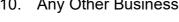


ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cardiff University Students' Union Thursday 21st November 2024 – 18:00 The Great Hall

Agenda

	1.	Welcome	
Past	2.	Minutes from AGM November 2023	(P2)
	3.	Annual Report 23/24	(P21)
	4.	Financial Report 23/24	(P22)
Present	5.	Affiliations	(P26)
	6.	Open Questions to the Trustees	
Future	7.	A Resolution to Approve Proposed Changes to Cardiff Students' Union's Memorandum & Articles of Association	(P27)
	8.	Tabled Motions	
		A) Lapsing Policy	(P30)
		 B) Submitted Motions i) Securing Justice: A Renewed Call to End Sexual Violence ii) Oppose Cuts to Teaching Opportunities for PhD Students iii) Protect our freedom to express solidarity with Palestine iv) Protecting Students' Right to Parking Permits in Cardiff 	(P31) (P35) (P37) (P40)
	9.	Notice of Elections	(P42)
	10	Any Other Business	





ITEM TWO

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Cardiff University Students' Union Thursday 23rd November 2023 – 18:00 The Great Hall

Minutes

1.	Welcome
	Rebecca Hardy (Chair) welcomed all attendees and outlined the way business
	was to be conducted over the meeting.
2.	Minutes from AGM 2022
	The Chair (RH) went through the minutes page by page and invited attendees to
	make their way to the info point to flag any errors.
	Minutes from the 2022 AGM were confirmed as a true record and approved.
3.	Annual Report 22/23
	Angie Flores Acuña (SU President) presented the SU Annual Report 22/23.
	AFA highlighted work undertaken in 2021-2022 within the Students' Union (SU) to
	support students with a wide variety of campaigns including a campaign which
	was run to support students with the cost-of-living crisis. AFA noted the work that
	the SU had completed to create more student spaces, specifically mentioning the
	new balcony space opened in the Cathay's building and the new IV Lounge
	common room created at the Heath Park Campus.



	AFA spoke about the other work completed to improve student spaces by
	highlighting the successful lobbying of the university in extending the opening
	hours of the Centre for Student Life building.
	The report concluded with AFA stating that the SU had more unique students
	engaging with the organisation than ever before. AFA noted that the impact report
	and a video sharing students' stories about the positive impact the SU has had on
	their lives was available on the website.
4.	Financial Report 22/23
	Daniel Palmer Chief executive officer (DP), presented the Financial Report 22/23
	and audited financial statements of the group and Union.
	DP began the report by providing a brief overview on how the organisation is run,
	noting that it is a student-led, independent from the university and a registered
	charity. DP highlighted that any funds that are accumulated by the SU are then
	spent on students and SU activity. DP noted that there are over 100 career staff
	and over 300 student staff members who work for the organisation.
	DP spoke about the SU's income which exceeds 12.5 million pounds a year
	making the organisation the second biggest SU in the United Kingdom. Further to
	this, the SU's three biggest sources of income for the year were the over 3 million
	pound block grant from the University, 9 million pounds in trading income from
	services such as bars shops and special grants from the university and
	government.



DP showed the income statement and outlined that the overall income only rose slightly from the previous year. The income profile was different with the SU receiving less special grants from the University, however there was an increase in the SU's commercial and charitable activities income. DP highlighted the increase in Venues income, Lettings income and Jobshop Service. The SU also received a special grant from the university based on funds they received from the Welsh Government to provide additional welfare activities. Despite the good income growth, the SU still made a net loss of £641,000 which was down to two reasons. Firstly, the special grant which was received in 2021/2022 from the university was used to re-develop the balcony space and reception. Secondly, an additional sum was added to the SU's long-term pension liability after a revaluation of how much the SU will need to pay in future years to meet obligations. The SU is satisfied that once you remove these exceptional items the union remains on a sound and sustainable footing going forward and can raise enough funds to meet our expenditure.

DP next spoke about the performance of the SU in terms of its worth which has moved from 9.8 million to 9.2 million. The SU's worth is dominated by two factors the value of the SU building which makes up the vast majority of fixed assets and the large pension liability worth roughly 5 million that the organisation is obligated to pay over the next 15 years or so. The SU has identified that there is a need to raise 300,000 pounds a year to fund pension liability, rising about 50,000 a year in



the 2030s.

	DP continued by explaining that the SU holds free reserves of roughly 1.7 million
	which is up by 1.5 million last year. Looking ahead the SU has budgeted to make
	a loss this year of £100,000 due to high inflation, as well as pay increases for staff.
	The SU is currently on track to achieve the budget this year, however there is a
	concern about cost-of-living particularly for student members. Inflation continues to
	rise quicker than the SU's income and these challenges are expected to continue
	for the foreseeable future.
	DP shared some new big projects coming up with focus on areas of sustainability
	and accessibility. The SU has commissioned a report into the feasibility of
	installing a second passenger lift in the SU and expect to put a business case to
	the university asking for \pounds 500,000 to complete this. The SU is also progressing
	with a solar array on the roof; however, this has been delayed by the discovery of
	RAAC concrete in the fourth-floor roof. The work will resume once the issue of
	RAAC concrete on the roof has been resolved. The report concluded.
5.	AFA entered the stage and introduced the impact report video. Affiliations
0.	RH explained the SU affiliations to NUS and BUCS and provided members with
	the opportunity to debate the affilations.
	No members opted to debate the BUCS affiliation. RH moved to a vote on BUCS
	affiliaation.
	BUCS affiliation approved.



