



Clubs General Meeting 2 Minutes 12/11/18

Meeting start: 5.15pm

Chair: Sara Cowan (SC), Vice President Volunteering and Development (VPVD)

Clerk: Jodie Waite (JW), Student Development Co-ordinator

Apologies: Strathclyde Women in Leadership Network, Re-act Theatre Society, Chess Club, One Voice Gospel Choir, Foodbank Society

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Sara Cowan (SC), Vice President Volunteering and Development (VPVD) Update
3. Student Partnership Agreement, presented by Matt Crilly (MC), Student President (SP)
4. Club of the Week
5. New Union Consultation Overview
6. Level 5 Update
7. Opportunities Announcement
8. Volunteer Awards
9. Society Collaboration Announcements
10. Grant Guidelines Update
11. Ask the Clubs Exec
12. AOCB

VPVD Update

SC states that she has been working on the following during her time in Office:

- Rewording grant funding application processes to make them clearer for Clubs and Societies
- Working on a social media strategy because it has previously been hard to communicate key messages to Clubs and Societies through the Facebook page. SC requests that Clubs and Societies 'like' the new Strath Union Clubs and Socs Facebook page and join the Committee Members Facebook group which are the new streamlined groups for Clubs and Societies
- Adding 'Active and Engaged' criteria that encourages society collaborations, both with one another and with community groups
- The Faith and Belief fund, which encourages students of all beliefs to organise faith-based activities
- Working to add workshops for Clubs and Societies to partake in, such as Bystander and Trans 101
- Securing an additional prayer and meditation space, and a group study room in Level 5 of the Union. SC explains that these are spaces for students to escape noise, study and relax. There is a magnetic empathy and international wall in this area also, and SC asks those in attendance to encourage international students to stick up magnets from their country to show how many countries Strathclyde students come from
- Holding 'Vagina Talks' for women and non-binary people to discuss sexual health
- Organising Fight for the Night on the 23rd of November
- Looking at sustainable investments, to encourage the university to be more sustainable because as they currently invest in fossil fuels
- Starting the 'Name the Walls' initiative, whereby students can paint the walls in the Union building to provide student ownership of the building
- Continuing the 'Languages for All' programme
- Promoting the 'Go Global' trip for widening access students, which is an opportunity for students to go on an international trip who may otherwise be unable to go
- Applying to run a community fridge project in partnership with Townhead Village Hall, City of Glasgow College and Glasgow Caledonian University to secure a fridge that is accessible to the community

Student Partnership Agreement

MC provides the following background concerning the Student Partnership Agreement:

- It was worked on by the previous Student President and Vice President Education (VPE) last year
- It is an agreement between the Students' Union and the University
- It was rejected at the most recent Student Parliament as it was felt there had not been enough student consultation
- MC feels there are a lot of buzzwords, that the document is vague, and is concerned with Section B
- The priority actions for the next two years were identified as enhancing student mental health, careers and employability and ensuring effective feedback. These were devised after previous VPE had consulted with students last year
- MC believes these are still important issues to students, which was evident when around half a million pounds was invested in mental health services in the university
- Tuition fees, student support, such as support funds that are accessible for students who are falling into hardship, and equal representation are other priorities identified in the Student Partnership Agreement. Equal representation is particularly important within the senior management team at the university. Whilst there are many international students and staff, few of the senior management team are from out with the UK.

SP asks students in attendance if they think the priority actions stated in the Student Partnership Agreement are still relevant:

- Student 1 asks if tuition fees are only those relating to home students, or whether this priority will also include international students. MC states that this is for international students also, and that the university is looking to continually increase tuition fees over the next few years – even rising tuition fees by up to 42% in many postgraduate courses
- Student 2 states that these priorities are important but they aren't all encompassing, and asks whether this will result in these issues being prioritised over other issues important to students. MC states that prioritising these issues will not lead to other important issues being neglected because they are strategic points. The way in which the Student Partnership Agreement will be taken forward will depend on how a committee made up of students and staff that overlooks the agreement choose to implement it. The Student Partnership Agreement will also be reviewed every year due to student needs changing quickly. MC changed this from the originally planned timescale of the document being reviewed every two years
- Student 3 asks whether employability can be looked at in relation to international students. The student also asks whether the University Careers Centre is aware of the struggle that international students face in finding employment, as they appear to be unequipped in finding employment for international students. MC states that this was raised when the Strategic Partnership Agreement was previously discussed.

