Societies Executive Committee Meeting 9 Minutes

11th January 2023

1. **Welcome and Apologies**

* Justyna – apologies
* Kelsey Murray – observer
* Christopher McMahon – clerk
* Benn Rapson – present
* Jamie Campbell – present
* Shreya Sachdeva – apologies
* Emma Reavey – present
* Sheik Malik - chair

1. **Approve Minutes from Societies Exec 8 – approved.**
2. **Matters Arising**

* Socs exec policy changes
  + SM asks to raise this item first
  + BR thinks policy is long overdue an update and that most of the changes are common sense.
  + BR has concerns placed on the limits of the role of the socs exec. He notes he will not be here next year, so this is purely for future members benefits. He understands the reason to ask socs exec committee members not to sit on other socs committee, but he believes that there would not be enough people running for socs exec as a result. He does not think this would work given his experience as a volunteer and an exec. He believes that the current process of managing conflicts of interest (i.e. people leaving the room where necessary) is good experience.
  + BR also has concerns on term limits on socs exec members. He notes this would be the only volunteering role that would be term limited. He does not think it is equitable or a good idea.
  + JC also notes the removal of the word “elected”. They believe that this is an important word.
  + ER and BR note that they are frustrated that there has not been consultation with socs exec prior to the changes being proposed, particularly as they are volunteers that have given up their time. BR believes that it has started from a place of imposing restrictions on the socs exec members rather than consulting them first.
  + ER agrees with what BR has said. ER notes the huge differences between the sports and societies and states these are obvious (i.e. not equity) – they don’t tell sports exec/president that they cannot be on teams. JC agrees.
  + ER and BR note there is no incentive to run for socs exec, particularly if the ability to sit on a soc committee is removed.
  + SM asks what the socs committee would like to see from wider societies/members of staff
    - BR does not expect an outcome from this. BR simply wants this recorded. BR sees that societies will see any changes to policy as a result of the socs exec (even when this policy change is not lead by them), and this has in the past resulted in backlash. BR hopes that Lisa is aware of the “vibes” of socs exec, so they can either take this on board, or can disagree and state the policy that will be put forward for students.
  + SM asks if the committee would like a chance to discuss more with union staff to allow them to ask questions/raise concerns
    - SM thinks the points raised above are valid and that he backs them. He enjoys his role and he finds it rewarding – so he wants that role protected and to have the same standards as other roles within the union. Otherwise, it is less likely that students will be included to be involved in the socs exec committee.
    - SM thinks given the consensus of the committee, they should aim to engage and work together with staff to share their experiences and viewpoints, to allow a collective discussion/chat (i.e. maybe inviting Lisa to join a meeting and discuss). This is to ensure all societies have the information they need to make an informed decision on the policy changes.
    - KM will discuss with Lisa to see if this will be possible.
    - BR believes there will be value of having Lisa in the room to allow a discussion and to make it easier to reach a consensus based on discussion.
    - SM would like to extend an invitation on behalf of the socs exec committee for Lisa to attend a socs exec meeting to discuss and so societies can make better choices for the future.
    - BR also would like to note that the intersoc role introduced by Justyna is a good role/idea, but more consideration has to be given to the incentive to volunteer in this role that has quite a lot of associated work (especially for only 6 volunteers). BR notes it is important to get staff buy-in.
  + **Staff Action**: Discuss above with Lisa.
* Process going forward on affiliating a soc which could be a sport
  + KM - Some confusion on the process. This is under discussion with Sports.
  + Moving forward, if there is any socs applying that could be classed as sports, it is appropriate to liaise with Sports Union before approving anything to ensure they are registering at the correct place. Staff will also reach out to the proposed committee and ask if they would rather be in Strath Union as a society or Sports Union as a club if this seems appropriate.
  + SM suggests there could be some addition to the webpage to mention this when applying/affiliating.
  + **Staff Action**: Update affiliation webpage to make clear difference between sports clubs/socs.
* Discussions at GMs/AGMs regarding other societies
  + KM noticed at the last GM that socs exec did mention specifics about societies while they are in the room. In general, for future meetings we need to be mindful of who is in the room and respect the privacy of other societies business in a public setting.
* Go over GM2 responses for intersoc rep
  + This item was added by JK, so this will be picked up at the next meeting.

