**Societies Annual General Meeting 2025**

**25/03/25 – 17:30-19:00 – Mandela Auditorium**

**Present:**

Jamie Campbell, VP Community (Chair) – JC

Chep Jackson, Socs Exec

Jo Fitzpatrick, Socs Exec

Shania Maritz, Socs Exec

Abercrombie and Stitch

AIESEC in Glasgow

Andersonian Chemical Society

Bands at Strathclyde society

BGS

Biomedical Engineering society

Biomedical science society

Book Club

British Sign Language

Business Analysis Society

Calisthenics society

Central Asian Society

Chess

Chinese Student & Scholars Association

Civil and environmental engineering post graduate society

Cocktail and Mocktail Society

Concert Band

Cooking Society

Cosplay and Convention Society

Debate Society

Dmem society

Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Society

Engineers Without Borders - EWB

Equate Strathclyde

ESN Strathclyde

esports

Fashion and Luxury Society

Fusion

HPFStrath

K-POP SOCIETY

Language Cafe

Law society

LGBTQ+

Malaysian Society

Marine Robotics

Medieval Society

MK Culture Society

Model United Nations

Neurodiverse society

Nigerian society

Nordic Society

North African Society

PGR Wellbeing and Doctoral Researchers Group

Palestine Solidarity Society

Physics Society

Pokémon Society

Postgraduate psychology society

Psychology

ReAct Theatre Groip

Rubik's Cube Society

Sci-fi

Shogi & Go

Strath Kilimanjaro

Strath Speechies

Strath Trad Music Society

Strathclyde Catholic Society

Strathclyde Chemical Engineering Society

Strathclyde Econ Society

Strathclyde Future Teachers

Strathclyde Labour club

Strathclyde Musical Theatre Society (SMTS)

