Societies Executive Committee Meeting 15 Agenda

20/03/2024

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

**In attendance:** Karen Low (KL), Ollie Page (OP), Jamie Campbell (JC), Cameron Pattinson (CP), Jo Fitzpatrick (JF), Shania Maritz (SM)

**Chair:** VP Community – Justyna Kardasz (JK)

**Clerk:** Activities Coordinator – Erin Ross (ER)

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 14

* Correct SM’s and KL’s initials in places and change committee member initial to ‘committee’ in one grant request
* K-Pop Society request – make it clearer that JC left and returned to the room; make it clearer what feedback the society was to be given
* Modern Foreign Languages request – minute is too minimal, doesn’t look logical as points were mostly critical and was then funded. Correct to reflect logic of discussion

1. Matters Arising

* Saudi Society application – received confirmation that it is a reaffiliation, Socs Exec approved via email. Staff to approve request
* Ukrainian Support Society name change to Ukrainian Society of Strathclyde

Approved – tell them to consider dropping ‘of Strathclyde’!

* JK and CP met with SUHABS about their recent application – emphasised importance of promotion to drive new membership. Exec awaiting an updated reapplication with this evidence.

Exec also clarified that a condition of funding they gave to a previous grant request was not a commitment to further funding. SUHABS were awarded funding for their basket on the condition that the basket carries the Strath Union logo. There was no further request or any agreement made with Socs Exec to fund a banner to carry this logo

* JK has been asked about Arts & Culture funding for student groups which are not societies. ER confirms staff will work with management to establish the use and process for Arts & Culture over summer following ad-hoc use this year, and Socs Exec will be consulted as needed
* EEE event cancellation – can they use their funding to cover the costs they can’t recoup and return the rest? Socs Exec feels these situations should be considered on a case-by-case basis when socs come back to us to say events have been cancelled. They would like to know the exact costs this would entail – staff to find out

1. Budget Update

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Arts and Culture** | **General Pot** |
| **Start of year** | £15,000 | £40,000 |
| **After Exec 1** | £14,410 | £38,785.26 |
| **After Exec 2** | £12,964.82 | £38,135.26 |
| **After Exec 3** | £10,324.82 | £36,328.79 |
| **After Exec 4** | £9780.77 | £35,233.79 |
| **After Exec 5** | £9580.77 | £34,797.26 |
| **After Exec 6** | £6992.08 | £30,723.79 |
| **After Exec 7** | £4962.68 | £28,528.88 |
| **After Exec 8** | £4962.68 | £27,836.10 |
| **After Exec 9** | £4783.02 | £27,592.10 |
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| **After Exec 11** | £4497.02 | £25,017.10 |
| **After Exec 12** | £4347.02 | £16,760.67 |
| **After Exec 13** | £3447.49 | £16,520.67 |
| **After Exec 14** | £3247.49 | £9,685.91 |

1. New Affiliation Requests

* Self-Improvement Society
  + Committee has concerns around the aims of this society as they stand – particularly aim 2, as well as the roles ascribed to some committee members
  + Are you getting qualified people in to deliver these workshops? If not, do your committee members have qualifications that fit their role?
  + If not, and the society intends these activities to be informal, peer-to-peer exchange, this should be made very clear and explicit
  + For instance, committee refers to the Advice Hub (staffed by professional, trained advisers and regulated as an advisory service) and union services like StrathActive and Hear to Listen, which provide similar opportunities
  + These services position themselves very carefully as non-expert, and student volunteers and leaders would only ever be trained to signpost, never to advise – this society would need to be the same
  + Messaging that this society is the place to go to ‘[improve] all aspects of life’ is misleading and could easily be dangerous for the society and students – need to be clear on this
  + All committee would need to be trained in basic safeguarding and wellbeing by the union
  + Committee queries: why not join a volunteering service we already run? This society doesn’t need to exist

Not approved – provide society with full feedback as above

* Strathclyde University Whisky Society
  + Membership fees – steep but understandable investment. Also note that they will be restricted out of much of Socs Exec funding due to Union policy meaning socs exec cannot fund alcohol

Approved – confirm with the society that they understand Socs Exec cannot fund alcohol

* Glasgow Ahlul-Bayt Student Society\*
  + There has been a change in the initial committee for this new society, so this request can’t be approved as is – they need a new treasurer

