote on this idea.  Result:  For: 0  Against: 4  Abstain:  BB stated that the vote is unanimously against this idea. |
| 1. Introduction of \*NEW\* Part-Time Officer Role by Anonymous | Approval | BB read the idea.  LP explained that honestly the SU is struggling to get PTOs into positions as it is, and to take part when they are in those positions. With the lack of engagement LP does not feel adding more PTOs would be helpful until the problem with engagement is sorted.  BD suggested maybe this idea would be better as a society rather than having a PTO.  LP mentioned the different religious societies that already exist within UWTSD. He thinks that this role would put a lot of pressure on one person as there is a lot that would need to be covered.  BD agreed with what LP said.  BB thanked everyone for this discussion and asked students to vote.  Result:  For:0  Against:5  Abstain:0  BB stated that the votes are unanimously against this idea.  LP stated that even though the vote is against, there is room for the SU to do more to support religious groups. |
| 1. Union Organising by Anonymous | Approval | BB read idea and asked if anyone would like to discuss this idea.  EM explained that this idea was based on an issue that a student brought up with the SU, and then decided to put to Big Ideas, as they weren’t happy about something.  LP feels that this idea isn’t really an idea and doesn’t ask for anything.  BB asked students to vote on this idea.  Result:  For: 0  Against: 2  Abstain: 3  BB stated that this idea has not been approved. |
| 1. The need of reduction in transportation system for all students   by Anonymous | Approval | BB read out the idea and explained that this idea isn’t very clear.  BD asked is this to reduce the cost of transport.  LP said he agrees with BD that it may be about reducing cost but said we cannot assume this.  BD asked about bursaries for travel fees.  LP explained this already exists.  BB clarified that when an idea is rejected the student who submitted the idea will be messaged to explain it, and that they could re-submit their idea more clearly.  BB asked students to vote.  Result:  For:0  Against:3  Abstain:2  BB states idea not approved. |
| 1. Any Other Business | To Consider | BB asked if anyone has any other business.  LP asked BD if they have heard anything about the Griffith Library plans.  BD stated no but would email LP if they hear anything.  BD asked if they should talk to other students about the focus groups on Griffith Library.  LP stated that student voice is extremely important and that they want this decision to come from students and not from anywhere else. |
| 1. Closing Remarks   Date of Next Council:  10/02/2022 | Info | BB thanked everyone for coming.  BB reminded students of PTO 1-2-1s.  LP mentioned he has emailed all students and said for them to get in touch.  BB then stated next council date and closed the meeting. |