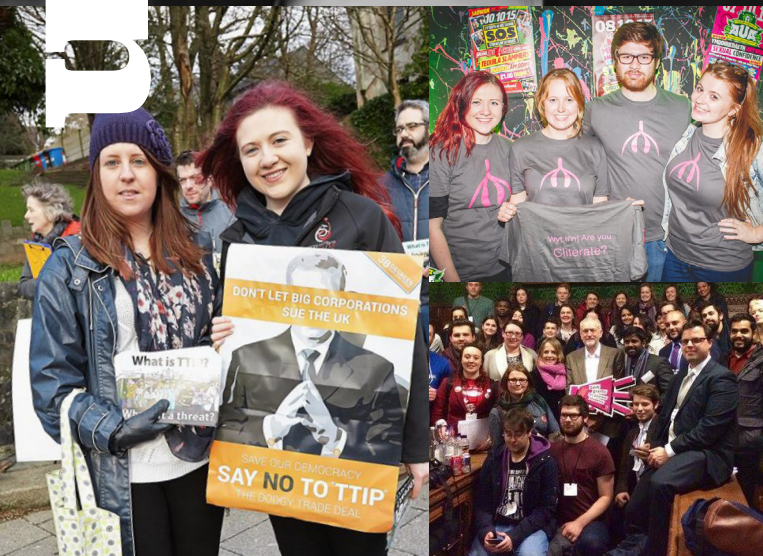




Bangor Students' Union President



**I'm running to be President of NUS Wales because I'm passionate about the student movement and what we can achieve together. I believe that together we can continue leading the fight in challenging the problematic issues and inequalities that are deeply rooted in our societal structures. I want to work with students and Student Unions across Wales to campaign for change and to support you and work with you on the issues that you care about. If elected, my priorities will be:**

Fflur is the kind of leader where her values and passion shine through all that she does. I've been consistently impressed with her and think she's what the student movement needs in such a vital year.

**Beth Button**

## PROTECTING SUs AND OUR VALUES

### The attack on Student Unions

In light of the recent green paper and the government's attacks on trade unions, it is clear that there is a fight on the way, one to protect Students' Unions and the amazing work we do as a student movement every day. We need to be ready to defend our ability to fight for the rights of our Students and to defend our principles; the right to education, equality, fighting injustice and pushing for a better society. Student Unions are crucial because we are constantly working to enhance the lives of students and the communities that we represent and are giving students safe spaces to learn and grow. If elected, I would work to ensure that we come together as a strong Welsh Student Movement to defend our rights and help defend the rights of Unions across the UK.

### Supporting liberation campaigns

If elected, one of my priorities would be to support liberation campaigns. I believe that it is crucial for liberation groups to have safe spaces where they can discuss the societal problems they face and how they can lead the fight for equality and how others in the student movement can support them to reach their goal.

### Welsh language and NUS

I want to continue working to ensure that NUS UK are providing Welsh Student Unions with bilingual materials for all their campaigns as currently some Unions are unable to engage with important campaigns because of the lack of Welsh materials. I also want to work with Unions to develop and strengthen their bilingual policies, in particular working with FE colleges on the new Further Education Welsh Language Charter.

# FIGHTING FOR EQUALITY WITHIN EDUCATION

## Anonymous Marking and FE

If elected, one of my priorities would be to work with FE colleges to campaign for anonymous marking. Numerous studies have shown that prejudices (in particular racism) can lead to discrimination based on names. Therefore, anonymous marking is crucial so that it is students' work, and not their names that are being marked.

## Sex Confidence

Ensuring that inclusive sexual education is part of the curriculum at every stage of education is something about which I am passionate. There is a duty on education providers to be delivering inclusive sex education that discusses different sexualities and genders, that fully teaches about consent and that empowers people (particularly those who identify as women) to understand their own bodies. This is a crucial issue because we are living in a society in which too often casual homophobia and transphobia are accepted and sexism is still a problem on campuses with 1 in 7 female students experiencing a serious physical or sexual assault during their time as a student.

## Liberating the curriculum

Too often academia is white-washed, heteronormative, uses gendered language, is Euro-centric and male dominated, and is designed in a way that can be restrictive for many students such as student parents, students with disabilities and those for whom standardised testing is restrictive. I want to push for an inclusive and accessible education and curriculum with policy makers and to support officers and students to have this discussion at their institutions. For this to work, for the curriculum to be truly liberated, all students must be involved in the debate. It is crucial to ensure spaces for liberation groups and those who are put at a disadvantage by the current structure of academia to be able to voice their opinions, be partners in their education and make change.

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**Together, we can  
make a difference  
– in unity there is  
strength**

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# FIGHTING CUTS AND CUTTING THE COST

## Fighting cuts to education and working for equal access

The cost of education is placing unmanageable financial pressures on many students, but rather than see a credible solution to this problem we've seen discussion about raising fees in the Green Paper, the Welsh government's plans to cut a third of Welsh HE funding and an FE sector that is facing financial difficulties. Education should be a right not a privilege and it should be ability and not money that grants access to education. However, money is a barrier with advantaged 18 year olds more likely to enter higher education than their disadvantaged peers and FE charges after the age of 19 making it difficult for many to access education. Therefore, if I were elected, fighting for equal access to education would be one of my main priorities by defending students against unfair cuts and working to protect current support systems such as maintenance grants, bursaries for students with disabilities and EMA.

## Post-grads

Access to post-graduate study is being severely limited by finance because of the up-front cost of fees and the lack of a Welsh student finance system for post-graduates, meaning that many are unable to access post-grad studies and others are forced into crippling debts. Currently 72% of masters students are receiving no financial support towards fees or maintenance and so Wales needs to develop a post-graduate taught loan system that is fair, equal and without age caps or subject restrictions and to remove the financial barriers to postgraduate study.

## Welsh language education

We are facing cuts to Welsh language Education and to the Coleg Cymraeg which is extremely likely to lead to a reduction in Welsh medium provision. In Wales, everyone should have the right to live and study in Welsh and many Welsh speakers would be at a disadvantage academically were they not given this opportunity. If elected, I would ensure that NUS Wales works with you to protect access to Welsh medium education.



*ffur  
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Bangor Students'  
Union President