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| Sabbatical Officer Name: | Angie Flores Acuña |
| Sabbatical Officer Role: | SU President |

**Section 1: Sabbatical Officer Report**

*This section is to be completed by the Sabbatical Officer prior to the accountability session.*

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| **General Report** *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this report is aimed at providing insight into their work/activity since the last accountability session or the start of their term in office)* |
| **March** | * Elections - During the first week of March, I supported the Elections by encouraging people to vote
	+ I did not endorse any candidates throughout the week to ensure I could use my influence to ask students to read manifestos and make an informed choice
	+ I did outreach throughout the week and talked to hundreds of students
	+ I sent an email to all students, with a total of 9,838 students opening it
* Undergraduate Tuition Fee cap increase
	+ After the announcement of the tuition fee cap increase made by the Welsh Government, I spoke against the increase of tuition fees at Cardiff University in multiple University committees
* Relationship with the Vice Chancellor and the University
	+ We found difficulties in running the Y Sgwrs Fawr (The Big Conversation), however the VC committed to host two ‘In conversation’ sessions with the students every year (one in each term). This commitment to the Students’ Union will be included in the review of the Student Agreement and will therefore be a recurrent event in the following years.
	+ Currently, the VC only meets with the SU President. After conversations regarding the relationship between the University and the Students’ Union, the VC committed to meet with the Sabbatical Officer team once a term.
* Culture Cwtch
	+ Stepped in and organised the food for the cultural event where we fed more than 50 students
* NUS Wales Conference (Day 1)
	+ Ensured that the student delegates felt comfortable during the conference and encourage them to make contributions.
	+ Led group discussions on day 1 as I had to come back and did not attend Day 2 due to the clash with the Wales Summit of the future.
* Wales Summit of the Future
	+ I secured our attendance to the [Future Generations Commissioner for Wales](https://www.futuregenerations.wales/)
	+ During this meeting we discussed and shaped a ‘Pact for the future’ in groups. I delivered the resolves of our group which will be included in the pact that will be presented in New York in the next United Nations Assembly
* Cardiff Life Awards
	+ Represented the Students’ Union and networked with stakeholders from other organisations such as Women’s Aid
* Launched the ‘Tackling Sexual Violence in Campus SU Working Group’
	+ Two meetings have taken place where Elected Officers and students can discuss the resolves of the AGM motion
	+ Resolves achievements are described in the Policy section
* Funding for Clinical Placement medical students
	+ Many medical students are not entitled to placement travel reimbursement, whilst Healthcare students (Nursing, Midwifery, …) have access to refunds
	+ Currently working with MedSoc and BMA (British Medical Association) to ensure Medical students are aware of their reimbursement opportunities
	+ Lobbying the university to open more platforms to access transport to placement reimbursement
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| **April** | * Welsh SUs tour
	+ Travelled to Aberystwyth and Bangor together with Deio, Madison and Catrin to learn more about the Welsh context of those unions and gain more understanding from our Welsh context
	+ This tour was important to understand the importance of the Welsh culture and therefore championing it throughout my last two months in post
	+ I will be championing for this tour to happen in the future as part of the induction of the SU President Elect
* Supported and promoted the Enriching Student Life Awards
* NUS UK conference
	+ Supporting student delegates
	+ Lobbied Russell Group SUs to support the reform policy
* Trustee interviews
	+ Supported with student and trustee interviews for our Board of Trustees
* Feed your Flat
	+ Organised the Cathays event where we engaged with 141 students
	+ Heath Park event happening on Monday 29th
* What Uni Student Choice Awards
	+ Attending on 24th April on behalf of the Students’ Union
* Russell Group Students’ Union residential
	+ Going to Southampton to tackle general student issues and network. I will be presenting our work done with the campaigning group Time to Act and pitch the importance of collaborating with the campaigns in our campuses.
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| **Manifesto Update** *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section is aimed at tracking their progress against manifesto commitments made by them during their successful officer election)* |
