Societies Executive Committee Meeting 5 Agenda

25/10/23

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies from Elohor Ekohwo (EE) and Karen Low (KL)

Present: Justyna Kardasz (JK – Chair), Jo Fitzpatrick (JF), Ollie Page (OP), Cameron Pattinson (CP), Jamie Campbell (JC), Sarah Holmes (SH – Clerk), Erin Ross (ER – Clerk)

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 4 - Approved

Rave society membership fee – potential change of wording raised as this was not the main issue raised by exec – change feasible to something like: ‘exec query thinking behind £25 fee’

Amend minutes to reflect decision taken concerning EMS and RAVE society reaffiliation. Union staff to follow up on this.

1. Matters Arising

* Society Categories – Points of Contact

Revisiting the society category that each member is assigned to since KL has joined the committee

ER to put out an email to exec asking to rank categories in order of what they would like

* Charity Month

Having checked against union comms/events calendar, February is OK for Charity Month – this is also LGBT+ History Month. JF to check in with LGBTQ+ soc president before signing off

All to revisit Socs 4 mins for your actions

* Society Wellbeing Chat
* Grant Guidelines Review

ER has added both of the above to the agenda as standing items to ensure there is a place for members to bring welfare-related concerns and that we are continually reviewing the grant guidelines

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** | £9781.77 | £35,233.79 |

1. New Affiliation Requests

* DJ Society - REJECTED

Question of history of DJ society raised by JC, ER looked on MSL. Rave and Electronic Music societies were brought up from last week – Electronic Music was reaffiliated as they are an existing society, Rave was not. Is EM society also too similar to DJ?

Exec discussed whether they could collaborate and then branch off to ensure no crossover/ideal co-existence.

Question of purpose/aims of society. Aims are almost identical to EMS society. Decision made to reject for now until distinction is made.

Union Staff to send over aims of EM society to DJ Society.

* SUMS (Strathclyde University Maths Society) -re-affiliation – APPROVED

Note that exec love the abbreviation

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £360

* Hong Kong Society
* Arab Society
* Education Studies Society
* Cymdeithas Cymry Glasgow Welsh Society
* Electronic Music Society
* Yoga Society
* Chinese Students & Scholars Association
* Nigeria Society

1. Grant Requests. Total: £1626.53

* Strathclyde Halloween Event – **Chinese Students & Scholars Association**
  + Requested: £400 (70%)
  + Expected Income: £120
  + Total budget: £694.03
  + Members: 31

Exec noted difficulty opening documents.

JK noted unsustainability of this purchase as it is from Amazon

ER noted that some further training for filling out Grant Request forms may be required for societies.

JK noted that there is not enough information and the form has been filled out incorrectly, especially concerning currency conversion.

JC checked for date and location of intended event, question of whether items that hadn’t been ordered would arrive on time. Realisation that the items would have already been ordered. Jo said that the reality of accepting or rejecting this would mean, depending on if the items had already been ordered or not, it would be approving retrospective funding, which is not allowed, or the items would not arrive in time for the event. ER pointed out they had £150 in their savings.

ER suggested an in-person meeting to discuss the proper procedure to ensure this situation does not reoccur, JK suggested giving examples of proper requests.

REJECTED

* Enhancing the Weekly Sisters circle for education and social engagement- Semester 1 – **SUMSA**
  + Requested: £15 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0.99
  + Total budget: £16.13
  + Members: 173

JF enquired whether it counted as retrospective if it was an ongoing event, start date was before the application date. Since this is ongoing, it is not an issue. Exec wonder if £15 is enough for weekly events. Explanation needed for whether or not they need £15 a week or just one payment. Exec believe they are in fact asking for up to £150, the rest of the application is fine, apart from choc chips in expected income. Clarification needed for whether this is a one-off payment or a weekly payment of £15.

ER noted that beyond the grant guidelines as to what to apply for, it is not always easy to navigate putting a request on the grant system and more guidance may be needed. Exec ‘reserving’ £150 for them as they would be happy to grant it in theory. Union staff will clarify how much they need and let exec know.

Rejected until further clarification.

* Engineers with Beers Membership Cards – **Engineers with Beers**
  + Requested: £50 (50%)
  + Total budget: £100
  + Members: 133

Exec is pleased with this society’s approach – friendly members, proactive in having a wellbeing officer

Jo suggested adding evidence for need for 250 min cards to improve application.

Justyna noted issue with sustainability as they are plastic cards, asked for evidence that they looked for a more sustainable option or will continue to.

Union staff to add to policy, sustainability requirements for procurement of products such as plastic cards.

Exec noted there is a guide to strath union branding in committee resources that societies can use for products such as these, make sure lack of knowledge of this wouldn’t cause any issues.

APPROVED

**Jo left the room for a phone call, decision made for 5 min comfort break.**

* GlasMUN starter conference – **Model U.N.**
  + Requested: £400 (100%)
  + Total budget: £400
  + Members: 14

Need more information – how many members does the Glasgow society have and what are they contributing?

More info about the room and the charges – why is free space not being used, at Strathclyde or at Glasgow? Where is the £400 figure from? ER confirms the society hasn’t enquired about this with anyone who books union or university space

Example of good application – not first one from this soc

How to evidence a room booking!

Not approved – could be resubmitted next meeting in time

* From the Ground to the Air – How to Become a Hot Air Balloon Pilot whilst Studying at University – **Hot Air Balloons** 
  + Requested: £550 (50%)
  + Total budget: £1100
  + Members: 3

Struggling to see how this is a viable member drive – pay £10 for a ticket

This seems again like quite a niche and exclusive event profile – waste of experts’ time etc if not well-attended

Committee is willing to fund inclusive membership drive event – set the balloon up on campus or similar

* **TEDx Society** – Resubmission of Request #1477
  + Requested: £750 (40%)
  + Total budget: £1750
  + Members: 3

Departmental ‘bulk-buy’ arrangements – committee concerned about what is meant by this. Sponsorship is not membership; all membership needs to go through the union. Either sponsorship is being mis-portrayed as membership, or membership is being taken in a way that breaks union rules

It has still not been shown how this is a membership drive

Strath TV were not in fact approached by this society as is stated in the reapplication

Links between TedX and this society are unclear in terms of funding, support etc – the video needs to be filmed to TedX standards but TedX won’t fund it, the union should fund it?

Committee recalls funding the society a large amount of money for an identical video last year – why can’t it be reused? Can you show that it led to an increase in membership? Why should a large amount of money be spent again on the same thing?

Committee feeling that this wouldn’t be granted regardless if these points are addressed as it is such a small number of students impacted

Suggestion that if they want to address this – come in rather than resubmit. Exec want to be respectful of your time as well as their own. These issues can’t be resolved through another reapplication

REJECTED

* Bracelet making coffee morning – **WILN+**
  + Requested: £11.53 (100%)
  + Total budget: £11.53
  + Members: 87

Consideration of lots of plastic! Sustainable materials

APPROVED

* Grant for SUSO Christmas Concert – **Symphony Orchestra**
  + Requested: £200 (50%)
  + Total budget: £400
  + Members: 95

Can you let us know how you are funding the other half and/or include ticket sales in expected income?

APPROVED from Arts & Culture

1. AOCB

ER addressed communication from Clyde Capital – JC offered to speak to them if they needed

JK notes interest in Active & Engaged from sports clubs – staff are taking this forward

**Budget Update:**

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| **After Exec 5** | £9580.77 | £34,797.26 |

**Next meeting: 08/11/23**