

Bye-Law 11 – Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor (UMCB)

This Bye-Law is the property of the Trustee Board and can be amended by the Trustee Board and Undeb Bangor Council, in line with their procedures.

The 'Welsh Union' as defined with the Bangor University Students' Union shall be referred to as Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor (UMCB) and shall be governed by this Bye-Law.

1. Membership

- 1.1 Any Bangor University student who is a Welsh speaker according to the list of such students maintained by Bangor University will automatically become a Member. Only these members shall have the right to vote in any general meeting, referendum or election within UMCB.
- 1.2 All such persons who are members of UMCB will have the right to opt out of membership of UMCB by giving written notice to UMCB.
- 1.3 Any student who can speak Welsh or is learning Welsh, or who has an interest in the Welsh language and culture but is not on the list of Welsh speakers maintained by Bangor University can also join UMCB as Associate Members. Associate Membership may be granted up until the first day of the formal elections nominations period.
- 1.4 Persons who are not students at Bangor University who can speak Welsh or are learning Welsh, or who have an interest in the Welsh language and culture can also join UMCB for £15 a year as Associate Members or for such other amount set by general meetings of UMCB but they will not become members of the Union.
- 1.5 No more than 25% of UMCB members can be associate members. Associate Members shall have no right to vote in the general meetings, referenda or elections of UMCB.

2. UMCB Executive Committee

- 2.1 The Executive Committee shall subject to Article 30.1 and Article 30.3 of the Union be responsible for:
 - 2.1.1 the governance of UMCB;
 - 2.1.2 the budget of UMCB;
 - 2.1.3 the strategy of UMCB; and
 - 2.1.4 its general annual activities.
- 2.2 The committee shall be elected annually at the May General Meeting, with the exception of three positions, first year representative, masters representative and home representative, who will be elected in the October General Meeting at the beginning of the year.
- 2.3 The following are the officers on the Executive Committee (14 positions):
 - 2.3.1 UMCB President who shall act as chair;

- 2.3.2 JMJ President;
 - 2.3.3 First year representative;
 - 2.3.4 Second year representative;
 - 2.3.5 Third year representative;
 - 2.3.6 Post-graduate representative;
 - 2.3.7 Occupational representative;
 - 2.3.8 Home representative;
 - 2.3.9 Welsh learners representative;
 - 2.3.10 LGBT+ representative; and
 - 2.3.11 Y Cymric (2 positions).
- 2.4 The two Cymric voting positions will be decided within Cymric at the beginning of every academic year.
- 2.5 A minute-taker shall be appointed at the first meeting after the annual May Meeting to record minutes. A vice-chair shall be appointed from the Executive committee members in the first meeting.

3. Proceedings

- 3.1 All members of the committee shall be expected to attend every committee meeting and every General Meeting unless they send an apology.
- 3.2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a term. All members of the committee shall have one vote each and the representatives of Y Cymric shall have two votes between their representatives in line with point 2.4.
- 3.3 The President of UMCB shall chair the meetings of the Executive Committee but if that person is not present the Vice-Chair will preside.
- 3.4 The Executive Committee shall have a Social Sub -Committee which shall have monthly meetings.
- 3.5 The Social Sub-Committee will be a body to ensure that UMCB and its societies' diaries are as engaging and accessible as possible. The sub-committee shall ensure that adequate events are arranged.
- 3.6 Members of the social sub-committee will be allowed to sit on the UMCB executive as observers.
- 3.7 The Social Sub Committee shall be comprised as follows:
 - 3.7.1 Social Sub-Committee (x positions):
 - 3.7.1.1 JMJ President who shall act as chair

3.7.1.2 UMCB President;

3.7.1.3 Y Cymric (x4);

3.7.1.4 Editor of Y Llef; and

3.7.1.5 Sports Representative

3.7.1.6 Chairs of any societies relevant to UMCB. (Relevance is decided at the discretion of the UMCB President)

3.8 The President or two members of the Executive Committee or a sub-committee may call a meeting of the Executive Committee or sub-committee.