	Members opted to debate the NUS affiliation.
	AFA spoke for the NUS affiliation for up to 4 minutes.
	Penny Dingh (PD) spoke against the NUS affiliation for up to 4 minutes.
	Deio Owen (DO) spoke for the NUS affiliation for up to 4 minutes.
	Jack Morewood (JM) spoke against the NUS affiliation for up to 4 minutes.
	The chair RH invited members to vote on the affiliation to NUS.
	NUS affiliations approved.
6.	Open Questions to the Trustees
	RH explained the procedures for questions to trustees. RH read the first three
	questions:
	1. "What is the status of the police engagement Task and Finish group and if
	the draft report is not ready why?
	Response from the Trustees:
	Noah Russell VP Undergraduate (NR) gave a brief reminder of the Cops Off
	Noah Russell VP Undergraduate (NR) gave a brief reminder of the Cops Off
	Noah Russell VP Undergraduate (NR) gave a brief reminder of the Cops Off Campus motion which passed at AGM in 2022.This resulted in the Task and
	Noah Russell VP Undergraduate (NR) gave a brief reminder of the Cops Off Campus motion which passed at AGM in 2022.This resulted in the Task and Finish (T&F) group which was purposed with the reassessment of the SU's



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the building operations going forward.

2. What is happening with the lift situation at the SU with the lift being consistently out of order, accessibility is severely hampered?

Response from the Trustees:

Madison Hutchinson VP Societies & Volunteering (MH) explained that installing a second passenger lift is a top priority of the SU with plans to fix the current passenger lift in the winter break. The SU did have the option to complete these reparations during term-time, however this would require a minimum of 5 weeks of the lift being out of service. With the University's lifts also being down in the Centre for Student Life building, and the large footfall within the building, the winter break was selected as the most suitable time to complete repairs. The SU has established a lift accessibility tracker on the SU website which will enable students to check whether the lift is in operation or not. MH apologised on behalf of the SU for any inconvenience that this has caused.

3. Many students, especially my fellow postgrads, find it difficult to engage with the SU's democracy structure and to be informed of updates on polices, implementation, minutes of meetings such as Senate and Scrutiny committee have not been regularly published. What is being done to make sure SU democracy is accessible to all students and not just a handful of elected student leaders?

Response from the Trustees:



Micaela Panes VP Postgraduate (MP) shared that the SU are always looking to imrove the accessibility of their democratic processes, an example of this being that the AGM is being livestreamed for the first time this year. The SU has also focused on getting more students to engage in the proxy voter process if they cannot attend the AGM. MP shared hopes of students being able to engage online at next year's AGM based on a motion that had recently passed through Student Senate. MP noted that the SU has had record engagement from Postgraduate students that year, specifically highlighting that more students have stood for the Postgraduate Executive Committee positions than any other position in the elections. MP invited students to speak to the Trustees or the Student Voice team to make these with any feedback that they might have as the SU wants to make these processes as accessible as possible.

4. What has the SU done to engage with Postgrads this year?

Response from the Trustees:

MP shared that she had already addressed much of this question in her response to question three. MP highlighted the work the SU has done to include Postgrad students, mentioning the work that VP Societies & Sport have done by including a Postgraduate student member in their tiering systems. MP shared that Postgraduate engagement is one of her top priorities for the year ahead and invited students to contact her with any suggestions that they may have.

5. What has the Sabbatical Officer team done so far for international students



this year?

Response from the Trustees:

NR explained that the university is taking advantage of international students, and the Welsh government are taking steps to resolve this issue. NR noted that they are advocating for international students when they meet with the university. NR further highlighted the struggles of international students due to the housing crisis in Cardiff. NR resolved that in each meeting they are in they are pushing for these issues to be resolved; they have also been working with a variety of university teams such as University Residences and external organisations such as Cardiff council to ensure that these issues are tackled. NR finally noted that there are a variety of SU campaigns running which are inclusive of international students.

6. A lot of students studying at the Heath Park Campus feel disconnected from the SU, Student Advice, Love Cardiff, nothing is available easily for us what are you doing to bridge this gap?

Response from the Trustees:

Alex Meers VP Heath Park (AM) responded by explaining that the SU tries to replicate as much activity as possible at the Heath Park Campus by doing various pop-ups, however he noted that there is always more that can be done. AM shared that he plans of doing research in the following semester to understand what activity and the amount of that activity that students would like to see at the Heath. AM stated this he now works from the Heath to be more accessible to



students and various SU campaigns are being run at the Heath. AM invited students to provide any suggestions so that he can include this in the work being done.

7. The mental health of students should be one if not the most important concerns of the SU, with this in mind why are mental health services made to feel so impersonal but relying on online interactions instead of giving us the space to speak with others who can help us?

Response from the Trustees:

Deio Owen VP Cymraeg (DO) responded that due to a restructuring of the Sabbatical Officer team, the responsibility of VP Welfare has now been spread across the team. DO highlighted the student groups such as Student Minds which are some examples of how students are supporting students. There is a winter wellbeing campaign running and DO reminded students of the event which was set to take place soon. DO spoke about using these feedback mechanisms with students to allow the team to raise issues of mental health with the university.

8. Is there anything being done about the excessively large queues that start ridiculously early for YOLO, also why has the silent disco been discontinued on Wednesdays, YPLAS is dangerously full-on Wednesday night as a result?

Response from the Trustees:

MH shared the sentiment of the SU being proud of how many students wanted to



engage with the SU club night YOLO. MH highlighted that student safety is one of the SU's fundamental priorities. MH shared that the SU actively encourages students to show up to YOLO later every week, however the SU will open the doors before safety becomes a concern. The SU are trying different options for the Wednesday nights including having a separate silent disco. MH welcomed student feedback for the events.

9. Is there a plan to improve sports facilities within the university for sports outside of football, rugby, netball and hockey such as swimming pools for sports societies like triathlon, swimming and water polo?

Response from the Trustees:

Georgia Spry VP Sports & AU President (GS) provided context on the SU's independence as an organisation from the University, highlighting that the sporting facilities are within the university as an organisation. The SU pays a sum to Cardiff University Sports to enable the SU to use these facilities. GS mentioned that this can create issues in terms of having more time within these spaces but also with creating new facilities as these need to be lobbied for. GS shared that lobbying the university for more spaces is one of her top priorities and invited students to share any feedback as more collective voices can help to bring about change.

