

## Societies Council Meeting 2 Minutes

Date Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Time: 5pm

Room: NH208

### In Attendance:

Rachael Brown (RB)-Chair

Monica Allen (MA)- Head of hobby, social and political societies

Emma Wallace (EW)-Head of academic societies

Kathryn McNicol (KMC)- Head of membership and new societies

Antonia Voss (AV)- Head of communication

Lora Addison (LA)- Societies Coordinator (Clerk)



	Agenda item	Action Required	Person responsible
1.	<b>Welcome &amp; Declaration of Interests</b>  EW Declared interest in the pole society	Update	Chair
2.	<b>Apologies</b>  Susan Docherty (SD)- VP SCEBE  LA advised that although Ernest Baah (EB)- Head of Logistics and Eileen O'Neil (EON)- Head of Culture and Faith Groups were not present, that they had not sent apologies.	Update	Clerk
3.	<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>  The chair called upon council members to vote on minutes from Meeting 1 which took place on 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2019.  Approve: 5  Reject: 0  Reject part of minutes: 0	Approval	Chair

	The minutes were therefore approved.		
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising from previous meeting</b></p> <p>RB referred to the matters arising and confirmed the completed matters. RB then asked for an explanation on each matter which was still ongoing.</p> <p>LA explained she would discuss the Re:Union Bar wall frames during agenda item seven.</p> <p>KMC informed council members she had not managed to speak to Jonnie England (previous Head of Membership and new societies) yet, regarding the role and would endeavour to have this completed by the next meeting. This matter is ongoing.</p> <p>RB noted that SD and EON were not present and so could not update on their matters, therefore these matters are still ongoing.</p>	Update	Chair
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>Policy Motions</b></p> <p><i>These societies have been informally approved via Facebook poll, but at this meeting a formal vote took place</i></p> <p>RB called for a vote on the Pole Society separately due to EW declaring interest.</p> <p><b>1. Activation of New Societies</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pole Society</li> <li>Approve 4</li> <li>Abstain 1</li> <li>Against 0</li> </ul> <p>The pole society was therefore approved.</p> <p>RB called for a vote on the remaining new societies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Audio Society</li> <li>Catholic Society</li> <li>Games Development Society</li> <li>Italian Society</li> <li>VAFFF Society</li> </ul>		Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCU Programming Society</li> </ul> <p>Approve 5 Abstain 0 Against 0</p> <p>The above societies were therefore approved.</p> <p><b>2. Societies Policy Document potential Changes</b></p> <p>LA explained the idea to change the societies policy document 4.0 Withdrawal Of Activation. This change would reflect set criteria for the societies coordinator to follow before recommending to council that a society be deactivated. LA invited the council members to suggest changes.</p> <p>RB suggested the criteria should state that if the society committee has not responded to two emails from GCU Students' Association staff then this would raise a concern with staff. The societies coordinator should then send a third email to inform the society committee of the potential next steps e.g. recommended deactivation.</p> <p>AV suggested checking society social media to see if are active online, as not all students use email regularly.</p> <p>It was agreed by council members that the policy should state two unsuccessful email communications and then no response from a form of alternative contact such as Facebook message or phone call. The societies coordinator should then suggest deactivation to council, who will then discuss at their earliest convenience.</p> <p><b>3. London Societies Policy Review</b></p> <p>RB asked council members to give feedback on</p>		
--	--	--	--

	<p>The new policy.</p> <p>Council members agreed that the policy looks good, and covers everything. RB noted the London policy has been able to take note of the improvements to our policy and has allowed creation of the best possible policy.</p> <p><b>ACTION: LA will update the policy to reflect changes. And bring to the next meeting for council to approve.</b></p>		
6.	<p><b>Campaigns for Membership/Social Event</b></p> <p>RB informed council members of the importance of having high society membership numbers and asked for suggestions on what council could do to impact this.</p> <p>AV suggested the idea of a poster, and will work on creating one to promote society membership. EW recalled previous societies council members occupying a stall in the campus life lounge, and this could be an option.</p> <p>Council members began to discuss the idea of a society social in the Re: Union bar. RB noted the importance of having lots of membership forms to hand, to encourage everyone who is there to sign up to a new society.</p> <p>RB suggested refreshers week as date for the event and council agreed Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020. RB suggested having a meeting before the event to discuss ideas for a theme. KMC suggested a potential beach party theme.</p> <p>KMC suggested getting in touch with the events Society to ask to help out. RB will contact.</p> <p>LA asked how council members would handle the sponsorship payment, it was agreed the payment should go to a societies council account which can be used for society development.</p>	Update	Chair

