

Undeb Bangor General Meeting Minutes

22nd March 2018 – Pontio PL2

18:30



1. Chairs Welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the GM and explained the SU's core policies; equal opportunities, safe space and bilingualism.

2. Apologies

None received

3. Minutes form the last meeting

Approved

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

N/A

5. University Senior Management Team Presentation and Q & A – Prof. Carol Tully

PVC for Students Professor Carol Tulley addressed the AGM covering the following main points:

Carol apologised that the Vice Chancellor could not attend today as the he is out of Bangor but welcomed to take back any questions.

Carol made students aware of the ongoing investments in facilities, which included:

- Plans for 3G rugby pitch at Treborth
- Refurbishment of JMJ
- Planning continues for re-development of the Science Site
- Ongoing refurbishment of teaching facilities

The new college structure was explained and how it will be changing from 5 colleges to 3, they are as follows:

- The College of Arts, Humanities and Business
 - Bangor Business School
 - School of History, Philosophy and Social Science
 - School of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics
 - School of Law
 - School of Music and Media
- College of Environmental Sciences and Engineering
 - School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering
 - School of Natural Sciences
 - School of Ocean Sciences
- College of Human Sciences
 - School of Education and Human Development
 - School of Health Sciences
 - School of Medical Sciences

- School of Psychology
- School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences

Carol informed students if they had any questions to go and speak to their Head of School.

Strike Action

Carol explained to students that all information regarding the strike is available on My Bangor but also covered the following points:

- There will be no student not graduating due to the strike action, students' work so far will be considered. If you have been affected by the strike, submit extensions on work as well as mitigating circumstances. The Senate Regulations is in place to ensure progression and graduation.
- Further action in teaching time and exam period is likely. We are still in consultation with UCU. Students should keep in touch with their school, personal tutor and Students' Union.
- The University are not currently issuing refunds as we do not know the financial impact.

Carol welcomed any questions and the following was asked:

- In the email that was sent out regarding the strike, where it mentioned that topics that have not been covered due to strikes will not be in an exam – lecturers in my school are not aware of this.
 - The staff have been sent the same information
- No one informed me about the strikes
 - There has been an all student email and information on My Bangor, but your tutor does not have to tell you that they are striking.
- Is there a change to the exam timetable?
 - No the area least affected is the invigilators.
- The strike action has caused many of my deadlines to clump together.
 - Log through the request centre your issue with deadlines and inform the Students' Union.
- SBS students had an email that the school was not accepting extenuating circumstances.
 - Come and talk with the Students' Union.
- Will there be a delay in graduation?
 - Graduation will not be moved.

6. Undeb Bangor Update

The President of Undeb Bangor, Ruth Plant, gave an update of what she has been working on, which include:

- Work with our international community to understand their needs and wants from the SU
- Halls Disciplinary processes
- Work with the disability services to create a list of accessible resources for the Students' with a variety of disabilities
- Create a Student Welfare Committee to continuously improve and expand Welfare
- Working with the council on the rubbish issue
- The 'Take down the let sign' campaign was successful
- Institutional review
- Straws and cups green campaign; looking to secure surfers against sewage accreditation – ongoing
- Director recruitment – completed and a new director has been appointed

Ruth also listed Team Priorities, which included;

Sexual Health and Wellbeing

- Development of support, advice and guidance services.
- Testing and support services on campus

- Information and awareness campaigns
- C-card scheme review and removal?

Mental Health

- Increased support and training for our student leaders (MHFA?)
- Support materials / information booklet and website
- Out of hours provision for students – support services / sanctuary development

Transparency and Accessibility

- Clarity around SU and it's function – your Union
- How to do stuff within the SU – everyday activities made easier and simpler
- Supporting our students to do what they want to do with our support

Financial Security

- Development of advertising and sponsorship revenues / ethical investment / merchandising
- Reviewing our finances and spending – value for money – statement of benefits
- Demonstrate impact and achievement to the University and fight for an increased block grant

Welsh Language

- Unlocking North Wales Programme
- Embedding of Welsh Language in all student led activities
- Development of Bilingual Policy and Procedure

Helen Marchant VP of Education gave an update on the following:

Education

- Student Led Teaching & Learning Strategy
- Computer availability published live on myBangor
- Institutional Review
- PhTea & 3 minute thesis
- NSS Action Planning
- Course Rep Week
- Course Rep Dragons Den
- SLTA'S
- Course rep Awards
- Bangor College China Reps
- Teaching & Learning, Welsh language provision
- What do you want for christmas feedback

