

Student Senate – Minutes

Monday 30th January 2023, 5pm – Zoom

Attendees:

Committee Members

Rebecca Hardy (Chair)
Gina Dunn (SU President)
Rebecca Deverell (VP Welfare)
Angie Flores Acuna (VP Postgraduate Students)
Penny Dinh (Black & Ethnic Minorities Officer)
Deio Owen (Welsh Language Officer)
Alice Moore (Students with Disabilities' Officer)
Aurora Birkeland (Ethical & Environmental Officer)
Emily Carr (Women's Officer)
Maria Pollard (Student Senator)
Alex Meers (Student Senator)
Ella Brooks (Student Senator)
Amanda Godi (Student Senator)
Christopher-Grayson Sage Diamond (Student Senator)
Micaela Panes (Student Senator)
Syed Ali Rizvi (Student Senator)
Akmal Arzeman (Student Senator)
Elle Ladkin (Student Senator)
Rhodri Thomas (Student Senator)
Lottie Atton (Student Senator)
Rowan Hadert (Student Senator)

Staff

Tali Atvars (Head of Student Voice, Info Point)
Hannah Fatkin (Deputy Head of Student Voice)
Julian Green (Campaigns and Insight Coordinator)
Cymen Cyf (Translation Services)

Standard Items

Welcome	Rebecca Hardy (Chair) explains the process of Student Senate, thanks everyone for their attendance and reminds all members about voting and its process. RH (Chair) continues to explain the format of the meeting and clarify what will be covered.
Apologies	Apologies will be noted in the minutes.
Minutes from the previous meeting	RH (Chair) goes through the minutes page-by-page asking for any amendments.

Students' Union Submitted Items

Report from the Trustees

Shreshth Goel provided a verbal update on behalf of the trustees.

SG provided an update on the following:

- Students took part in 527 BUCS pictures and 1766 students used the student advice service
- So far £788,000 has been put into student pockets thanks to the Jobshop service
- There has been support for students during the cost of living crisis through £2 lunches and officer team gave over 750 people food through Feed your Flat essentials stall
- Working on next term to make positive impact on student life
- At the last annual general meeting (AGM) on 6/12/22 discussed motions such as:
 - Adopting an official pro-choice stance
 - Climate action and accountability in making net zero a reality
 - UCU strike action
 - Cardiff Students' Union stance on the Fifa 2022 World Cup
 - Cops off campus
- All of these motions were passed
- New events space, the Balcony, was opened on 08/12/22 which welcomed university staff, local industry staff and contractors who made it
- Nominations are open for Spring elections for both part time and full time positions
- Spring elections will include a VP Welsh Language for the first time
- There have been lots of elected officer campaigns, such as the Prepare campaign on 1/12/22 and revision aid during January
- In November Rebecca (VP Welfare) coordinated the first ever sober social week which over 55 societies took part in and she hosted the sober social quiz which had over 65 attendees
- Heath Park on tour campaign was continued due to positive feedback

Update on bye-law amendments

Tali Atvars provided a verbal update about the bye-law amendments.

TA explained what the bye-laws are, how they are created, and how any amendments must be approved by both the Senate and Board of Trustees.

There are three major bye-law proposal changes. Two major amendments to 6.3.5 and 5.5.2 were approved to be changed and the bye-laws updated accordingly. One proposal to 6.1 was considering a consultant position for an ex-sabbatical officer within the scrutiny committee which would be devoid of any voting rights was not approved by the Board. They instead referred the matter back to the scrutiny committee.

The Board felt the proposal was too unclear and required clarification, they have invited the Senate to create a new proposal with clearer specifications for the role and what is required of the sabbatical officer.

Tali expresses that he would be happy to answer any questions.

Jazz Walsh asks how he would go about proposing the change.

Tali outlines the process around proposing the change.

Lapsing Policy

Student Senate notes that the following policies had lapsed and had not been resubmitted for approval:

- Should senate lobby for USS pension fund to divest
- Changing society and sports club membership fees
- Support and advice to pregnant mothers

These are no longer policy however it doesn't mean the Students' Union will cease any practice rolled out as a result of these policies.

Submitted Items

Tabled Motions

i. Fossil Free Careers

For Motion:

Noah Russell outlines the proposal being put forward regarding fossil free careers and Cardiff's place on the sustainability table, which is 50th in the country and 5th in Wales.

As the largest university in Wales we should be leading in sustainability and environmental protection but instead we're lacking. Students have lobbied the university to do better, which led to the pledge of divestment from fossil fuel investments being fulfilled in 2021.

The next step is to ensure that these companies cannot advertise themselves on campus whilst destroying the environment. There is a precedent for refusing companies to advertise on campus for moral or ethical reasons.

Cardiff needs to stop putting money above its students and immediately cease advertisement of fossil fuel careers on campus. The university should be advertising roles for students that create positive change at home and globally. This motion has been proposed to show the university that our planet comes before their wallet.

Against Motion:

Lottie Atton states that the motion will not achieve the desired effect of reducing environmental harm. The displacement of fossil fuels will mean increased mining for metals such as copper, lithium and nickel. Cutting ties with mining companies is short-sighted and counterproductive.

Cardiff University has a policy, the code of external funding practice, which includes a strong ethics vetting to continually assess the companies they choose to work with. Students should have the freedom of choice in their further careers. Changing climate is a real emergency and we should take strong immediate action but this can be through collaboration, shared responsibility and justice.

For Motion:

Noah Russell agrees with Lottie that they should strive for sustainability and that students should have a choice, but the motion is focused on not advertising fossil fuel companies. Whilst the university continues to work with these companies and advertise them it is just allowing them to commit more damage. Students will still be supported in what they want to do but the motion will focus on these jobs not being advertised to students.

Against Motion:

Jazz Walsh states that he doesn't particularly agree in climate change and that it's a myth so he doesn't believe the motion is valid at all.

Notice of elections

No other speakers for or against. Noah Russell provides a summary. TA reminded everyone that nominations for spring elections are now open and include full time or part time positions. Deadlines for nominations are 6th February.

Dates of future meetings

Monday 27th February 2023

MEETING ENDED

Voting Results

Motion 1- Fossil Free Careers: Passed