



Swansea University Students' Union

Policy June 2017

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Swansea Union to join the BDS Campaign

This Union Notes;

1. In 2005, Palestinian Civil Society issued a call for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with International law and Palestinian rights. This includes boycott of 'products and companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights and participate in the Israeli occupation; which is deemed illegal by the International body. ' On the 5th of August this year, the National Union of Students passed a motion in favour of supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.
2. Legislation
 - a. The International Criminal Court of Justice (2004) – “The construction of the wall being built by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and its associated régime, are contrary to international law”
 - b. 4th Geneva convention
 - c. Article 4 – “Persons protected by the Convention are those who, at a given moment and in any manner whatsoever, find themselves, in case of a conflict or occupation, in the hands of a Party to the conflict or Occupying Power of which they are not nationals.”
 - d. Article 49 – “The Occupying Power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies”
 - e. UN Human Rights Council (2013) - “In compliance with Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, Israel must cease all settlement activities without preconditions,”
 - f. Countless UN resolutions calling for end of Israeli colonisation and military occupation of occupied Palestinian territories, eg. UN resolution 446, and 242
3. Veolia
 - a. Runs transport services between illegal Israeli settlements, and between illegal settlements and Israel. This includes Israeli only busses, which prohibits Palestinians from travelling on (apartheid!)
 - b. Veolia dumps waste from illegal Israeli settlements on to landfill on occupied Palestinian land. By doing this Veolia is complicit in the illegal Israeli practices on occupied lands. Veolia is actively helping Israel breach the Geneva Conventions and International Law
 - c. UN expert on Palestine – Richard Falk – has called for the boycott of Veolia
4. Human Rights Abuses
 - a. Amnesty International – “..ill-treatment and torture of detainees, excessive use of force, the detention of conscientious objectors, and forced evictions and home demolitions within 'unrecognized' Bedouin villages.”
 - b. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: ‘Everyone has the right to education’
5. Checkpoints in West Bank restrict movement for Palestinian students, making short journeys take hours, and even impossible.
6. Students in Gaza are restricted from studying elsewhere due to illegal blockade
7. Israel have bombed Palestinian schools in Gaza many times
8. In the vast areas of the West Bank under complete military occupation it is prohibited for Palestinians to build, amongst otherthings, education facilities

This Union Believes;

1. Swansea Union and Swansea University should support and endorse the BDS action against Israel as outlined in the resolves.
2. As an institution, Swansea Union and Swansea University should not employ or work with companies identified as facilitating Israel military capacity, Human rights abuses or illegal settlement activities.

This Union Resolves;

1. That Swansea Union lobbies Swansea University to terminate their contract with Veolia for the following reasons: - the company operates directly in the illegal settlement disposing waste from

these settlements and dumping this on occupied Palestinian land. The company also provides Israeli only transports between settlements, reminiscent of the South Africa apartheid system. This was done 4 years ago by Swansea City Council barring all their contracts with Veolia.

2. That Swansea Union educate students on the Palestinian struggle for liberation.
3. That Swansea Union work with the relevant body in the National Union of Students to support the BDS Movement which looks to boycott companies identified as facilitating Israel military capacity, Human rights or illegal settlement activities; such as Veolia, G4S and Eden Springs.

Amended from;

This Union Notes:

1. In 2005, Palestinian Civil Society issued a call for a campaign of boycotts, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with International law and Palestinian rights. This includes boycott of 'products and companies that profit from the violation of Palestinian rights and participate in the Israeli occupation; which is deemed illegal by the International body. '
2. On the 5th of August this year, the National Union of Students passed a motion in favour of supporting the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

This Union Believes:

1. Swansea University should support and endorse the BDS action against Israel.
2. We further believe that as an educational institution, Swansea Union and Swansea University should not employ or work with companies identified as facilitating Israel military capacity, Human rights abuses or illegal settlement activities.

This Union Resolves:

1. That Swansea Union and Swansea University terminates their contract with Veolia for the following reasons: - the company operates directly in the illegal settlement disposing waste from these settlements and dumping this on occupied Palestinian land. The company also provides Israeli only transports between settlements, reminiscent of the South Africa apartheid system. This was done 4 years ago by Swansea City Council barring all their contracts with Veolia.
2. That Swansea Union work with the relevant body in the National Union of Students to support the BDS Movement.
3. That Swansea Union and Swansea University promote peace between Israel and Palestine.

Proposed by: Robiu Salisu (BME Officer)

Seconded by: Hamzah Nurgat

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

01.05SF.14/15 Policy passed 09/03/15 Student Forum

4 Additional Members

The Union note

1. Currently only Part Time Officers have the right to sit on the committee of officers responsibilities.

The Unions belief

1. The students ability to hold their elected officers accountable is extremely important.
2. We must give students a more direct role while they try to hold their elected officers accountable

The Unions decision is

1. To present 4 new places on the committee of officers responsibilities for students only.
2. The new members will be appointed by interview

3. The general secretary nor any member of the executive board has the power to appoint any student to any of the four extra places for students. Neither will they have any right to influence the appointment of the four spaces for students.
4. If this motion passed, in a case where there is an equal vote in the committee of officers responsibilities, the General Secretary will have the right to cast the final vote.

Suggested by: Lewys Aron – General Secretary

Seconded by: Ceinwen Cloney

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

01.06SF.14/15 Policy passed 24/03/15 Student Forum

An Inclusive Union – LGBT+ Officers

This Union Notes:

1. That the current names of the Student Union LGBT executive officers are LGBT (Women's Place) Officer and LGBT (Open Place) Officer.
2. That there is an entire spectrum of genders and sexualities, often symbolised by including a "+" after LGBT
3. That the extended gender spectrum is encompassed within the union's LGBT+ Society
4. That the union has a commitment to equality in representation.

This Union Believes:

1. That as it currently stands, those students who don't self-define as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender are not technically eligible to stand for the officer roles.
2. That both officers should aim to represent the entire LGBT+ campaign and this should be reflective in their titles.
3. That renaming the officer positions to include the "+" reflects the inclusive aim of the union and more closely aligns the titles of the positions with their intended role.

This Union Resolves:

1. That the names of the LGBT Officer (Open Place) and LGBT Officer (Women's Place) should be renamed to include LGBT+ instead of LGBT

Proposed by: Christopher Walburn (LGBT Open Place Officer)

Seconded by: Joseph Hennell (LGBT+ Society President)

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 01.13EC.14/15

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Policy 02.01SF.11/12

Passed 06/10/11 1st SGM 2011/12

Student Led Campaigns Motion

This Union Notes:-

1. That one of the most successful campaigns led on our campus recently was the Campaign to Save Modern Foreign Languages, and that it was a campaign led and organised by students.
2. That currently there is no policy in place securing support and funding for such student led campaigns.
3. That the Union is in the position to help students lead campaigns financially and/or organisationally.

This Union Believes:-

1. That all students should be given the opportunity to lead and organise their own campaigns on the issues they feel passionate about.
2. That this Union should support these students as much as is possible whether this be through offering financial assistance or through offering campaign expertise.

This Union Resolves:-

1. That this Students' Union will annually set aside a budget specifically to fund student led campaigns.
2. That this budget will be set at no less than £500 per annum.
3. That this Union will offer as much campaign support as necessary to those who apply but this support can be both financial and/or organisational.
4. That any student or society will have the right to apply for funding and support.
5. That the Union will reserve the right to refuse any support of a campaign deemed inappropriate by a majority vote of the full-time and part-time officers.

Proposed by:- Mitchell Theaker

Seconded by:- Zahid Raja

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 02.13EC.14/15

Policy 04.01SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 06/10/11 1st SGM 2011/12

History of the Students' Union**This Union Notes:-**

1. From January 2012 Swansea University's history department will run a module for second year students on the history of Swansea University Students' Union. Students taking the module will research an area of our union's history and produce a number of 'outputs' which will be used to communicate the Union's history to the student body.
2. Swansea University Students' Union and Swansea University history department have received a grant worth £1000 from the Swansea Academy of Learning and Teaching to support our joint project.

This Union Believes:-

1. Our union has a proud history of fighting local, national and global causes for over fifty years but with a high turnover of members many of the greatest achievements of our union are not remembered.
2. This lack of historical context leads to the perception that the Union is solely an on campus service provider rather than a campaigning body for students which is part of the wider student and workers' union movement.
3. The majority of students currently do not recognise the significance of their membership of the Students' Union. Exploring the history of the union and showcasing it to students will change our member's perceptions of their union for the better.

This Union Resolves:-

1. That every year each new student will receive information about the history of the Students' Union. This information will be part of the Union's general welcome pack.
2. That every President of the Students' Union will work with the history department to ensure their module on the history of the Union is sustained for as long as necessary to research the major events and work of the Union.
3. Establish and maintain a page on the website dedicated to the history of the Students' Union.
4. To use centres of the student community, such as commercial service outlets, for visual displays about the history of the Students' Union.

Proposed by:- Luke James

Seconded by:- Hannah Parry

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 03.13EC.14/15

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Democratic Voting Motion

This Union Notes:-

1. That voting during the Student Forum Meetings on motions is conducted through a public showing of hands.
2. That secret voting on motions (Voting through a secret ballot) only takes place when it is specifically requested and voted upon.

This Union Believes:-

1. That voting in this way is detrimental to Union democracy as many members feel they cannot truly vote the way they wish to.
2. That many members feel pressured into voting the same way as their peers especially on contentious issues.
3. That members should have the right to exercise their democratic right to vote on motions through permanent secret ballot.
4. That if the correct procedure is put in place, secret voting for motions can be conducted quickly and efficiently.

This Union Resolves:-

1. That every vote conducted on motions will be done by secret ballot.
2. That the General Secretary, President and Democratic Support Staff will decide how best to implement and maintain the secret voting procedure.

Proposed by:- Mitchell Theaker (General Secretary)

Seconded by:- Sarah Woodvine (Post-Grad Officer and former General Secretary)

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 04.13EC.14/15
Policy 03.03SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 06/12/12 3rd Student Forum 2011/12

Election Review Motion

This Union Notes:-

1. That it is important that our election rules are as up to date as possible.
2. That the last election review took place at the end of 2010.

