

## Societies Council Meeting 4 Minutes



Minutes of societies council Meeting 4 held on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 10am on Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Douglas Livingston (DL)- Chair  
Chris Opoku (CO)- Head Of Logistics  
Lora Addison (LA)- Clerk/Staff Support  
JoyceIn Asensu (JA)- Head Of Membership & New Societies  
Barbara Baah (BB)-Head of political, hobby and social societies.  
Sara MacLean- Student Voice Team Leader (SVTL) (Agenda item 3)

### 1. Welcome & Declaration of Interests

DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and no members declared interests.

### 2. Apologies

Zoe Nicholson (ZN)- VP SCEBE  
Natalie Elliot (NE)-Head of Academic Societies  
Dorota Makaruk (DM)- Head of Communications

### 3. Consultation on Strategy 2025

*Sara MacLean Student Voice Team Leader entered the meeting*

SVTL talked through the strategy, and explained the background.

A discussion was started around the use of the words mental health and wellbeing, should it be both or just one? DL noted it was important to consider the definition of both, and also asked how far the help with mental health and wellbeing stretches. SVTL noted this was good feedback.

CO noted the use of the word inclusive, and asked if this was an appropriate use of word. Would diversity be better? Inclusive is more of a feeling. How will we reflect inclusivity/diversity?

SM explained the use of KPIs and this is how we will monitor the success within each of these areas.

DL noted that surveys and focus groups are not always best. SVTL noted that there are other ways such as green impact or remaining financial sustainable.

DL noted that the average response rate to GCU Surveys is a low percentage of the student population.

EP suggested that getting involved in extra circular activities should be more explicit in the mission and values. Due to the importance of this to the student experience.

EP added that the SDGs are a huge area, and it could be a struggle to incorporate fully into our activities. It might be better to write aligns with, contributes to or supports the SDGs rather than

incorporate them as part of the strategy. SVTL noted this feedback and added that we need to use them in our strategy to allow us to align with GCU.

SVTL thanked council members for their feedback and exited the meeting.

#### **4. Matters Arising from previous meeting**

BB noted that she had not spoken to DM about the social media post.

LA had no dragons den applications

LA had spoken to Melissa the finance manager and said that it might be possible for Societies affiliated in Tri B or C to keep their funding, and this matter will be looked into further.

#### **5. Approval of Previous Minutes**

DL asked members to use the virtual hand to approve the minutes of the meeting from Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Approval 5

Reject 0

Reject part of minutes 0

#### **6. Dragons' Den Update**

LA reiterated that no applications were received, but said that council had done the right thing by offering it.

#### **7. Memberships Update\*\***

LA shared the Memberships comparison from March 2020 and March 2021. Noting that some societies had thrived under the current conditions and others struggled. LA then talked through those who have not registered for next year, noting that some were a surprise but others were not.

#### **8. Societies Council Elections, handover and feedback form**

LA noted that all positions had been filled for next year. Council members agreed to complete a handover and send to LA before 31<sup>st</sup> May. LA talked through what was required for the handover and if anyone struggles they should contact her. LA also asked members to complete a feedback form on their experience.

#### **9. Verbal Reports- Updates since last meeting**

There were no updates.

***\*\* The meeting concluded at 10:56\*\****

## Matters Arising

Action	Date of Meeting	Notes	Progress
DM to get in touch with BB for information for introductory social media post	5 <sup>th</sup> March		
LA to set up a poll for the date of next meeting.	ALL Meetings	This will be an ongoing matter from meeting to meeting.	
LA to add the funding changes into the societies policy for approval by Societies Council and then Student Voice.	5 <sup>th</sup> March		
LA to investigate the possibility of new societies keeping their funding.	5 <sup>th</sup> March		
LA to open Dragons' Den Applications.	5 <sup>th</sup> March		
All to send DM photos and bio by 29 <sup>th</sup> September.	25 <sup>th</sup> September		
DM to promote training and 121s on the social media channels.	25 <sup>th</sup> September		
ZN to begin planning Feel Fab Feb	25 <sup>th</sup> September		
LA to set up a poll for the date of next meeting.	25 <sup>th</sup> November & 16 <sup>th</sup> November	This will be an ongoing matter from meeting to meeting.	
LA to send NE PDF document on academic societies.	25 <sup>th</sup> September		
LA to share info on Funding League.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
Everyone to review the funding league and come prepared to the next meeting with suggestions.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
LA to invite the Nigerian Students' Society to present and will inform members of the date/time chosen.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
LA to share membership stats from October 2019.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
DM to promote the E&E step challenge.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
LA to ask members if they wish to enter the step challenge	16 <sup>th</sup> November		

LA to ask societies if they wish to attend social media training	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
CO to send LA useful resources on social media use.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
DM to post social media content on what Societies Council is and the purpose.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
NE and LA to attend meeting with Head Of Surveying and Construction.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		
CO to support Nigerian Students' Society with their funding application.	16 <sup>th</sup> November		