Societies Executive Committee Meeting 11 Minutes

24/01/2024

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

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

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

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
* Apologies from Karen Low KL – KL is on placement until March so won’t be able to attend meetings. JK to reach out to KL to arrange for her to input on meeting papers in advance where possible and convenient
1. **Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 10**

**Vote: Minutes approved**

1. **Matters Arising**
* DRG Response to Affiliation Feedback

ER spoke to DRG’s response to their affiliation request which asked for more information about the difference between the DRG ‘group’ and this society, their aims and processes. They clarify that they wish to affiliate to access existing Alumni funds in their bank account, rather than to apply to Socs Exec for funding

Societies Exec are happy for them to be reaffiliated for now. Staff to consider longer-term solutions for functional groups like this that avoid them being affiliated as societies, as with balls, action groups and some other groups

Approved

* Girls Who Walk name change

Society was approached by a social media community that uses this name – staff explained no legal obligation to change it, but society wished to change to **Walking Women Strath** (WWS) to avoid confusion

Approved

* Arts & Culture update

Staff had productive discussion with music societies around the ringfenced Arts & Culture funding for tutors, conductors and accompanists. On societies’ request, the union has increased hourly rates for these contractors in line with fair and commensurate pay. Staff have provisionally agreed that any resulting shortfall in the ringfenced budget should be taken from the other part of A&C i.e. the project funding granted by Socs Exec, pending discussions with the university about increasing A&C overall

* Charity Month

JK posted social media today and will promote at GM – note for Socs Exec to contribute points to her presentation

ER raises point about how Charity Month fits in with STAR awards. Previously there has been a single award, the Astrid Yeats Charity Project/Fundraiser of the Year, but there will be 3 dedicated fundraising awards as part of Charity Month. Could we give Astrid’s name to the Charity Month awards?

Members are supportive of this – JC suggests adding info about Astrid to the top of the landing-page for Charity Month. All agree this presents an opportunity to bring more focus to Astrid’s legacy and that we should make sure information about her is prominent at the awards

JK to speak with Comms about adding Astrid Yeats namesake and bio to Charity Month content

* Societies Policy

ER has been synthesising different versions of the Societies Policy and streamlining it together with the Constitution to make one simpler document. ER to share with Socs Exec this week for possible discussion and ratification at GM

1. **Budget Update**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|   | **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  |
| **After Exec 10** | £4783.02 | £27,592.10  |

1. **New Affiliation Requests**
* Strathclyde Oxfam Society

Clear aims, JK notes we have a precedent for socs affiliated with similar charities

Staff to ask for a non-student email for the society

Approved

1. **Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £45**
* Girls Who Walk Strath – GWWS

At this point JK’s remote connection failed and JF took over as chair. JK sent thoughts on the grant requests to ER and these have been worked into the minutes

1. **Active and Engaged Grants (£15) – For Information. Total: £30**
* Abercrombie and Stitch
* Motorsport – USM
1. **Grant Requests. Total:** £6432.24
* **Sisters Brunch** – SUMSA (#1553)
	+ Requested: £35 (96%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total budget: £36.75
	+ Members: 191
* This event is happening at the time of the meeting! This is retrospective so committee can’t fund
* Committee learned through own research that event was postponed, so they can consider it – society should have informed committee about changes to projects they are seeking funding for, especially as this benefits their application
* JF suggests mention at GM the importance of communicating updates on your projects – note for JK
* Expected expenditure – provide all of it, not just what you hope the committee will fund. Give info about what you want the committee to fund in the summary
* Committee doesn’t understand how much you are actually asking for – £36.75 or £35? Where has £13.99 come from? Pizza listed twice?

