



## Annual General Meeting Minutes

28/3/2019

### Barony Bar, Strath Union

**Chair: Matt Crilly (President)**

**Attendance: 35 student members**

#### 1) Introduction

Chair introduces meeting. Chair notes that the meeting is not quorate so voting on presented items will not take place.

#### 2) Executive Report

Strath Union President, Matt Crilly, presented the following report on what the Union has achieved this academic year:

- NUS Scotland University Student Union of the Year
- Sports Union – Glasgow Taxis cup. For the first time in 9 years.
- Best hospitality employer in the city, Unite Hospitality Charter, taxi home.
- Sara secured £80,000 to open up a community fridge in Townhead, bringing students closer to the local residents.
- 3 Glasgow best bar none awards, up for another one tonight.
- Rose stole Seamus, the Strathclyde University Dance Club team bear.
- Jodie 15k energy savings trust, Yacine 1k, for Ebikes!
- Titi: fight for the night
- Sara and Titi: Fossil Fuel Divestment campaign, uni has already responded change investments and after more pressure established working group.
- Sara nightline flat in halls.
- Largest teaching excellence nominations ever with over 900. Nearly double last year.
- Job shop launch.
- Eyram student voice on the university's new disciplinary policy.
- Girls Against Spiking campaign.
- Strathclyde won the varsity rugby match, also establishing a partnership with Glasgow warriors.
- £125,000 hardship and participation funding.
- Consent and bystander training, Silja been fantastic.
- Barista and bar training workshops to improve student skills.
- Leo Howes broke into the Guinness book of records for eating 30,000 bagels in one semester.
- We have seen many a welfare week led by John, giving students the opportunity to learn vital skills such as first aid.
- Largest ever grant funding to our nearly 200 clubs and socs- £40,000!
- Outside food retailers come into the union and leave again as they weren't making any money.
- In July we won a democracy award at NUS for our StrathGirlCan campaign for female empowerment and to improve representation in the Union. The success of the campaign, the legacies of Simran and Taylor, driven by staff such as Silja and Karen, broke the deadlock of constantly having 5 male sabbs and one female. This year,



Sara, Titi and Eyram have done amazing and demonstrated women in leadership, supporting the newly formed network and strath women lead campaign.

- Plunged parliament into a constitutional crisis over the student partnership agreement.
- Given out 10k faith and culture fund.
- The Union introduced vegan sausage rolls and they're great.
- We welcomed Richard Lochhead, gov minister for higher education to the union- first he visited (even before he visited the uni)
- 30k arts and culture fund.
- We got good on green impact and we're about to submit this years.
- We done santa sacks.
- Titi organised black history month which included the amazing 'Our [in]visible strength' exhibition.
- Eyram enhancement led institutional review.
- Quarter of a million pound new Union expansion, debating chamber, media hub.
- Titi introduced new officers this year to help drive liberation campaigns and representation.
- Strathclyde concert band won gold + award at the Scottish concert band festival
- We had cascada play at the union again
- Another successful go global trip to give widening access students an paid-for international opportunity.
- Free rooms in halls for students fleeing homelessness or abusive households.
- Highest ever voter turnout in our elections
- Sara has painted all of our walls
- Finally got the ball rolling on Wednesday afternoons
- We underwent a role review in which we abolished the VP Sport (sorry next year's plans)
- Half a million-pound mental health investment after years of campaigning.
- We all had to go to an antiques shop to buy a wireless and had to get our grandparents to show us how to turn it on to listen to BBC Radio 1 broadcast live from the Union!
- Eyram, Titi & Sara launched Vagina Talks as a safe space to talk about women's issues
- John's monthly birthday parties.
- We abolished graduation fees.
- Growth of the advice hub, emerging from the duldrums of level 5 onto level 7, welcoming Rick onto the team, offering support in the MSA and in the evenings.
- Super off the record but we've managed to stop the increases in halls rent.
- Launched the Strath Laughs comedy night.
- We introduced those really annoying wooden spoons in recharge which give you a splinter when you try and eat your soup.

### 3) Submission of Accounts

Strath Union CEO, Manish Joshi, presented the Union's accounts.

Overall position:

- The Union posted a surplus of **£37,000** for the 2017/18 financial year
- Block grant increased 1.9% to just over **£1.5 million**



- Trading income fell marginally by £2k on the previous year to £862k, resulting in a **£1k deficit**, a fall of £19k on the previous year
- Advertising, sales and marketing revenues were also down 22% based on the previous year.
- Staff costs increased by just under 5% from the previous year, primarily down to increases in the overall staff team.
- Depreciation decreased by almost £40,000 due to asset write off and equipment that had been fully depreciated.
- Over £350k increase in cash held over the year – the cash balances are healthy

#### Reserves position:

- Trustee board passed a new reserves policy aimed at holding target reserves of 1-3 months operating costs. This equates to approximately £250k in reserves.
- At the 31st July 2018, our free reserves were negative (£154,752) which was a significant improvement on the previous year when we were sitting at (£221,950)
- The SUSS Pension scheme is a contributing factor to the negative reserves position. At the end of July 2018 the SUSS pension scheme liability accounted for almost £500,000 on the balance sheet.

#### Going Concern:

- Cash reserves are healthy
- The SUSS pension scheme continues to adversely impact the balance sheet
- We received a letter of continued financial support from the University
- We have strong financial controls and budgeting processes and recently reforecasted for 2018/19
- The Union is solvent and remains a going concern

#### Affiliations

- The Student Union remains a member of NUS
- The Sports Union remains a member of BUCS and of SSS
- We pay an annual affiliation fee to the Living Wage Foundation

#### 4) AOCB

No items were raised.

Chair closed the meeting.