Societies Executive Committee Meeting 7 Agenda

22/11/23

1. Welcome and Apologies

Cameron, Justyna, Karen, Shania, Salma (Part-time student Rep), Olivia, Jamie, Jo, Erin, Ashanti.

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 6

Society Exec could not access minutes, it was showing the agenda instead.

Update Olly to Ollie.

1. Matters Arising

* Part-Time and Distance Students in Societies – Salma Ghazal

The Societies Exec provide feedback to Salma on the submitted paper.

Justyna – It is well-written. Question over the point about having Active and Engaged badges for including distance and part-time learners. Would this be more to recognise and reward specific activity aimed to include in-person and distance learners, or to integrate e.g. in-person and distance options into their general activity?

Having this as an extra badge would be voluntary option for societies. If it stated, you must make all your events accessible for distance learners instead, they would have to provide it instead of it being a reward for attempting to be inclusive.

Salma – The badge will draw attention to the problem, that we need to accommodate this group of students, and raise awareness by having it mentioned on the website.

Salma – We initially discussed having the statement be that 40% of clubs/societies activities, should accommodate this group of students. Was told by Erin that this isn’t a feasible way to benchmark societies.

Erin – We steered away from percentage which has brought us on to the current proposal in the paper. We could work on standardising some of societies’ activities to be more inclusive. And/or we introduce a separate ‘above and beyond’ badge as Justyna is questioning.

Karen – Is there feasibility to have an online fair or something similar, for online, part-time, and overseas students. Anecdote of society offering online options but didn’t have online event turnout after COVID so they stopped it. Advertising to this group of students about online options should be a priority. There is no point in keeping it up if no one is coming along.

Erin – Agree that Re-Freshers fair is coming up and it will be a smaller in-person event anyway. We could make the online option happen then to include more socs as well, using learning from the pandemic.

Salma – The feedback that online options were wanted as well. This group of students are marginalised and very isolated. It is important to integrate them in student life.

Jo – For Disability History Month, there will be a session for teaching staff and students with teaching responsibilities about digital accessibility. There could be learning and resources from this that could be adapted for societies. It is currently being used to show lecturers and tutorial leaders how to integrate students online, who are unable to participate in-person.

Erin – This CPD tool for staff could be developed into resources and guidance for societies. What are the main takeaways of the paper overall? Main thing for me is making sure opportunities are digital.

Salma – Encouraging societies to consider these students in general. Drawing attention to the issues they face. Communication of the union’s services to these groups of students, on a separate page on the website or something. To communicate opportunities via email etc. Badges and criteria for bronze, silver, gold.

Erin – So, one thing is services. And the other thing is opportunities, to highlight opportunities for those who are not on campus or part-time.

Salma – Would it be feasible to create a badge for bronze, silver or gold?

Erin – It could arguably be placed in any of the three tiers.

Justyna – For example, recycling is something you should be doing as a morally right thing. Like this online integration situation, this is pre-bronze level, it should be the standard. It might not fit in with the badges, it shouldn’t be an extra thing. Including it in the policy for societies to follow would be preferable.

Karen – It could be a constitution point.

Erin – Thinking about accessibility for everyone. We have been using Active and Engaged to ‘hook on’ things that societies should be doing anyways, to actually mandate them. Put on one social that is available to attend digitally, this could be a badge for this carrot and stick approach.

Jamie – We can’t assume that everyone has access to digital services either, skills and equipment.

Erin – Making use of skills bases like the session Jo mentioned would help with this.

Justyna – Short term is including the badge, and long-term would be integrating these things in an ongoing conversation and commitment.

Salma – Can this be implemented soon to have an impact?

Erin – We can look at the Active and Engaged badge soon.

Jo – For societies that already have bronze status, what will we say if we are introducing a new badge this semester?

Karen – We can’t take their bronze away from them, but we can say you must achieve it to get to silver.

Salma - Is there anything that is not feasible from the paper?

Karen – We can add something to do with having an online meeting that societies can manage to have as a silver award. And then in the future, including something like that in the constitution. And if an online re-freshers could be possible.

Erin – We’ll put something on that is a kind of showcase.

Justyna – Everything is achievable, but it is not all implementable by this committee.

Erin – Some stuff involves a national campaign, other stuff is opportunities based, and other things are a union staff implementation thing.

Justyna – We assure you that the conversation will continue. With the timeline of the policy change – usually what happens is staff are already reviewing what will be changed for the Societies Policy. And once staff come up with changes, this is taken to the Societies AGM, and then the societies committee members vote to pass and will abide by it for the next academic year.