1. **Budget Update**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **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 |
| **Remaining Budget** | **£7083.93** | **£29,910.67** |

1. **New Affiliation Requests**

* Politics Society
  + **Vote:** Approved unanimously.
* K-POP Society
  + **Vote**: Approved unanimously.
* Strath Trad Music Society
  + **Vote**: Approved unanimously.

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

* Nepalese Society

1. **Grant Requests. Total: £9600**

* Bands at Strathclyde
* Grant Name: Bands at Strathclyde Christmas Concert
* Grant Number #1193
* Request Amount: £350.00 (100%)
* Total Amount: £350.00
* **Vote: Not approved (unanimous). Retrospective application.**
* Roleplaying Games – SURGE
* Grant Name: Nationals 2023 Dundee
* Grant Number #1211
* Request Amount: £300 (46%)
* Total Amount: £660.00
* **Vote: Approved (unanimously).**

BR notes that it is good that it is part funded. However, there is no evidence of price comparison. BR does not think this should stop it being funded. In future though, evidence of different quotes would be beneficial. All socs exec members agree.

* Skateboarding
* Grant Name: 2023 StrathSkate x Barcelona Trip
* Grant Number #1191
* Request Amount: £8000 (99%)
* Total Amount: £8111.00
* **Vote: Not approved (unanimously).**

SM and BR note they are requesting money for drinks. They would like to remind the committee that this can only be for non-alcoholic drinks. SM would recommend not approving in the current format. BR thinks committee should not approve, but provide advice on what further evidence is needed.

**Staff Action**: Ask the committee to consider the following points: generally make things clearer, more details on the food and drinks (cost breakdowns), accommodation and baggage costs are clear. Also advise that there is comparative cost evidence given for each item. Is there any options for the committee to raise some additional funds for part funding so that socs exec can part fund? Should also consider any costs for insurance (personal, items, travel).

BR as a side point notes that the grant guidelines could also be doing with an update in line with socs policy. **Staff Action**: Revisit this as an agenda point at a future meeting, could be also worth chatting through with Lisa.

* Language Café
* Grant Name: Language Café Tutoring Project
* Grant Number #1213
* Request Amount: £700 (80%)
* Total Amount: £875
* **Vote: Approved unanimously (from Arts and Culture).**

BR has a concern around approving almost the “same” thing as last semester. BR suggests they feel they should look for additional part funding/look for sponsorship for next semester/next academic year to ensure this is not reliant on grant funding. ER thinks this is a great initiative and wants to keep it going, but try to become as self-sustainable as possible.

* Book Club
* Grant Name: Sophie Labelle Book Talk
* Grant Number #1214
* Request Amount: £150 (100%)
* Total Amount: £150.00
* **Vote: Approved (unanimously).**

1. **AOB**

* Societies Policy - Socs Exec to fill out form here: <https://www.strathunion.com/organisation/resources/societypolicyfeedback/>
* SM asks about £500 from Alumni fund.
  + **Staff Action**: KM will follow up to see where this money is and how it will change the available money from the general pot.

KM notes that the new socs exec member nominations open on Monday 16th January.

SM closes meeting.

**Final Spend:**

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|  | **Arts and Culture** | **General Pot** |
| **Total Budget** | £15,000.00 | £40,000.00 |
| **Exec 1 Spend** | £375.00 | £315.00 |
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| **Exec 7 Spend** | £227.50 | £1094.70 |
| **Exec 8 Spend** | £731.00 | £3122.80 |
| **Exec 9 Spend** | £700 | £495 |
| **Remaining Budget** | **£6383.93** | **£29,415.67** |