Clubs of the Week

- SC announces the clubs and societies that have been 'Clubs of the Week' so far, and fun factors about them – Gliding Club, Flying Club, Pharmacy Society and SUMSA.
- Committee member from SUMSA announces they have been raising money for charity
- Pharmacy society state that they are running a career talk from someone in community pharmacy to talk about the future of this sector. They are also running a quiz event in collaboration with the Psychology Society, amongst others

New Union Consultation Overview

SC shows attendees the pictures of what the new Strath Union building is planned to look like, and provides attendees with 5 minutes to make suggestions and ask questions about the new building:

- Student 1 suggests an outdoor study area that could tie into the 'green' feel that the new Union building is looking to achieve - perhaps with a cover in case of bad weather
- Student 2 asks whether there will be open areas and areas for events. For example, open areas for music societies to rehearse, and event areas similar to the size of Vertigo. MC explains that there will be a Vertigo style space, one Debates Chamber and two larger rooms that are roughly the same size as the Priory for other meetings. These areas will also be more closed off to ensure that students will not be disrupted
- Student 3 asks whether there will be dance studios in the new Union building where students can rehearse dance. This was a particular issue for students in the run up to Diwali, who had to rent spaces out with the Union to rehearse. There are currently complaints from dance clubs and societies regarding the limitation of dance rehearsal spaces in the Union and, whilst there are spaces in the sports centre, it would be beneficial to have two in the Union to ensure that multiple societies can rehearse dance at the same time. MC takes this suggestion on board.
- Student 4 asks where the new Union building will be. SC states that it will be located where the Colville building is currently situated.
- Student 5 asks about the bar situation in the new building. MC states that he has secured a lot of extra space since he first started. Strath Union will be over two floors but much wider than the current building. The space should also be much more useable. For example, in the current Strath Union building a lot of the space is taken up by the staircase, and a flat that used to be used by the Student President. MC is still not completely satisfied by the space, but thinks it will be suitable for what students need it for.
- Student 6 asks whether there will still be commercial outlets such as Starbucks. Student 7 replies to state that the new building will probably have one bar with table space on one side and an open space on the other. However, the number of commercial outlets is not expected to change.
- MC continues to explain that the space was really high on the second floor of the original plans for the new Strath Union building, so additional platforms have been added so that societies can hold own functions in segregated areas.
- Student 8 raises the concern that having a giant open space may be an issue because there will not be a noise barrier. This could be a particular issue for students who experience sensory overload. SC states that they are looking at study booths with coverings, but that this is a good point.
- MC continues to explain that a lot of areas in the new Strath Union building have been sectioned off, but the point around students who experience sensory overload is really helpful. MC states he will be contacting all clubs and societies to find out what they need to ensure that the space is designed in such a way that it meets the requirements of students
- Student 9 suggests that noise cancelling headsets are provided for students who may require them
- Student 10 asks that the bar in the new Strath Union building has a better atmosphere than the Yard, similar to the bar at Glasgow University Union (GUU). Student 11 agrees and states that GUU also has better event spaces.
- Student 12 disagrees that the Yard does not have an atmosphere, and is more concerned that the bar in the new building is going to be like a club. MC reassures them that this will not be the case
- MC states that he will compile different designs provided to him by the architect to show students

Level 5 Update

- SC shows attendees the new floor plan for Level 5 now that changes have been made
- SC explains that Level 5 now contains 'The Sanctuary', which is a safe space with a campaigns and liberation room, an open study room and a meditation room. SC states that changes have been made to make Level 5 more suitable for students and their needs.
- SC requests that all Clubs and Societies committees assist in keeping this layout on Level 5

Opportunities Announcement

SC announces the following opportunities that students can take part in:

- Student E-bikes will be launched on 4th December, which can be rented for free for up to 7 days at a time
- E-vehicles will be available to rent from November 30th. They can be rented from outside the McCance building
- Free First Aid Training will take place on November 15th at the university of Strathclyde. Students will not receive a certificate at the end as it is a short session but it is still a useful course to attend
- 100 Santa Sacks Challenge is a Christmas charity initiative based in Recharge, with the idea being to raise items to give lonely elderly people a gift for Christmas. SC states that, if a society wants to donate something collectively then this could count towards their charity initiative for Active and Engaged

Volunteer Awards

SC provides the following information about Volunteer Awards:

- Nominations are opening on Friday 16th November
- SC feels the categories are appropriate, but asks attendees to inform her if they feel any categories should be added or taken away before they are launched to make the Volunteer Awards the best they possibly can be

