Societies Executive Committee Meeting 13 Minutes

21/02/2024

**In attendance:** Shania Maritz (SM), Jo Fitzpatrick (JF), Cameron Pattinson (CP), Jamie Campbell (JC)

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

**Clerk:** Erin Ross (ER)

**Apologies:** Karen Low (KL)

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Welcome to Alison McNaughton (AM) – Opportunities Manager

Note: KL actually tried to join but needs to be given the permanent link – ER apologises!

1. **Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 6**

ER to amend initials in places

**Vote: Minutes approved**

1. **Matters Arising**
* Extra matter arising – Arts & Culture subsidising VP Welfare overspend

AM explains that there has been on overspend from the student exec budget on the Creative Hub project and management have requested this be covered from Arts & Culture

The initial request was for £1.5k but has been negotiated down to £500

Socs Exec ask for some evidence of what the funding has gone towards as is conventional when awarding grant funding

ER notes that it is important that usage and procedures for Arts & Culture be clarified ahead of next year as reducing and retrospectively using the committee’s budget is not particularly fair on the committee

Approved £500 from Arts & Culture for Creative Hub

* Annette Street Primary Fundraising & Toy Appeal query

Union received a query about potential events this fundraising appeal could partner with this semester

SM advises Harry Styles Soc received a similar email with a different approach, asking if they want to collaborate directly on an event – soc was happy to consider but not sure if the aims would match well!

OP and JK suggest partnering with new Future Teachers soc, or BAPE Grad Ball

ER suggests could also put general callout to socs, could let the students know about Charity Month

* Name change request: 'Fashion Enthusiasts Society' to 'Fashion & Luxury Society'

Note society have already changed on Instagram – make clear to socs this is a change that needs approval

Approved

* Grant guidelines

Socs staff have been working on finance and grant info for societies including new separate grant training

They have reworked and streamlined the grant guidelines and are seeking further feedback from Socs Exec

ER highlighted where staff are especially keen for the committee’s insight – examples of events and trips they will/will not fund; and the criteria with which applications will be assessed

Socs Exec to further review and get back to ER by 28.02.2024

One area for consideration is whether the rule of ‘one application per project’ is too restrictive for technical societies who work on one large project all year

SM is part of USM and feels an exception isn’t needed – this is the nature of these societies

JK acknowledges some societies do run differently and we have allowed flexibility where it is needed e.g. giving more support to Widening Access societies and expanding committee rules for music societies

Socs Exec to mull over – JK will get back to staff

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  |
| **After Exec 10** | £4783.02 | £27,592.10  |
| **After Exec 11** | £4497.02 | £25,017.10 |
| **After Exec 12** | £4347.02 | £16,760.67 |

1. **New Affiliation Requests**
* Analyst Society

No issues with this application

Staff to query Head of Finance role – different to Treasurer

Approved

* StrathSnaps

Committee praise society aims

Note that previous Photo Club is not active – no conflict

JC who is part of Strath TV has made arrangements with Daniel Waterson (Comms Manager) to use Photo Club’s leftover equipment – staff received a similar enquiry from the Architecture Society

This new soc should be given the same offer – put them in touch with JC

Approved

* Bangladesh Students’ Association

No issues with this application

Approved

1. **Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: *£90***
* Fashion Enthusiasts Society
* *Nordic Society – added in after discussion of request #1596 below*

1. **AGM Grant Requests (£25) – For Information. Total: £25**
* Strath SEDS – Students for the Exploration & Development of Space
1. **Grant Requests. Total:** (Insert total amount approved from each pot) (delete if necessary)
* Women in Banking and Finance – WIL Empower conference at Leeds University (#1586)
	+ Requested: £150 (79%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £190.16
	+ Members: 27

Socs Exec stress this is a reasonable amount for a reasonable purpose, but the application needs work

We need more context and evidence about the conference itself – provide a link and tell us what it is. Give full evidence of the benefits of being able to attend – this is only addressed briefly at the end

Evidence of the benefits to your society and its members is particularly important for conferences where only a very small number of people get the direct benefit of the funding

Evidence of cost-comparison – society says they compared options, but don’t give evidence

Need evidence of ALL expenditure, not just what you are asking for from Socs Exec, so they can see the overall funding plan for the project and how they fit into it – especially conference ticket price needs to be included