10. What is the SU doing to put pressure on the University to refunds fees to students affected by COVID & strikes?

Response from the Trustees:



AFA shared that over the past year the SU has been lobbying the University both publicly and behind the scenes to provide students with the money they are owed from missing content during strikes and missing marks due to the marking and assessment boycott. This has been done in cooperation with UCU and the SU is happy to share that many students have received compensation. AFA welcomed any students still having issues to contact her.

11. Commuters don't have any official representation in the Union, is this going to be addressed as there are a lot of health concerns such as isolation and depression amongst this group?

Response from the Trustees:

AM thanked commuters for raising this to them and noted that he has raised this with the university given Heath Park students have to commute for placements within the NHS. AM shared an understanding for the need of wider representation within the union for commuters and shared to students that it is within the power of Student Senate to establish such a position if students are interested. AM further explained to students that this can be proposed as a motion for Student Senate to debate. AM offered support to any students who would like to speak about this process following the meeting.

12. In response to the operating loss made in FY2023, is the SU's priority to increase income and endowments for FY2024 or to reduce expenditure and how will you achieve this?



Response from the Trustees:
DO shared that the aim of the trustees is to ensure the SU has sufficient resources
and reserve levels to enable to organisation to operate long term. DO referred
back to the financial statement given in the meeting, in which the organisation
operated at a loss for the 2022-2023 financial year. DO explained that the
organisation had made a substantial operating surplus which was positive, which
overall has related to a positive movement in the SU's overall reserves which
means they are holding reserves in excess of target levels. DO invited students to
contact them with any further questions.
RH stated that time was up for Questions to Trustees and attendees were invited
to submit any further questions via email to the Sabbatical Officers.
A challenge was raised to the Chair's ruling and the Vice Chair was invited to
oversee the challenge.
Jack Morewood challenged the chairs ruling to move on to the next item of the
agenda via a procedural motion. JM spoke for up to 2 minutes for the procedural
motion. RH spoke against the procedural motion for up to 2 minutes.
The procedural motion fell.
RH stated again that time was up for Questions to Trustees and attendees were
invited to submit any further questions via email to the Sabbatical Officers. RH
noted that the questions and answers would be available on the SU website.
RH read a statement on behalf of the SU which set out the expectations and rules



	for a respectful debate between students.
7.	Sabbatical Officer Structure
	RH explained that AGM is the only space where the Sabbatical Officer structure
	can be decided. RH drew attention to the new structure proposed in the submitted
	paper which is similar to the previous structure with one change detailed to VP
	Welsh Language Culture and Community. RH shared that this can only be
	approved by AGM by going to a vote, however this is not a standard motion.
	RH then explained the procedures for debate for the meeting.
	RH invited DO to speak as the proposer of the paper.
	An amendment to this motion was submitted.
	Amendment 1 is to replace the replace the VP Undergraduate Education and
	Welfare role with the VP International Students (Education and Welfare).
	RH invited the proposer of the motion Nathan Mintz (NM) to speak for up to 2
	minutes.
	NM proposed the amendment to the motion to students noting the importance of
	international student representation. NM shared that international students were
	represented by a part-time student officer which he stated was not enough. NM
	highlighted the need for a full-time officer position for international students.
	AFA spoke against the amendment for up to 2 minutes.
	Ambrose Mui spoke for the amendment for up to 2 minutes.
	Marc Perez spoke against the amendment for up to 2 minutes.



Tom Spare spoke for the amendment for up to 2 minutes.
MP spoke against the amendment for up to 2 minutes.
RH invited NM to provide a summary of the proposed procedural motion.
RH paused debate as a procedural motion was submitted to overturn the chairs
ruling on the time limit for the debate.
RH asked the room to vote on whether they would like to see the arguments for
the procedural motion.
The proposal for a procedural motion debate fell.
RH invited the members to vote on the amendments to the motion.
A challenge to the chairs ruling was submitted in relation to the procedural motion
debate not being heard.
RH shared that the procedural motion debate, which previously fell, will be
resumed.
RH invited the proposer to the procedural motion to speak.
Amrbose Mui proposed the procedural motion.
RH invited the members to vote on the procedural motion.
The procedural motion fell.
RH invited members to vote for the proposed amendment to the motion.
The first amendment to the motion passed.
RH introduced the second amendment to the motion which would see the Vice
President titles changed to Officers.



	RH invited the proposer of the amendment JM to speak for up to 2 minutes.
	JM proposed the second amendment objecting to the terms Vice President stating
	that the SU is not a presidential executive in any way. JM shared that there is no
	executive power and that the terms President and Vice President do not capture
	what the roles entail.
	MP spoke against the amendment for up to 2 minutes.
	JM provided a summary of the amendment.
	RH invited room to vote on the amendment.
	The second amendment to the motion fell.
	RH resumed the motion debate inviting someone to speak against the motion.
	Marc Perez spoke against the motion for up to 4 minutes.
	Nathan Minz spoke for the motion for up to 2 minutes.
	RH invited the room to vote on the motion.
	The Motion with amendments passed.
	RH proposed to amend the order of business to see the Ceasefire Now Motion
	debated first with the Time to Act Motion debated second and the following
	motions discussed in the previously stated order.
	RH invited the room to vote on the change to the order of business.
	The change to the order of business passed.
i.	Ceasefire Now
	RH invited the proposer of the motion to speak for up to 4 minutes.
	Bethany Thomas proposed the motion Ceasefire Now sharing their sentiments



and the importance of raising this motion. The proposer shared the impact of the
conflict on their lives and highlighted the importance of raising voices and support.
Jake Enea spoke against the motion for up to 4 minutes.
Bethany Thomas provided a summary of the motion.
RH invited the room to vote on the motion.
The Motion (Ceasefire Now) passed.
ii. Time to Act: Tackling Sexual Misconduct at Cardiff University
RH invited the proposer of the motion to speak for up to 4 minutes.
A challenge to the chairs ruling was submitted for continuing during disorder in the
previous motion.
The Vice Chair invited the proposer of the challenge to the chairs ruling to speak
for up to 2 minutes.
JM spoke for up to 2 minutes on the challenge to the chairs ruling.
JM withdrew the challenge.
RH invited the proposer of the original motion to speak for up to 4 minutes.
Bethea Tucker (BT) proposed the motion sharing that the university is failing
students in dealing with issues of sexual misconduct on campus. BT highlighted
issues of under reporting, lack of support and sexual misconduct on campus.
RH invited anyone who would like to speak against the motion. No one opted to
speak against.
RH invited the proposer to return for a summary.