This Union Believes:-

1. That the election process needs to be as open and as fair as possible.
 - 1.1 That NUS Wales provide the service of an independent and fully trained DRO for free.
 - 1.2 That in order to ensure our elections are as fair as possible the Union should seek input from its own staff, the University and NUS Wales.
2. That currently NUS UK holds no policy on gender quotas for delegate elections.
 - 2.1 That NUS Wales hold policy that requires a quota of 50% + Women in a delegation.
 - 2.2 Though policy may be passed by NUS UK in the future on this other unions such as Manchester have implemented their own policy.
3. That students who are returning as Post Graduate students and students who have caring responsibilities are likely to face more uncertainty as to whether they definitely will be returning to university for the new academic year.
4. That students with caring responsibilities face uncertainty over their timetables and are only aware in the new academic year.
5. That students who were not fresher's were able to vote in the election for fresher's representative.
 - 5.1 Those using databases that exist within the University this could be prevented.

6. That students who were not Post Graduate students were able to vote in the election for Post Graduate Officer.

6.1 That using databases that exist within the University this could be prevented.

Students are often not aware of the role of each officer or of the affiliations they are being asked to vote for.

7. Voting yes or no to the affiliation can be too much of a hassle as there are so many.

8. Many students, particularly international students and off campus students have difficulty voting due to not being registered or not knowing how to log on.

9. Students who are unable to vote are currently expected to re-register (which is time consuming and difficult for many students) and if this fails they are expected to visit the Academic Registry for a certificate of eligibility. This is not accessible.

10. Often marketing plans for the work of the Union or the Union elections have more short term aims.

10.1 The work the Union does and the importance of the elections are not always given the priority they should be in regards to promotion.

10.2 A long term and structured strategy needs to be put in place to ensure the Union promotes itself adequately and to ensure the highest levels of openness and accessibility when it comes to elections.

11. That many students are not easily aware of how they can contact the officers that represent them.

This Union Resolves:-

1. That the election for the position of Post Graduate Officer will be moved and held after the start of the new academic year alongside the election for Freshers Representative.

2. That the election for the position of Students With Caring Responsibilities Officer will be moved and held after the start of the new academic year alongside the election for Freshers Representative.

3. That the Union will try to the best of its ability to ensure that only Freshers are able to vote in the Freshers Representative election.

4. That the Union will try to the best of its ability to ensure that only Post Graduate Students are able to vote in the Post Graduate Officer election.

5. During the elections information will be clearly available online stating the individual role of each officer position and of each affiliation.

6. Accessible Voting Support Stations will be set up for all elections to ensure that those who have difficulty in voting can be helped as much as possible and that the locations of the Voting Support Stations can vary but should be primarily concentrated in the places where those who have the most trouble voting would be. For instance in areas where there are many international students.

7. That the Union will work to the best of its abilities to acquire a list of all registered students so that those experiencing difficulties can still be marked off the register and still cast their vote.

8. That Full-Time Officers should work with the Union Publicity Staff and Entertainments department to put in place a long term marketing strategy for Union and election promotion.

9. That the Union will work to ensure that Union Officer boards are placed in as many University buildings as possible and as appropriate, including residential buildings.

Proposed by:- Mitchell Theaker (General Secretary)

Seconded by:- Rhiannon Hedge (Education Officer)

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 05.13EC.14/15

Policy 01.04SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 09/02/12 4th Student Forum 2011/12

Prospective Students: The Future of our Union

This Union Believes:

1. That the University holds Open Days and Applicant Visit Days throughout the year.

2. That the Union has had very little presence in such events in the past.

3. That progress to resolve this issue has been started.

This Union Further Believes:

1. That with the University charging £9,000 a year for English students, student experience will play a vital role in the decisions of prospective students when choosing the right University for them.
2. That every year, student participation is a key goal, yet students learn nothing about our Union until they arrive.
3. That the Student Recruitment Department in the University is keen for the Union to participate as much as it can in training ambassadors as well as participating in Open Days and Applicant Visit Days.

This Union Resolves:

1. That the Union will provide training to Student Ambassadors every year.
2. That the Union will provide literature to distribute to prospective students on Open Days and Applicant Visit Days, especially around key areas such as societies and sports.
3. That the Union, in some form, will have a presence at each Open Day and Applicant Visit Day.

Proposed by: Ian Morgan

Seconded by: Mitchell Theaker

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 06.13EC.14/15

Policy 03.04SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 09/02/12 4th Student Forum 2011/12

Student housing and the right to rent

This union notes:

1. Houses of Multiple Occupation are the most common form of off-campus accommodation for students as they are usually the most affordable option.
2. An HMO is any house in Castle ward (Brynmill and Uplands) with three or more unrelated persons living in them.
3. In 2010, the average age that someone can buy a house had risen to 31, increasing to 37 if buyers receive no financial support from their parents.¹
4. In 1999, private renters accounted for 9 per cent of British households. In 2010 it was 14 per cent. Figures from the UK Department of Communities and Local Government suggest that 3.1 million people rented a property privately in 2008/9 – a million more than in 2001. The private rented sector continues to grow.²
5. Calls to restrict the number of Houses of Multiple Occupation have led to Article 4 directions in many student towns in England such as Canterbury (University of Kent). This Article 4 Direction means that a council can reject an application to change a house (an article 3 property) into a HMO (an article 4 property).

This union believes:

1. Affordable accommodation is in dire need across the UK and for many large three storey properties, a property being converted into an HMO or flats changes a large house into an accessible form of property for those making use of the private rented sector.
2. Eight bedroom houses such as those on Bryn Road and King Edwards Road on busy roads in the central location of Brynmill are not what the majority of families or couples now would choose as their home; hence they have populated the suburbs and areas that are more residential.

¹ BBC News Online, Friday 15th January 2010 <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/business/8454455.stm>

² Independent Newspaper, TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2010 <http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/house-and-home/property/no-place-like-home-the-generation-who-cant-afford-to-buy-1921781.html>

3. This is only in part due to the expansion of the university, it is also due to the expansion of Swansea in itself, and the relative influx of younger working people who choose to or can only afford to live in shared accommodation and prefer a more central location.
4. Stopping the spread of HMOs as has happened in councils in England will do nothing to improve the current tensions within the community. An Article Four Direction would only stop more houses being converted; this would not raise the standards of the current properties or change the communities in any way.
5. Students and those working on lower wages would have nowhere else to live if HMOs didn't exist. In fact, student officers and the National Union of Students (including NUS Scotland) see the Article Four Directions as discriminatory, as they are usually directly attacking specific sub-groups in society, such as students, who should have a **right to rent** wherever they choose as citizens in a community.³
6. Taking away the only options for students to rent in a community can be a reaction to a prejudiced stereotype of all students as troublemakers – this is not acceptable.
7. Popular areas with students can look run down. In most cases this is due to poor maintenance and refurbishment of the outside of the property which is the responsibility of the landlord, not the tenant.
8. The results of the Swansea Rate Your Landlord survey stated that 71% of students had problems with their accommodation that year. 44.4% of respondents would recommend their landlord and most worryingly, only 27% would recommend their letting agent.

This union resolves:

1. To reject any proposals of Swansea council introducing an Article Four Direction or any future restrictions that impinge on Swansea students' right to rent where they choose as residents in their community.
2. To continue to work towards better community relations in Swansea by engaging with residents and helping the community in a variety of ways.
3. To continue the Rate Your Landlord Survey every year to evaluate the experiences of students in their Swansea accommodation.
4. To work with SAS Lettings to provide students a positive alternative.
5. To continue to educate students about their rights and responsibilities while renting, especially regarding specific issues that becomes apparent through the survey.

Proposed by: Charlotte Britton, Welfare Officer

Seconded by: Thomas Edwards, Fresher Representative

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 07.13EC.14/15

Policy 04.05SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 06/03/12 5th Student Forum 2011/12

Supporting Women Activists

This Union Notes:

1. That each year 3 million women across the UK experience some form of violence, simply because they are women.
2. That 2 women a week are murdered by a current or ex-partner as a result of domestic violence.
3. That BAME women are subject to other serious abuses such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage, and honour crimes including murder.
4. That more women aged 18-35 die every year as a result of domestic violence than they do as a result of car crashes, cancer and war combined.

³<http://www.righttorent.org/>

5. That 30-66% of domestic violence cases against women also effect children in the same household which often leads to child violence being committed by the same person.

This Union Believes:

1. Some platforms of protest such as anti-cut movements and “Occupy” are often male-dominated and women activists have had to fight to put their issues on the agenda.
2. That ending violence against women stretches far beyond the perimeters of campus, and is a world-wide issue.
3. That ending violence against women can only be addressed through policy making, activism and demonstrations.
4. That this is a massive movement for the Women’s Campaign as a step towards liberation.
5. That violence against women is allowed to happen because of the inequalities that exist in society.

This Union Resolves:

1. To annually set aside at minimum of £250 from the campaign budget to allow women to travel to the biggest protest against domestic violence in the UK: Reclaim the Night in London.
2. That the Women’s Officer should be supported by the Union in every way possible to support all women who experience violent situations which include: domestic violence, rape and sexual violence, sexual harassment, forced marriage, female genital mutilation, honour crimes, and trafficking and sexual exploitation.
3. Those women students should have the right to attend this protest, at little or no cost to them.
4. That women should be encouraged to engage in activism, and that the Students’ Union should help women to attend these events.

Proposed: Pearl Sangha – Community and Housing Officer

Secunder: Eleri Jones – Women’s Officer

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 08.13EC.14/15

Policy 27.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Stop Saturday exams motion

This Union notes;

1. There were 3987 exams taken in January 2011 over two Saturdays.
2. As of the morning of February 3rd 941 students have signed the petition to stop Saturday exams.

This Union believes;

1. That Saturday exams are not common practice at other HE institutions around the UK.
2. That Swansea University should extend the examination period, replacing Saturday dates for exams with week days.
3. Saturday exams put a burden on student parents who must find childcare or pay for another day's childcare on top of loss of earnings for those that work on Saturdays.
4. Saturday exams mean a loss of earnings for many students with jobs, who rely on that income to pay for course and living costs. This can particularly affect students without access to funding and student finance such as postgraduate students – for them losing two Saturdays could mean living on the breadline for a month.
5. Ensuring students have weekends to rest and revise over the exam period will help prevent acute stress and improve student's exam performance.

