Societies Executive Committee Meeting 9 Minutes

20/12/23

1. Welcome and Apologies

Justyna Kardasz (VP Community) – chair

Jamie Campbell – present

Jo Fitzpatrick – present

Cameron Pattinson – present

Karen Low – present

Ollie Page – present

Shania Maritz – apologies

Natalie Brayshaw (Activities Coordinator) – present

Erin Ross (Activities Coordinator) – clerk

Welcome to our new Activities Coordinator Natalie – ran through introductions and each member’s society category

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 8

Approved

1. Matters Arising
* Part-Time and Distance Students in Societies

Socs staff will hold a drop-in sessions for new and returning students and socs on Fri 12th January, 12-2pm. Socs Exec are encouraged to attend in part if they are able – staff to invite Socs Exec

As part of January welcome acitivites, we are encouraging societies to introduce themselves online and to consider putting on digital/hybrid events - JF made a promo video about this and JK will make a social media post

Staff will send an email out to committee members about this before the break

* Charity Month

Landing-page on website is ready to go – exec approves

Socs Exec filmed content with Comms – this will go out in January

Staff to confirm process for societies that Socs Exec members are part of

* Grant Guidance

Finance information has been improved this semester with a landing-page (<https://www.strathunion.com/organisation/resources/finances/>) where the finance training content is permanently available as a resource for students

Socs team are now working on improving grant information with a landing-page (<https://www.strathunion.com/organisation/resources/grants/>), separate grant training module and improved grant guidelines

Thank you from the staff team to Socs Exec for collaborating so well with us this semester on these resources and projects to help societies!

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** | £6957.08 | £30,723.79 |
| **After Exec 7** | £4930.68 | £28,528.88 |
| **After Exec 8** | £4930.68 | £27,836.10 |
|  |  |  |

Funding Breakdowns – Semester 1:

Note: Numbers in the chart represent the % of the total amount in that pot. The first chart “% of total funding awarded” includes both the general pot and the arts and culture funding. Total = £55,000. So if a society had received 5% of total funding, that would be 5% of £55,000 (= £2750). There are also charts to show the spent in each pot respectively. Societies with <1% of the funding are not included in the charts. The charts do not add to 100 as the entire pot has not yet been spent.







Exec members note that this is not as diverse a spread of societies as it could be

Compared with the figures at the end of 2022/23, the societies that secured the lion’s share of funding this time corresponds roughly to large active societies undertaking major events and initiatives

The lion’s share also does not clearly correspond to societies that members themselves are involved in

An exception is Concert Band being awarded most Arts and Culture funding – but this is not extraordinary as it is mostly the music societies who make use of this fund

1. Welcome Grants (£45). Total: £135
	* Strathclyde Trading Society (this should have been approved in Exec 2, but missing from minutes)
	* USEV (should have been approved already, missing from minutes)
	* Engineers with Beers (should have been approved already, missing from minutes)
2. Grant Requests. Total: £429.66
* Travel Society – Anne Frank House Visit (Grant #1543)
	+ Requested: £250 (53% - 75%)
	+ Expected Income: £83.36
	+ Total Budget: £333.36 - £473.44
	+ Members: 363

This is retrospective so can’t be awarded – they are away right now

Always apply for the maximum you would like! Otherwise it’s hard to put numbers to this application (hence the unusual funding ‘bracket’ presented above) which the exec needs to evaluate it

Otherwise this is a strong application – exec urges society to apply for their next trip but well in advance! Do you have an upcoming trip planned? Exec can support you to make a strong application in good time

Staff also note this society has not completed the mandatory finance training which would help

Not approved

* Jazz Orchestra – Sheet Music (Grant #1550)
	+ Requested: £179.66 (100%)
	+ Expected Income: £0
	+ Total Budget: £179.66
	+ Members: 79

Great job including evidence of background costs for sheet music – exec notes society has taken on feedback from their last application and thanks them

KL notes that we would like to see part-funding – ER acknowledges this is part of a wider conversation the union needs to have with music societies about their funding needs

Happy to approve

1. AOCB

Arts & Culture – exec notes that this university fund has not been topped up since it was set up. Staff confirm this will be requested next semester

Union staff are meeting this week to establish next steps in updating Arts & Culture funding

KL offers help with evidence from music socs if needed

JK and exec are going to make Societies FAQ podcasts next semester – JK notes points to cover:

- Grant guidance, including the amounts in the different pots

- Expand on part-funding

- Expand on why we can’t give retrospective funding and how to plan for this

- Committee member election – messaging about how societies can rectify their committee process now – not wait til next year!

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| **After Exec 9**  | £4751.02 | £27,691.10 |