Societies Executive Committee Meeting 15 Minutes

05/04/2023

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

Justyna Kardasz (JK) – Chair

Erin Ross (ERo) – Clerk

Sheik Malik (SM) – present

Emma Reavey (ERe) – present

Benn Rapson (BR) – present

Jo Fitzpatrick (JF) – present

Jamie Campbell (JC) – present

Shreya Sachdeva (SS) – apologies

Halena Gauntlett (HG) – present

* Welcome to Erin, new Activities Coordinator at Strath Union
* Welcome to Halena from Student Experience at Strath Uni

1. **Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 14**

* SM – page 5 – remove one mention of BR under Arts & Crafts; replace with JF
* Reflect SM leaving the room under ACG
* All approve

1. **Matters Arising**

**Safe360°**

* HG introduces the Safe360° framework for Strathclyde community
* Union and Uni are taking a partnership approach to safeguarding and vulnerability issues
* It’s about our duty of care, legal obligations and commitments, but also ‘doing the right thing’ – everyone being safe and respectful in our roles, behaviours, attitudes and ways of working
* Specific focus on under-18s at uni
* Who is responsible for what? How is this communicated? How are people equipped to safeguard?
* Need to consider physical and digital campus; prevention, intervention and support
* Looking at partnership arrangements between Union and Uni e.g. strategies, policies and procedures
* Need shared understanding of unacceptable behaviours and ways to manage complaints, reports
* Important to engage with societies given the reach they have and the issues that may present to them

**Welfare Officer**

* HG suggests mandatory wellbeing role on all society committees with identified training, support and possibly recognition
* ERe supports all societies having welfare officers and bystander training
* JK – three mandatory committee roles (president, treasurer and welfare officer) too much for small societies – suggest separate officer by default but allow president/treasurer to take on
* Support for consistent title of Welfare Officer
* Considering how this could work with the Inter-Soc role and Active & Engaged initiative
* All agree in principle – noting that integrating a new mandatory role will take time and flexibility
* **Next step: create a clear remit and identify the essential training they would need**

**Safeguarding in clubs and societies**

* HG – what are the issues coming up through societies? What do they need to feel safer?
* Training – including First Aid, Mental Health First Aid and how students can disclose/report/complain. Training that is accredited or otherwise recognised will boost engagement. Uni wants to work on our collective training offering and make all opportunities available to the union too
* Discussed the requirements we put on societies compared with e.g. Sports Union; trust in Union and Uni policies and processes; making socs actively aware of policy e.g. checking relevant members have read by setting small comprehension/reflection activity

**SOS app**

* Uni is trialling the SOS safety app as part of Safe360° and want honest feedback about all aspects
* Socs exec have been contacted by Arohi Panicker who is working with HG to gather feedback
* **All to contact Arohi directly to give feedback**

**HG leaves the room**

**Coding Society**

* Society cancelled their hackathon event, so the £1710 is back in the General pot
* Committee fell apart so the event fell apart
* SM notes the need to emphasise that support is available to societies - discussed further in AOB

**Enhancing Engagement**

* Elaine Keil cannot attend the next meeting to discuss competition entries – can socs exec decide how they want to proceed?
* **All agree to invite Elaine to last meeting and decide then – 3rd May, 2pm**
* Now the deadline has passed – can exec have a collation of the entries?

1. **Budget Update**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Arts and Culture** | **General Pot** |
| **Total Budget** | £15,000.00 | £40,000.00 |
| **Exec 1 Spend** | £375.00 | £315.00 |
| **Exec 2 Spend** | £801.91 | £1540.00 |
| **Exec 3 Spend** | £690.00 | £1540.00 |
| **Exec 4 Spend** | £3566.27 | £435.00 |
| **Exec 5 Spend** | £1178.39 | £350.00 |
| **Exec 6 Spend** | £346.00 | £1691.83 |
| **Exec 7 Spend** | £227.50 | £1094.70 |
| **Exec 8 Spend** | £731.00 | £3122.80 |
| **Exec 9 Spend** | £700 | £495 |
| **Exec 10 Spend** | £2,574.89 | £5,428.46 |
| **Enhancing Engagement comp** |  | £500 |
| **Reclaimed welcome grants** |  | + £1,333.15 |
| **Exec 11 Spend** | £951.90 | £11,216.68 |
| **Exec 12 Spend** | £1347.10 | £825 |
| **Exec 13 Spend** | £100 | £7693.42 |
| **Exec 14 Spend** | £1521.04 | £2900 |
| **Remaining Budget** | **£-111** | **£2185.26** |

* JK – no possibility of topping up the Arts & Culture fund from the union side
* Student executive not willing to fund projects like trips
* **All request that JK goes back to student exec** – need justification for why they don’t want to give more money to student engagement, and an idea of projects that they would want to fund before last meeting

1. **New Affiliation Requests**

* **Strath January Intake Society**
* This society aims to tackle a big, known issue
* Benefits for the union in terms of student events and support taking place on their calendar i.e. during summer, times when we have less resource
* Aim 2 of the society focuses on business and finance students – note that the society would need to be for all students, so the aim should be adjusted; or if the society does in fact want to target students in these courses, they would need to change the name
* **All approve to affiliate on condition that they clarify this aim** – staff to provisionally affiliate, ask for clarification and update committee when changed
* **Antimicrobial Resistance Society**
* **All approve to affiliate**
* **Abercrombie & Stitch**
* **All approve to affiliate**

1. **AGM Grants (for information). Total: £150**

* Neurodiverse Students Association
* Hong Kong Society
* Modern Foreign Languages Social Network
* Strath Speakers
* TEDxUniversity of Strathclyde
* Hot Air Balloons – SUHABS

1. **Grant Requests. Total: £200.99**

* **Esports Society**
* Grant request: #1280
* Requested amount: £160.99 (100%)
* Member count: 101 members
* Note that we don’t normally fund clothing, but this is core equipment – can approve on this basis
* No price comparison offered
* **All approve**
* **K-pop Society**
* Grant request: #1284
* Requested amount: £40.00 (40%)
* Member count: 18
* Core business of society – **all approve**

1. **Remaining Budget**

**£3544.27**

1. **AOB**

* JC - Fusion Radio are having website problems – this is where they put up their show
* Relates to domain ownership – they will probably need to get a new domain – advise to go to union staff
* Did/does the union pay for the domain?
* We did not fund their website
* ERe – note that lots of Active and Engaged is hard for Widening Access societies to achieve. This could put them at a disadvantage in terms of going for that and the money involved
* Notes that the issue with a WA society student being significantly out of pocket for nearly a month has been resolved
* Exec have been supporting societies with funding queries and making them aware of funding pots and streams, especially the Participation Fund which opens next week – is there any marketing planned?
* JF – can we ask all committee members to undertake Consent and Unconscious Bias training? Not just under Active and Engaged (Gold)
* JK agrees this is separate – notes that consent training will be mandatory for all students going forward, but unconscious bias should also be more embedded
* Continued to discuss how societies could be supported when they e.g. lose a president midway through the year – how an inter-soc rep, socs exec and/or union staff could step in and help train up new president
* This shouldn’t be long-term, just short steps – contingency planning
* Discussion about remuneration and recognition of union volunteering compared with other volunteering opportunities
* Discussion of social!
* **Note to invite new socs exec to next meeting**

**Total expenditure: £350.99**

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| **Exec 15 Spend** |  | £350.99 |
| **Reclaimed grant** |  | £1710 |
| **Remaining Budget** | **£-111** | **£3544.27** |

**Next meeting date: Wednesday 19th April, 2pm**