This Union resolves;

1. To mandate future education officers to continue the campaign for an alternative to Saturday exams if this can't be achieved in the current education officer's time in office.

Proposed by: Luke James

Seconded by: Lance Horsey

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 09.13EC.14/15

Policy 01.06SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 29/03/12 6th Student Forum 2011/12

Exams saga**This union believes:**

1. That this union has been successful in its campaign to stop Saturday exams
2. That not one student should sit more than one exam within any 24 hour window period. This should provide students with more time for respite, as well as much needed dedicated revision time per exam.
3. The 24-hour period within this motion should be interpreted as being a full day. Therefore if someone sat an exam on a Monday morning, they would not be allowed to sit another until the Tuesday afternoon, a full 24 hours after the first exam ended.

This union further believes:

1. Many students from various subject areas such as engineering, mathematics and sciences suffer during the examination period as many departments set more than one exam within a 24 hour period.
2. This can have an effect on an individual students' overall grade, as even if they do resit, their results are then capped.
3. Many students cannot revise as intensively as they may wish for one exam as their revision is split to cover all examinations. This may result in stress, anxiety or depression that during the examination period, effecting the overall performance of the student.
4. This can lead to many students dropping out of University due to the strains caused by not receiving the marks they wish to achieve, and as such feel like there is no reason to continue.

This union resolves:

1. To lobby the University to change how their exam tables are structured, and to apply pressure to change the times of examination.
2. That the union should suggest that the exam timetable be split evenly amongst departments, a possible scenario being that one day of examinations is for humanities, the next is for engineering and sciences, and that an individual can only sit one exam per 24 hours.

3. That the President and the Education Officer will take the lead on this action and provide feedback where appropriate on any actions or news that may occur between student forums.

Proposed by: Stephen Marshall (Postgraduate Officer)

Seconded by: Zahid Raja

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 10.13EC.14/15

Policy 04.04SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 09/02/12 4th Student Forum 2011/12

Welsh language halls of residence

This Union Notes:

1. Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English.
2. 35% of Swansea University students declared themselves to be Welsh speakers (fluent or learners) in a survey in March 2010.
2. There is currently no permanent location for Welsh language halls of residence or a designated Welsh language floor in halls of residence.
3. The Welsh language is both an important part of our heritage and a living language that everyone in Wales has a right to speak and hear in their everyday lives.
4. Almost all other Welsh universities have Welsh language halls of residence and many Welsh speakers choose to study there because of that.

This Union Believes:

1. Wales' two official languages, Welsh and English, should be treated equally.
2. The Welsh language is both an important part of our heritage and a living language that everyone in Wales has a right to speak and hear in their everyday lives. Welsh should be treated equally with English and respected.
3. That Residential Services should establish a permanent home for Welsh language halls.
4. That Residential Services should promote and raise awareness of the availability of a Welsh speaking residence more effectively.
5. That the University should also consider Welsh speaking residences on the new campus.

This Union Resolves:

1. To lobby Residential Services to create a permanent location for a Welsh language halls.
2. To lobby Residential Services to promote Welsh speaking halls of residence in a precise and clear way in information to prospective students.
3. To fight for a Welsh speaking halls of residence on the new campus.

Proposed by: Owain Harries (Welsh Affairs Officer)

Seconded by: Luke James (Students' Union President)

Supporting groups/others:

Gymdeithas Gymraeg Prifysgol Abertawe / Swansea University Welsh Society

Myfyrwyr Plaid Cymru Abertawe / Plaid Cymru Students Swansea

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Please remember us, the Postgraduates

This Union Believes:

1. That this students union is for everybody, this motion will address the held misconception that the union is only for undergraduates.
2. It is often hard to incorporate postgraduates into the students union due to miscommunication or the fact that they may find it highly difficult to sacrifice time, due to a range of factors.
3. There are easy ways of improving this, which include talking with the University and getting the issues of postgraduates across to them.

This Union Further Believes:

1. That this union already has a postgraduate society which was founded this academic year.
2. The society has proven to be successful with a vast number of postgraduates attending most socials, but with support, could be better.
3. Postgraduates have a busy life style which includes research time, part-time work and general life tasks to name but a few, and sadly many often sacrifice their social life. In time this can lead to various mental or emotional difficulties, which have the potential to lead to depression, withdrawal from their environment or just feel that they have no one to speak to.

This Union Resolves:

1. That this union will fight against any increases in costs for postgraduate students.
2. To mandate the Societies and Services officer and the Sports officer to promote and assist societies and sports clubs that wish or desire to include postgraduate students within their groups. It can also provide an effective link between undergraduates and postgraduates, especially through the possibility of sharing experiences.
3. That the union, through the postgraduate officer, and now through the society shall be supported in the attempt to provide postgraduate specific welcoming events such as speeches and informal events at the start of the academic year.
4. To mandate the postgraduate officer to start communication with University staff in order to work closer together, and provide knowledge of both the postgraduate officer, and the postgraduate society.
5. To find funding for the postgraduate society and support a host of events throughout the year, this could be done by asking the university or via student experience funding.
6. To mandate the postgraduate officer to host a fair on campus which raises awareness of the issues faced by postgraduate students such as funding, mental health, as well as gaining a general understanding of the individual student experience.

Proposed by: Stephen Marshall (Postgraduate Officer)

Seconded by: Zahid Raja

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Proceedings at Student Forum

This Union Notes:-

1. That in debates on motions submitted to a Student Forum speeches opposing a motion in its entirety precede the ability to move that the motion be debated and voted on in parts (to "call parts"), which usually precedes the ability to raise points of clarification/information.

This Union Believes:-

1. That the response of the motion's owner to questions raised by points of clarification/information from the floor may influence the decision of whether or not a particular member wishes to speak against a motion or to move that it be debated and voted on in parts.
2. That whether or not a particular member wishes to speak against a motion in its entirety may be dependent on whether a request to vote in parts is accepted or the outcome of such a vote to remove a part.

This Union Resolves:-

1. That immediately following the initial proposing speech the Chair should ask if there are any points of clarification/information from the floor before proceeding with the debate.
2. Points of clarification/information may be raised at any time during the proceedings if they relate to matters arising during the debate, at the discretion of the Chair.
3. That prior to asking for speakers to oppose a motion, the Chair should ask if anybody wishes to debate and vote on the motion in parts.

Proposer: - Simon Whitten

Secunder: - Ed Smith

Expires: Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 13.13EC.14/15
Policy 01.08SF.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 31.05.12 8th Student Forum 2011/12

Swansea University Student's Union Ethical Investment Policy**This Union Notes:**

1. Swansea University Student's Union banks with Lloyds TSB.
2. Lloyds TSB currently has the second highest number of shares in the arms trade of any bank operating in the UK.
3. This union has previously passed motions mandating itself to lobby against university involvement in the Arms Trade and sweatshop labour.
4. Lloyds TSB finances open-cast coal mining in Scotland conducted by Scottish Coal; who have been accused of breaking planning permission rules and ignoring calls to reduce carbon emissions.
5. Lloyds TSB's Environmental Policy does not currently state any commitment to investing in renewable energies.
6. Banks such as the Co-operative and Triodos offer stringent environmental and ethical policies; companies they invest in have to meet stricter criteria.

This Union Believes:

1. The student's movement has a key role to play in promoting ethical and sustainable practice.
2. Current practices by major banks financing the Arms Trade, and projects detrimental to the environment and worker's rights are abhorrent.
3. This union needs to lead by example, especially in the way it conducts lobbying of the university on ethical and sustainability issues.
4. This union should commit to use its finances responsibly to promote a better future for members and non-members alike.

This Union Resolves:

1. To switch to a bank with stringent ethical and environmental investment policies as soon as it is financially possible to do so responsibly.
2. To mandate the Environment and (or) Ethics officer to communicate back to the student body the aims and benefits of ethical investment.

Proposed by: Rob Abrams - Environment and Ethics Exec.

Seconded by: Luke James

Expires:- Final conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 14.13EC.14/15

Policy 03.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

No Platform to Racists & Fascists**This Union believes**

1. That racism and fascism are still rife in all aspects of society and that it should be confronted wherever it is found.
2. That students and students' unions have a long proud record of achievement in the fight against racism and fascism.
3. That in line with the union's equal opportunities policy, the union should be at the forefront of campaigns to combat prejudice on the form of ethnic origin or religious belief, i.e. racism, fascism.
4. That a no platform policy is a key element in the fight against racism on campus.
5. That the no-platform policy compliments Equal opportunities polices.

This Union further believes

1. That no platform policies safeguard its members from being subjected to listen to the lies, bigotry and hatred of racists and fascists.
2. That some members are confused about what a no platform amounts to and that it is the responsibility of the executive to educate its members on the issues surrounding a no platform policy.

This Union Resolves

1. Not to allow any individual who is known to hold racist or fascist views to enter union premises.
2. Not to allow any individual who is known to hold racist or fascist, to speak at a union event.
3. Not to allow any individual who is known to hold racist or fascist views from distributing any written or recorded material in the union which expresses those views.
4. That no elected officer of the union will speak on a platform with an individual who is known to hold racist or fascist views.
5. That resolutions one to four shall be known as the union's 'no platform policy'
6. To widely publicise this policy, not only to its members but also to the institution.
7. To incorporate the no-platform policy into the Union's disciplinary procedure and use accordingly

Proposer: Zahid Raja

Secunder: KerynJalli, Pearleen Sangha, MahaboobBasha.

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Union Support for Erasmus Students

This union notes:

1. There are some 150 students who leave Swansea every year for an academic or teaching placement on the Erasmus scheme.
2. The Students Union goes to extensive lengths to take care of all International students, including those on Erasmus placements, who study here at Swansea.
3. Student Unions are often non-existent or ineffective at many of our link Universities within the Erasmus scheme, leaving our students without support.
4. During this current academic year the Accommodation Officer James Houston and the Universities Erasmus Co-ordinator, Carol Smith have noted our students fears and problems with their year abroad and have often felt abandoned by the Union here at Swansea.