3.9 Committee and sub-committee meetings require 5 working days' notice unless all the committee/sub-committee members agree to shorter notice.

3.10 All members of the sub-committee shall have one vote. The UMCB President shall act as chair but if the UMCB President is not present the sub-committee members present shall appoint a chair of the meeting.

4. Objectives

The objectives of UMCB are:

4.1 To promote cooperation between the members, and to safeguard and promote their academic, linguistic, cultural, social and extra-curricular interests.

4.2 To promote the Welsh language and Welsh medium activities within the University and the wider community.

4.3 To provide for the welfare of the members and to represent them in all aspects pertaining to their interests.

4.4 To represent students at the University who would like to deal with the University administration completely or predominantly through the medium of Welsh.

5. Language

5.1 Welsh shall be the official language of UMCB.

5.2 The official publications of UMCB (e.g. the UMCB handbook and Y Llef) shall be in Welsh only.

5.3 Welsh shall be the main language of UMCB on social media (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook).

5.4 A simultaneous translation service into English shall be provided for members during UMCB meetings if a request is made at least 7 days ahead of the meeting with the exception of emergency meetings.

6. Equal Opportunities

UMCB is committed to offering equal opportunities. No members of UMCB shall face prejudice within the Union on the basis of gender, disability, sexual orientation, language, race, religion, age,

ethnic origin or social class. The President shall represent any UMCB member who is facing prejudice within the University.

7. UMCB Advisory Committee

The Executive Committee may invite former UMCB Presidents to be members of an Advisory Committee of former UMCB presidents. They will not meet regularly but the Executive Committee can call on them for advice on any matter, at any time and the current President will give them an update on UMCB activities at the end of each term. The Executive Committee may also retire a former President from the Advisory Committee if over 50% of the Executive Committee members agree.

8. Governance

8.1 The governance of UMCB comprises:

8.1.1 this Constitution;

8.1.2 the UMCB General Meeting which has the power to pass policies and subject to the approval of the Trustees and the Student Council of the Union, to amend the Constitution;

8.1.3 the Executive Committee and its sub-committee, to implement policy;

8.1.4 the President, to whom the day to day administrative tasks are delegated; and

8.1.5 the UMCB Advisory Committee.

8.2 A copy of the current constitution will be available to every UMCB member from the UMCB President's office.

9. General Meetings

9.1 The UMCB General Meeting shall have the authority to:

9.1.1 represent the voice of members of UMCB;

9.1.2 subject to Article 30.3 of the Union set the policy of UMCB;

9.1.3 subject to Article 49 of the Union make, repeal and amend the Constitution; and

9.1.4 elect the Executive Committee.

9.2 The quorum for general meetings shall be 50 UMCB Members.

9.3 Associate Members shall have no right to vote at general meetings or in referenda.

9.4 A general meeting may be called on not less than 5 working days' notice by:

9.4.1 the President; or

9.4.2 one half of the members of the Executive Committee; or

- 9.4.3 must be called by the President or the Executive Committee following a petition signed by twenty or more members setting out the business of the meeting.
- 9.5 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the President or the Executive Committee on not less than two working days' notice setting out the business to be discussed at that meeting.
- 9.6 The President must organise a general meeting each term in the JMJ Common Room or other convenient venue for Members.
- 9.7 The President shall chair general meetings. If the President is not present the Vice-Chair shall act as chair and if the Vice-Chair is also not present the Members present shall appoint a chair of the meeting.