	Rebbeca Rumsey provided a summary of the motion for up to 2 minutes.
	RH invited the room to vote on the motion.
	The Motion (Time to Act: Tackling Sexual Misconduct at Cardiff University) Passed.
iii.	A Better, More Inclusive University
	RH invited the proposer of the motion to speak for up to 4 minutes.
	Zohaib spoke on behalf of the Islamic society and MH spoke on behalf of the
	Jewish society proposed the motion. MH explained that the motion which seeks to
	foster a more inclusive environment for all students at Cardiff university. MH
	shared that the motion focuses on several key aspects of religious and cultural
	inclusivity.
	An amendment to the motion was submitted. RH invited the proposer of the
	amendment to speak for up to 2 minutes.
	Penny Dingh (PD) proposed the amendments to the motion.
	Zohaib spoke against the amendments to the motion for up to 2 minutes.
	PD provided a summary of the amendments to the motion.
	RH invited the room to vote on the amendments.
	The amendments passed.
	RH resumed motion debate.
	RH invited PD to provide a summary of the motion.
	RH invited the room to vote on the motion.
V.	<i>The Motion (A Better, More Inclusive University) passed.</i> The Climate Crisis an Evidence Based Sustainable Food System for Cardiff



Universi	ty

RH invited the proposer of the motion to speak for up to 4 minutes.

Olivia Herries (OH) proposed the motion. OH shared concerns of the Climate Crisis and what effect this has on the planet. OH shared their sentiments on actions that can be taken, specifically outlining sustainable food systems which avoid the use of animal products. OH shared the motion focuses on establishing a plant based transition within the university.

An amendment to the motion was submitted. RH invited the proposer of the

amendment to speak for up to two minutes

Long spoke for the amendment to the motion.

OH spoke against the amendment for up to two minutes.

Long summarised the amendment to the motion.

RH invited the room to vote on the amendment.

The amendment passed.

RH resumed motion debate.

A second amendment to the motion was submitted. RH shared that the proposer

was not present and invited anyone in the room to propose the amendment. There

were no volunteers.

RH invited the room to vote on the second amendment.

The second amendment fell.

RH resumed motion debate.



	Hanna Pageau spoke against the motion for up to 4 minutes.							
	Tom spoke for the motion for up to 2 minutes.							
	Charlie spoke against this motion for up to 2 minutes.							
	RH invited the proposer to the motion to provide a summary. OH provided a							
	summary of the motion.							
	RH invited the room to vote on the motion as amended.							
	The motion (The Climate Crisis an Evidence Based Sustainable Food System for Cardiff University) fell.							
	Time allocated time for the ending has lapsed and therefore the motion							
	Advocation for the Abolition of Tuition Fees was not debated and instead							
	submitted to the next available Student Senate meeting.							
9.	Any other Business							
	No additional 'Any Other Business' was submitted and the meeting was closed.							



ITEM THREE

ANNUAL REPORT 23/24

Students' Union President, Madison Hutchinson, will present the key messages from the report, highlighting significant developments, achievements, and changes within the organisation for the 2023-24 academic year.

The annual impact report for 2023-24 can be found here: https://www.cardiffstudents.com/about/hwr/reports-and-policy/



ITEM FOUR

FINANCIAL REPORT 23/24

Financial Report

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary for the year ended 31 July 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The objects of the charity are the advancement of education of students at Cardiff University for the public benefit by:

- Promoting the interests and welfare of students at Cardiff University during their course of study and representing, supporting and advising students;
- Being the recognised representative channel between students and Cardiff University and any other external bodies; and
- Providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities and forums for discussions and debate for the personal development of its students.

In shaping the Union's objectives for the year and planning its activities, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's general and relevant supplementary guidance on public benefit. In pursuit of these aims for the public benefit, the Union has established departments and services for use by its members and works with the University and other organisations on behalf of Cardiff University students.

The Union sets Its long-term priorities in line with its strategic plan, reviewed periodically and informed by research undertaken with Cardiff University students. The trustees consider the strategic plan when setting the Union's annual objectives, articulated in a balanced scorecard and pursued by trustees and Union staff. In December 2021 the Union launched its current strategic plan covering 2021 to 2025, entitled 'The Heart of the Cardiff Student Life' and it can be viewed at: <u>https://www.cardiffstudents.com/about/hwr/our-strategy/</u>. Over the next academic year, the organization is undertaking a review of the strategic plan for beyond 2025, the development of which will again involve engagement with relevant stakeholders.



FINANCIAL REVIEW

The group's total income amounted to £12,908,971 (2023: £12,393,500) with total expenditure of £12,835,212 (2023: £12,643,876) in the year. The unwinding of the discounted pension provision resulted in a debit to the Statement of Financial Activities of £(146,796) (2023: £(390,908)). Overall, this resulted in net expenditure of £(73,037) (2023: £(641,284)). This comprises a restricted surplus of £29,326 and an unrestricted deficit of £(102,363).

At 31 July 2024, the group's free reserves (i.e. unrestricted funds excluding designated funds and not represented by fixed assets and pension fund liability) amounted to £1,886,847 (2023: \pm 1,746,590) and the trustees are satisfied that the Union has a sound financial base to continue to operate and pursue its objectives and activities. In addition, a further £72,934 (2023: £43,608) was held in restricted funds.

Within the Union's trading subsidiary, Cardiff Union Services Limited, turnover increased to $\pounds 5,807,849$ (2023: $\pounds 5,515,116$) resulting in a gross profit of $\pounds 2,759,189$ (2023: $\pounds 2,517,348$). Administrative expenses increased to $\pounds 5,109,202$ (2023: $\pounds 4,808,546$) in the year. Overall, the trading subsidiary reported a loss of $\pounds (432,044)$ (2023: profit $\pounds 80,034$).

