



Unit 33
The Enterprise Centre
Tondur, Bridgend
CF32 9BS

October 10th, 2025

Email Only

Cross Party Group on Academic Staff in Universities

Chair: Mike Hedges MS

Vice Chair: Heledd Fychan MS

Minutes of Meeting 15/07/2025 – ‘AGM and Manifesto Discussion’

DATE: Tuesday July 15th, 2025
TITLE: **UCU Manifesto – ‘Banking on a Better Future’**
LOCATION: Seminar Rooms 1 & 2, Pierhead Building
TIME: 12:30 to 13:30

In Attendance

Mike Hedges MS

Cefin Campbell MS

David Hooson (on behalf of Vikki Howells MS)

Ryland Doyle

Jamie Insole – UCU Cymru Senior Policy & Political Officer

Kieron Rees – Head of Workforce Engagement, Medr

Josh Bell – University Wales, Public Affairs Advisor

Deio Owen – President NUS Wales

Jamie Insole- UCU Cymru Policy & Political Officer

Apologies

Jenny Rathbone MS

Gareth Loydd – UCU Cymru Wales Official

Mary Van de Heuvel – representing NEU

Business

- The meeting confirmed Mike as Chair and Heledd as Vice Chair
- Mike Hedges provided a brief introduction
- Jamie Insole introduced the UCU Cymru Manifesto
- A discussion developed around low HE participation amongst Welsh learners. Josh spoke briefly about work being undertaken by university Wales
- The meeting moved on to explore opportunities for joint working and collaboration. Jamie made the point that a solution-focused task and finish method might be preferable to piecemeal working or coproduction via third parties.
- Deio concurred, broadly agreeing with caveats surrounding the composition of HE and FE NUS Branches.
- Josh identified political conferences as valuable occasions to catch up.
- Kieron questioned whether Medr was best placed to convene such discussions given its role as regulator.
- David agreed that Welsh Government could perform this role, mentioning the Ministers intent to convene a task & finish Group around the issue of participation.
- The meeting concluded