Societies Executive Committee Meeting 2 Minutes

09/09/2022

1. Welcome and Apologies

In attendance:

Justyna Kaerdaz (JK) – Chair

Chris McMahon (CM) – Clerk

Kelsey Murray (KM) – observer

Tally Kerr (TK) – observer

Sheik Malik (SM)

Benn Rapson (BR) – **apologies**

Emma Reavey (ER)

Haroon Tarar Murqadas (HM) – **(arrived late)**

Shreya Sachdeva (SS) – **apologies**

Jamie Campbell (JC)

1. Approve Minutes from Societies Exec – **Approved**
2. Matters Arising
* Societies General Meeting 28th 5:30-7:30pm
* Actions from Socs Exec Meeting 1:
* Action: Staff check whether there is already something in place to allow inactive committee members to be removed – **to be actioned**
* Action: Staff feedback to soc and bring back to next meeting – **to be actioned**
* Action: Staff to discuss with comms to get this set up on the website after Freshers – **to be actioned**
* Action – staff to pull together report of feedback survey – **to be actioned**
* Action – outcome emails from socs exec – **done**
1. Budget Update

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Arts and Culture | General Pot |
| Start budget | £15,000 | £40,000 |
| Exec 1 Spend | £375 | £315 |
| Remaining budget | £14,625 | £39,685 |

SM suggested that in future the budgets are laid out in a more user-friendly way – perhaps a table.

**Action**: staff to arrange this - **actioned**

1. New Affiliation Requests
* **Podcast Society (reaffiliation)**

SM wonders what happened to the previous committee since all the members are new. He asks if would be possible to keep track of the previous year’s committee contact details (to help with sharing resources between different years) for future years when committees are reaffiliated. There could be a survey near the end of an academic year to assess the likelihood of someone from the current society staying on/helping to train a committee for the next year – to help continuity. Could be part of the badge scheme to reward committee that promote continuity. Emphasis on recruiting for freshers/students in early years to help build their knowledge throughout the time they are a student/committee member.

JC notes that some societies suggest specific year groups in certain roles can help that continuity (to take load off year groups that are busy).

ER notes that some societies have a handbook/tip book/contact book that they pass between years to help with running the societies.

**Action**: Some training for societies to help them with this continuity. Societies that have examples of good practice could help support the content/delivery of this.

Vote: Approved unanimously

* **Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Society**

TK notes that this was not affiliated last year but was the year before.

JK notes that there is no committee from the previous years carrying over. Although this seems like a straightforward course society.

Vote: Approved unanimously

* **Electronic and Electrical Engineering**

TK notes that this was not affiliated last year but was before.

Vote: Not approved. Society to return a new application with clearer aims.

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £990
* Electronic Music Society
* Women in Leadership Network
* Videogame society
* Trading and Portfolio Management Society
* Erasmus Student Network
* Ukrainian Support Society
* Hong Kong Society
* Law Society
* Chemical Engineering Society
* Aerospace Innovation
* Physics Society
* Book club
* Human Powered Flight
* Motorsport – USM
* Foodbank Society
* TedX
* Strath Speakers
* Hot Air Balloons – SUHABS
* Modern Foreign Languages Social Network
* Eco Vehicle - USEV
* Concert Band
* Chess Society
1. Grant Requests. Total: £1630.71

HM has joined the meeting.

* Hot Air Balloons (SUHABS) applying for Hot Air Balloon Piloting: A Day in the Life & Career Advice - £550 (69% of project cost, total £800), 2 members\*

SM has left the room for the following discussion.

ER noted that there are expensive grants can come up later in the year and this should be considered before approving large grants for the same societies to even an even distribution of the budget among societies.

TK agrees that an even distribution is important, but it is not appropriate to reject a grant based on assumptions about potential applications later in the year. If they continue to apply, then this is a good reason to decline later in the year.

JK thinks this is a lot of money for a welcome event.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

SM re-joined the room after the vote.

* Jazz Orchestra (SUJO) applying for sheet music for academic year 2022/23 from Arts and Culture - £801.91, 7 members\*

TK notes that the lower membership number is likely reflective of the time of year and will likely increase.

SM raised the question if it was possible to get it cheaper elsewhere, but discussion said this was unlikely.

Vote: Approved from Arts and Culture. HM abstained.

* Modern Foreign Languages Social Network applying for stickers (have also applied for a welcome grant) - £28.80, 10 members\*

JK notes that approving this today will mean that it is unlikely that these stickers will arrive in time.

ER notes that Canva is an expensive place to buy stickers from. Next time they should try and source cheaper options or alternatives.

JK and TK note that they do have other banners for their freshers’ events.

Vote: Not approved, unanimously.

SM notes that in future can the amounts above for grants be reflective of the amount of the grant % (as above for Hot Air Balloons). **Action:** Staff will adjust amounts on future agenda

ER noted that it may also be helpful to add the request number to search for the grant on the online system. **Action**: Staff will add grant request number.

Welcome grants will also be pre-approved to remove them out of the system and make navigation easier. **Action:** Staff will pre-approve welcome grants.

1. AOB
* JK: App Creative Session
	+ The union is developing an app and wanted to ask the socs exec for feedback on how to promote this to students.
	+ Committee agreed that they could help promote the app through their societies.
	+ Students will be consulted to ensure the app functionality is what students think will be useful.
	+ Session will be after freshers for students to have a go at the app.
	+ ER suggested mentioning it at the upcoming GM.
* ER: Intersoc Reps
	+ ER thinks some of the roles encompass a lot of societies and others do not have as many.
	+ ER thinks the committee could recommend to societies what “group”/category they fit into.
	+ TK asked if the new intersoc groups would mean the categories online on the webpage would need to be amended.
	+ TK notes a society cannot be in more than one category on MSL.
	+ TK suggested the staff contact societies to let them know their group may be changing and to check they are happy with this. **Action**: Staff to move societies into new intersoc categories.
	+ JK asked if in future staff should just pick the category they are placed in when affiliating. TK suggests that the societies are allowed to choose themselves, but socs exec can check when a society applied that the category is appropriate.
	+ **Action (for all):** Review the excel sheet with the new categories and give any feedback.

**Next Meeting: 21st September**

**Total Expenditure**

General Pot: £1540

Arts and Culture: £801.91