During the year the trading company's pension liability decreased to £4,625,233 (2023: \pounds 4,821,724) as a result of the updated net present value of future deficit contributions and accounting for deficit payments made in the year. The deficit arises from the company's future obligations towards the Students' Union Superannuation Scheme (SUSS), which was closed to future accrual in 2011. The trustees and directors are satisfied that it has the funds to meet the obligations to the fund as they fall due over the life of the scheduled deficit recovery plan up to 2037.

RESERVES POLICY

The trustees annual review the Union's reserves position and set targets for reserve levels in accordance with future needs, should funding not be available from the principal funding sources. The Union's reserves policy states that the Union will budget to achieve surpluses annually from its consolidated activities to build unrestricted free reserves of £1.6m. Free reserves are defined as 'unrestricted funds not represented by fixed assets'.

At 31 July 2024 the parent charity's free reserves amounted to $\pounds 2,950,009$ (2023: $\pounds 2,612,917$) and for the group a consolidated position of $\pounds 1,886,847$ (2023: $\pounds 1,746,590$).



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2024

INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Donations and legacies Charitable activities Other trading activities Investment income	3 6 4 5	3,326,975 3,398,707 5,807,849 49,440	326,000 - - -	3,652,975 3,398,707 5,807,849 49,440	3,380,884 3,482,313 5,515,116 15,187
Total		12,582,971	326,000	12,908,971	12,393,500
EXPENDITURE ON Raising funds Charitable activities	8 9	8,147,112	-	8,147,112	7,812,760
		4,622,578	65,522	4,688,100	4,831,116
Total		12,769,690	65,522	12,835,212	12,643,876
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)		(186,719)	260,478	73,759	(250,376)
Unwinding of discounted pension provision		(146,796)	-	(146,796)	(390,908)
Net income/(expenditure) for the year		(333,515)	260,478	(73,037)	(641,284)
Transfer between funds		231,152	(231,152)		
		(102,363)	29,326	(73,037)	(641,284)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		9,177,354	43,608	9,220,962	9,862,246
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		9,074,991	72,934	9,147,925	9,220,962



CARDIFF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

CONSOLIDATED AND CHARITY BALANCE SHEET 31 JULY 2024

51 JUL1 2024

		Group		Charity	
		2024	2023	2024	2023
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS			10.050.100	0.005	44.077
Tangible assets Investments	15 16	11,813,378	12,252,488	6,865	14,277
invesiments	10	73,563	73,563	2,000	2,000
		11,886,941	12,326,051	8,865	16,277
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	17	102,608	136,326	-	-
Debtors: amounts falling due within one year	18	1,095,427	1,035,164	1,395,959	1,534,727
Cash at bank		3,213,321	2,591,521	2,828,322	2,122,396
		4,411,356	3,763,011	4,224,281	3,657,123
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	19	(2,525,139)	(2,046,376)	(1,203,338)	(1,002,598)
, anotanto lannig dao infanniono your		(2,020,100)	(2,040,010)	(1,200,000)	(1,002,000)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		1,886,217	1,716,635	3,020,943	2,654,525
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES	s	13,773,158	14,042,686	3,029,808	2,670,802
				-,,	
PENSION LIABILITY	21	(4,625,233)	(4,821,724)	-	-
		(1,020,200)	(1,021,021)		
NET ASSETS		9,147,925	9,220,962	3,029,808	2,670,802
FUNDS	00				
FUNDS Revaluation reserve	23	8.814.127	9,183,828		
Pension reserve		(4,625,233)	(4,821,724)	-	-
Unrestricted funds – Designated		2.999,250	3,068,660	6.865	14,277
Unrestricted funds - General		1,886,847	1,746,590	2,950,009	2,612,917
Restricted funds		72,934	43,608	72,934	43,608
TOTAL FUNDS		9,147,925	9,220,962	3,029,808	2,670,802
				_	



ITEM FIVE

AFFILIATIONS

NUS Affiliation Fee: £37,500.00

BUCS Affiliation Fee: £24,843.00

• Many of our registered sports clubs and societies affiliate to various sporting and cultural national governing bodies.



ITEM SEVEN

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE PROPOSED CHANGES TO CARDIFF STUDENTS' UNION MEMORANDUM & ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

 The Union's Memorandum and Articles is a document which forms the Union's constitution, defines the responsibilities of the Board of Trustees, the type of business the Union may undertake and the means by which the Board of Trustees is held accountable by the students. The Articles require that the Memorandum and Articles are reviewed every five years.

A review has been undertaken and was submitted to the Board of Trustees in September 2024. Following this, the proposed changes were published to students for a one month consultation period.

One amendment was proposed during the consultation period. In accordance with the procedure in the Articles this was taken to Student Senate for consideration, and rejected.

- 2. A summary of the changes proposed by the Board of Trustees is set out below. Please note that as the consultation period has closed, it will not be open to AGM to propose further changes.
- 3. AGM is asked to accept the revisions to the Memorandum and Articles, for onward consideration by Cardiff University Council.

Summary of substantive changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association agreed by the Board of Trustees in September 2024

Note: The proposed changes fall into two categories:

- Substantive changes and new provisions
- Textual amendment and administrative tidying up

The former are summarised below. The latter were indicated on the copy circulated to students for consultation, are considered self-explanatory, and are not repeated here.

Note on numbering: a numbering anomaly at Article 16 was identified after the consultation period. This has been removed with the effect that all Articles from 17 onwards are each renumbered one lower. This has been cross-referenced through the document but aside from that no further textual amendment has been made.



Student Council/Senate

Student Council and Student Senate are interchangeable names. Senate is most widely known as Senate and elections are run for places on Senate. The existing Articles continue to use Council, and it is proposed that the Articles are brought into line with custom and common usage.

'For the avoidance of doubt'

This expression appears several times within the document but does not add anything to the meaning of the provisions so its deletion is proposed.