This union believes:

1. Students of Swansea who are studying abroad are still students of Swansea.
2. Many of these students could benefit from the mere notion of support from the Union here in Swansea.
3. It does not, at current, sufficiently support or assist students on the Erasmus placement, and that it must strive to do more.

This union resolves:

1. To move towards a successful plan to assist our students who are studying abroad in a more successful manner.
2. To make future Erasmus students aware of the support here in Swansea, prior to their leaving.

Proposer: Ben Davey, SU Accommodation

Secunder: James Houston

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Making the union Accessible to all Freshers

This Union Believes:

1. We should take responsibility for the welfare of our membership, particularly the new intake of Undergraduate 1st years.
2. That Fresher's are put under a lot of pressure to go out on Big Student Nights during the Fresher's Fortnight.
3. That events should not lead to students feeling uncomfortable and feeling pressurised to dress in a way that makes them feel awkward and embarrassed.
4. That the Union should take these issues into consideration when planning events.

This Union further believes:

1. That the Union Executive is responsible for the policy and direction of Swansea University Students' Union.
2. That the ENTs department and the SU Executive should work closer together.

This Union resolves:

1. That the Union Executive Committee will invite the ENTs Manager to brief them on the department's plans at the beginning of each term.

2. To direct ENTS to regularly consult with the union Liberation officers (Women's, Lesbian Bisexual Transgender, Gay Bisexual Transgender, Black students, Students with Disabilities) about the planning of events.

3 To run an anti-discrimination campaign over the next academic year to obliterate discriminatory advertising within students' unions and support an inclusive Union.

Proposer: Ruthie Oldham

Seconder: Stephen Marshall

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 17.13EC.14/15

Policy 06.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Second hand book sales

This union notes

1. One of the purposes of a Student's Union is to ensure that all students pay a fair price for essentials
2. Throughout the year various locations in the University are covered in posters advertising second hand text books

This union believes

1. The prices of some essential reading material is prohibitive to some members of the union
2. Since the introduction of tuition fees students finances have taken a turn for the worse

This union resolves

1. To hold a second hand book stall at the beginning of the academic year for students to buy and re-sell text books
2. To create a page on the Union's website where students can post the books they have for sale along with contact details to enable other students to contact them

Proposed by: Simon Darvill, Swansea Labour Students

Seconded by: Estelle Hart, Swansea Labour Students

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 18.13EC.14/15

Policy 07.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Language Exchange Program Motion

This Union believes

1. That the language exchange program was launched in 2007 as an activity of the Students' Union's European Society
2. That the idea of the program is that two students having different native languages can help each other to increase each other's second language skills.
3. That students were encouraged to meet regularly and practise each language around 50% of the time they practise together
4. That several hundred participants took part in the program since its launch.
5. That a great variety of languages was shared between the students who took part in the program.
6. That the program is designed to be offered free of charge

This Union further believes

1. That learning a foreign language can add value to the student experience for Swansea University students.
2. That learning a foreign language also can mean a valuable opportunity to experience elements of another culture
3. That learning more about foreign culture and a foreign language generally benefits students and can increase employability.
4. That students who have an interest in foreign languages and foreign culture should be encouraged to increase their experience in it
5. That the Students' Union's will add value to the student experience at Swansea University by continuing the language exchange program.
6. That the Students' Union's International Officer is the recommended person to manage the language exchange program.

This Union resolves

1. To commit to provide the language exchange program to Swansea University students in the future
2. To encourage students to take part in and generally publicise the program
3. To publicise the program on the Students' Union website, to display posters and to publicise leaflets about the program.
4. To liaise with the university to promote and further establish the program.
5. To start with the promotion of the program to new students as early as possible.
6. To organise several presentations per year to inform students about the program.

Proposed by: Felix Nolte

Seconded by Andy Patton

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 19.13EC.14/15
Policy 08.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Leonardo Motion

This Union believes

1. That the European Union encourages its members to spend time abroad.
2. That the European Union allocates funding for EU students who would like to spend time in an EU country which is not their home country.
3. That the European Union offers an organised program for internships abroad which is called Leonardo.
4. That Leonardo participants spend a period abroad where travel costs, accommodation, food and more is paid by the European Union.
5. That the amount of this contribution is worth up to €5000 per participant.
6. That several Swansea students took part in the program during the last years and expressed their very positive experience about it.

This Union further believes

1. That spending time abroad can enable Swansea University students to learn a foreign language and more about foreign culture.
2. That learning more about foreign culture can add value to the student experience for Swansea University students.
3. That learning a foreign language can add value to the student experience for Swansea University students.
4. That learning more about foreign culture and a foreign language generally benefits students and increases employability.

5. That students who have an interest in spending time abroad because of their interest in foreign culture and foreign languages should be encouraged to do so
6. That the Students' Union's International Officer is the recommended sabbatical officer to manage the provision of information about the Leonardo program.

This Union resolves

1. To commit to work with ectarc (the agency that provides the Leonardo program for EU citizens in Wales) within the framework of the Leonardo da Vinci European work placement program.
2. To publicise the organisation's website.
3. To publicise the organisation's email address(es).
4. To generally provide information leaflets about Leonardo to students.
5. To display posters about Leonardo.
6. To organise several presentations per year to inform students about the Leonardo program.

Proposed by: Felix Nolte

Seconded by: Andy Patton

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 20.13EC.14/15

Policy 09.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Equal and non-discriminatory promotion within the Union

This Union believes:

1. People are free and equal in dignity and rights, regardless of gender, sexual orientation and religious belief.
2. The union's duties and objectives are fundamentally different from private and profit led organisations that use the female body to sell products.
3. That it exists to promote the interests of students and to provide service and representation that does not discriminate against women.
4. The union works to protect the rights of people who face discrimination and prejudice, and seeks to provide services that are not prejudiced or biased.

This Union Further believes:

1. It is representative of a diverse range of members including those with faith based convictions regarding the objectification of the female body.
2. That the objectification of women's bodies has significantly contributed to the degradation, disempowerment and oppression of women that the civil rights movement has campaigned against for many years.
3. While the objectification and degradation of women in the media continues, this is an area for concern and should ultimately be challenged rather than used to condone similar practices within the Union.

This Union Resolves:

1. That it will not publish or make use of any promotional material that degrades, unjustly hurts or discriminates against the identity of its members.
2. That it will not display promotional materials from outside organisations, that degrade, unjustly hurts or discriminates against the identity of its members.
3. To continue to focus further on events which are more accessible to all, particularly liberation groups.
4. To maintain strong communication with the trustees regarding student events and the promotion of such.

Proposed by: Leoni Munslow, Women's Officer

Seconded by: Gilly Rollason

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 21.13EC.14/15
Policy 12.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Getting rid of the ATM Tax

This Union believes

1. That Hendrefoelan Student Village is home to over 1600 of our members.
2. That Swansea University Students' Union has ownership of Woodys Bar and Hendrefoelan Spar shop, both of which currently host cash machines.
3. That, in order to access their own money in the Village, students have to pay a £1.75 service charge.

This union further believes

1. That Swansea University Students' Union should always strive for fair and equal access for its members, to the services it provides.
2. That Swansea University Student's Union should always be there for the educational and welfare needs of students in the Student Village.

This Union Resolves

1. To fully back the campaign to find a fair alternative to the £1.75 usage charge in Village cash machines.
2. To mandate the Union Executive Committee that this campaign shall be one of its key aims in this academic year.
3. To approach the University and appropriate organisations to ensure all avenues are explored.

Proposed by: Luke Young, General Secretary

Seconded by: Stephen Marshall, Fresher's Representative

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 22.13EC.14/15
Policy 15.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Societies & Commercial Services

This Union believes that

1. Societies should be treated in a professional manner by the Union and the Union's commercial services.
2. It is the responsibility of societies to ensure payments are made.

This Union further believes

1. That the ENTS Department should not take money directly out of a society account
2. A change to policy regarding payment for the use of the commercial services could improve the relationships between societies and the commercial services.

This Union resolves to

1. Ensure that all societies and commercial services work together in a professional manner.
2. Ensure that all commercial services will directly invoice societies.
3. That all societies will honour these invoices and make the required payments within an acceptable time frame.

Proposed by Alison Pritchard

Seconded by RaechelMattey

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Waterfront & the NUJ

This union believes:

1. The Students' Union should pay for Waterfront section editors to become student members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ).
2. The Students' Union should reward section editors of the Waterfront by paying for them to attend NUJ short courses.

This union further believes:

1. The Waterfront is an asset to union life, an effective voice for students and a valuable tool for communication to the Students' Union.
2. Twenty hours plus of work by volunteer section editors on the Waterfront per issue should not be passed off as valuable work experience.
3. The Students' Union should do more to support and equip Waterfront volunteers who want to become journalists achieve that.

This union resolves to:

1. Give all section editors the option of becoming a student member of the NUJ before the first issue of next academic year.
2. Ensure all section editors have a review with the editor at the end of each term to maximise personal development as journalists and a quality newspaper.
3. Make sure the editor recommends which NUJ courses would be helpful to the student.
4. Ensure every section editor of the Waterfront has the opportunity to go on at least NUJ course.

Proposed by Luke James

Seconded by Simon Darvill

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Anti-Racism

Union believes:

1. Black students experience racism and must therefore play a leading role in the campaign against it.
2. Many students do not know what to do or whom to refer to when they have been victims of racial attacks.
3. Education and integration is a tool that can be used to curb the occurrence of racism and students should make use of it.
4. The government passed an act on Racial Relations in 2002 to hold public bodies responsible to ensuring racial equality.
5. It is the responsibility of Universities and Colleges to ensure that they comply with the Act.
6. There are many organisations that are committed to fighting racism and working with them would build a stronger anti-racism campaign.

Union Resolves to:

1. Run an active anti-racism campaign including workshops and seminars to educate and enlighten all students on racism and equality.
2. Ensure that Black Student Officer and Race Relations Officer work with South Wales Police Hate Crime department.