Erin – There are several policy changes and things to review at the next AGM – Tuesday 26th March 2024. Will send over these changes. We will work on the policy before this point, but it will be a formality that it has to approved at the Societies AGM. I will share with management to bring focus to the issues that are more for the union as a whole. Will get back to you with a written update of what we’ve been up to this semester.

* Society Categories – Points of Contact

Justyna – We have now changed the Societies Exec categories, Shania is course-related.

* Charity Month

Justyna – Ollie and I met with comms and gave the information we have, they said we should have a discussion of what should be on the landing site for Charity Month, and pull together information for this, and send this to comms before the end of November.

Jamie – Looking for clarity on what we need to send.

Justyna – All the information to be presented to students – what the competition is, judging criteria, prizes, a link to submit evidence, staff can help with the link, but everything else, we should do.

Jamie and Karen will help with this.

Justyna – We have asked for one of the union content freelancers to create content, like what was done for Active & Engaged, at their free reign, the provisional date for this is one of the December meetings. Everyone is to come with ideas for content. But at the moment, everyone should focus on the Charity month landing page for now. We need to come up with a rough draft due next Wednesday 28th November. From 6th December meeting, we can have a look at bringing in the content freelancer.

Ollie – I have an exam 6th December.

Justyna – Everyone else is available 20th December then for content.

Ollie – We also discussed having a hashtag to include on the Instagram. People could submit evidence this way.

Jamie – Hashtag could be good to generate buzz, it could get lost for evidence submission though.

Erin – It could be used to verify evidence.

Olly – Daniel, comms, was against bake sales. He wants to see more creativity.

Justyna – Comms also said that on the website, there could be a banner that leading to the landing page, and we could include link tree on the Instagram, to lead to landing page. There is a list of what to include for the website, will send to the chat. Any other comments?

* Grant Guidance

Erin – Some members have submitted good examples of grant applications.

Cameron – Had a look through minutes but my good examples overlap with what other people chose.

Erin – If anyone else has any other ones that haven’t already been sent, if you can include a summary of what was good. Or just send the examples and we’ll figure it out.

Justyna – Everyone send two unique examples please for the next meeting. Shania you can have until the end of December for this.

Erin – Will put together all the info on grants and put it back to you all for review.

Cameron – I may not be around on 20th December.

Justyna – If you can’t make it, we will have the rest of the Exec.

Jamie – Could we include bad requests? Look at grants that have been passed for good ones.

Erin – If your good examples have been taken by other exec members, send in bad examples instead.

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** | £6957.08 | £30,723.79 |

Note – Union staff to take the £60 entry fees out of general pot for the Battle of Societies quiz.

1. New Affiliation Requests

* Civil and Environmental Engineering PGR Society -re-affiliation

Jamie – They mentioned that they are separate from undergrad in application. We’ve discussed having category for post-grad societies, so this is reasonable.

Cameron – They have stated about adding other committee members.

Ollie – Can we change the question in that section of the affiliation form itself to be more direct?

Justyna – We could include a tick box of do you have other committee members? If not be aware that you must elect them in an EGM.

APPROVED – with comment that they must elect future committee members in an EGM

* SELAS – Strathclyde Environmental Law and Affairs Society

Justyna – It says Band A alumni membership on application. Is this for students?

Cameron – Their committee members are 1st years.

Ollie – It says 2023 on their university emails, so they may be postgraduate.

Jamie – In the affiliation form, the questioning is misleading.

Justyna – We should communicate to them that they can’t sell alumni memberships only.

Erin – Mention that it’s fine to be targeted to alumni members, but they must be open to everyone as a society, including under-grad.

APPROVED – with comments that they can target alumni members, but they must be open to everyone to able to join as a society.

* Women in Banking and Finance -re-affiliation

Justyna – Point out that the email of the president is gmail and not a student email.

Shania – The society email doesn’t make sense either.

Karen – Is the president still a student?

Jamie – In the affiliation form, the question only says type the president email, it doesn’t specify that this has to be a university email

Cameron – It’s not a direct re-affiliation, more like a reboot.

APPROVED – with follow-up surrounding the society email.

* Girls Who Walk Strath – GWWS

Shania – Again, the president email is a Gmail. So is the social media committee member.

Karen – They are all 2022 members, so they may not be students.

APPROVED – on the basis that they are students.

* MK Culture Society

Ollie – They didn’t want to talk to me following their previous rejection.

Jo – I emailed and then Olly followed up. They’ve followed up on the aims and said if this is something they want to talk about they will, on the hostility point.

Ollie – The hostility point is a point of contention.

Erin – We are reviewing the revised aims.

Justyna – They stated originally that they were experiencing hostility from the Honk Kong society which is why they wished to set up the MK society.

Ollie – The application stated that they wanted to preserve their culture which the Hong Kong society weren’t doing.