| **STRIKES** | **Safety net** | Worked with the University to ensure that students receive as many marks as they could and their certificates. This was not totally ideal as students received missing marks and incomplete transcripts, however it was the best solution at the time as UCEA and UCU did not find resolution for the Marking and Assessment boycott.Almost all marks were received by students by the end of October. Lobbied the University to introduce a cover letter for the transcripts that included missing marks or ‘PASS’ awards to ensure future employers are aware that of these being consequence of the Marking and Assessment Boycott.This would help students in a job market when competing with students that were not affected by the Marking and Assessment Boycott. |
| **Student refunds** | Lobbied the university to provide student refunds and organised within the Students’ Union to encourage students to submit a complaint.I have been supporting individual students with the their non responded complaints. |
| **COST OF LIVING** | **Financial support for bills** | Not started |
| **Affordable transport Heath-Cathays** | Not started |
| **Free Circuit Laundry** | Lobbied the university for more affordable laundry services in future residences plan.Contacted other unions to study how they achieved this. |
| **Free breakfast items in the SU Kitchen** | Free hot drinks items funding recently confirmed.Breakfasts items would not be feasible to be provided in the SU Kitchen but we will bring back Revision Aid Breakfasts stalls in May and June (Cathays and Heath). |
| **Free period products across campus** | Currently supporting period dignity campaign in collaboration with other officers and Student Voice and Advice to talk about the importance of having period products available and accessible in campus.Meeting scheduled with Estates in University to follow up the request put through the Student View last year which called for period products.Next step is adding more period products dispensers in the Students’ Union. |
| **SUSTAINABILITY** | **Push for a cleaner Cathays (bins and rats!)** | Met with the Cathays councillors to urge them to look for an alternative to plastic bags for bin collectionsMadison is taking the lead on physically cleaning Cathays |
| **Rooftop garden in the SU** | Not feasible due to budget but will update if changes happen |
| **STUDENT COMMUNITY** | **More empathetic Extenuating Circumstances procedure** | Not started |
| **Improve student housing conditions** | Reconnected with Citizens Cymru to identify the steps to achieve this.Organised a training with Citizens and the Sabbatical Officer team.  |
| **Secure more spaces for student groups across campus** | Not started |
| **Promote Welsh language and culture** | Establishing connections with the Urdd was essential in my understanding of the Welsh language, the Welsh context and the empowerment that comes with celebrating the language and culture.A lot of learning has also come from working with Deio and the Sabb team, which has now collectively decide to not only champion for Welsh language use in our day to day with students and the university but also in the union.At a personal level, and by being the only Sabbatical Officer who meets regularly with the Vice Chancellor, I ensured that Deio, VP Cymraeg, was being contacted to shape the ‘future of our university’ in the Welsh context. In the same way, I appointed Deio to be part of Council, the higher governing body in the university, to urge the university to be a Welsh University and not a University in Welsh.I also facilitated Deio with an opportunity to introduce a Welsh section in the papers presented to the University for the first time in our history. |
| **Microwaves and hot water dispensers in all building** | Initial meeting with Libraries was established and feasibility is being studied. |
| **Open the CSL 24/7 for students to study in throughout the week** | Not to be carried through due to not sufficient demand. |
| **Secure a new library that caters to the needs of all students** | Participated in the consultation of the new library creation and ensured spaces for all students. |
| **Policy Update** *(Written by the Sabbatical Officer this section report is aimed at tracking their progress against any relevant policy passed by Student Senate or AGM)*  |
| **Cardiff University Students’ Union and Graduation 2023** | 1. This motion resolves that Cardiff Students’ Union will not send Sabbatical Trustees, Campaigns Officers, or any representatives of past, present, or incoming to attend or represent the Students’ Union at Graduation 2023, in the case that UCU takes industrial action in the week of Graduation 2023. This includes making speeches at graduation ceremonies, attending Cardiff Universitygraduation dinners, or related activities.2. This motion resolves that Cardiff Students’ Union makes a public statement condemning Cardiff University’s choice to deduct 50-100% of pay from staff participating in the MAB, ASOS, or similar industrial**Complete** |