3. Work with anti-racism organisations such as Swansea Bay Racial Equality to build a strong anti-racism campaign.
4. Have the Black Students Officer and Race Relations officer work closely with Swansea University Race and Equality Working Group (REWG) to ensure that the institution takes responsibility for ensuring racial equality.

Proposer: Ayo Thompson

Seconder: Keryn Jalli

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 25.13EC.14/15

Policy 18.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Black History Month

Union believes:

1. The term “black” is a political representation of all those who face discrimination and oppression as a result of their race and skin colour. It includes people of African, Arab, Asian and Caribbean heritage.
2. Swansea University has seen a gradual increase in the number of Black Students over the years.
3. One of the tools for tackling racism and fostering integration is through education and enlightenment.
4. Black History Month is held in the United Kingdom in the month of October to celebrate as well as educate on the history and diversity of black heritage.

Union further believes:

1. Swansea University Student Union has always been at the fore-front of ensuring equality and diversity.
2. Black History Month has always been encouraged and supported by the Student Union.
3. The Student Union can and should do more to include more students and make the university aware of the importance of Black history Month and other such cultural events

Union resolves to:

1. Have the Black Student Officer run events throughout the month of October to celebrate Black History Month.
2. Work with NUS Black Students Campaign to plan and run events for Black History Month
3. Encourage, support and involve cultural societies such as the ACS, Tashan and Malaysian Society in celebrating Black History Month.
4. Use the period of Black History Month to address and run campaigns on issues that affect Black Students.

Proposer: Keryn Jalli

Seconder: Pearleen Sangha

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 26.13EC.14/15

Policy 20.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Safe Drinking Mandate

This union notes:

1. Students have the right to choose how much or how little they drink – within reason.
2. Irresponsible levels of drinking can lead to serious health problems, increased vulnerability to danger and in severe conditions, fatalities.
3. The Students Union has consistently attempted to promote safer and more sensible drinking through both greater education and campaigns.

4. Student safety campaigns often suffer from a lack of consistency due to the annual change in sabbatical officers.

This union believes:

1. The Student Union has a duty of care over all students of Swansea University.
2. This duty of care is primarily focused upon educating our members in their attitude towards the potential health risks of heavy drinking.
3. This Union needs to consistently look at its policies and procedures with regards to its own promotion of its events where alcohol may be consumed.

Proposer: James Houston SU President

Secunder: Will LongSU Entertainments Officer

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 27.13EC.14/15

Policy 24.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive

Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Protecting the Swansea Experience United to fight the cuts agenda

This Union believes:

1. That we must take the initiative in the fight against cuts that damage the Student Experience;
2. That the relationship between students and university staff is key if we are to jointly tackle the worst excesses of University Managements' agenda on cuts;
3. That industrial action is at its most effective when staff and students understand the issues and support each other;
4. That lecturers union, University and College Union (UCU) is currently balloting members for industrial action on pensions and pay;

This Union further believes:

1. That in the face of a rapidly changing circumstances the union must be both pro-active and reactive to University and Government proposals on Higher Education;
2. That the models for campaigning that have already emerged, such as the FIGS* Campaign against cuts to Modern Foreign Languages, supported by SU Officers, would be further enhanced by greater co-operation with staff unions;
3. That we should not interfere with UCU's balloting process as they are a separate union and it would be inappropriate to do so;
4. That any action following the result of those ballots should be in line with what is best for students;

This Union Resolves:

1. To work with UCU to defend the interests of students and staff, up to and including industrial action;
2. To support UCU's campaign against forced redundancy of university and college staff, to insist that employers negotiate;
3. To recognise that cost cutting attacks on staff salaries, terms and conditions will make it more difficult to recruit and retain high quality staff and will have implications for the quality of education received by our members;
4. To mandate the President to continue working with UCU and work for mutual support on relevant campaigns;
5. To evaluate the SU's support for specific industrial actions and their timings on the extent to which they maximise impact upon decision makers and minimise the overall impact upon students' education;
6. To ensure that the Executive Committee and, if feasible, a Student General Meeting are consulted upon the Union's potential position for specific industrial action.

Proposed by Rhiannon Hedge
Seconded by Mitchell Theaker

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 28.13EC.14/15
Policy 25.05EC.11/12

Policy Renewed 09/06/15 Conjoint Executive
Passed 01.06.12 Conjoint Executive Committee 2011/12

Organising against racism

Union believes:

1. Racism continues to rise across society, endangering the welfare of all Black and Jewish students.
2. Police figures show Arabs are thirteen times, African Caribbean's ten times and Jewish people three times more likely to suffer racist attacks than white Europeans. Every such attack must be condemned and our students' union must take an active step to prevent them.
3. The British National Party (BNP) has gained record support on the back of growing racism and increasingly seeks a presence on campus. The BNP stands in the traditions of Hitler's Nazis, calls for an all-white Britain, denies the holocaust and its members are closely linked to the violent Welsh Defence League who have marched in Swansea before.
4. Politicians and some media have recently attacked multiculturalism, revealing a growing climate of intolerance particularly towards Muslims. The freedom to dress as you choose including for religious reasons is a basic civil right.
5. Racist scapegoating, such as calls for universities to spy on 'Asian looking students' from the Centre for Social Justice will not only add to discrimination but also undermine attempts to work with communities to isolate those who support terrorism. The agreement between the TUC and the Muslim Council of Britain to work together to promote understanding and tackle discrimination is welcome and similar initiatives should be taken by our students' union.
6. Educational institutions are required by the Race Relations (Amendment) Act to promote racial equality including by enforcing an up to date race equality policy.

Union resolves:

1. Support Unite Against Fascism, maximise student opposition to the BNP and continue to support no platform for fascists.
2. Work with the Muslim Council of Britain and other organisations that fit our strategic objectives to campaign against Islamophobia and the demonization of the Muslim community.
3. To oppose attacks on civil liberties, cultural and religious freedoms including the right to wear religious symbols.
4. Mandate the Sabbatical Team to appoint one Sabbatical Officer to take a lead on the promotion of the Hate Crime survey launched by NUS and report on the uptake of the survey to the SGM.
5. Work with NUS Wales Black Students' Campaign to ensure the University continue to implement the Race Relations Amendment Act and anonymous marking.
6. Work with Student Action for Refugees and Amnesty International opposing the deportation of student asylum seekers.

Proposer: Zahid A. Raja - SUSU Black Students' Officer, NUS Wales NEC: Black Students' Officer.

Seconded: Florence Chidume - SUSU Black Students' Campaign, NUS Wales Black Students' Campaign: Committee: Open Place.

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Ethical Clothing

This union notes:

- 1) That all of the clothing sold in Union shops should be acquired from a source that guarantees no sweatshop labour conditions were in practice.

This Union Believes:

- 1) That workers in every country should have positive legal rights as set out in the conventions of the International Labour Organisation, including the right to a living wage and to join a trade union of their choice.
- 2) That students should be able to expect that the workers producing their student union merchandise have these rights respected.

This Union resolves:

- 1) To mandate the Environment and Ethics Officer and the Executive committee to investigate the origins of clothing purchased by the Union in order to ensure that this is purchased from a supplier where employers receive a living wage, work in safe and healthy conditions and are free to join an independent trade union.
- 2) That the Union owned shops should cease to sell any clothing that can be linked to unethical working practices.

Proposed by: Rob Abrams

Seconder: Stephen Marshall

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2018

Policy 01.02SF.15/16 Passed 10/11/15 2nd Student Forum 2015/16

Swansea University Mental Health Awareness P.T.O

The Union Notes;

1. 11% of students at university suffer from a diagnosed mental health condition.
2. 20% of students consider themselves to have a mental health issue.
3. 25% of students suffering mental health conditions do not get treatment.
4. Many students attribute mental health problems to factors relating to their university life.
5. 64% of students with mental health problems do not access any form of formal support.
6. 9/10 people with mental health problems say they experience stigma or discrimination.
7. The age group of typical students is 18-25 and this is when the majority of mental health conditions develop.
8. A student can only be described as having a mental health condition and disabled, if the condition lasts longer than 12 months.
9. Conditions such as alcoholism and addiction, would not be included in a definition of disability, under the equalities act. But these would be considered as student mental health issues.

The Union Believes;

1. That student mental health is a serious issue and steps should be taken to reduce stigma and discrimination.
2. That the existing Part-Time officer role "Students with Disabilities" and the Full-Time officer role "Welfare Officer" are insufficiently specific in their remit to properly address this issue.

3. Some students with mental health conditions would not define themselves as disabled, this creates a situation where students with mental health conditions are under-represented, as they will not engage with a disabled students' officer.
4. Anywhere between 10-20% of students have a mental health condition, and this number is sufficiently large that they should be individually represented by an officer.
5. That the creation of a new Part-time Officer role devoted to mental health is a positive step in addressing the need for representation of students, suffering from poor mental health, in union campaigns and decision making.
6. This role would be not be categorized as liberation under union rules, but would be entitled to £500 of ring-fenced funding for campaigns.

This Union Resolves;

1. To create a new Part-Time Officer role with the title of "Mental Health Awareness Officer"
2. To entitle the role to £500 of ring-fenced funding for campaigns.

Proposed: Rhydian Morris (Mature Students Officer)

Seconded: Lloyd Harris (Welfare Officer)

References

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/2013/may/20/students-stay-silent-about-mental-health-problems>

<http://www.nus.org.uk/en/news/20-per-cent-of-students-consider-themselves-to-have-a-mental-health-problem/>

<http://www.time-to-change.org.uk/mental-health-statistics-facts>

Expires: Final Conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2019

Policy 01.04SF.15/16 Passed 03/12/15 4th Student Forum 2015/16

Full Time International Officer Referendum Policy

Union Believes

1. That International Students are an integral part to the activities of the Students' Union and the University.
2. That current changes in legislation, especially surrounding tier 2 visas, are making it increasingly difficult for international students to fund their studies and to come to the UK to study.