Jamie – This society is setting up because they want to break off from another society.

Ollie – The aims are distinct from the Hong Kong society.

Erin – The union could follow up with the MK society on the hostility point.

Justyna fills in Shania on the situation with the MK society.

Erin – If it is an issue with the societies having alternate Beijing views then we may be inclined to allow them to form based on precedent. We do need to know for future if there is contention there from a union point of view, so the staff will follow up.

APPROVED

* Rangers Supporters Club

Jamie – The Rangers Supporters Club has existed before at Strathclyde.

Justyna – They’ve mentioned that they want to get rid of the rivalry. Apart from the comment about adding committee members.

APPROVED – with comment that they must elect future committee members in an EGM.

* AIESEC in Glasgow -re-affiliation

Erin – I thought they already existed. They do, this is ‘AISEC in Glasgow’

Justyna – There is no committee listed on the website. We could reach out to the society from the website.

Erin – They aren’t affiliated but they are on the website. Staff will go through MSL and check the un-checked affiliation boxes. It seems to be an administration error so we can still vote.

APPROVED

* Civil Engineering Society -re-affiliation

Justyna – They say there was a society before the pandemic.

Jamie – They need to elect, not add committee members.

Olly – Can we ask them to reach out to the postgrad Civil Engineering soc.

APPROVED – with comment that they must elect future committee members in an EGM.

* SUBS – Strathclyde University Bulgarian Society -re-affiliation

Jamie - Their president and treasurer is the same person, so I cannot approve.

Justyna – They have said the society was affiliated last year.

Erin – Someone has purchased a membership for the soc, so it may be ticked as affiliated as an error.

Justyna – They don’t have a treasurer, and they can’t put TBC for the other committee members.

NOT APPROVED – subject to them including a separate Treasurer, and the comment that they must elect future committee members in an EGM.

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £90

* Mary’s Meals (#1538)
* Biomedical Engineering Society (#1537)

APPROVED

1. Grant Requests. Total: £4704.31

* Christmas Ceilidh – Hong Kong Society (#1534)
  + Requested: £630 (14.22%)
  + Expected Income: £3800
  + Total Budget: £4430
  + Members: 18

Jamie – They are applying for the loss in money. Is there anything about this in the grant guidelines.

Erin – Looks like they’ve phrased it strangely. They want to supplement or subsidise the price per head. They are trying to show clearly that they won’t be able to run the event by themselves, but the presentation of this is unconventional.

Jamie – Evidence looks okay. They haven’t specified what decor they are buying, but this is part of the other expenditure.

Justyna – They are asking for ticket money.

Ollie – Wish it said how many tickets they sold last year.

Karen – They have an estimate of 100 but where are they getting this estimate from. Can they not split the funds with GUHKs if it is a joint Ceilidh?

Justyna – They may be splitting this, but they haven’t stated this.

Karen – They have 18 members but have 100 estimated numbers for the event.

Jamie – Some societies take memberships cash in hand though they shouldn’t.

Justyna – We should check up on Hong Kong society for number of members.

Erin – They either didn’t set up a website event last year, or it was social media. We need to communicate that if they are asking for funding, we need to see evidence of past events.

Karen – They are supposed to be charging £38 per head. That should add up to £200 not £600.

Ollie – They are asking people to pay into an account directly on the event sign-up form.

Jo – On the excel sheet, they do include the cost break down, but they haven’t communicated that clearly in the application.

Karen – Against approving this.

Erin – They should feature the details in the projected income.

Erin – The event is supposed to be on the 19th. We need to say temporarily no, as through research we’ve seen that you are collecting money that isn’t by the union rules. Also, that memberships aren’t being bought correctly.

Karen – They need to evidence how they are getting 100 guests.

Shania – Not all those guests are paying the £38, some of them are paying £40.

Erin – From previous ball event experience, they must have tried different pricing, and this is what works for them even if the pricing on the application doesn’t make sense.

Ollie – They have committee members that aren’t university of Strathclyde students. Last year, the President was from Glasgow university. They have two committee members on website. But on other channels, they list many more committee members.

Justyna – There are several points to be covered, staff and Justyna should arrange a meeting with Hong Kong soc after all these points have been raised.

NOT APPROVED

* Semester 1 Music – Concert Band (#1465)
  + Requested: £629.40 (89%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £707.95
  + Members: 62

Shania – It’s good that they are cutting their losses as shown on the grant application.

Erin – To give context to Shania, these are standard applications that music societies make at the start or end of the semester for sheet music or equipment. These usually get approved from Arts & Culture, and these items are a part of their core equipment.

Jamie – They are going to cover the shipping themselves.

Shania – It is broken down well.

Justyna – They are trying to pay one of the society members to write music for it.