Not approved – staff to reach out as there have been a couple like this from SUMSA

* **Investment Banking Workshop Event** – In Person Speaker Costs – Strathclyde Trading Society (#1558)
	+ Requested: £400 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £400
	+ Members: 85
* The email thread evidenced is not from a member of your society and they cite they are president of Economics Society. No collaboration with Economics Soc is mentioned. Context for this would be good
* Is the request for cost of course, or travel and accommodation, or both? Item description is cost of course; summary says travel and accommodation; email thread references both costs
* No evidence of travel and accommodation options, research or cost comparison – this is needed if you are asking for those costs
* This is a premature request – there is plenty of time to apply in advance of your event, yet this has been completed in 6 minutes with no information
* Is the society charging for tickets? Where will the rest of the income for this project come from? Expenditure will definitely be more than £400

Not approved for now – staff to reach out and encourage soc to meet with SM

At this point there was discussion about socs exec members being approached well outside of working hours and students not having a reasonable expectation there – staff to add to Socs Exec page on website to highlight that they are student volunteers and signpost to socs inbox too

* Chinese New Year Celebration – Malaysian Society SUMSOC (#1561)
	+ Requested: £196.24 (27%)
	+ Expected Income: £540.00
	+ Total Budget: £736.24
	+ Members: 35

This is a collaboration with Glasgow Uni societies – even the budget plan included is collaborative – but how much are other parties contributing? How are costs split? How much will this benefit Strathclyde students?

Point of clarification from committee – only one Strath society is involved in this. Why are Strathclyde’s Hong Kong soc and other societies not involved?

Another two-minute application – it reads like it has just been passed to the society by the GU societies and they haven’t looked at it properly, just submitted it

Basic information missing e.g. where is the workshop? Lots of detail is given but it’s irrelevant, because the end calculation for what you’re requesting is just overall expenditure minus overall income – committee still don’t know what part they are being asked to fund

In particular – committee can’t award grant funding for red pocket money that is going to be given away in cash

Not approved for now – staff to reach out and encourage soc to meet with or continue discussion with OP

* Arabs Culture Ball – Arab Society (#1512)
	+ Requested: £500 (50%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £1000
	+ Members: 21

ER notes staff were approached by society and encouraged them to apply – but this was without key information i.e. that this is a deposit for a ball! Socs Exec can’t fund balls – they could fund elements of the event but not pay a deposit

How much are tickets? If over £20, they have to go through union ball rules and they can’t access grant funding at all

Not approved – staff to go back to society and explain

* National Concert Band Festival: Final – Concert Band SUCB (#1565)
	+ Requested: £2515 (43%)
	+ Expected Income: £3460
	+ Total Budget: £5975
	+ Members: 63

Committee appreciates the detail, especially at short notice

Nitpicking comment – compare your hotels as well. Could be fair enough not to compare if it’s clear this is a budget hotel, but would like to see a line explaining why this choice of accommodation over others

Slighly unsure where total figure requested comes from – evidence is for 1 night, so is the estimation for 2 nights where the total £2515 comes from?

Note that soc is covering the entry fee, so there is time for soc to clarify the costs – though it says committee is funding entry fee later in expenditure

Soc covering costs for attendees should be included in expected income

Queried – staff to ask soc for clarification

* EMS Frequencies – Electronic Music Society (#1567)
	+ Requested: £286 (86%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £336
	+ Members: 26

Committee appreciates the improvements made and the difference following discussion with CP is really evident

CP – expected income needs to show everything the event will have going into it – including the £50 contribution. This is explained in your summary but pop it in expected income too

Approved from Arts & Culture

* Chinese New Year Event – Chinese Students & Scholars Association (#1556)
	+ Requested: £2500 (31%)
	+ Expected Income: £5698
	+ Total Budget: £8198
	+ Members: 34

JF has supported this society to implement feedback from their last application and redraft

Evidence looks good, good to see they have various sources of funding including sponsorship coming in

Staff to find out if it’s officially part of Jubilee

Given Arts & Culture is low and we are keeping an eye on it regarding music tutor pay, committee chooses to fund from General rather than A&C. Committee notes this will have no adverse impact on the society

Approved from General

1. **AOCB**

**Meeting ends: 4pm**

**Budget Update:** £2575 awarded from General, £286 fom Arts & Culture, total £2861

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| **After Exec 11** | £4497.02 | £25,017.10 |

**Next meeting date: 2pm, 7th February**