Union Notes

1. That international students face many difficulties that UK students do not face such as having to apply for visas.
2. That the current government has and is making several attempts to place restrictions on International Students.
3. That the Union will be in a much better position to understand the needs and represent international students with having a reserved sabbatical officer position who comes from that background to do so.
4. That non-EU international students are less likely to get a 1st or a 2:1 in their degrees due to numerous barriers they face. This issue has been overlooked to an extent that statistics have not been collected for it nationally, however, locally different institutions have collected their own data.
5. The government has proved it is keen to attack international students' rights as part of the wider attack on migrants' rights in the UK.

Union Resolves

1. To hold a referendum to reinstate the International Full Time Officer post.
2. To provide £100 worth of funding to a 'Yes' campaign and £100 worth of funding to a 'No' campaign.
3. Union Officers are entitled to have their personal view and campaign for the outcome that they see benefits students the most.

Proposed: Lewys Aron, Robiu Salisu
Second: Churchill - International officer

Expires: Final Conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2019

Policy 02.04SF.15/16

Passed 03/12/15 4th Student Forum 2015/16

Full-Time Women's Officer

The Union notes:

1. 49.9% of the Student Population is female.
2. The Previous Women's FTO has achieved: Removal of 'Lads mags' from SU Stores, 'Reclaim the night', Campaign against sexual Violence, Supported Sexual Violence Victims, Aided liberation Officers & Campaigns, Introduced Sexual Harassment Policy.
3. Female overall participation in student's union fluctuates annually.
4. In 2010 NUS published the 'Hidden Marks' report which produced the statistic that 68 per cent of respondents had been the victim of one or more kinds of sexual harassment on campus during their time as a student.
5. The introduction of Full-Time Women's Officer does not demolish the importance of male students.
6. At Swansea Union, there have been 99 Presidents, 7 of them have been women.
7. A third of female students in Britain have endured a sexual assault or unwanted advances at university, new research conducted for The Telegraph shows;
 - i) 31 % of female students had been the victim of "inappropriate touching or groping"
 - ii) 1 in 20 had experienced more intimate but unwelcome advances or been pressurised into sexual activity.
 - iii) 34 % indicated they had experienced some form of assault or abuse.

The Union Further Notes

8. University College London - Full Time Womens Officer for 2014-2015 said: "When we're looking to make savings, why should it be already marginalized groups that have to suffer the most? After all, shouldn't a students' union fight social injustice, not perpetuate it?".⁴
9. Women are underrepresented in society. For example only 29% of women sit in the House of Commons and 25% in the House of Lords. Women only account for 8.6% of all executive roles in the FTSE Companies as noted in the Guardian.⁵

The Union believes:

1. We live in a patriarchal society that systemically discriminates against women because of their gender. The women's campaign is here to challenge this gender imbalance and that the number of elected representatives should reflect the gender split.
2. That in order to properly represent the women population of Swansea University, we need a FullTime Women's Officer. The role is essential and the role needs to be reinstated. A Part-Time Women's Officer is not a sufficient choice for the role as the workload is too much, areas will be neglected. It's simply cannot be done to the best ability as the PTO has to juggle her degree with the role and other commitments that Swansea university encourage.
3. That the existing Part-Time officer role of Women's officer is insufficient.
4. There is the risk of disclosure rates may drop due an all male team. Female students may choose to ignore incidents due to not feeling comfortable speaking to a male officer, these problems are

1.
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/women/womens-life/11266185/Sexism-harrassment-and-rape.WhyBritish-universities-need-us-Womens-Officers.html>

2.
<http://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/mar/25/all-time-high-uk-womenboardroommembers>

already underrepresented. In the NUS 'Hidden Marks Report' states more than four in ten victims of serious sexual assault had told nobody about what had happened to them.⁶

5. A PTO is a Volunteer, who is not fully trained to deal with the serious and extensive female issues of women that would arise. A Full-Time Officer would receive extensive training on such matters through NUS and other organisations.
6. Having a women's officer also ensures that there is at least 1 woman on the Full Time Team, meaning women's issues will be on the agenda. In a 2015 male-dominated Officer team, a Full-Time Women's Officer is needed more than ever to ensure that women students have an elected female voice.

Further Believes :

7. As a Full-Time Women's Officer she can help collaborate with the other liberation officers to make the women's campaign stronger and thusly the liberation officers stronger too. She will also ensure that the importance of intersectionality is to stay vital.
8. The Women Campaign that ignoring the need for fight against discrimination exists and mininterepts, the nature of equal opportunities and welfare support.
9. That the work that a Full-Time Women's Officer can achieve can aid the campus in reducing toxic behaviour and together with the Full-Time Welfare officer can ensure the University is safe for not only female students but all students.
10. That without a Full-Time Women's Officer, the women's rights movement may suffer due to the lack of equipped people to help run campaigns.
11. Women are predominately underrepresented in decision making processes and it is essential that at least one woman sits on the full time officer team full of the student union to represent women students on all levels.
12. We need direct guaranteed representation which reflects the real experience of women. Full time women officers guarantee this representation, the positive presence of this role would have a positive impact upon the female population.
13. The Full-Time Women's Officer is a role created out of inequality. Other officers may fight out against injustice on occasion, but the Women's Officer is a role that challenges discrimination primarily.
14. For a role that represents over 49.9% of the campus, a Part-time role does not offer the help and aid that a Full-Time Officer receives.

The Union resolves:

1. To hold a referendum to reinstate the Full time Womens officer, to increase ability to complete demands of women's officer workload.
2. £100 to be put aside for a for and against campaign
3. Before the 2016 Elections, the job description for this role is updated and to include a more extensive leadership of liberation groups.

Proposed: Heather Wood Part-Time Women's Officer

Seconded: Hannah Stewart Part-Time LGBT+ Women's Officer

Expires: Final Conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2019

3.

http://www.nus.org.uk/Global/NUS_hidden_marks_report_2nd_edition_web.pdf

Conference Motion

Swansea Union Notes:

1. That the National Union of Students (NUS) conferences are democratic event in which important decisions are made about the future of the student's movement
2. That elected delegates must engage in the NUS democratic procedures and ensure they are visibly present with their delegations whilst on conference floor
3. That elected delegates from Swansea are paid for by Swansea Union funds and therefore are accountable to students at Swansea University

Swansea Union Further Believes:

1. That amongst the elected delegates, a lead delegate must be chosen for the conference
2. That the purpose of a lead delegate is to be able to co-ordinate the delegation group, liaising with the students' union staff etc.
3. That the lead delegate does not hold the power to mandate individual delegates on how they should vote

Swansea Union resolves:

1. That the lead delegate should have an accountable log of all elected delegates during conference
2. That the lead delegate should be an FTO or PTO or a chosen representative by the Union

Proposal: Robiu Salisu, SUSU Education Officer

Co- Proposal: Hannah Stewart, SUSU LGBT+ (Women's) Officer

Expires: Final Conjoint Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee 2019

Swansea Union stand for FREE EDUCATION

Swansea Union Notes:

1. That from October 2012 Home/EU undergraduates will pay tuition fees of £9,000 per year.
2. That tuition fees for International Students will rise by up to 18% in 2012-13.
3. That since the 2010 Spending Review, government funding of Higher Education has been cut by almost 60%, at over £6.5 billion.
4. That over 50% of the teaching grant for Higher Education, or about 2.65bn, was cut.
5. That with £9,000 and the higher rate of interest some students may end up paying back £83,000.
6. That, although undergraduate application numbers have stabilised, students from the most advantaged backgrounds are still seven times more likely to attend the most selective universities than the most disadvantaged.
7. That the rise in tuition fees has led to a 14% reduction in applications from mature students, particularly those from low income backgrounds, with 18,000 fewer applications since the introduction of fees.
8. Higher Education cuts have led to increasing postgraduate fees with a direct effect on applications - there has been a 8% drop in UK students entering postgraduate taught study.

Swansea Union Further Believes:

1. That Higher Education should be free.
2. That education is a fundamental right, not market, good that should not be commoditised.

3. That the government has shifted the burden of paying for higher education nearly entirely onto the students while providing fewer resources for Universities to provide quality education.
4. The NUS highlighted the fact that free education would pay for itself - government figures show that for every £1 invested in higher education the economy expands by £2.60.
5. That Students' Union should campaign against an increase in tuition fees and cuts to Higher Education.
6. That the Government Green Paper on Higher Education, published in February 2016, lays the foundation for the further marketization of our Universities to the detriment of students, academics, and wider society.
7. That the Government has failed miserably to put in adequate measures to sustain and improve access to Higher Education for students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.
8. That at a time when nearly every other developed nation is investing in Higher Education, the UK should not be withdrawing support from a sector that has substantial benefits for the economy, the individual and wider society.

Swansea Union resolves:

1. To start a discussion on campus about free education, what it means and how higher education should be funded
2. To oppose the maintenance grants cuts and their replacement with loans.
3. To give SUSU Exec a mandate to put resources into campaigning for a free and fairer education system.
4. To work with National Union Students, Trade Unions, Local council and the University to oppose the marketization agenda.
5. To support a student's right to peaceful protest.
6. To mandate the Education Officer and President to support the lowest possible rate of fees in fee setting discussions with the University and to support a reduction in fees for all students.
7. To mandate the President and International Officer with International portfolio to campaign for a freeze in International student fees.
8. To define 'free education' as including:
 - (a) No tuition fees and no student debt, for all students, including International students and postgraduates.
 - (b) A decolonised curriculum which reflects the diversity of those contributing to knowledge and inquiry
 - (c) Universal living grants for all, paid for by progressive taxation
 - (d) No discrimination in funding opportunities, including by subject of study, nationality or parental income
 - (e) No complicity in climate destruction, institutional racism, sexism, LGBT-phobia or ableism, or any other form of oppression
 - (f) Campuses with free expression, including challenging and opposing PREVENT agenda or repression of student protest or academic freedom.
 - (g) Democratic control of our universities, by staff and students
 - (h) Fair working conditions for all those employed by the university, including fair pay and job security.

Proposal: Robiu Salisu, SUSU Education Officer

Co- Proposal: Ross Mckendrick, SUSU Ethics Officer

Expires: Final Conjoint Annual meeting of the Executive Committee 2019

01.12EC16/17
01.02SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy passed 07/11/13 Student Forum

Policy on Pole Fitness Affiliation

This Union notes:

1. That a discussion was held by the Students' Union Trustee Board regarding the status of the Pole Fitness society and a decision was made to rescind their affiliation with the Students' Union.
2. Subsequently, the Students' Union Executive Committee met to debate the issue and it was decided that there was insufficient consultation with students over the issue.

