

UNDEB BANGOR COUNCIL – MINUTES 02/04/19

Date: 02/04/19

Present:

Voting Members: Siân Billington, Daisy Sherratt, Frederick Walters, Arpita Gargesh, Paige Dixon, Jennifer Kerins, Aaron Holland (left before casting a vote), Idriss Kamtcheu, Elaena Shipp, Osian Wyn Owen, Jackson Adams, Katie Tew, Steff Oliver-Smith, Stephanie Willey, Lucy Best, Tim Green,

Non-Voting Members: Gethin Morgan, Ruth Plant, Mark Barrow, Muhammad Firdaus

Apologies: *Joshua Bebbington, Branwen Roberts, Freddi Lavender, Abhiroop Singh, Jessica Nixon, Henry Williams, Louise Fell,*

Application for speaking rights: None

Minutes from the last meeting: Approved

Matters arising from the minutes: None

1 UNIVERSITY RECRUITMENT – PROF. OLIVER TURNBULL

Professor Oliver Turnbull delivered a presentation relating to the challenges of recruitment currently faced by the University. Any feedback or suggestions on the issues at hand can be sent to studentvoice@undebbangor.com who will forward the details to Professor Oliver Turnbull.

2 SABBATICAL OFFICER REPORTS

2.1 MARK BARROW

- Assisted with the organisation of, and participated in the Climate Change Strike over Easter.
- Organising a second Climate Change Strike for May. Likely to occur on the 24th, after exams to increase student participation.
- Work ongoing into the provision of Work Placements, currently looking at Health and Safety considerations
- Working on the Student Led Mental Health Strategy
- Conducting a review of the Course Rep Structure, with proposed changes presented to Course Reps.
- Setting up Common Rooms for Colleges, looking for suitable rooms in all colleges.
- Still looking at statistics and numbers for the Panopto Report

2.2 RUTH PLANT

- Finishing preparation for the hand over at the end of her term as President.
- Working with the University on the recruitment issues discussed by Professor Oliver Turnbull
- Bringing the food poverty campaign to a close, writing up the report.
- Worked on the UBC Restructure proposed at this UBC meeting
- Bystander training pushed back to the next Academic Year

2.3 Gethin Morgan

- Lots of work focussed on UMCB activities.
- Inaugural UMCB awards night held and was very successful
- UMCB bye-law passed at the last UBC
- Working on a handover for the incoming UMBC President Lleucu Myrddin
- Aelwyd JMJ won the best arts society at the National Societies Awards
- UMCB societies continue to be very busy throughout the final semester

2.4 LOUISE FELL

- Could not be present
- AU dinner a success
- Working on handover with incoming AU President Henry Williams

2.5 MUHAMMAD FIRDAUS

- Societies and Volunteering dinner took place in April. Huge success
- National Societies Awards, Seren and BEDS nominated for awards
- Winner of the WhatUni Awards for Clubs and Societies
- Society and Volunteering AGMs taken place, new societies and volunteering execs selected. Almost all positions filled
- Improving structure of volunteering executive and projects

3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES

3.1 ATHLETIC COMMITTEE

- Could not be present

3.2 SOCIETIES COMMITTEE

- Covered by Muhammad's Update

3.3 COURSE REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE

- Covered by Mark's update

3.4 VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE

- Covered by Muhammad's update

3.5 UMCB

- Covered by Gethin's update

4 IDEAS

4.1 EXTEND HEALTH CARE LIBRARY (DEINIOL) HOURS

- *The proposer could not be present to propose the idea*

Discussion and Comments:

- Idea has come up in previous years
- Unmanned library is not possible due to reasons of Health and Safety, Security Officer would have to be present
- Discussion needs to be had relating to the pay-off of usability against increased cost of extending the opening hours
- Main Arts 24hr access is currently not used enough to justify the increased expenditure
- Different proposals are currently being discussed relating to Library Opening Hours
- Some clarity needed on what the proposer means by extended opening hours
- Option to transfer books to Main Arts out of University Term Times
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Vote: For 15 Against 0 Abstentions 0 Idea Passes

5 UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL SITUATION UPDATE

- Period of scrutiny has now come to an end, with all scrutiny groups having been carried out.
- Revised Business Cases passed to the relevant stakeholders for comment
- Majority of major decisions have now been made
- Students will be informed of the outcomes of the scrutiny process and the final decisions by the University in due time
- Heads of school will be in contact with any and all students who have been affected by the decisions made