Strathclyde Pharmacy Society

Strathclyde Pole Fitness

Strathclyde Telegraph

Strathclyde University Chorus

Strathclyde University Hong Kong Society

StrathSEDS

Strathskate

StrathTV

SU Symphony Orchestra

SUMRC

TCG and Wargaming Society

The PGR Podcast

Travel Society

USEV

USM

Video Game Society

Welsh Society

WIBF

Women in Leadership

**Apologies:**

Olivia Page, Socs Exec

Rachael Baird, Socs Exec

English Society

Christian Union

Indonesian Society

Chemical Engineering Society

Future Doctors Society

Turkish Society

Singapore Society

SNAME

Communist Society

Whisky Society

Piano Society

StrathAIS

MFL Society

Maths Society

**In attendance:**

Ellie Gomersall, Activities Coordinator (Clerk) – EG

1. **Welcome**
	* JC welcomed members to the meeting.
2. **Budget Update**
	* 100% of the Arts and Culture pot has been spent, and 84% of the General pot has been spent.
3. **Wellbeing Officer Update**
	* There have been some discussions about introducing Wellbeing Officers as a required role on society committees.
	* We've looked into what this could look like, and what we've decided is that instead of having a designated role on each committee, we're going to embed wellbeing skills into the training for all new committee members. This means that all committee members will have wellbeing as part of their role.
	* We think this is a better approach than having a designated Wellbeing Officer for each society because otherwise the workload could be really huge for Wellbeing Officers in some bigger societies, and there could therefore be a real risk to the wellbeing of the Wellbeing Officer.
	* All committee members should be responsible for the safe running of their societies, so by implementing wellbeing skills into the general training, it means members will be able to go to any committee member for signposting if they need support.
	* It's important to remember the wellbeing element of the role will only be about knowing how to respond if someone approaches you with a wellbeing issue, and this will involve you signposting them to the relevant support service. No society committee member should be providing direct support to society members with issues that they aren't qualified to support them with.
4. **Archives**
	* Did you know that the University Archives collects and preserves both paper and digital records of student societies? Donating your society’s memorabilia to the Archives, rather than leaving them in a cupboard or throwing them out at the end of the academic year, will help ensure that its activities and achievements are remembered for the future. If your society has any of the following materials, please consider offering them to the Archives team:
		+ Advertising fliers, leaflets and posters about the society and its activities
		+ Photographs and footage from the society’s events
		+ Newsletters/updates produced by the society
		+ Minutes of society meetings/Annual General Meetings
		+ Annual reports and accounts
		+ Society merchandise, such as badges and stickers
	* From mid-April, you can leave small donations of paper records in designated drop boxes within the Union. To discuss the potential donation of large amounts of material or of digital records specifically, please contact the Archives team at archives@strath.ac.uk.
5. **Charity Year**
	* Charity Year applications will need to be submitted before April 22nd and will be judged on April 23rd! Please remember if you have done ANY fundraising as a society in either semester to put an application in, to have a chance to win that amazing cash prize!
	* Certificates and awards will be presented at the STAR Awards.
	* You can enter on the Union website under Charity Year here: <https://www.strathunion.com/groups/charity/>
6. **Logging Volunteering Hours and Skills**
	* Remember to log your volunteering hours and log your skills! It is a great way to get recognition for all the amazing hard work you put in and even get invited to the STAR Awards!
	* To log your hours and skills, log onto the website and the go to the opportunities tab and click “Volunteering”. Scroll past all our amazing external volunteering opportunities to the bottom and click “Log your hours and skills”. Create your profile and then you should be able to start logging all the great things you do! This is also where you log that you attended the GM and any training!
7. **Societies Trolley**
	* We're really excited that we've now got a societies trolley, which has been purchased using the Alumni Fund. This can be used by any society to transport heavy and bulky items from the cupboard. Societies should sign the trolley out and back in again every time they use it, and carefully follow the rules for using the trolley safely - these can be found on the wall above the trolley in the cupboard.
8. **Societies Cupboard**
	* JC reminded everyone of the importance of keeping the cupboard clean and tidy. Everything in the cupboard must be stored in a box on your designated shelf, and anything not in a box must be labelled and should only be there with the agreement of the societies team. Anything messy like paint must be in a box and should only be there with the express permission of the societies team. Nothing can block any of the pathways and the door must always be locked. Anything which is stored incorrectly or without the express written permission of the societies team will be removed from the cupboard at the start of next week and may be either donated or destroyed. If societies repeatedly store material incorrectly or leave the door unlocked at any point in time, you may have your permissions to use the cupboard revoked.
9. **AGM & Handover Process**
	* All societies must hold their AGMs where they should elect a new committee and vote on society matters as well as applying for Active & Engaged badges.
	* Societies must organize a handover where they can meet with the incoming and outgoing committees, exchange handover documents and define responsibilities for incoming committee members.
	* Incoming committee members should familiarize themselves with their society’s activities and plans for the year ahead, complete their society reaffiliation by the end of May and attend training sessions in order to access the full range of society resources and opportunities.
10. **Training Day**
	* There will be a big training day on Wednesday 20th August. This will be a great opportunity to get your whole committee trained up - there will be committee training, finance training, first aid training, risk assessment training, and all sorts of other helpful trainings to help your society thrive in the 2025-26 academic year. More information will be sent to you all closer to the time, but for now please aim to keep the day free if you're on a society committee for next year!