Approved in theory – committee is happy to approve out of cycle **when they have a Treasurer**

* Strathclyde Influential Speakers (SIS)
  + This looks like it overlaps with Strath Speakers a lot? Though KL notes this is about platforming influential speakers, rather than coaching students on public speaking
  + Not a Widening Access society – this is a very specific category of groups set at government level that are underrepresented in higher education

Approved – but society should reach out to Strath Speakers and show us you have done this! Explain Widening Access to society

* Mature Student Association
  + Committee is pleased to see this society getting back up and running
  + On the free and donation membership option – is this the society’s preference as opposed to the quite usual free student membership and paid associate membership?

Approved – check society’s wishes about membership. Suggest they apply this to event ticketing rather than at membership level as it would be more flexible

1. AGM Grant Requests (£25) – For Information. Total: £150

* Aerospace Innovation -StrathAIS
* K-Pop Society
* Abercrombie & Stitch
* DMEM Society
* Strath Trad Music Society
* Book Club

1. Grant Requests. Total: £7571.88

* Bands at Strathclyde – Spring Sessions 3 (#1611)
  + Requested: £620 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £620
  + Members: 46
* Has Dominos pizza been cleared with Commercial? Need to include this
* No ticket charges – but Socs understands why they want the event to be free
* Queries decoration total and lack of evidence or price comparison. Can you borrow some decorations from union?

Not approved yet – if they can reapply addressing feedback above about external food and decorations, Socs Exec will definitely fund the sound tech and will reconsider the other components

* Musical Theatre Society – SMTS – SMTS Presents: All Shook Up – Costumes, Props, and Set (#1629)
  + Requested: £1208 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £1208
  + Members: 49
* This is a reapplication but looks exactly the same. Committee is not sure that the feedback has been addressed – was it conveyed properly and understood by the society?
* Previous application mentioned the society would come back for more funding when they had progressed other sources of funding. Socs Exec wanted it fed back to the society that only one application per project is allowed. The society should instead wait and gather your sponsorships, fundraising, income sources and come back with full picture of how you are funding it. Staff to cross-compare with other application and give fuller feedback again

Not approved at this time

* Students for Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) – NRC Travel & Accommodation (#1636)
  + Requested: £672.11 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £672.11
  + Members: 45
* Strong application, well-evidenced and mostly well-compared. Give us the comparison or rationale for choosing the accommodation you have chosen. Good that you have reserved but not paid for your accommodation
* ‘Expected income’ section not used properly – looks like we’re paying 100% when you are actually part-funding it
* One nice-to-have that some other socs have done for similar projects – how much is each individual student paying/how much will this subsidise for them?
* Socs Exec praise SEDS for quality requests this year – good luck, they hope you win!

Approved

* Singapore Society – Ceilidh Dance (#1639)
  + Requested: £216.15 (75%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £288.20
  + Members: 16
* The society is advertising this already which has led us to discover they are taking ticket money into a personal bank account – staff to follow up
* Split of costs not quite clear – would it not make more sense for one society/party to cover e.g. the venue payment, one to pay the band etc.? How are you going to pay out the other societies from this funding award? It would help if you used the ‘expected income’ section rather than trying to summarise this in words

Not approved

**JF leaves to deal with a society matter**

* Skateboarding – Barcelona Trip (#1593)
  + Requested: £4855.62 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £4855.62
  + Members: 33

**JF returns**

* Committee appreciates this application is vastly improved, can see feedback has been addressed
* Still don’t understand your **food prices** document – the ranges are very wide and the totals don’t make sense. Could you try to explain this in a different way? Come back via email
* **Expected income** still not done properly – it’s included in summary but not set out in ‘expected income’ section how members/other parties will fund the remaining costs of the trip
* Bit about **non-Strath members** still doesn’t sit right – now you know we need to fund Strath student activity and you’ve pulled out their expenses in your calculations, can you not take them out of the equation entirely and lower the figure you are requesting?
* JC references a previous trip application that may help here – Mary’s Meals had a trip with alumni members on it. Staff to look into
* Committee is likely to fund a large part of this – but need these points clarified via email

1. AOCB

ER thanks committee for Societies Policy feedback – copy will be shared with societies tomorrow

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