6 UBC PROPOSED STRUCTURE

Changes to UBC Structure proposed. Majority of changes required discussion, whilst two changes to the bye-laws required voting on by UBC Councillors. The entirety of the changes proposed can be found in the document '**Proposed Changes to Undeb Bangor Council**'

6.1 POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

6.1.1 Introduce Consequences for Not Attending Undeb Bangor Council

The proposed change is as follows:

- Miss ½ Council meetings without warning and reason – invite Councillor for an informal chat with a Sabbatical Officer to ask why they haven't been able to attend, and check that they can still fulfil the role
- Miss 2/3 meetings without warning and reason – Sabbatical Officers issue a formal warning
- Miss ¾ meetings without warning and reason – Invite Councillor in for a final chat with a Sabbatical Officer, encourage them to either start attending meetings, step down, or worst case scenario the Sabbatical Officers would propose a Vote of No Confidence in the Councillor to Undeb Bangor Council

Discussion

- Measures such as those proposed would increase accountability for all UBC Councillors
- Some Councillors such as those on the Societies executive committee meet with their cohorts on Thursday nights, which clash with UBC. Meeting with cohorts forms a key part of the Councillors Role, and Councillors should not be punished for this
- Accessibility of UBC sessions needs to increase before consequences are put in place. All Councillors should have equal chance to attend a session in order to make consequences fair
- Idea behind consequences is to add in steps to help resolve any issues such as those raised, rather than immediately proposing a Vote of No Confidence as is the current procedure
- The more lenient option of consequences being implemented after absences (i.e. consequences occur after missing 2,3 and 4 sessions) is preferable to many
- However the stricter option offers better representation to the student body, ensuring that UBC attends is improved
- Potential to implement a new option whereby Councillors are emailed after missing one session and a meeting put in place after two absences
- Important to note that the meeting with Sabbatical Officers is not a reprimand, rather a discussion as to what can be done to assist any Councillors with attending UBC or making UBC more accessible to all Councillors
- Councillors need to let Undeb Bangor staff know if they cannot attend a meeting
- Frustrating for Idea proposers to attend UBC and have their ideas listened to and discussed but not voted on as quorum has not been reached due to Councillor absences.
- Potential for a compromise between the two proposed options. If Councillors inform Undeb Bangor of their absence ahead of time then the more lenient consequences option is followed. If apologies are not sent then the stricter option is followed.
- Important for all Councillors on UBC, including any rotating positions, to be made fully aware after UBC Elections are held that they have a place on UBC and must attend sessions.

6.1.2 Wrexham Campus and Bangor College China

Councillors discussed how best to represent students who are a part of Wrexham Campus or Bangor College China (BCC), whether this be as part of UBC or not.

- Should these positions count towards quorum?

Discussion

- Councillors from Wrexham and BCC should be able to contribute to UBC and represent cohorts
- Their positions could count towards quorum provided their attendance is confirmed
- Could minutes be sent to Councillors with a request for their vote based on the points discussed
- If councillors are contributing towards UBC their vote should count towards Quorum
- Links to the Wrexham Campus are much stronger now than they were at the beginning of the year, and therefore involving the next Wrexham Councillor should be more straight forward

6.2 POINTS FOR VOTING ON

6.2.1 Merge Undeb Bangor Councillors with the NUS Delegates

- Change UBC Councillors job role to include visiting relevant NUS Conferences
- Where more than one place is available for certain Conferences, or a Conference does not relate to a specific Councillor, elections will continue to be cross campus and open to the relevant student body
- Ensures that delegates are engaged and aware of what is happening within Undeb, allowing constructive feedback within UBC on what is happening at a national level

Vote:

For 14 Against 1 Abstentions 0 Changes Passed

6.2.2 Changes to Undeb Bangor Council Positions

- Abolish rotating positions
- Abolish the separate positions for chair, instead elect a chair from the Councillors at the beginning of the year or at the beginning of each session
- Reduce the number of executive positions to 1 per committee
- Introduce an Environmental Councillor
- Introduce two open positions 'Undeb Bangor Councillor'

Discussion

- Rotating positions are more workable for executive committees
- Issue with the current rotating positions in terms of keeping track of what has occurred at previous UBC sessions
- Compromise by rotating between 2 appointed members of the executive committees
- How will the proposed consequences be enforced if rotating positions are kept
- Option to rotate positions termly to accommodate timetable changes

Vote:

For 13 Against 2 Abstentions 0 Changes Passed