11. **Active and Engaged**
	* Societies were reminded to complete their Active & Engaged applications. Gold societies get entered into a £500 draw, your societies will be at the top of our find a society page and it helps us see what societies have been up to over the year! If you need any support applying then please reach out. Deadline is April 9th and prize draw will happen at the STAR Awards!
	* We are also looking to add a new Entrepreneurship mini badge so keep your eye out for that!
12. **STAR Awards**
	* STAR Awards will be taking place on May 22nd! Nominations will close on April 9th, with the shortlisting happening later on!
	* Societies that are nominated will receive two tickets, and an individual nominees will have one.
	* We will have specialist cocktails and mocktails, cheap drinks, an after party hosted by DJ Kwaku and some fun times to be had overall!
	* Dress code is come as you are, so come along and celebrate all the amazing work of societies this year!
13. **Culture Day**
	* There will be two cultural day events happening on the 27th/28th May where societies can have a stall, performance or activity to showcase their culture and country. We will be sending out a booking form in due course and any questions in the meantime please contact VP Inclusion: strathunion.vpinclusion@strath.ac.uk
14. **External Catering**
	* JC reminded societies that external catering is not to be brought into any room bookings, both Union and University. Please indicate this in your room booking request if you would like catering for your event and please email with details: strathunion.societies@strath.ac.uk
15. **Policy Amendments**
	* Amendment 1
	Purpose: to remove the section on Balls from the societies policy, as the Union is no longer able to support Ball activity.
	*Remove section 6.e.* Balls*and renumber as appropriate. Add "except for the purpose of Ball activity" to the end of section 9.a.i. so it reads "The Society will be provided with a bank account within the union in order to manage their accounts. Societies are not permitted to hold bank accounts outwith the union or to hold funds in any other premises except for the purpose of Ball activity".*As this is an operational matter, this amendment is for discussion only and was not subject to a vote.
		+ Members raised that the communication around balls could’ve been tighter, and it’s important to keep societies in the loop.
		+ A member asked if there were plans in future for societies to be able to be involved in balls. Not being able to use bank accounts is over the top. Could there be a “Grad Ball” society everything could go through?
			- EG explained that the current decision is unlikely to change without significant external changes outwith our control. A Grad Ball society wouldn’t be a feasible option as it would not fix the issues which led to this decision.
		+ Members noted that some banks have stopped offering Clubs and Societies accounts.
		+ A member noted that in their experience a bank could take over 12 weeks to set up an account.
		+ Members noted challenges around handing over ball finances, etc. each year without the support of the Union, particularly with regard to changing bank signatories.
		+ Members noted that this decision was shifting workload from staff to students.
		+ Members noted the challenges that exist between different faculties – some are easier to contact than others and are more cooperative and involved than others. In the case of music societies there is no faculty anymore. A member raised that under these changes it’s unlikely that Music balls will be able to go ahead at all for the foreseeable future.
		+ Members also raised concerns with not being able to vote on this decision, with this setting an “uncomfortable precedent”.
		+ An idea was raised to have a fuller discussion at the next GM about Balls with the intention of trying to find ways forward which work for both the Union and for societies.
		+ JC thanked everyone for the discussion.
	* Amendment 2
	Purpose: to remove being a point of contact for societies as a core part of the Societies Executive role. Societies Executive members can absolutely still be contacted by society committee members for support, but by removing the requirement from the policy, this allows Societies Executive members to focus more on the core parts of their role which is approving grant requests, affiliations, etc.. The Societies Team will continue to be the main point of contact for societies.
	*In Section 8.b. delete "Act as points of contact and support for society committee members; Societies will be allocated to each member so that each society has one dedicated point of contact."*
		+ A member noted that removing the role from Socs Exec won’t make any difference to workload or efficiency if it results in the Societies Team having to pass more things to Socs Exec rather than the other way around.
			- EG noted that the role of Socs Exec is very specific as per the Societies Policy, and therefore there are many more instances where the Socs Exec would have to pass things to the Societies Team than the other way around.
		+ A member asked if the Societies Team can make themselves more visible to make it easier for societies to approach them.
		+ A member asked if this would amendment would remove the Intersoc role.
			- EG confirmed this is correct.
	* Amendment 2 was voted on.
	For: 42
	Against: 20
	Abstain: 11
	The amendment was passed.
16. **Societies Executive Committee Election**

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| **Candidate** | **Round** |
| **1** | **2** | **3** |
| Cammy Ward | 11 | Fern, Matt and Shania were elected. Their surplus votes were redistributed. | **12** | Kelsey and Cammy were elected. Their surplus votes were redistributed. |  | Chep was elected. |
| Matt Burrell | **14** |  |  |
| Jonny O’Kane | 2 | 5 | 6 |
| Shania Maritz | **12** |  |  |
| Kelsey Bannerman | 8 | **16** |  |
| Fern Dalziel | **19** |  |  |
| Chep Jackson | 6 | 8 | **16** |
| Ballots submitted: 73 Spoilt ballots: 1 Valid ballots: 72 Quota: 11.3 |

Fern Dalziel, Matt Burrell, Shania Maritz, Kelsey Bannerman, Cammy Ward and Chep Jackson were elected.

1. **Close**
	* JC closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. They additionally thanked and congratulated everyone on their work over the past year and thanked everyone for their support to them as VP Community.