This Union believes:

1. The Students' Union should reflect the views of students in its decision making.
2. That there needs to be more student consultation on the issue.

This Union resolves:

1. That an online referendum be held on whether or not the Pole Fitness society should affiliate with the Students' Union. There shall be no quoracy, and the matter shall be decided upon a simple majority.

Proposer: Alex McKenzie
Secunder: Rosie Inman
Supported by: Ceinwen Cloney, Rebecca Grimes, Simon Wilde, Zahid Raja,
Tori-Ilana Evans, Joel Gascoyne, Rachel Hodgson, Nish Patel,
Eva Donoghue, Charlotte Peters, Matthew Johnson, Lewys Aron.

*(Amended from) **Pole Fitness Affiliation***

This Union notes:

1. *That a discussion was held by the Trustee Board regarding the status of the Pole Fitness society and a decision was made not to affiliate with them*

This Union believes:

1. *That as the representative body of the student population we should reflect the views of students in our policies*
2. *That students should have the opportunity to vote on whether we affiliate with this society*

This Union resolves:

1. *That a vote will be held on whether the Pole Fitness society should be affiliated with the Students' Union*

Proposed by: Rosie Inman, Women's Officer
Seconded by: Rebecca Grimes, Welfare Officer
Supporters: Ceinwen Cloney, Societies and Services Officer
Simon Wilde, Environment Officer

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2017

02.12EC16/17
01.04SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy passed 30/01/14 Student Forum

Taking Action for Sweatshop-Free Electronics**This Union Notes**

1. Students at Swansea University rely on the ready supply of electronic products such as computers, speakers, printers, projectors etc. to effectively complete their studies.
2. The electronics industry currently lacks an independent monitoring structure allowing for issues raised by workers to be investigated transparently and effectively.
3. A number of NGOs across Europe have formed a monitoring body called 'Electronics Watch' in order to bring significant change to the electronics industry.

4. 'Electronics Watch' is projected to running completely by mid-2015, but universities can affiliate for free as 'founding members' in 2014.

This Union Believes

1. The student movement in the UK has a special role to play in promoting human rights and social justice.
2. We can use the collective purchasing power of our university to empower workers making electronic products.
3. Swansea University could improve on its results in the People & Planet Green League by giving greater consideration to ethical investment and procurement.

This Union Resolves

1. To mandate the Ethics officer to work with students to develop a campaign lobbying the university to join 'Electronics Watch'.
2. To mandate all student members of the current Fairtrade and Sustainable Procurement Working Group to raise this issue on the agenda.

Proposed by: Rob Abrams

Seconded by: Chris Whitty

Supporting Groups/Others: People & Planet Society

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

03.12EC16/17

01.05SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive

Policy Passed 25/02/14 Student Forum

No More Page 3

This Union notes:

1. That *The Sun* has featured female models as a 'Page 3' feature since 1969, with the first nude model appearing in 1970
2. That *The Daily Star* also features topless/nude female models on Page 3
3. That *The Daily Mirror* featured topless Page 3 models in the 1970s but dropped the feature in the 1980s
4. That 'Page 3' models were as young as 16-years-old until 2003, when the age limit was increased to 18-years-old
5. That, to date, over 30 Students' Unions around the country have already removed *The Sun* from their shops including: Abertay, Aberystwyth, Birmingham City, Bradford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Chester, Durham, Dundee, Edinburgh, East Anglia, Essex, Hull, Kingston, Leeds, Leeds Met, LSE, Manchester Met, Manchester, Newcastle, Oxford Brookes, Sheffield, Stirling, UCL, Winchester, York St John and Brasenose College, St Hugh's College, New College, University College and Teddy Hall, Oxford
6. That SUSU is committed to equality and opposes sexism, and has shown this through our Zero Tolerance policy and by voting to remove 'Lads Mags' from SUSU shops
7. That SUSU operates and manages a SPAR in Hendrefoelan Student Village and a SPAR on Langland Terrace, Brynmill
8. That SUSU and Swansea University jointly operate and manage MyCostCutter on campus
9. That SUSU makes on average a profit of just £13.20 p/w on the Sun and just £6.20 p/w on the Daily Star from these three outlets combined
10. That as of 17/02/2014, the No More Page 3 petition at Change.org has received 135,469 signatures
11. That many high-profile organisations publicly back the No More Page 3 campaign, including the National Assembly for Wales, UK Girlguiding, National Union of Teachers, British Youth Council, Rape Crisis, Women's Aid, End Violence Against Women Coalition, White Ribbon Campaign, Everyday Sexism Project, OBJECT, Mumsnet and more

12. That the End Violence Against Women Coalition has repeatedly highlighted the sexualisation of women in the media and popular culture as a 'conducive context' for violence against women
13. That the Leveson Inquiry that investigated allegations of phone hacking and press intrusion also heard evidence against 'Page 3' from a number of women's organisations which resulted in Leveson concluding that "the degree to which the [Page 3] images may reflect a wider cultural failure to treat women with dignity and respect and/or a practice which, intentionally or not, has the effect of demeaning and degrading women."
14. That the overwhelming majority of the women featured on Page 3 are slim, white and able-bodied
15. That *The Sun* and *The Daily Star* are marketed as family newspapers and there is no age restriction on buying them.

This Union believes:

1. That everyday sexism – such as the objectification of women in a daily newspaper – is a major problem in our society and one that must be challenged
2. That boobs aren't news and 'Page 3' presents an outdated and sexist portrayal of the role of women in society
3. That nudity and pornography are not inherently bad, but do not belong in a daily 'family' newspaper
4. That the lack of diversity seen in Page 3 models promotes and upholds very narrow beauty standards
5. That the constant representation of women as sexual objects is damaging to both children and adults and, as an institution with an on-campus nursery and many student parents, we should take responsibility for the material made available in our shops and venues
6. Newspapers with 'Page 3' content regularly place the successes of women in other areas, such as sport, in a significantly less preferential position in the newspaper compared to the women on 'Page 3' (e.g. Jessica Ennis' Olympic gold medal win) and that the largest and most prominent depiction of a woman in a daily newspaper should not be of a passive, sexualised, nude model

This Union resolves:

1. To openly support the national 'No More Page 3' campaign

Proposer: Rosie Inman - Women's Officer

Seconder: Rachel Hodgson - LGBT Officer (Women's Place)

Supporters: SUSU Feminist Society

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

04.12EC16/17
01.06SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy passed 01/04/14 Student Forum

Banning 'Blacking Up' in the Students' Union

Student Union notes:

1. A zero tolerance policy is already in place which should encompass this behaviour, but it is not explicitly mentioned.
2. There is already an SU and NUS policy condemning racial discrimination.
3. NUS Black Students' Campaign has done a lot of work around this topic and issued guidelines on why this is offensive.
4. The SU notes that other Students' Unions are also taking steps to ban this practice.

The Students' Union believes:

1. That "blacking up" is unacceptable and causes offence, whether intentional or not.
2. Students shouldn't be confronted with this form of offence and behaviour especially within the Student Union venues.

Students' Union resolves:

1. To refuse service and entry to any one "blacking up"
2. To investigate any students seen to be "blacking up"
3. To make SU staff members aware of this policy.

Proposed by: Tori-Ilana Evans

Seconded by: Eva Donoghue

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

05.12EC16/17

02.06SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive

Policy Passed 01/04/14 Student Forum

Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy

This Union Notes:

1. The value of Swansea University's shares in BP, Shell and BG Group total £477,900.
2. Carbon Tracker's "Unburnable Carbon 2013" report, co-authored with LSE's Grantham Research Institute, highlights the overvaluation of fossil fuel reserves and the huge long-term financial risks of investing in fossil fuels.
3. According to the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, the Carbon 'budget' (amount safe to emit) for 2000-2050 was originally forecast as 886 GtCO₂. As of 2011, 565GtCO₂ of that budget is left.
4. The reserves of the top 100 listed coal companies and oil and gas companies (including the above mentioned companies) represent potential emissions of 745GtCO₂.
5. The aforementioned report also showed that all current proven reserves represent potential emissions of 2795 GtCO₂.
6. The 2008 Climate Change Act committed the UK to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% (from the 1990 baseline) by 2050.
7. The Climate Change Act commits UK national policy and strategy to "using a set of values for carbon to make sure project and policy appraisals account for their climate change impacts".
8. The value of shares in these companies depends
9. The UK Parliamentary Energy Audit Committee has stated that the UK government subsidises the fossil fuel industry by £12bn annually.
10. The Energy Audit Committee, in a report published in February 2014, has also warned against lack of investment in the renewables sector, and recommended a 'green finance strategy' to boost national infrastructure. The report has also shown that cutting 'green levies' will not reduce the price of energy bills.
11. The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change has recently stated that "Warming of the climate system is unequivocal, and since the 1950s, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished, sea level has risen, and the concentrations of greenhouse gases have increased."
12. Data from NASA's Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment show Greenland lost 150 to 250 cubic kilometres (36-60 cubic miles) of ice per year between 2002 and 2006, while Antarctica lost about 152 cubic kilometres (36 cubic miles) of ice between 2002 and 2005.
13. Further NASA research has shown that Arctic ice-loss in summer 2012 was the highest on record. Reports have linked this to man-made climate change.
14. Swansea University's Sustainability Policy aims to "minimise greenhouse gas emissions from University operations", as well as to "reduce the consumption of primary raw materials (including fossil fuels, water and energy)", and to "promote environmentally responsible behaviours throughout the University community".
15. The highest percentage of expenditure committed to alternatives by any oil and gas company was held by BP at just 6% of its overall expenditure, in 2011. After this, BP began selling off the majority of its remaining renewables operations. A BP spokesperson has since stated that the selling off of wind and solar energy operations has been as a "part of continuing effort to become a more focused oil and gas company".