Article 5.3

RAG (Raise and Give) was a traditional part of student fundraising but no longer functions under this name at CSU. It is proposed to delete the specific reference to RAG and leave the broader wording of "fundraising activities". Likewise RAG removed from glossary of terms

Article 6

New provision such that student trustees employed outside the union via the Job Shop shall not be considered as employed by the Union for the purposes of this Article.

Article 12.5

New provision expressly permitting a student who opts out to rejoin.

Article 23

Amend "elected" to "appointed"; no election is held so appointment is the correct term.

New provision states that Student Trustee terms of office need not be consecutive

Article 24

The University Governance Committee, at its meeting held on 26 May 2022, recommended "that the Students' Union should review the criteria within its constitution that a lay member of Council could serve a maximum of four terms on the Students' Union Board of Trustees, as this was incompatible with the maximum term of office of lay members of Council." This amendment incorporates that recommendation.



Articles 23, 24, 25

In each case, a provision regarding the status of Trustees has been moved from the glossary of terms into the substantive articles, as it has binding force and therefore inappropriately placed in a glossary. Meaning unchanged.

Article 27

Removal of "good employment practice" as a subjective term and replace with "SU HR policies and employment law"

Article 32

Removal of the requirement to prescribe the composition of Committees, in order to give greater flexibility on appointments, depending on Trustee skill sets rather than Trustee category

Further to the above, a new provision that Trustee members of a Committee will form the majority of the membership

Article 51

Updated to provide that the Chief Executive is deemed to be Secretary for the purposes of the Article, unless the Board determine otherwise. (See also Article 32, secretary to committees)

Glossary

Definition of secret ballot added

A full copy of the proposed Memorandum and Articles of Association can be <u>found here</u> (<u>https://www.cardiffstudents.com/news/article/secret/Memorandum-Articles-of-Association-Review-Adolygiad-Memorandwm-ac-Erthyglau-Cymdeithasu</u>)



ITEM EIGHT

A) LAPSING MOTIONS

The following motions passed at AGM will lapse prior to the next scheduled AGM in 2025. These are presented for information only. All motions were passed at the AGM in November 2021.

- Full-Time Welsh Language Officer for Cardiff University*
- Vice President Welfare and Campaigns Role and Name Change*
- Adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance Definition of antisemitism in full
- Acceptance without Exception: Protection for our Trans Students
- UCU Industrial Action
- Hybrid Events, Seminar, Meetings and Guest Policy
- Refugees Welcome University of Sanctuary Campaign

*A new Sabbatical Officer structure has been approved via an all-student referendum since the AGM in November 2021.

Please see this section of the website for all policies -

https://www.cardiffstudents.com/your-voice/policy/



B) SUBMITTED MOTIONS

MOTION ONE: SECURING JUSTICE: A RENEWED CALL TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE

AGM Notes

- 1. In a recent FOI report, there have been 691 *reported* cases of sexual misconduct over a four-year period, with only **one** expulsion [1]
- 2. There is a legal precedent that universities have a duty of care towards students regarding sexual misconduct [2]
- 3. Most sexual assault survivors know their assailant, with majority of the time their assailant being a Partner or Ex-Partner. [3]
- 4. A large percentage of sexual assaults occur under the influence of alcohol or in alcohol settings [3], this is a common setting for a lot of Cardiff University students, particularly students within sports societies.
- 5. There is a lack of awareness in the UK that coercion is not consent [4], leaving victims often confused and feeling "to blame" for their assault, with often long-term impacts on their mental health.
- 6. Assaults in long-term relationships are often not taken as serious offence by a large majority [4], pushing the need for consent and healthy relationships training
- Cardiff University has not provided adequate security around Cathays campus, as there have been numerous assaults surrounding university residences in Cathays [5]
- 8. Due to the nature of the crime, sexual assaults go largely underreported [6]. Cardiff University has recently renamed their reporting service with minimal advertising, and the reporting service is hard to manage and find on the student intranet.
- 9. Cardiff University has failed to protect students from becoming victims of grooming, as Cardiff university has not outlawed student-staff relations. This has had dire consequences, as there has been a case of a former-staff member being arrested for grooming [7].
- 10. Active bystander training has been proven to work [8], Cardiff University has not made this mandatory the way it makes filling out your GP details when enrolling



11. Sexual harassment of healthcare students, particularly nursing students on placement is widespread and has significant impacts on students well-being and learning [9]

Sources

- 1. Time to Act FOI report
- 2. <u>https://wonkhe.com/wp-content/wonkhe-uploads/2023/10/5-10-23-Feder-and-McCamish-v-RWCMD-FINAL.pdf</u>
- 3. <u>https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/articles/natureofsexualassaultbyrapeorpenetrationenglandandwales/yearendingmarch2020#reporting-sexual-assault-to-the-police</u>
- 4. <u>https://www.endviolenceagainstwomen.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/1-Attitudes-to-sexual-consent-Research-findings-FINAL.pdf</u>
- 5. <u>https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/man-stalked-woman-through-cardiff-30072013</u>
- 6. <u>https://rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system</u>
- 7. <u>https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/lecturer-no-longer-employed-university-26747835</u>
- 8. <u>https://www.breakingthesilence.cam.ac.uk/prevention-support/be-active-bystander#:~:text=Research%20shows%20that%20bystander%20intervention,in%20%20try%20the%20ABC%20approach.</u>
- 9. https://www.bmj.com/content/354/sbmj.i4430

AGM Believes

- 1. Cardiff Students' Union and Cardiff University have a legal duty of care as established by the Feder and McCamish to protect and support students from any form of Sexual misconduct.
- 2. Cardiff Students' Union and Cardiff university should publicly acknowledge that they might have not have had the best support for victims of sexual misconduct
- 3. Every organisation relating to student life including and not limited to: Accommodation, The Athletic Union, Academic Schools, Student union societies,



should have clear preventative measures and investigative pathways when it comes to sexual misconduct.