Welfare

- De-Stresstival
- Welfare on Wheels
- Study Aid
- House and Bounce
- Movem
- Halls to Home
- Landlord Awards
- Period Poverty
- Mental Health Advisor Drop Ins
- Blue Any Day campaign to target myth of blue Monday
- Big White Wall Launch
- University mental health day
- Mental Health first aid training
- suicide awareness train the trainer
- Welcome Wobbles

Mirain the President of UMCB gave an update on the following:

- Inter-Collegiate Eisteddfod was at Bangor in 2017, with Bangor winning overall and winning a hatrick this year at Lampeter.
- Changes to UMCB Governance
 - Unification of UMCB and Undeb Bangor
 - New Bi-Law for UMCB clarifying it's structure and vision.
- Development of Welsh medium volunteering opportunities - Ffrind Cymraeg
- UMCB Clubs and Societies are going from strength to strength
 - Aelwyd JMJ incredibly active
 - Cymdeithas Llywelyn attracts more members than ever before.
 - UMCB membership have been working with other Welsh Unions on Welsh issues and campaigns
 - £1,500 raised for Ward Alaw, Ysbyty Gwynedd
- Develop Y Cymric's image and brand.
- Restructure UMCB's newspaper – Y Llef
- Work towards raising awareness regarding the lack of Welsh Language support with Mental Health nationally

James Williams the VP for Societies and Volunteering gave the following update:

Societies

- Started the Societies Guild
- Began the cluster system
- Developed better relationships with clothing providers
- Supported international students via the development of new national based societies
- Start to develop a new IT system for Societies
- Support for Welsh Language Societies and Welsh Language in English based Societies
- Developed Societies Executive to start running campaigns on Sustainability

Volunteering

- Analysed the changes to the website to make volunteering easier to lead for Project Leaders.
- Start Pop-Up Volunteering sessions to fill any currently unfilled spaces
- Work with Promotions Team and RAG to run Student Volunteering and RAG Week
- 1-2-1 sessions with project leaders to support at the beginning and now.
- Started to develop volunteering executive as a knowledge and feedback base.

Additional

- Student Leadership Conference
- Sustainability Carnifal and University's Sustainability Policy
- Improved IT Provisions in Deiniol Library
- Live Streamed Drop-In Sessions
- UBC Ideas
- Worked with university Employability to identify how we could make our students more employable.
- Started the "Meet and Mingle" and "Conversation Corner" sessions in freshers

To see Tatenda Shonhiwa, VP for Sport, update please see the attached video.

The following questions were asked to the Sabbatical Officers:

- There are several problems with engagement and issues with running the SU as a whole compared to last year, societies and the SU are not well known, how do you think we could address this issue?
 - The SU can hold a focus group to put ideas across.

- Does the SU have a response communication person as responses take too long?
 - Staff must follow the policy in which a response should be provided within 48-72 hours.
- The Engagement for International Students has not been great this year. What is the SU going to do next year to improve this?
 - The SU has been in contact with the IEC
- There have been many bad committee turnouts, what does the SU recommend to retain students?
 - Engage with the school
- Students are concerned that the SU are losing the societies paperwork.
 - The SU used more paperwork this year but we are introducing new procedures and finding best systems.
- This is the first time that some students have heard of Big White Wall, has the SU been promoting it?
 - The SU launched the Big White Wall in January, student service also promote it as well as Facebook and certain events that we run. The SU welcome ideas on how to inform more students of this service.
- Minorities and student engagement – the minority is missed is student parents, who have had no opportunity to meet other student.
 - The SU can look into this, we have tried before but it didn't work very well, but we can definitely look into developing ideas, we can set up a survey response for parents to give details of what they would like.
- The SU hasn't worked on improving disability services.
 - Ruth is working with the UBC Disability Councillor.
- With the minibuses, an international student's licence is not allowed to drive it, is it possible to change this?
 - The SU are making changes to ensure that international students can drive all SU vehicles.
- The process to book rooms has changed from 2 or 3 emails to a form and a delay, is there a way to keep it simple?
 - The Sabbs can start this conversation with the relevant people.
- The website is not functional
 - It is in the process of being developed, any feedback is appreciated.
- Is it sensible to use the same supplier for all kits?
 - Clubs are welcome to discuss this at the meeting we will be holding, VXR will be attending too.

7. Undeb Bangor Financial Statement

The Sabbatical Officer Team explained the Undeb Bangor Financial Statement to the audience.

8. New Bye-Laws

The Sabbatical Officers went through the following new Bye-Laws and asked student to vote for, against or abstain.

- [Elected Member Accountability](#)
- [NUS Delegates](#)
- [Student Representation](#)
- [Undeb Bangor policy](#)
- [Opportunities](#)

All new Bye-Laws were passed.

9. Any Other Business

- Third year students were encouraged to complete the National Student Survey.