**Societies Executive Committee Meeting 15 Minutes**

**26/03/25**

1. Welcome and Apologies

In attendance:

Jo Fitzpatrick (JF) - Chair

Shania Maritz (SM)

Cameron Pattinson (CP)

Chep Jackson (CJ)

Sarah Holmes (SH) – Activities Coordinator, Clerk

Not present with Apologies:

Jamie Campbell

Oli Page

Rachael Baird

1. Matters Arising:

* Young Professionals society from Meeting 11 has emailed changes to their constitution that need to be checked for approval.

JF wasn’t sure they had answered all the questions from the socs exec from last year. Especially about their similarity to the careers service.

Not sure if they showed that they had a difference from the careers service or course information, university services. Didn’t show their qualifications to give professional advice on students looking for careers. What process are they planning on using for career advice, if they are just going to research it how does this set them apart from what the student could do themself.

SM doesn’t feel it has enough substance to become a society. The service they could provide might not stand up against the paid professionals of the career service.

CP: they weren’t filling a gap, as there are societies that cover most subjects. Could be used as a space for like minded-career people to get together.

SM: How exactly are you going to give people career advice, what would be your process, how would this differ from the university careers service? What makes you stand out?

CJ: There is a dedicated service to this already in the careers service, with paid professionals who can dedicate more time, energy and resources to this pursuit.

SM – the service they are looking to provide would not be specialised, unless they are using other resources that are not readily available to all students.

Reject – too similar to careers service, and for reasons above

1. Budget Update: <https://www.strathunion.com/groups/societies-exec/>

SH noted that welcome grants were to be reclaimed so the budget might increase a little.

1. New Affiliations

* Thai Society

New committee must be voted in, you have noted a lot of other committee positions, these must be voted in once the society has been affiliated

Aims are a bit vague but that makes sense

CJ no issue with it as long as they know to elect

Approved – with the comment that they must elect in any new committee members

* Strath Girls Run

SM – activity section good, although no mention of running in aims.

CJ – very similar aims to Walking Women Strath

SM – are they going to have the same function as Walking Women Strath, but with running rather than walking? Aims should mention running, as this is the name and purpose of the society. Aims are not specific enough.   
CP – running isn’t necessarily the aims, what you get out of running would be the aims. Fine with it as they mentioned running in their activities.

JF – aims too similar to Walking Women Strath, encourage them to reach out to that soc and see how they could differentiate and they could reapply.

CJ - Could they join that society and becoming the ‘running’ section

CP – think its justified being a different society as running and walking are very different.

SM – running should be listed as a core aim

JF – aims could be applied to many other societies,

Reject – But with the encouragement to reapply with refined aims that mention running, and to reach out to Walking Women Strath (<https://www.strathunion.com/groups/find-a-society/society/girlswhowalkstrath/> ), to ensure that their societies will serve different functions as their constitutions at present are very similar. Aims need to reflect society-specific purpose better.

* Andersonian Investments

CJ – concerned with first aim about creating an investment fund.

SM – are they actually course related?

CP – Clyde Capital is a very similar organisation, student led in partnership with the university.

SM – 2nd and 3rd aims would work well if they wanted to be a course-specific society, in terms of building skills, bringing in speakers and workshops for other students on the course. But the idea of an investment fund and the practical details create questions.

CJ – there is the accounting and finance society that advise on course related matters, but are not stock market specific details.

Are they similar to Accounting & Finance, how are they related to Strathclyde Trading Society, or Clyde Capital.

Reject – similar aims to Accounting & Finance society, how are you related to Strathclyde Trading Society, or Clyde Capital. not sure how they would go about getting their investment fund. Aim 1 needs to be explained, how will this actually function in the union context. Could you explain exactly what you mean by investment fund?

1. Reaffiliations (for information)

* N/A

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) & AGM Grant Requests (£25) – £175

* AGM Grants
  + IEEE Strathclyde Student Branch
  + Students for the Exploration and Development of Space – SEDS
  + Boardgame society
  + British Sign Language
  + Nordic Society
  + Re-act Theatre Group
  + Calisthenics Society

1. Grant Requests. Total: £9339.77

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| **#** | **Society (Finance code)** | **Description** | **Fund** | **Amount (%)** | **Memberships** |
| 1884 | Model U.N. | Two Conference tickets - GlasMUN 2025 | Exec Grant | £70 | 24 |
| Would normally expect more detail in the application as to travel and accommodation, but in this case, a lack there is understandable as the event is in Glasgow so may not require this.  Approve - £70 from General Pot | | | | | |
| 1876 | Aerospace Innovation-StrathAIS | Personal Protective Equipment for Lab Work | Exec Grant | £282.6 | 202 |
| How often will you use the paper suits? Will you need them more than 30 times? What will you do when the paper suits run out? Societies exec will not fund replacements this year. How did you come to the number of 30? Have you gone to your department and requested that they provide adequate PPE? Will other societies be making use of these?  Query – resubmit with responses to the questions/comments above. | | | | | |
| 1888 | Symphony Orchestra - SUSO | Grant for SUSO Spring Concert | Exec Grant | £400 | 117 |
| Society have a lot of money in their savings account  Society are part-funding and have filled out their application well  Socs exec have given a lot of money to this society this year already and funded a large number of grants towards them.  Could they part fund better using their savings? They have given a justification for this, and answered all the queries before.  Approve - £400 from General Pot | | | | | |
| 1890 | Skateboarding | Barcelona 2025 StrathSkate trip | Exec Grant | £4876.05 | 44 |
| Should go with cheapest accommodation option, if members wanted a private room they could pay extra. Cannot fund food without evidence of how much it will cost. Cannot pay for deposit that will be refunded, as there is not enough time to get it back before the last socs exec meeting, one suggestion is you could add an amount to the cost per student to be refunded after the trip. Not enough cost comparisons with different accommodations. For £55 a night, you could still get an individual private room, just a shared kitchen/living space.  Rejected – Not enough comparison for accommodation. Not enough evidence for group meal, where is the figure of £25 per person come from? Cannot use a socs exec grant to fund a deposit that is refundable. Can meet with the societies team ([strathunion.societies@strath.ac.uk](mailto:strathunion.societies@strath.ac.uk)) if they need some input on their application. | | | | | |
| 1893 | Marine Robotics | StrathVoyager – new communication system | Exec Grant | £257.68 | 32 |
| Approved - £257.68 from General Pot | | | | | |
| 1892 | SEDS | NRC 2025 travel and accommodation | Exec Grant | £958.01 | 108 |
| Are society members/students contributing to this event?  Reject – can reapply with evidence of part funding and what members are paying towards the event, with the recommendation to charge an amount per person to lower the amount requested from socs exec. | | | | | |
| 1881 | Concert Band | South of Ireland Band Championships 2025 | Exec Grant | 1571.43 | 163 |
| Approved - £1571.43 from General Pot | | | | | |
| 1896 | Calisthenics | Trapeze event | Exec Grant | £199 | 89 |
| Approved - £199 from General Pot | | | | | |
| 1897 | Diplomacy and International Security | Brussels & Paris trip | Exec Grant | £725 | 30 |
| Rejected – application not filled in correctly, email [strathunion.societies@strath.ac.uk](mailto:strathunion.societies@strath.ac.uk) to set up a meeting to fill this in correctly | | | | | |

1. AOCB