- 4. Universities should make it clear to students who are victims of sexual misconduct of the support available. This should be made clear on a number of different platforms including but not limited to: emails, posters, intranet pages, enrolment.
- 5. The University should still be able to expel as a breach of behaviour policy, even if not found guilty by a court of law. If a complaint is upheld, the perpetrator should face an appropriate punishment.
- 6. The University and Cardiff Students' union Officers have a duty to inform students about healthy relationships, the way it informs students about safe sex practices.
- 7. Relationships between university staff members and students where the staff could have influence on the student's academic reputation or grades pose a high risk of abuse of power.
- 8. The Students' Union and University should acknowledge the power of preventative measures of bystander training in sexual misconduct and implement it in numerous ways.
- 9. Survivors of sexual violence deserve empathetic, compassionate, robust, fir for purpose policies and processes. This should be followed by regular reviews of the policies and structures within the institutions.

AGM Resolves

- 1. Cardiff Students' Union Officers should make and take preventative measures to protect victims of sexual misconduct, we recommend that this is done by working with other organisations such as 'Our streets Now' and campaigns (which are yearly or biyearly reviewed) promoting consent around both Cathays and Heath Campus.
 - a. The campaigns could include information on support offered to victims, what consent is, healthy relationships etc.
- 2. Cardiff Students' Union Officers should lobby the University to implement Bystander training for all staff members, as well as promote it to students yearly, through numerous platforms; such as but not limited to enrolment, society and sports clubs committee training, university intranet pages, posters. Cardiff Students' Union Officers should also work to implement such training for all staff members in the Students' Union.



- 3. Cardiff Students' Union Officers and Cardiff University should publicly acknowledge possible failings of protecting and supporting previous victims of sexual misconduct.
- 4. Cardiff Students' Union Officers and Cardiff University should provide better information around healthy relationships through posters, informative videos, training to societies/sports clubs and pages on the student intranet page.
 - a. These informative posters should be made in line with Women's Aid Survivors handbook on health relationships
 - b. These informative posters should also be made with awareness of current student culture, particularly surrounding dating and relationships. We recommend this is done by questionnaires and reviews of what students want to see.
- 5. Cardiff Students' Union Officers and Cardiff university should promote the fact that "Coercion is not consent" and that consent is not in relation to the relationship the victim has with their perpetrator.
- 6. Cardiff Students' Union Officers should aggressively lobby the university to promote its support offered to victims
- 7. The Cardiff Students' Union Officers and Cardiff University should acknowledge the fact that healthcare students are particularly vulnerable to sexual misconduct on their placements. In response the Students Union and Cardiff University should ensure that students on placement can report the incident, change placement locations and are offered numerous forms of support. Students should also be continuously informed that reporting will have no impact on their academic progression
- 8. The Students' Union and Cardiff University should advertise SSIT better, this should be followed by a questionnaire of different ways students wish to see it promoted.
- 9. The University should have more security and safety measures to protect students on Cathays and Heath campus from sexual misconduct, particularly following the recent assault of a woman under Senghenydd bridge.

Proposed by: Isabel Trinkle, Rebecca Rumsey and Rowan Dominique



MOTION TWO: OPPOSE CUTS TO TEACHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHD STUDENTS

AGM Notes

1. PhD students have historically been provided with valuable teaching opportunities that allow them to gain essential teaching experience, contribute to their professional development, and support themselves financially.

2. In August 2023, after several years of Students' Union campaigning, PhD students who teach finally recieved contracts of employment giving them the employment recognition and rights they deserve.

3. Cardiff University has recently begun to cut back on teaching opportunities for PhD students, even cutting it completely in schools such as SOCSI.

4. These cuts not only impact the academic and financial welfare of PhD students but also risk reducing the quality and variety of learning experiences offered to undergraduate students who benefit from PhD-led teaching and mentorship.

AGM Believes

1. Teaching experience is crucial for PhD students, particularly for those pursuing careers in academia or education.

2. Reducing teaching opportunities for PhD students undermines their development, creates financial instability, and hinders their capacity to build essential skills for future employment.

3. Such cuts could negatively affect the diversity of educational perspectives available to undergraduate students, impacting the quality of education they receive.

4. Cardiff Students' Union has a responsibility to advocate for fair employment practices and quality education, both for those teaching and those learning.

AGM Resolves

1. Cardiff Students' Union's elected officers should oppose the university's decision to reduce teaching opportunities for PhD students.



2. Cardiff Students' Union's elected officers should lobby the university, advocating for the reinstatement and expansion of teaching opportunities for PhD students, emphasising the benefits to both PhD and undergraduate students.

3. Cardiff Students' Union's elected officers should run awareness campaigns, potentially including open letters, petitions, and events, to highlight the importance of PhD teaching roles.

4. Cardiff Students' Union's elected officers should work with relevant departments, student bodies, and faculty members to explore alternative solutions that could maintain or increase teaching opportunities for PhD students.

Proposed by: Micaela Panes



MOTION THREE: PROTECT OUR FREEDOM TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINE

AGM Notes

- Since October 2023, 400 schools and all 12 universities in Gaza have been destroyed, 6000 students have been killed, 230 school teachers have been killed, 100 professors and 2 university presidents have been killed. The UN reports that at least 60 percent of educational facilities (including 13 public libraries) have been damaged or destroyed and that at least 625,000 students have no access to education. The UN has raised concerns over the 'pattern of attacks on schools, universities, teachers and students on the Gaza strip' amounting to the 'systematic destruction of the Palestinian education system' and leading to charges of 'scholasticide'. [1]
- 2. Cardiff University students passed a motion calling for a ceasefire at the Students' Union AGM in November 2023. [2] Many students have also taken part in actions on campus to oppose the university's links with arms companies, as well as other actions in the local community.
- 3. In Cardiff, 19 individuals, including seven students, were arrested on the 4th June 2024 in relation to their pro-Palestine activism. [3, 4] These arrestees were released on bail and then subsequently dropped without charge. Many people, both those arrested and others, reported experiencing injuries from the police as well as allegedly racially motivated targeting of black and brown protesters. The students arrested received temporary suspensions from the university, and were reluctant to trust the university due to the unfounded claims by police that they had the power to revoke their degrees.
- 4. UK student activists who advocate for Palestine have also been subjected to punitive measures from their institutions, with reports of universities like Birmingham and Nottingham deploying bailiffs to forcefully remove student activists, and LSE suspending students for their activism.
- There have been reports of student protestors in the UK being physically threatened [5], with certain universities also engaging in "police threats" against student protestors that they do not agree with. [6]
- 6. Cardiff SU has previously passed a motion titled "Cops Off Campus" at its 2022 AGM, condemning police violence as well as their role in undermining the freedom of speech of student activists.