16. Shell only utilise 2.5% of its overall expenditure on renewable sources.
17. According to Eurostat data, the UK's use of renewables falls far below that of the majority of European countries, including Germany, where renewables account for 25% of energy consumption, and Sweden, where renewables account for 50% of energy consumption.
18. The UK Parliamentary Energy Audit Committee in its February 2014 report has shown that potential for use of renewables in the UK is not being met, despite availability of resources to implement infrastructural changes.
19. In a report published recently by Impax Asset Management, investors are consulted that the growth of the renewables sector despite unfavourable market conditions as been phenomenal. Investors are recommended that divestment from volatile shares in the fossil fuel sector could become preferable over coming years, in order to protect assets.
20. Since the organisation 350 launched the Fossil Free campaign in North America, 9 colleges and universities have pledged to divest from fossil fuels, 22 towns and cities have pledged to divest, 2 counties have pledged to divest, 23 religious institutions have pledged to divest, and 19 foundations have pledged to divest.
21. Since People & Planet launched the Fossil Free campaign in the UK last October, 46 campaigns have been set up at various universities across the country, and 12 Students' Unions have passed motions supporting the campaign.
22. In response to divestment calls, the University of Edinburgh has initiated a consultation on ethical investment with students.

This Union Believes:

1. The modern phenomenon of Climate Change, as a man-made problem, is our responsibility.
2. Examples highlight that renewable alternatives are available for greater use, but require a reassessment of funding priorities.
3. As Swansea University's management has readily accepted and begun to implement, research opportunities for students should move towards initiatives for developing much needed low-carbon technologies.
4. Swansea University's commitment in its Sustainability Policy to "minimise greenhouse gas emissions from university operation" and to "promote environmentally responsible behaviours throughout the University community" should also be applied to investments made by the University.
5. We should strive to protect academic freedom.
6. The business practises of the top listed 'fossil fuel' companies have failed to change in line with guidelines set out by the international community in legislation.
7. Divestment is a legitimate tactic necessary for implementing fast-paced and effective changes.
8. Divestment can take place in a phased scheme over a five year period, so as not to harm the research opportunities of students.

This Union Resolves:

1. Mandate Swansea University Students' Union to support the Fossil Free campaign.
2. Mandate Students' Union officers to lobby the University on fossil fuel divestment.
3. Mandate Students' Union officer to lobby the University on implementing a consultation process with students on ethical investment.
4. To give future officers the option of attending a free workshop, on campus, enabling them to lobby effectively.

Proposer: Rob Abrams

Secunder: Ainsley Dwyer

Supported by: People & Planet Society

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

06.12EC16/17
03.06SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy Passed 01/04/14 Student Forum

Students' Union Support of Staff

This Union Notes

1. The 'We're Students, Not Consumers' policy passed in January 2014 forces the Students' Union to support all industrial action taken by staff.

This Union Believes

1. The planned national marking boycott will cause issues to all third year students.
2. Supporting staff is important, however not if trade union action will detrimentally effect student education.

This Union Resolves

1. To revoke the 'We're Students, Not Consumers!' motion.
2. To continue offering support to staff during any trade union strike action and action short of a strike they take, after agreement by the Executive Committee either in a committee meeting or electronically, if necessary, that the support will not adversely affect students' education.

Proposed by: Margaret Ball

Seconded by: Tori-Ilana Evans

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

07.12EC16/17
01.07SF.13/14

Policy Renewed 14/06/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy Passed 27/05/14 Student Forum

Welsh Union Charter

This union notes:

1. That the Union constitution notes that both the Welsh language 'shall be accorded equal status and validity'
2. The Welsh language is an official language in Wales
3. The Welsh language act of 1993 and Welsh language measure of 2011 (upon the agreement of its standards) have and will set out legal obligations for public bodies in Wales in regards to their obligations to provide services in Welsh and to facilitate the use of the Welsh language
4. Research conducted by NUS Wales concludes that there is majority support for bilingual services within Unions.
5. The students' Union currently employs Welsh language translators
6. NUS Wales Welsh language liberation group have launched a charter on the Welsh language which provides minimum standards for Welsh language provision.
7. The Students' Union currently adheres to many of the standards outlined.

This union believes:

1. To further the improvements this Union has seen in Welsh language provision it should accept the recommendations outlined in the Welsh language charter.

This union resolves:

1. To accept all recommendations of the charter
2. To outline a timeline for adaptation of the charter

Proposed by: Lewys Aron

Seconded by: Ceinwen Cloney

Zero tolerance to sexual harassment policy

This Union notes:

- 1) That no studies have been conducted at Swansea University Students' Union in relation to the experience of sexual harassment towards women.
- 2) NUS Women's Campaign Hidden Marks report surveyed over 2,000 women across the UK and reported their experiences on sexual assault, rape, stalking and sexual harassment:

Women students reported experiences of a range of unwanted behaviour during their time as a student, ranging from 'everyday' verbal and non-verbal harassment, to serious episodes of stalking, physical and sexual assault:

- a. 1 in 7 of survey respondents has experienced a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student.
 - b. Over two thirds of women students (68 per cent) have experienced some kind of verbal or non-verbal harassment in and around their institution. This kind of behaviour - which includes groping, flashing and unwanted sexual comments - has become almost 'everyday' for some women students.
 - c. Twelve per cent of respondents reported being subject to stalking.
 - d. One in ten has been a victim of serious physical violence.
 - e. 16 per cent have experienced unwanted kissing, touching or molesting during their time as a student, the majority of which has taken place in public.
 - f. Students were the majority of perpetrators in most categories of harassment – the exception being physical violence where 40% of offenders were students.
 - g. 1 in 10 victims of serious sexual assault were given alcohol or drugs against their will before being attacked.
- 3) The University has some harassment policies in place including the dignity at work policy, however, the policy that is provided is too broad and not specifically catered for students.

The Union believes:

- 1) The following behaviours are unacceptable:
 - a. Unwanted sexual comments (including comments about your body or private life)
 - b. Unwelcome sexual invitations, innuendoes and offensive gestures.
 - c. Wolf whistling, catcalling or offensive sexual noises.
 - d. Groping, pinching or smacking of your body such as bottom or breasts.
 - e. Having your skirt or top lifted without agreeing.
 - f. Someone exposing their sexual organs to you without consent.
- 2) Objectification and stereotyping of women lead to a culture of sexual harassment and its normalisation.
- 3) The levels of reported harassment are severely underrepresented and under represents the true number of incidents due to tolerant attitudes of sexual harassment, embarrassment of the individual and fear of repercussions.
- 4) According to the Hidden Marks report, the most common reason for not reporting was that students did not feel what had happened was serious enough to report.
- 5) We should be a leading organisation on fighting sexual harassment both in commercial services and charitable objectives of the students' union.
- 6) The Students' Union has a core principle to be diverse and in the context of this policy that means being inclusive to all students by striving to end sexism and harassment.

This Union resolves:

- 1) To take a zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment in the union in accordance to NUS's definition of sexual harassment.
- 2) To promote the union stance on sexual harassment through a publicity campaign, through Students' union departments and commercial services.
- 3) To ensure that both students and staff are clearly informed about the zero tolerance policy, how sexual harassment is defined and how to report related incidences.
- 4) To call upon the University for an updated sexual harassment policy in light of the hidden marks report.
- 5) To call upon the University to acknowledge the Safety perceptions survey conducted by the Students' Union in 2009/2010.
- 6) To ensure there is a professional and credible complaints procedure in the union where each complaint is responded with a high level of seriousness, discipline and investigation.
- 7) Work with relevant departments including bars and commercial services to ensure that sufficient disciplinary procedures are put into practice.
- 8) To ensure all staff are aware and confident in the policy being put forward and the implementation of the policy.
- 9) To ensure that there is a more accessible way and efficient way to report incidences of sexual harassment and this is clearly made aware of.
- 10) Put into operation sexual harassment training for certain student union staff members and student staff to expand on relevant awareness, education and training needed.
- 11) To not display images in the Students' Union which objectify, undermine or stereotype students and staff members. This is throughout the Students' Union services, commercial services and within any students' union publications.
- 12) Work with University and sexual harassment officers to ensure that the relevant training is provided and to guide the Students' Union in the right direction.

Proposer: Raegan Healy, SU Women's Officer.

Secunder: Luke Young, SU President.

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020

**09.12EC16/17
23.10-11.SGM**

**Policy Renewed 14/16/17 Conjoint Executive
Policy Passed 09.06.11 SGM**

Swansea NUS Delegation Accountability

This Union Believes

1. That students do not receive feedback from the Union's NUS Wales/UK Delegates after their election, and that this makes their role less effective
2. NUS delegates, like SU executive officers, are elected by the student body and should therefore be subject to scrutiny in order to ensure that the Union's voice is being heard.
3. Delegates should be accountable to Swansea students - a vast number of students still do not understand what NUS is or how it functions.

This Union Further Believes

1. That with more publicity and scrutiny, the work of NUS can be brought to the attention of more Swansea students
2. NUS Wales/UK and Swansea Union can be communicate more effectively and should ensure that the flow of information does not just stop with the delegates but with the rest of the student body

This Union Resolves

1. Delegates must attend every Student Forum and sign in or send apologies, just as executive officers are expected to do.
2. NUS delegates to provide reports to Student Forums, including reporting on discussions and voting at

- conferences. This should be done in a similar manner to reports by members of the executive committee.
3. SUSU members who are part of national liberation campaigns to be offered the opportunity to report to Student Forums in writing or to request an agenda item for discussions
 4. Student Forums prior to a NUS Wales/UK conference shall contain an agenda item to allow conference motions and business to be discussed. This will allow delegates an additional opportunity to collect views and opinions from the student body in order to more accurately reflect those views at conference.
 5. NUS delegates to maintain a notice board where items of interest regarding the national scene is to be displayed, along with most recent reports.
 6. Reports to be written within 10 working days of a conference, and to be published online after 10 working days of submission.
 7. To request more articles in The Waterfront, either in print or online, regarding the work/campaigns of both NUS Wales and NUS

Proposed by: Stephen Marshall

Seconded by: Zahid Raja

Policy Expires: Final Conjoint meeting of the Executive Committee 2020