Staff to pull out good example of past conference funding

Note – a ‘Sports Exec’ grant has been incorrectly applied for here

Not approved at this time – please address feedback and reapply with more evidence. Please reach out to your Socs Exec contact who is SM

* Muslim Students Association SUMSA – Ramadam Project 2024 (#1591)
	+ Requested: £6000 (40%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £15000
	+ Members: 197

Evidence needs to be proportionate to the amount you are requesting – there’s very little evidence

At least need a breakdown of costs and what the Socs Exec would be specifically paying for – application mentions caterers but receipts provided are from Aldi etc.

Need evidence of your other income – sponsorship, the fundraising you mention

The project itself is well-explained, but what the Socs Exec would actually be funding is not

Application from last year was pushed back first time for similar reasons and ended up stronger – look at your own application from last year!

Not approved at this time – address feedback and reapply with more evidence. Approach your Socs Exec contact who is OP please

* Jazz Orchestra SUJO – Tuition fees for sectional (#1589)
	+ Requested: £240 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £240
	+ Members: 37

ER notes that, like their similar application from last semester, these costs should be part of the pre-approved arrangements going forward – staff are finalising new agreements with music socs

One feedback point: rather than saying you don’t have written evidence as this was confirmed verbally, get them to follow up in writing

Approved

* Women+ in Leadership Network WILN+ - Celebrate Her Awards Ceremony (#1592)
	+ Requested: £259.2 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £259.2
	+ Members: 117

Not approved – it’s for the same project that was funded last meeting. Societies are only permitted to apply once per project

* Nordic Society – Paint and skål (#1596)
	+ Requested: £29 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £29
	+ Members: 23

ER notes that this society hasn’t claimed their Welcome Grant which would cover this – staff and committee happy to fund through Welcome Grant

Committee notes that society doesn’t charge membership or tickets so they should be sure to apply for all the available funding

Approved - **£45 Welcome Grant**

* Skateboarding – Barcelona Trip (#1594)
	+ Requested: £5558.48 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £5558.48
	+ Members: they imply 25 members, but only one member on the website

JC provides context from last year

There are issues with the application as it stands

This is a huge amount of money and the society has 3 members, so the maximum number of Strath students that would benefit is 3

Evidence should be proportionate to the amount you are requesting – evidence isn’t sufficient and some is confusing

Specifically the <£6k you are requesting is not the whole cost of the trip – we need evidence of ALL expenditure, not just what you are asking for from Socs Exec. So they can see the overall funding plan for the project and how they fit into it

This would benefit your application as we want to see e.g. what student attendees would be paying per head – then the committee could consider how far they could supplement this cost. Important for a non-essential trip

Is part-funding being considered? It seems to be a collaboration with Glasgow, so what are they bringing to it? How would Socs Exec specifically be funding the Strath students?

Think this is the same accommodation provider as last year – there were issues with them. If we were to fund paying this provider again, we would need:

* English-language documentation from the start
* Clear channels of communication with the provider
* The provider (and society) to be upfront about deposits and payment schedule

Not funded at this time – staff to reach out and advise to contact socs team to arrange a meeting with them and possibly Socs Exec contacts

* Re-act Theatre Group – Shakespeare in Love (#1597)
	+ Requested: £899.53 (55%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £1658.28
	+ Members: 26

Extremely strong application – appreciate the well-evidenced purchase list

Think there is some confusion with Arts & Culture vs. Alumni funding which made it harder to follow the total being requested and what it will be spent on. We think the soc is requesting (£153.81+129.62=)**£283.43** from Arts & Culture and the rest from Alumni. Staff to confirm this and check the society knows to apply to university separately for Alumni Fund.

Approved – After checking with the soc the grant has been approved of £899.53 (£283.43 from Arts & Culture, £616.10 from general pot).

1. **AOCB**
* Walking Women Strath – committee noticed a potential issue with messaging around their AGM. Some committee members are ‘happy to stay on’ if nobody else wants to run – this is not how it works, all positions must be up for election at your AGM

JF to reach out on Instagram

**Meeting ends:** 15.55

**Budget Update:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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**Next meeting date:** 2pm on 06/03/2024