

# Undeb Bangor Sabbatical Officer Elections Report 2019

## Nominations

Nominations for the 2019 Sabbatical Officer Elections opened in December 2018 and closed on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at 17:00. We received a total of 22 nominations upon the closing of nominations. This led to a record number of 19 candidates actively standing for positions. This demonstrates fantastic engagement with the nominations process and with the SU in general. It is also noteworthy that for the first time this year we had a concerted, targeted and multifaceted campaign to promote nominations.

The final breakdown of the numbers of candidates standing for each position are shown below. It is pleasing to see that all positions apart from the UMCB President were contested. It would be useful to encourage more candidates to stand for the UMCB President Position in the future - this is especially true as a single candidate standing for this position has been a consistent trend over the last few years.

Position	Numbers
President	3
UMCB President	1
VP Education	6
VP Sports	4
VP Societies and Volunteering	5

Similarly, it would be worth considering how to encourage and actively promote more women to stand in the future. As can be seen from the breakdown below, there are significantly more men who put themselves forward for positions overall. As shown, this is more apparent for the President and VP Societies and Volunteering roles this year. It would also

Position	Man	Woman	Other
President	2	0	1
UMCB President	0	1	0
VP Education	3	3	0
VP Sports	2	2	0
VP Societies and Volunteering	4	1	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>

Additionally, it would also be worth considering how to encourage more students from minority groups to stand in the elections.

## Campaigning

The campaign period took place between Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Included in the campaign period we held a Candidates Question Time event on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March, the day before voting opened. Some notable changes to last year's Candidates Question Time are detailed below, which we believe all contributed to better numbers and engagement in the event:

- Increased promotion of submitting questions before the event. We received 50 questions in advance compared to one last year.
- Moving the event to be the day before voting opens, with voting opening straight away at the end of the event, allowing for promotion in the room.

- As the event was on Pancake Day, we held a pancake party before Candidate Question Time.
- There were free giveaways for attending Candidates Question Time, including a Kindle Fire Tablet.

In addition, changes were also made to the running of the event, which contributed to a more streamlined and efficient Question Time. These included;

- Two minute speeches timed by a countdown timer in front of candidates which allowed them to structure their speeches better.
- Coloured cards which were held up to indicate how much time candidates had left to answer a question.

Finally, Question Time was live streamed by Seren Bangor, which received thousands of views. It is also worth noting, that for the first time ever we video conferenced one candidate into the question time to allow her participate despite being away on a field trip abroad.

It is worth noting that Seren Bangor conducted exceptional elections coverage including; hosting interviews with candidates, covering all campaigning activity throughout the week and providing analysis of Question Time and candidates manifestos.

### **Voting**

Voting took place over three days between Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Middy. The results were announced at 16:00 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March in Bar Uno. The results event was very well attended and was live streamed by Seren Bangor.

A total of 2206 students voted in the elections. This is the biggest ever voter turn out in the history of Undeb Bangor, which is fantastic to see. As a percentage of eligible students, this is 19% significantly higher than the last two years of 13 and 16% respectively. This is reflective of fantastic engagement with students by Undeb this year as well as an extremely well run “Vote” campaign, which included for the first time;

- All staff in the Undeb helping to encourage students to vote across campus with dedicated target areas to flyer and talk to students.
- Free giveaways such as “Vote Now” pens, sweets and fruit (with elections stickers on them) and badges.
- The #InTheGnome campaign.
- A high social media presence based on dynamic, fun engaging and quirky posts.

### **Results**

The following people were elected:

President: Mark Barrow

VP Education: Harry Riley

VP Sport: Henry Williams

VP Societies & Volunteering: Muhammad Firdaus

UMCB President: Lleucu Myrddin

The full election results and numbers are available on [www.undebbangor/elections](http://www.undebbangor/elections).

## **Complaints**

In general, it was pleasing to see the candidates campaigning positively and the general atmosphere throughout the elections was positive.

However, we did receive a small number of complaints which were all dealt with by the Deputy Returning Officer (DRO). The Returning Officer was made aware of the complaints and was happy with the DRO's rulings.

Where there was evidence of rule breaches, the majority of complaints were dealt with by speaking to candidates in a relatively informal manner or by giving a warning about behaviour.

It is worth noting that a small number of more severe sanctions were put in place by the the DRO.

## **Evaluation**

Now that the election period is complete, we will be sending out an evaluation survey to all candidates. This will allow candidates to provide information on their experience and highlight any areas they would like to see improved. We will also be holding an evaluation session to fully analyse the elections and propose recommendations for development.