10. UMCB President

The President shall have the following powers and duties in line with the Sabbatical Officers role descriptions as defined in Bye-Law 3:

- 10.1 The President is accountable to the Executive Committee and to the General Meeting.
- 10.2 The President shall be responsible for representing UMCB members.
- 10.3 The President shall be responsible for co-ordinating UMCB campaigns.
- 10.4 Only the President shall have the authority to speak to the press concerning UMCB. In the President's absence this responsibility shall be delegated to a representative chosen by the Executive Committee.
- 10.5 The President shall be responsible for maintaining an updated membership list.
- 10.6 The President shall work from the UMCB office in Undeb Bangor at Pontio and shall also hold drop-in hours in the UMCB office at Neuadd John Morris-Jones.
- 10.7 The President shall be responsible for ensuring that the Constitution and the Policy Document are updated regularly.
- 10.8 Is a voting member of the SU Trustee Board.

11. UMCB Elections

- 11.1 The Executive Committee shall be elected at General Meetings for one year terms in accordance with this Bye-Law.
- 11.2 The UMCB President shall be elected as part of the Union Sabbatical Team in line with Bye-Law 2 of the Union Bye-Laws.

12. UMCB Publications

Y Llef

- 12.1 Y Llef shall to be published at least once every term.
- 12.2 The Editor shall be a member of the UMCB Executive Committee.

- 12.3 Y Llef shall have sub-editors who will assist the editor in his/her role.
- 12.4 The UMCB President shall act as Executive Editor of Y Llef and shall sign off before publication in line with the Student Media Agreement.

13. Code of Conduct

The Union Code of Conduct and disciplinary procedures for Student Members shall apply to all Members and Associate Members of UMCB.

14. Referendums

- 14.1 A Referendum may be called on any issue relating to UMCB by:
- 14.1.1 a resolution of the Executive Committee;
 - 14.1.2 a majority vote of the Members at a General Meeting; or
 - 14.1.3 subject to Articles 30.3 of the Union a Secure Petition signed or agreed to by at least 35 Student Members.
- 14.2 Subject to Articles 30.3 of the Union, a resolution may only be passed by Referenda if at least 110 Members cast a vote in the Referenda and a simple majority of the votes cast are in favour of the resolution.
- 14.3 Referenda shall be conducted in accordance with the Articles and the Bye-Laws.
- 14.4 Subject to Article 30.3 of the Union, the Members may set UMCB Policy by Referenda. Policy set by Referenda may overturn Policy set by the Executive Committee and Policy set by the Members at a General Meeting.

15. Removal of President as Sabbatical Officer

The President shall be removed from office if they:

- 15.1 resign or die; or
- 15.2 are removed from office as a Sabbatical Officer:
 - 15.2.1 by a motion of no confidence in the Sabbatical Officer passed by a simple majority of the Members voting in a Referendum, provided that at least 110 Members cast a vote in the Referendum. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition signed or agreed to by at least 35 Members; or
 - 15.2.2 by a motion of no confidence in the Sabbatical Officer passed by a two thirds majority in a vote of the General Meeting. Such a motion shall only be triggered by a Secure Petition signed or agreed to by at least 35 Student Members or by a General Meeting called by the Executive Committee;

provided that such removal shall be subject to the Union having first carried out any steps it is required to take under the Sabbatical Officer's contract of employment and/or the applicable disciplinary procedure and otherwise in accordance with good employment practice.

15.3 A Sabbatical Officer who is removed from office in accordance with this Bye Law 15 shall immediately cease to be a Sabbatical Trustee.

16. Conflicting Provisions

In the event of a conflict between this Constitution and the Articles of the Union the Articles of the Union shall prevail. The unification of UMCB and Bangor University Students' Union has been agreed through good will and a desire to work together to form a lasting relationship. If this relationship breaks down then the democratic will of UMCB members shall be taken into account when making decisions about the future of their Union.

17. Definitions

In this Constitution unless the context requires otherwise, the following words shall have the following meanings:

Constitution – the bye laws of UMCB

UMCB – Undeb Myfyrwyr Cymraeg Bangor (Bangor Welsh Students Union)

Union – Bangor University Students' Union