Societies Executive Committee Meeting 6 Minutes

08/11/23

1. Welcome and Apologies

Justyna – We have not received official resignation from Elohor yet. The Societies Exec thanks Elohor for her service over the past few months and congratulate her for graduating and wish her all the best for her future.

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 5

There is one missing word to be corrected following the last societies exec. The Exec are happy to approve otherwise.

1. Matters Arising

* Vegan Policy Student Review

Justyna shares information about a short-term committee formed to review the vegan policy recently passed at Student Parliament if Socs Exec members would like to get involved.

These need to be decided so Erin can put these up and we can share them. Has everybody sent theirs over yet. Cameron has not sent these yet.

* Charity Month

It was decided that February is the period for Charity month.

Justyna – We need to go through and refine the shared document.

Outcome is that Justyna can take this to comms and start planning. ACTION.

Jamie – We were wanting to have a badge on the website for Charity Month. Suggested that we allocate £1000 to split for the category prizes, but Justyna was thinking £2000 or £3000. We should discuss this.

Decision is made on having £1000 split between three categories. £500 for 1 category and £250, £250 for the other categories.

Justyna – As for the mini badge, we would have to get comms involved for design of the badge, as an extra exclusive badge. It wouldn’t fit in with Active & Engaged, it would be extra. Justyna will take this on. ACTION.

Everyone agrees on the categories.

Ollie - ‘Best engagement for charity’ could be shortened to ‘Charity Engagement’.

Jamie – Some societies may be at an advantage, such as Mary’s Meals for charity fundraising.

Jo – We could include that you would have to be ‘going beyond usual activities for society’ in the terms & conditions, for example.

Ollie – ‘Engaging with a charity that is separate from one that your society usually works with’ could also be added

Jamie – Let’s confirm that the Best Collaboration is the £500 category.

Justyna – Should we have a theme for fundraising?

Jo – It should be a note about societies not expanding on already existing partnerships, and that they should go beyond their usual activities.

Justyna – We will include this as one of the criteria. ACTION.

Justyna – Making the mini badge might have a cost associated. Will enquire about this. ACTION.

Jamie – We are okay with there not being a mini badge depending on the price of this.

Justyna – Summarising. All of February will be the Charity Month. £1000 will come from this pot. Categories are decided. Next steps is to communicate with marketing and comms department. Who wants to be part of the discussion? Ollie is happy to support with this. Ollie and Justyna will go away and talk to comms. Justyna will also enquire about mini badges. ACTION.

* Grant Guidelines

Justyna – Erin says that the Chinese Scholars society agrees that more grant guidelines are required. All the socs exec should point out 2 grant applications that they think is good and why before the next socs exec meeting. ACTION.

* TedX Grant Meeting - Professional Marketing Videos Project (#1477)

Justyna – Met with Sheikh and Jamie. Justyna explains what the meeting with TEDx meeting was like. Justyna raises question to Socs Exec after providing information about the meeting with Sheikh, should the application be submitted again – question to Exec?

Jamie – If they don’t have the video, they won’t get their TedX license and will not be able to function as a society.

Justyna – If this is every year that they must do this, for each new committee. There is a question to raise about longevity. They are asking about editing costs only, but not filming costs – it is part funded. Are we being fair by rejecting it?

Jo – Since it is part of their core equipment, we would want to see funding for it. Not ideal process following grant applications. I do think we should be considerate one last time, we have a duty to re-consider.

Ollie – We should re-consider.

Justyna – Agreement for re-consideration in the current meeting.

Jamie – Sheikh told us that 2 years ago, he spoke to Strath TV and this year. They said that they needed the equipment for their own activities both times. He didn’t speak to them about this project though.

Justyna – Chair will overturn decision and open up to the exec. If we want to make a decision right now, we can. They are asking for £700.

Jo – Happy with new information to approve it. But in future years, recommend that the society look for alternative funding if it something they will have to do year in, year out.

Jamie – Even with part funding of £500. Putting back into perspective, how much money we need to give to societies.

Cameron – And the small number of students.

Jamie – In fact, there are more people involved, 500 people from a specific department are members because the department bought out bulk memberships through sponsorships.

Justyna – Look at previous years memberships to show that the society has many members typically. MBA programme has not started yet and it is still the start of the year.

It is determined that there was roughly 100 members last year.