| **Change the way we talk about ethnicity** | 1. Cardiff SU will permanently change the title of the role of Black and Ethnic Minority – **Complete**2. Cardiff SU will work with the current Black and Ethnic Minority Officer as well as future Anti-racism Officers to create a guidance on communicating about ethnicities and racism, which will be circulated to its staff members, trustees, as well as student societies andstudent leaders. This work will involve consultation with the student body and review of best practice adopted by other organisations, such as the UK and Welsh governments – **Had an initial meeting with the new Anti-Racism Officer and will look into completing this by the end of this year**3. Cardiff SU officers will lobby Cardiff University to also adopt best practice in communicating about ethnicities and racism, steering away from the use of the BME and BAME umbrella terms, as well as the terminology of “political Blackness” – **In progress** |
| **Tackling Sexual Harassment on Campus: Time to Act** | **I would like to preface this point by stating that the following policy work was the result of the teamwork of the Sabbatical Officer team.**1. The Students’ Union must support initiatives to prevent sexual violence from happening on campus by working with organisations such as Empowered Campus to change the culture that has perpetuated gender-based violence across campus. **– In Progress (Through the SU Working Group)**2. The Students’ Union must also hold thorough and inclusive consultations with students about what they would like to see from the student union to promote a safe campus for all. These consultations must be accessible and inclusive, ensuring that marginalised students could engage with them and have their say in this matter. They should also commit to organising and promoting educational workshops on topics such as consent, understanding types of abuse, and gender-based violence. **– In Progress (through the SU Working Group)**3. The Students’ Union must commit to collecting and monitoring data on the prevalence of sexual misconduct, following on from the findings of the [Tab article](https://thetab.com/uk/cardiff/2021/03/13/its-painfully-normalised-cardiff-students-discuss-experiences-of-sexual-assault-57310) as noted above – We are Lobbying the University to monitor the data4. The Students’ Union must commit to lobbying Cardiff University to:* Adopt a progressive definition of sexual assault through annual student consultation and with reference to the Sexual Offences Act 2003, **- Complete**
* Make updated definitions easily accessible on both the intranet and sims **- Complete**
* Amend accommodation contracts to remove perpetrators from university halls of residence. This policy should align the interests of the victim with university policy making to ensure a successful adjustment to accommodation contracts. Within this amendment, give victims the option to move residency while going through an investigatory process. **– Work in progress, but this is the current update: the perpetrator cannot be removed due to the Wales Renters Act. However, residences will now be thorough with investigation when a report has been made.** **Next year, for the first time, University will be asking students if they have criminal convictions when applying for accommodation.**
* Adopt and enforce a clear policy which bans University staff initiating or developing close personal or intimate relationships with students where the member of staff holds a position of authority or responsibility over that student. Where both an academic and personal relationship exists, the member of staff must inform the University, so that alternative arrangements can be made to prevent any potential abuse of authority. **– Complete (Read here the new** [**Personal Relationship Policy**](https://intranet.cardiff.ac.uk/students/documents/2790311-personal-relationships-policy)**)**
* The Students’ Union must also lobby for a safe and effective method for students in/students aware of inappropriate staff/student relationships to disclose/report without fear of repercussion. **– Complete (Included in the Personal Relationship Policy)**
* The Students’ Union and student groups will work with the University to produce clear guidelines which may frequently be reviewed and made publicly accessible. **– In Progress**
* Conduct a student-led review into the disclosure response team following on from the ideas set up by Emily Carr, SU’s Women’s Officer (2022/23) **– In Progress (Work started with the Working Group and Time to Act)**
* Ensure that cases of harassment and discrimination are thoroughly investigated and ensure just outcomes for the victim, including criminal convictions, and permanent expulsions. **– In Progress (Secured in accommodations, need to do further investigation)**
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| Chair of the Accountability Session: | Zohaib Tahir |
| Vice Chair of the Accountability Session: | Harshdeep Kaur |
| Additional Members of the Accountability Session: |  |
| Date of the Accountability Session: | 30/04/2024 |

