Societies Executive Committee Meeting 1 Minutes

28/08/24

1. Welcome and Apologies

* Present:
  + Jamie Campbell VP Community – JC
  + Jo Fitzpatrick – JF
  + Cameron Pattinson – CP
  + Shania Maritz – SM
  + Chep Jackson – CP
  + Rachael Baird – RB
  + Lisa Brennan, Opportunities Manager – LB
  + Natalie Brayshaw, Activities Coordinator (scribe)
* Apologies
  + Ollie Page

1. Matters Arising

* Arts & Culture funding – JC issued an update
  + JF suggested creating how to guides re. sponsorship / additional funds for societies
  + Discussion around notifying societies sooner rather than later
  + LB left the meeting
  + Discussed setting a precedent around how funding is distributed to ensure it is fair – e.g. if some societies are receiving lots more than others
  + Discussed how this is communicated to societies; Music societies receiving separate email from other societies
  + Potential for extra drop in to discuss this
  + LB to draft and then socs exec to approve
* Request to rename the 'Strathclyde Coding Society' to the 'Coding and Technology Society' (CATS)
  + Approved
* Request to rename “MAESA” to “MAE Society”
  + Approved
* Constitutions needing approval: none

1. Budget Update <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11Qjez29GHrFXJeE_Vq1DE4iZISiTlKNISdIBOAUDQdc/edit?gid=0#gid=0>

1. New Affiliation Requests

RB left the meeting.

* Red Cross on Campus
  + Query around whether donation-based membership is possible admin-wise; would need to be set up as £0 with a product of “donation”
  + A need to involve campaigns / Voice staff
  + Aims not necessarily Strathclyde student focussed – could do with further information around how they plan to involve students
  + Would need to elect the additional named committee positions
  + Approved by socs exec. - note that Grant funding cannot be used for direct donation, that donation-based membership will not work, and that additional committee positions must be elected
* Labour Club
  + Approved
* Strathclyde University Association For The Promotion of Cultural Education and Appreciation (SUAPCEA or APCEA)
  + Staff to look at this within the context of Widening Access societies / BAME society
  + Have not yet reached out to VP Inclusion
  + Not approved until more information / clarification is given – staff to reach out
* British Sign Language
  + Good to see this request – happy with their aims.
  + Query around whether the tutors are checked by the union.
  + Approved – need to elect additional committee roles.

1. Reaffiliations post-deadline (for information)

* theGIST - The Glasgow Insight into Science and Technology
* Catholic Society
* Human Powered Flight Strathclyde -HPFStrath
* Palestine Solidarity Society
* Strathclyde Debate Society
* Robot Combat Society
* Strathclyde Mathematics Society - SUMS
* Omani Students Society
* Glasgow Egyptian Society
* Biomedical science society
* Strath Future Teachers
* Strathclyde Chess Society
* Mooting Society
* a131
* Language Café
* Neurodiverse Students Association
* Strath TV
* Electrical and Mechanical (EME) Society
* Travel Society
* Biomedical Engineering Society
* Women in Leadership Network

1. Welcome Grant Requests (£45) – For Information. Total: £405

* Neurodiverse Students Association
* Abercrombie & Stitch
* Fusion Radio
* Concert Band
* Model UN
* IEEE Strathclyde Student Branch
* Strathclyde Indian Students Association – SISA
* Biomedical Sciences Society
* Nordic Society
* (Staff task – Fusion Radio listed twice, double check this. Update after meeting – Boardgames Society were included where they should not have been, and Fusion were included twice. Minutes amended to reflect changes in amount).

1. AGM Grant Requests (£25) – For Information. Total: £25

* SISA – ‘Retrospective Grant Application: Funding Support for March 12th AGM Expenses’
* (Staff task – Double check whether this will be awarded for 2023/24 and if they can get another for 2024/25. Update following meeting – as the deadline for socs exec 2023/24 was missed, this will be awarded for the current financial year and as such, SISA will not be eligible for another AGM grant in this financial year. Society to be made aware of this.)

Erin Ross (activities coordinator) joined the meeting – discussion around APCEA affiliation request; suggested meeting with society, staff, and potentially officers as required.

ER left the meeting.

1. Grant Requests. Total: £1482.44

* Language Café - Language Café Tutoring Grant Application (#1703)
  + Requested: £380 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £380
  + Members: 258
    - Contributing from membership fees; this is actually part funded
    - JC clarified that they have had this funding in previous years
    - Query around numbers of participants and how these have been arrived at
    - If they expect 40 students a week, why are they budgeting for 12?
    - Potentially requesting the minimum / conservative estimate
    - Would be good to have evidence from previous years and how many people paid and attended last year.
    - Given an estimate and have said funds will be returned if necessary
    - Approved – feedback to collect better evidence on average numbers this year.
* Biomedical Sciences Society – ‘Welcome event/freshers fair’ (#1702)
  + Requested: £25 (35%, rest covered by welcome grant)
  + Expected Income: £4
  + Total budget: £70
  + Members: 126
    - Only really requesting £25 as £45 is from the Welcome Grant
    - Would be nice to see price comparison for supplies
    - Looks like they have rounded up; £24.75 is what they are actually asking for
    - Missing justification / comparison – however it is part funded and they have some evidence
    - Potential to set a precedent based on this year’s funding situation; that justification is a requirement rather than an ideal
    - Reject – note that cost comparison for wool should be included, and justification for that specific type. Should include amount used rather than rounding up. Encourage to reapply.
* Fusion Radio – ‘Broadcasting Systems’ (#1694)
  + Requested: £782.46 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £782.46
  + Members: 53
    - Noted that this is an annual expense; would be good to see part funding
    - Noted that this is core equipment
    - Reject – not filled out correctly and not requesting any money (£0), society should reach out for advice
* Fusion Radio – ‘SRA Membership’ (#1693)
  + Requested: £75 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: ?
  + Members: 53
    - This is not core equipment and could be fundraised against
    - Noted that a lot of media societies in other Unions are funded in-house which is not the case at Strath
    - Reject – not filled out correctly and not requesting any money (£0), society should reach out for advice
* Model UN – ‘Place Cards’ (#1691)
  + Requested: £19.98 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £19.98
  + Members: 35
    - Great evidence, very thorough and strong
    - Proactive; looking at free printing – equivalent of part funding
    - Approved
* Ukrainian Support Society – ‘Beats of Ukraine - Arts and Culture Grant’ (#1685)
  + Requested: £200 (100%)
  + Expected Income: £0
  + Total budget: £200
  + Members: 70
    - Reject – has already taken place and so is retrospective. Potential to include more information next time.

1. AOCB

* As disabled students rep, Jo would like to pull some guidelines together for societies on how to be more accessible and comfortable – will present this to socs exec.
* Natalie noted that she will be leaving after Freshers.