Decision is that they will part fund £500 and recommend more evidence next time, overturning the previous decision. The Exec try to be as fair as possible and feel that this is a fair decision.

APPROVED. Part-funded. £500. General pot.

* Logging Committee Training – Jo

Jo – There is confusion about training attendance being logged by the union compared to volunteering hours being logged by the society volunteer.

Justyna – Note to staff to communicate a separate point that differentiates logging attendance and logging volunteering hours. ACTION.

Jo – Will need to leave on time today as the disabled students action group is at 4pm

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 |

The Budget update is read, and the Exec note that:

-£500 for overturned TedX society grant decision

-£1000 will be ring-fenced for Charity month

From the general pot.

1. New Affiliation Requests

* Women in Banking and Finance - re-affiliation

They do not have a Treasurer, cannot approve.

Happy with outline of aims. Remind society to elect committee members and not simply add them.

REJECTED

* Clyde Cowboys - re-affiliation

This is a new society technically, but there was a country music before, last year, which has been disbanded.

Personal emails are given, but the ds numbers are included. The Exec is happy to approve.

APPROVE

* DRG – Doctoral Researchers’ Group - re-affiliation

The Treasurer’s email is their second name. They give the same mobile number for the President and Treasurer. They have stated that committee members will be added later.

Jamie - Is this society so they can come to us for money? Can they have strath.ac.uk email? Is the email they’ve requested allowed to exist?

Jo – We can suggest that they put the word society after their name.

Justyna – Understand that they have been a society for years but what is the difference between the university DRG group and this society?

Not approving until there is this clarification on the difference between the uni group and the society, checking of the provided committee details, and reminding the society to elect and not add the society members.

REJECTED

* MK Society

Cameron - What does MK stand for?

Ollie - Confused. MK is an up-and-coming borough of Hong Kong. Big for raves and fashion.

Jamie – Nothing seems to be wrong as we have other geographical related societies.

Ollie – Interested to know about aims of the society. Will reach out to the society.

Jamie – Shouldn’t be just the initials of the area, they should have the full society name.

Jo – We will ask them to elongate their name.

Justyna – Not sure about the society aims.

Ollie – Need to explain more. How can you build society from this niche. What part are they focusing on? ‘Teach valuable life skills’.

Justyna – Is this community or interests? Pick a theme, if you are a community society, talk about aims through a community lens. ‘Bring people from this region of Hong Kong together through events’ for example.

Jo – Will work with Ollie to get in touch with the society and support with re-submitting application. ACTION

REJECTED

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £135

* African Caribbean Socity

APPROVED

* DMEM\* check request #1495

Jamie - They want to use their welcome grant for a hoodie design competition. I say no because it doesn’t meet welcome grant aims.

Justyna – Ask them to re-apply via grant application system to consider at the next meeting.

REJECTED

Jo – It says it is for committee t-shirts in expenditure, so this wouldn’t be approved regardless.

Justyna – Not being funded as the welcome grant, to be submitted as grant request. Look at grant application guidelines before re-submitting, as it clear the society has some confusion over this.

* Food Society

APPROVED

1. Grant Requests. Total: £7545.61

* Raffle Prizes – Mary’s Meals (#1501)
  + Requested: £80 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £80
  + Members: 27

The grant request is not finished. There is no evidence, they would like to see this. They have mentioned asking businesses to give prize money – provided give evidence of this.

Jamie – If they want help with writing grant application, they are willing to support.

Jo – We want to know what the society is spending their money on.

REJECTED

* Coffee Morning – Engineers with Beers (#1508)
  + Requested: £120 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £120
  + Members: 140

Jamie – One of these events have already happened.

Justyna – One event has happened, will not fund as it is retrospective. General note for the society to think about when you’re submitting it and when it will be considered.

Justyna – The other event is the one on the 21st November. Will not fund 07/11/2023 request.

Jamie – Not a lot of evidence. Screenshot saying it is £2 per head. Questioning money raised.

Justyna – The evidence is vague, the meaning can be inferred but make it more obvious, even include it in the overview.

Jo – Likes the aims and donations to another charity.

Justyna - £70 approved for next event. Asking if everyone is happy with full funding.

Jamie – If there was a reason why there are not part funding?

Justyna – Suggesting as chair not to fully fund, considering applications in the past have shown sponsorships and if they aren’t any, they should have included reasoning why. Part fund, £50?

Agreement to part fund £50 after chair’s comments from the general pot.