References:

[1]https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/un-experts-deeply-concerned-overscholasticide-gaza

[2]https://www.cardiffstudents.com/news/article/secret/Policy-statement-students-call-for-aceasefire-Datganiad-polisi-Galwad-myfyrwyr-am-gadoediad/

[3]https://www.thecanary.co/trending/2024/06/04/cardiff-palestine-protest/

[4]https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c722qnq42kro

[5]https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-oxfordshire-69005756

[6]https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/pro-palestinian-protestersuniversity-birmingham-29163095

AGM Believes

- 1. Academic freedom, is a value that should be intrinsic to our students' union, which cannot be upheld when universities are being bombed, and that those speaking out against scholasticide and genocide should not be unfairly punished.
- 2. Cardiff students should be commended and not punished for applying the principles of social justice that the university teaches on its curriculums which includes standing up to injustice in the real world, not just the classroom.
- 3. It is not harassment to call out and condemn senior managers of Cardiff University, or any person in power, for their complicity in global injustices. Conflating such condemnation with harassment not only harms marginalised students who have experienced harassment but also undermines freedom of expression.

AGM Resolves

- 1. To publicly express solidarity with universities in Palestine that have been destroyed by Israeli bombardments, and with the families of those university workers and students who have been killed, on the basis of condemning scholasticide as a matter of academic and moral importance for the SU.
- 2. To publicly express solidarity with students at Cardiff, in the UK and around the world who are exercising their right to peacefully protest, and who have been subject to violence and punitive measures for supporting Palestine.
- 3. To publicly condemn and resist punitive measures against pro-Palestine student activists enacted by Cardiff University and other external bodies, such as the police or the Home Office. As well as to provide practical support and advice to members



who are subject to these punitive measures as an urgent matter regarding student safeguarding.

- 4. To lobby the university to request provision of legal guidance to support and empower students to take part in peaceful activism in solidarity with Palestine.
- 5. To write to Cardiff University's executive board requesting a public statement:
 - a. confirming that all students can express solidarity with Palestinians under academic freedom and the right to freedom of speech.
 - b. clarifying to all staff (such that students are treated correctly) and students, that expressing solidarity with Palestine is not inherently antisemitic, as Anti-Zionist beliefs are protected under the 2010 Equality Act(17). [7]
 - c. confirming that the university will take proactive steps to protect students from defamation, intimidation and harassment linked to Palestinian solidarity, including those made on social media platforms and in the press, and to protect students from online surveillance concerning their public or private, personal social media accounts.
 - d. confirming that the University will not work with the police or private bailiffs to pursue punishment against students involved in activism for Palestine, in line with the Students' Union's Cops Off Campus Task and Finish Group's findings and recommendations published in November 2023, which should also be in line with the Cops Off Campus motion that was already passed at the 2022 AGM.

References:

[7]https://www.judiciary.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Miller-judgment-1400780.2022-JDT.pdf

Proposed by: Luke Palin



MOTION FOUR: PROTECTING STUDENTS' RIGHT TO PARKING PERMITS IN CARDIFF

AGM Notes

- 1. Cardiff City Council is currently conducting a consultation on a 'City Wide Parking Plan,' which includes a proposal to remove parking permits from students.
- 2. If passed, this policy would mean that students, unlike other residents, would be excluded from the right to parking permits.
- 3. Many students in Cardiff rely on cars for essential activities, including commuting to university or placements, traveling to part-time jobs, providing care for family members, and managing day-to-day needs such as shopping and sports commitments.

AGM Believes

- 1. Students are valuable members of the Cardiff community and should be treated equally with other residents.
- 2. Removing parking permits solely from students diminishes their rights and unfairly positions them as "second-class" citizens within Cardiff.
- 3. The reasons given in the consultation do not fully consider the impact on students who rely on cars for accessibility, family responsibilities, and practical needs, and disregards the contribution students make to the city.
- 4. Sustainability goals should be addressed in a manner that does not disproportionately impact one group of residents.
- 5. Access to parking permits is a critical part of equal treatment for students, many of whom have valid reasons for needing a car, such as placements, part-time work, and family obligations.

AGM Resolves

- 1. For Cardiff Students' Union Officers to publicly oppose the removal of parking permits for students and advocate for students' equal access to these permits.
- 2. To mandate the Students' Union officers to actively lobby Cardiff City Council, in partnership with Cardiff University, to ensure that students retain equal rights to parking permits as other residents.



- 3. To mandate the Students' Union officers to engage with Cardiff City Council's consultation process to advocate for an approach to sustainability that does not unfairly penalize students.
- 4. For the Students' Union Officers to collaborate with other Students' Unions in Cardiff, if possible, to create a united front in supporting students' rights to parking permits.
- 5. To call on Cardiff University to formally support this position and advocate alongside the Students' Union for students' equal treatment regarding parking access.
- 6. In the event the legislation passes the elected officers should consider alternative options to oppose the legislation including calling for a judicial review

Proposed by: Madison Hutchinson



ITEM NINE

NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTIONS 2025

On Friday 31st January 2025 the Students' Union will open nominations for the Spring Elections. All sabbatical officer and campaign officer roles for 2025/26 will be open for nomination in these elections. If you'd like more information keep an eye on the Students' Union website (<u>www.cardiffstudents.com</u>) for the official Notice of Election.

END OF PAPERS