**Section 2: Accountability Session**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members prior to speaking to the Sabbatical Officer. This section should then be used to aid discussion with the Sabbatical Officer and information added where relevant.*

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| **Areas Working Well** *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think is working well and what they believe the Sabbatical Officer should keep doing)**Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what is working well.*  |
| * Been looking into student refunds – Particularly good
* Done a lot of great things – Gone beyond manifesto points
* Really happy with tuition fee cap for undergrads
* Tackling sexual violence campaign
* Relationship with VC
* Student refunds
* Done a lot of things to support students financially e.g. free breakfasts

Angie* Think I’ve done everything I could in the time I had
 |
| **Areas For Improvement** *(Written by the accountability session members this section should detail areas the members think could do with additional focus).* *Note for the accountability session members: Don’t forget to ask the Sabbatical Officer their opinion on what could be improved.* |
| * More help with cost of living – Only one ticked in green – More groundwork could have been laid to tackle this for students – Wish student refunds had been coupled with cost of living
* Interested to hear why not completed (Transport from Cathays to Heath) - Concern
* Financial support for bills
* Student communities – Hasn’t been any work done on the extenuating circumstances procedure/securing more spaces for student groups – At least extenuating circumstances should have been touched on
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| **Accountability Session Questions** *(Written by the accountability session members this section should outline the key questions the session have for the Sabbatical Officer, a notes of the answers should then be provided in the next box).*  |
| **Q1.** Cost of Living – Why have some things not been started e.g. Financial support for bills, Transport from Cathays to Heath – Why not completed? | **A1.** When put in manifesto, thought we could get HEFCW funding – Told not possible – In SU, did not have capacity to establish a fund/get a form for people to apply/the people to get to carry it out. Would put to university but not in their priorities. Transport – Wanted to work with Council but have ended up working on lots of other unexpected things throughout the year. Previous conversation on extending Cathays train station to other places – Will be happening again in Autumn. Could improve transport. Something could have been done there but have not had time. Circuit laundry – Have talked to university but found a lot of barriers, would rather prioritise other things I know I can win. |
| **Q2.** Can we extend communication with University Executive Board to other groups: minority groups, anti-racism groups, religious groups? | **A2.** Agree with that. Recent meeting – Asked PVC for Education to champion student voice. Tackling Sexual Violence Group – Good start. Cultural change to be made. Could use the associations to do that? Will facilitate conversations with Student Voice/university |
| **Q3.** Could we have some sort of university committee with students from different backgrounds on? | **A3.** Would depend, don’t see it as very feasible. Students currently represented by Sabbatical and Campaign Officers. Feed back as representatives. Something else like workshops would work, not a committee – But do think there is value in having the university talking to students |
| **Q4.** Extenuating circumstances | **A4.** Had no physical time |

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| **Does the accountability session wish to consider any of the following notices?***If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.*  |
| **Motion of Censure** *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices. Note: When motions of Censure are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the censure.*  | No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement** *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments. Note: When notices of Requires Improvement are considered the elected officer shall be provided with at least 48 hours-notice in order to be able to provide a fair and accurate response to the reasons for the notice.* | No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction** *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee. Note: Prior warning for a Notice of Satisfaction is not required.*  | Yes |

**Section 3: Accountability Session Outcomes**

*This section is to be completed by the accountability session members following their meeting*

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| Is the session satisfied with the discussion held with the Sabbatical Officer? | Yes |
| If the answer to the above question is **no** please provide additional details below. |
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| Is there anything the session wishes to make Student Senate aware of as a result of the meeting? | No  |
| If the answer to the above question is **yes** please provide additional details below. |
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| **Following consideration did the accountability session apply any of the following motions or notices?** *If Yes, please provide details of the reasons for such motion or notice in the box provided.* |
| **Motion of Censure** *Motions of Censure shall be considered when the committee believes the elected officer has committed a serious offence against their office or democratic responsibilities as outlined in the bye-law appendices.*  | No |
| **Notice of Requires Improvement** *Notices of Requires Improvement shall be considered when the committee is dissatisfied in an elected officers work or conduct in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto commitments.*  | No |
| **Notice of Satisfaction** *Notices of Satisfaction shall be considered when the committee wishes to formally recognise an elected officer for outstanding work in relation to their role, responsibilities and manifesto committee.*  | Yes |