APPROVED - Partially fund - £50 - General Pot.

15.08 - Karen is still not present, but we will check if apologies were received.

*The following grant applications were discussed by considering all the Art & Crafts Society requests first in the order that they appear, and then the remaining requests in the order that they appear, with the exception of the Neuro-diverse students request, which was discussed last.*

* Glass Painting Workshop – Art & Crafts Society (#1492)
  + Requested: £221 (77%)
  + Expected Income: £65
  + Total budget: £286
  + Members: 23

Justyna – 1st piece of evidence shows the price. 2nd Evidence shows they’ve booked 30th November for the group.

Jamie – It is a public session, they just want to purchase tickets for the public session.

Jo – Are we allowed to comment on other grant applications whilst considering this one?

Cameron – They are asking for part funding.

Justyna – They have also submitted requests for the glass painting workshop, life drawing and baklava making event. They are asking for £571 across the three events. They will be judged individually. Any outstanding comments on glass painting events.

Jo – Like that it is part funding, making it accessible. ½ of members will benefit.

APPROVED – Fully funded - Arts and Culture fund.

* Baklava Making Event – Art & Crafts Society (#1517)
  + Requested: £150 (50%)
  + Expected Income: £150
  + Total budget: £300
  + Members: 23

Justyna – Like that they have reasoned that it is a big cost per person which is why they want to subsidise the cost. They have specified the number of people. There is enough detail to make us understand what they need.

Jamie – Looks good.

Cameron – They show direct conversation with the people doing it.

Jo – In the future, they could think of other sources of part funding to make costs lower for members.

Justyna – Could they not sell their art to generate other revenue?

APPROVED – Fully funded - Arts & Culture fund.

* Life Drawing Session – Art & Crafts Society (#1518)
  + Requested: £200 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £200
  + Members: 23

Cameron – Likes the outcomes for the society.

Jo – Understand why they are looking to make things more accessible but could they not part-fund.

Jamie – Willing to fully fund it this time with the feedback that next time it may not be the same decision.

Justyna – Committee is wondering why this has not been part-funded. The Engineers with Beers application, we part funded, why are we being more lenient with them?

Karen joins meeting virtually.

Justyna updates Karen on the discussion of this current grant application.

Jo – Appreciate that they need to know by tomorrow. Due to decision made to Engineers with Beers, same part-funding decision should be made to Arts and Crafts society. £150 part funding.

Cameron – Should it be £140? Then they can charge a small fee to make up the rest of the funds. For example, £3 per person.

Justyna – They can let the organisers know by tomorrow. Confident they can sell the tickets to cover the rest.

Karen – Agrees

APPROVED – part funding - £140 - Art & Culture Fund.

* Funding for Ceilidh band – EME Society (#1510)
  + Requested: £400 (89%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £450
  + Members: 61

Karen – Good social aspect for the Ceilidh.

Justyna – Expenditure. They have accounted for the ticket revenue. And would use £50 from their own funds.

Cameron – To help fundraise for charity and cover costs of the event?

Jo – They are part funding through tickets and some of their own savings.

Karen – Agrees.

APPROVED – Fully funded - Art & Culture fund

* Diwali/Deepavali Celebrations – Singapore Society (#1526)
  + Requested: £600 (72%)
  + Expected Income: £225
  + Total budget: £825
  + Members: 9

Jamie – The food evidence is good.

Justyna – The evidence is great across the board.

Jamie – The decorations expected delivery date, questioning whether it would arrive on time.

Justyna – It looks like they want to include Welcome Grant in application for event. This is unusual.

Jamie – But we have done this for other societies before.

Karen – We still gave them the funding but stated that the money wasn’t from arts & culture.

Cameron – The have done good research on food and henna artist.

Karen – Are they funding anything else themselves that isn’t from ticket funding?

Jamie – That is usually what happens though.

Justyna – Do we want to fully fund the celebrations?

Jamie – I think we should fully fund it.

APPROVED – Fully funded – Arts & Culture

* Core Equipment – Neurodiverse Students Association (#1527)
  + Requested: £39.47 (100%)
  + Expected income: £0
  + Total budget: £39.47
  + Members: 83

The was the last fund to be discussed as mentioned above.

Jo was not present for voting on this, and left the meeting at this point.

APPROVED – Fully Funded - General pot.