	<b>ACTION: AV to create societies poster</b> <b>ACTION: LA to book Re:Union Bar for societies social on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020</b> <b>ACTION: RB to contact Events Society.</b>		
<b>7.</b>	<b>Re:Union Bar Wall</b>  Due to SD's absence LA updated council members on the bar wall. LA informed council members that the logistics of the Socie-tree competition was too difficult, everyone who entered will be given a prize and the wall will feature the GCU Students' Association logo instead with the word societies. LA is discussing ordering logo vinyl with a few companies, and will then order frames.  KMC asked how many people entered the competition, LA informed not many possibly four.	Update	VP SCEBE
<b>8.</b>	<b>Dragons Den Debrief/Additional Funding</b>  RB updated council members on the success of Dragons Den, and thanked everyone for their contribution. Noting the standard of applications was very high and only two did not receive funding  RB then explained many people applying for Dragons Den were applying for materials rather than events and this spurred on the idea for a new funding model. KMC noted this was a good idea, and noted A lot of people don't realise what the funding is actually for. LA suggested changing the dragons den criteria to allow for equipment applications. Council agreed. It was suggested a second round of Dragons Den in Trimester 2, and KMC suggested £800 from Societies reserves for this.  RB suggested also telling the societies how much they can actually apply for rather than a percentage.	Update	Chair

	<b>ACTION: LA will change the criteria to allow for materials to be applied for and will also find out if it is possible to use £800 from reserves, and tell societies how much they can apply for.</b>		
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>Verbal Reports</b></p> <p>MA updated to say she emailed all societies under her remit area, but hasn't had much response. Has been working with the common good society on the foodbank collections. She especially noted a good working relationship with Common Good Society VP Elaine Penman.</p> <p><b>** MA left the meeting at 5:45pm **</b></p> <p>KMC updated that she worked with a student looking to start a vanguard card game society but is struggling with members, KMC tried to help him find interested students. She spoke to other game based societies.</p> <p>AV updated that she helped law society communicate their recent events, and has been working hard on keeping the societies council Facebook page updated regularly. AV noted the rising number of Likes and engagement. AV has been keeping up to date with societies events on facebook and has been asking societies if they would like help promoting. AV also attended an events society event at the classic grand with KMC which was not well attended.</p> <p>EW updated she has not managed to complete much as she has been busy with her own societies and has started a new society. EW will email all of her academic societies to ask if they would like help.</p> <p>RB updated she took part in dragons Den and attended student voice which involved a lot of societies discussion.</p> <p>LA read out an update on behalf of SD: SD Took part in Dragons Den Panel and is involved in a campaign with Student Life featuring the promotion of societies. Has been coordinating the societree competition. Helped the GCU Racing Society secure a better workshop space and attended Ethical Hacking Society conference as a speaker.</p>	Update	Council Members

<b>10</b>	<b>Date Of Next Meeting</b>  RB suggested the week before refreshers, council agreed a provisional date of 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020, and asked LA to confirm this with everyone on Facebook.	Update	Chair
<b>11</b>	<b>AOCB</b>  LA asked council members what their thoughts were on freshers' week.  EW noted the fair being promoted as a Sports fair by the ARC was off putting to the people not interested in sports and who maybe wanted to join societies.  EW also noted that too many people were playing music at the fair and it should probably just be Radio Caley as there was too much conflicting noise.  KMC also added sports clubs throwing balls around was off putting.  LA noted the suggested improvements.  RB asked LA the status of the potential Casual football society. LA updated the council that the students were going to apply as a sports club first. Council agreed that they would be happy to consider their societies application regardless of how the sports application goes.  LA read out a message from SD: Student wellbeing are looking for societies to come along during their weekly social group time slots (Wednesday afternoon 2-4) and have society activities during this time slot. This would allow individuals who have an interest to have a taster for the society and to continue to engage with the activity. The society could bring along membership forms and gain new members. SD asked members to promote this and consider for their own societies. EW informed the psychology society are going to get involved.		

	<p>LA updated council members on the planned dates for Re:Freshers Fair on 27<sup>th</sup> &amp; 28<sup>th</sup> January 2020 10am- 3pm in the Hamish Wood foyer.</p> <p>LA informed that societies can book stalls and a booking form would be circulated over the next few weeks.</p> <p>RB thanked council members for their Attendance.</p>		
--	---	--	--

***\*\*The meeting concluded at 6:45pm\*\****



## Matters Arising

Action	Date of Meeting	Notes	Progress
SD to begin researching the college Link with societies.	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019		
EON to email societies and set up tea and coffee meeting.	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019		
KMC to meet with Jonnie England to discuss how the role was carried out previously.	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019		
LA to order frames and consult societies	11 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2019	Awaiting logo	
LA will update the policy to reflect changes and bring to the next meeting for council to approve.	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
AV to create societies poster	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
LA to book Re:Union Bar for societies social on 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
RB to contact Events Society for help With social event.	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
LA to update Dragons Den criteria to allow for materials to be applied for and societies how much they can apply for.	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
LA will find out if it is possible to use £800 from society reserves for Tri 2 Dragons Den	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		
LA will find out if societies can be told how much is in the Dragons Den pot.	18 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2019		