Erin – There is a way for them to claim this money back.  
  
APPROVED – Arts & Culture

* Chinese Burns Night Ceilidh – EEE Society and CSSA Society (#1536)
  + Requested: £1400 (24.82%)
  + Expected Income: £4239.83
  + Total Budget: £5639.83
  + Members: 72 (41 EEE and 31 CSSA)

Jo – This society spoke to me at the AGM. It currently looks like they have more savings than they actually do, but what has happened is money from selling hoodies has been going into their bank account, but only a portion of this is actually theirs. The request also isn’t 100% of their total budget, but they didn’t know how to make the application form work.

Jamie – Large numbers of students from China come over who study EEE to Strathclyde, due to partnerships, explaining this collaboration.

Erin – This is coming from Arts & Culture. For Shania, we have a separate Arts & Culture fund for music, arts and culture socs. Other societies running relating events can apply for the fund too, and Societies Exec decide if it is relevant.

Ollie – Some aspects of the grant application seem to be paid for.

Jamie – This funding could have come from other sources, like department funding though.

Jo – Like that it’s part funding.

Jamie – Happy with Arts & Culture fund.

Cameron – Comments to use less photos, email chains etc instead.

Karen – What are we actually paying for?

Jamie – Generally subsidising costs for the event?

Ollie – Is this a collaboration with the CSSA? If so, are they paying for anything.

Erin – There is a precedent that we can approve this, and comment that we want to see collaboration funding. CSSA take on a lot of liaising with Chinese students.

APPROVED – Arts & Culture, with comments use less photos, email chains etc. And provide detail on the extent of funding from CSSA due to the collaboration.

* Spaceport America Cup 2024: Entry Fees and Motor – Aerospace Innovation StrathAIS (#1539)
  + Requested: £2044.91 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £2044.91
  + Members: 74

Jo – This is not a re-submission, but they have asked for funding for something else before. It comes up saying 100% but it isn’t 100% it’s just how it’s been inputted on the grant application system.

Justyna – They did really well in this competition last year. They have a lot of different avenues of where they are getting their money from. The entry fees payment is due the 15th of December. Any questions/comments?

Jo – Good they have put in application early. And broken down the costs.

Jamie – Just make it clear that if the conversion rate changes, they can’t do anything about it. We set this precedent about sheet music, so it needs to be consistent.

Justyna – Raise the point that expected attendance is 9 people, can we justify the industry ties for 9 people travelling to give them £2000? We could offer to fund them more.

Erin – We also don’t know what stage we are at with their other funders, and if they may reach out for more subsidies. It’s needs to be decided how we want people to fill out the form.

Jamie – Would we want to consider giving them more?

Karen – Approve this and if they want to give more information about external funding. Then we can offer them applying for more funding to be considered again.

Ollie – Hate to think that the decision of who can go is who can pay the £800.

Justyna – Signpost them to alternative funding on the union funding.

APPROVED – with comment that if the exchange rate changes, Societies Exec cannot do anything about this, as well as asking about the external funding, and offer to apply for more funding to be considered again.

1. AOCB

Approving meeting minutes

Justyna – We will be approving two sets of minutes at the next meeting due to the issue with accessing the last meeting minutes.

Giving Socs Exec member GAS access

Jo – Can we add Shania to GAS?

Erin – Yes

Hot Air Balloon / TEDx Society

Karen – Point to raise about Hot Air Balloon society.

Karen – The hot air balloon had the application for one person to go to a course. They apply every year, so much money for one person. Is it possible for member of the union staff go and do this course, and have this membership be valid for years to come, so that hundreds of pounds every year don’t have to be spent for one person each year.

Ollie – It might be something that only lasts 12 months.

Jamie – Usually two committee members receive this membership but this year they have applied for one person.

Members note there are actually two societies being discussed here, SUHABS and TEDx.

Erin – A meeting with TEDx committee should be coming, but I am withholding the money until we know they are not breaking the union rules. The TEDx application process, revealed a lot and raised many questions. It was not the ideal process for applications. It has set a precedent about asking societies to not return for funding after 3 attempts. One of the points discussed for feedback to TEDx committee at the meeting is about the longevity of this funding. Can we look to long-term funding from elsewhere.

15% of the overall budget went to this member’s societies last year

Erin – Chris has been updating the pie chart for this year regularly, we can get an end of semester pie chart.

Jo – Special thanks to Chris.

Karen – Any other actions from the GM?

Erin – We will include your emails to make Exec more visible to societies following the GM, and be conscious not overloading the Exec.

Budget Update After Exec 7:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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** | £6957.08 | £30,723.79 |
| **After Exec 7** | £4930.68 | £28528.88 |