* FSUK 2024 Competition Fee – Motorsport USM (#1528)
  + Requested: £2394 ( 26%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £9478
  + Members: 245

Ollie – It does help them a lot as individuals, and it is great for careers. Past society members have been appreciative that they would pay for a lot of activities.

Jamie – The rest of money is coming from sponsorships, departmental funding etc.

Justyna – This is their one big event of the year.

Ollie – They also do quite well.

Jo – Like that they have mentioned about sustainability.

Justyna – Nominating grant application for good evidence practice. As a committee, we commend them on the application. We want to use your application to show to other societies good practice.

APPROVED – Fully funded – General pot.

* British Balloon and Airship Club (BBAC) Membership – Hot Air Ballons SUHABS (#1529)
  + Requested: £35 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £35
  + Members: 3

Ollie – They need it, it is core to the society.

Cameron – Looks fine. There is only one membership, so they can’t do comparative evidence.

Karen – Why can’t they self-fund this?

Jamie – It is for the society to be part of this membership.

Karen – Why are we funding for one person of the club? Unusual that membership fee of the society wouldn’t cover at least half of the cost of this.

Ollie – Maybe one person has the membership in name, but it benefits all members.

Karen – Still confused as to why that isn’t funded through their own savings/membership fees. Please provide a reason for this. Abstaining from voting. Please reflect the answer back at this next meeting.

APPROVED – Full funded - General pot.

* SMTS Presents: A Night at the Musicals – Musical Theatre Society (#1531)
  + Requested: £840.75 (75%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £1121
  + Members: 47

Justyna – This is core equipment for the society.

Jamie – They mentioned bringing in the audio people.

Justyna – They do a lot of fundraising events.

Karen – They have 47 members but, in the application, it says that there are 51 members performing.

Justyna – Their conductor and other performers could not be at the university but could still be performing.

Jamie – They have good comparative evidence.

Jo – The funding seems to be short term pain for long term gain. They won’t have to buy this equipment again.

Cameron – It would be nice if they had screenshots of other things, like microphones, and comparative evidence.

Jamie – Will the equipment arrive in time?

Jo – They will still use it, even if it doesn’t arrive in time.

APPROVED – Fully-funded - Art & Culture fund

* Spacesport America Cup 2024: Entry Fees and Motor – Aerospace Innovation StrathAIS (#1532)
  + Requested: £2216.45 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £2216.45
  + Members: 74

Jamie – They either won or nearly won this competition last summer.

Justyna – Have they made the necessary changes that we told them last year? Show us that you’ve funded from other sources.

Jamie – They haven’t evidenced other funding sources.

Justyna – The fee is due by April, and the other deadline is for December. So, we have enough time to reject this. If the staff could help them with the process of explaining that we want to see all the expenditure etc and show them USM one as example. Then ask them to re-apply after. ACTION

Jamie – There is no proof of them talking to the other organisations.

REJECTED

* Tote Bag Painting (Bag-tivism) – Women+ in Leadership Network – WILN+ (#1533)
  + Requested: £68.94 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £69.94
  + Members: 95

Jamie – The choice of paints and bags will not work.

Karen – There are lots of arts societies, could they not reach out to see what they can use from them.

Justyna – Paint brushes, yes, they can ask other societies. But paint, as they can’t be re-used, it wouldn’t be suitable. Are we happy to fund tote bags and acrylic paints? We suggest that acrylic paint will not be best, and to buy fabric paint instead from sites such as Amazon or Cass Art.

APPROVED - Partially funding - Tote bags and Paint - £56.94 – Art & Culture

Jo leaves the meeting but is happy to approve the next request. Fully funding.

* Tutor fees for sectional – Jazz Orchestra SUJO (#1476)
  + Requested: £180 (75%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total Budget: £240
  + Members: 32

Karen – Tutors get paid after event because it is via invoice, although event is technically today.

Cameron – It would be nice if they could specify where the part funding is coming from.

Karen – Strange that they aren’t saying where they are getting the money from. More evidence is needed.

Justyna – We would like to know. We ask the society to tell us in future.

APPROVED – Full funding. Art & Culture.

1. AOCB

Justyna - Salma, the union part-time and distance students’ rep, will join to talk about including these student groups in our activities at the next meeting. Including digital opportunities, activities and events etc. It is important to ensure that no one is disadvantaged because of the nature of their studies.

**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** | £6957.08 | £30,723.79 |