Space for collaboration announcements

- SC informs attendees that this is a space for clubs and societies to announce any events they are holding and would like other clubs and societies to get involved in
- Member of Psychology society states that the society would like to start collaborating more because it's good to merge ideas. The society is holding an event on the 13th November which has around 6 societies involved - boat club, pharmacy, international society, and medieval society. Whilst it is too late for societies to join this particular event, they are keen to collaborate with more societies in future
- Member from Psychology Society also states that the society is hosting a charity event with the Strathclyde Tea Society, with all proceeds going to SAMH. This will be an event where students and university staff share their mental health experiences
- Psychology society also looking for more non-drinking events, so they are inclusive for everyone. For example, they had contacted Live Poets Society to talk about sharing mental health poems, and looked at doing a collaboration with the Cat Café, etc. They are open to running collaborative socials, mental health events, and fundraisers. If the quiz is successful on November 13th, they are looking to do this more regularly in collaboration with other societies to involve more groups
- Member of the Language Café states that they are running an event on international day in collaboration with the Saudi society. They are open for other societies to get involved in this
- Member of the Feminist Society states that they are collaborating with the Live Poet Society on November 14th to do a film screening of Ruby Sparks. The Society Looking for collaborations for next semester, and ask other societies to find and contact them on Facebook
- Concert band states that they are holding a concert at St Andrews in the Square on 22nd November in collaboration with Jazz Orchestra

Grant Guideline Updates Presented by Jessica Alexander (JA), member of Clubs Exec

JA states the following in relation to Grant Guidelines:

- Any changes made have been predominantly for clarification. Most additions to the Grant Guidelines have always been rules, but never explicitly stated in the guidelines
- Change 1: clarifies timescales of when Clubs Exec should submit guidelines by (14 days before an event)
- Change 2: Explaining what a 'project' is
- Change 3: Explaining that they fund travel to conferences
- Change 4: Adding in that hot food must be approved by Commercial Services if it is being provided by an external supplier
- Change 5: removed asking how much club has already received from Grant funding that year, as Clubs Exec take into account that some societies have more expensive activities. Thus, this will no longer affect whether clubs and societies will receive their Grant Request
- Change 7: If societies are doing a collaborative event, they must submit one Grant Request as opposed to one each
- Change 8: Added in sustainability around purchasing items, for example with cutlery. Therefore, if clubs and societies want to spend more money on sustainable items, then this will still be considered even if it is more expensive than an unsustainable item
- Change 9: changed transport to cheapest practical method instead of cheapest possible method. This is to stop societies having to travel in impractical ways, such as a travelling by bus down to London and travelling back in the same day just because it is cheaper

JA opens up to questions from attendees:

- MC asks why Clubs Exec are no longer taking into account how much money a club or society has been previously granted in that year. For example, if a society has already received £15,000 that year, and there are over 170, then shouldn't Clubs Exec consider this? JA states that a project that warrants funding should be provided funding, despite whether the club or society has already received funding that year from Clubs Exec. This is because it should be the project that is considered regarding, as opposed to the club or society.
- MC states that it should be clarified that Clubs Exec meet every 14 days, which is why the timescale for Grant Request submissions for events must be submitted 14 days in advance. **Action: JA to clarify this in the Grant Guidelines.**
- Student 1 asks whether anyone received Active and Engaged status last year, as there was little communication regarding which societies had achieved this. The student also asks whether a society's Active and Engaged status is carried over to the following year. This is important because it is stated in the Grant Guidelines that this is factored into a club or society's grant request
- SC states that all Active and Engaged societies this year will be entered into a prize draw to win £500 at the Volunteer Awards. SC also states that she will speak to the former VPVD to tie up any loose ends from the previous year, and asks all attendees to let her know whether there are any Active and Engaged questions they have.
- JW states that any Active and Engaged society will be prioritised to become Club of the Week, and asks attendees to come up Level 7 of the Strath Union building if they have any Active and Engaged questions.
- Student 2 states that Active and Engaged criteria should be printed out and available to pick up at the next GM, as this is more accessible for students. **Action: JW to make printed copies of Active and Engaged criteria available at next GM**

Asks the Clubs Exec

- SC states that, if anyone is unsure of how to apply for a grant, Clubs Exec are available for questions
- SC also states that this is the purpose of Clubs Exec drop ins, which take place every Friday between 12pm and 2pm in Recharge

AOCB**Meeting ends: 6.30pm**