**Societies General Meeting 1 – 28/09/2023**

**Justyna – Chair**

**Alexandra – Clerk**

**Start of meeting**

Justyna introduces herself and the topics she is going to talk about.

**Updates**

**Societies Quiz**

Talks about society quiz and encourages people to join in to win 100.

**Room Booking Fees**

New policy that allows society to book rooms in TL without paying over weekend

**Embedding Sustainability in Societies**

If you had freshers stall you got the Embedding Sustainability QR code on the tables.

**Budget Update**

18% of the general pot has been spent and 5% of Arts & Culture

**Alumni Fund Update**

The alumni fund has one cycle of funding this year, in Spring. Applications open in January most likely. Alumni fund is money that alumni give to the university.

Justyna and Molly advocate for you to be granted money based on your application. Elaine is on the university team for alumni funds and will run informative workshops on how to apply, how a good application looks like etc.

**Active & Engaged**

It’s a recognition scheme for societies for things they achieve. There are mini badges and based on how many you achieve you get one of the three badges (Gold, Silver, Bronze). At the moment the badges for this year have been given based on last year’s progress.

**Strath Active**

Strath Active is an initiative made by the Sport Union. Sports Clubs have recreational sessions, but Strath Active offers other sport activities you can join for free. You can make sport suggestions to Lee the coordinator of the program.

**Diverse Leadership Program**

Kathy is running a DLP program. You can find more info on the website. The deadline to sign up is 3rd of October. You will gain lots of different skills during the sessions and for any questions ask Kathy.

**Creative Hub**

Racheal introduces herself. Explains what the creative hub is. In February there will be a week of events happening. The Creative Hub is a platform for you to showcase your skills. If you want to participate sign up using the QR code from the slides. If you have any questions or want more information email Racheal.

**Points of Contact**

Introducing the full-time staff and what they can give support with. The Activities Coordinator can help you with booking rooms, general questions (eg where to store things), organizing balls and events, finance queries etc.

VP Community is more of a strategic role, things you want to see/change, facilitates input to the university, chair of the socs exec (affiliates/re-affiliates socs, gives funding)

All socs exec members are volunteers and do a lot of things to help societies (make informative videos, talk to societies, attend the socs exec meetings)

You can find the full responsibilities of people in the socs exec in the slides.

Socs exec is going to be trained in welfare.

There is a discord to chat with the socs exec, but they can also be reached via email/Instagram. See slides for details.

**How to the Intersoc Rep Project Developed**

The project has been approved, introduced last year and first session was held in November 2022. The Discord was created, and a new role has been added on the committee.

**Room bookings**

The room booking system will be improved. At the moment the university handles the booking system, and the union is just the messenger.

The comments made on the Menti Quiz will be addressed.

**Tips**

The Advice Hub can help with finance, housing, and academic problems. The academic problems are not communicated with the university since the Advice Hub is separate from them. The university has a wellbeing office as well.

Hear to Listen is a volunteering program, that offers peer-to-peer support with students who have been trained on active listening. You can come to hear to listen with any issues you might want to talk about or if you don’t have nay problems you can just come and have a chat with the volunteers. Jo is the Disabled Student Rep for this academic year and she can help you with any concerns that you have.

**A Successful Grant Request**

Justyna encourages societies to say where they get funding from besides the socs exec.

Jamie: Talks about part funding. Part funded applications show you are putting in the effort to get the money from other resources. If you know you have an event in a couple of months, you can apply to a grant as early as possible in case you have any missing information and this gives you the chance to get as much funding as possible. Provide comparative costs where possible and explain why a specific choice is made.

In the evidence you have to give as much detail as possible, why you need something, why is it important etc. If your society is somehow related to a department we like seeing departmental funding even if they rejected you.This shows you exhausted all options before applying for the grant.

**Funds that you need to know about**

Participation fund is for socs members who can’t afford to pay a socs membership.

**Societies AGM Ettiquette**

Committee members should be elected not appointed. All committee positions have to be elected, even during the year you have to host an emergency AGM if you want to fill the vacant role.

If you don’t have access to the committee resources that means you are not affiliated.

If you have a change in the constitution you have to let the socs exec know and it must be approved by them.

**Text on Webpage**

If you have text on images the accessibility tool on the website is not working, so some students won’t be able to read the info. You can still have the images but write below the image a description of what is the picture.

**Sustainability Hub**

Has been launched this year. It’s a bookable space which can be booked by us.

**SD500 Course**

Free online sustainability course. Around 2 hours long and it introduces you to sustainability and it’s a good starting point for anyone who wants to learn more.

**Looking Forwards**

Some dates to get involved with societies and promote your society (see dates in slides). Email us for details.

During the Christmas market if you want to sell things to make money for your society you can do that.

Re-freshers is happening in January for, January intake students and you can promote your society then. More details to come.

**Societies Exec Elections**

Karen introduces herself and says why she wants to be on the socs exec.

Karen was appointed as the Intersoc rep.

**Thank you!**

**End of meeting**