

Societies Council Meeting 1 Minutes



Minutes of Societies Council Meeting 1 held on Friday 25th September at 10am on Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

Douglas Livingston (DL)- Chair
Zoe Nicholson (ZN)- VP SCEBE
Natalie Elliot (NE)-Head Of Academic Societies
Joceyln Asensu (JA)- Head Of Membership & New Societies
Chris Opoku (CO)- Head Of Logistics
Elaine Penman (EP)- Head Of Faith & Culture Societies
Dorota Makaruk (DM)- Head Of Communications
Lora Addison (LA)- Clerk/Staff Support

1. Welcome & Declaration of Interests

DL welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared interest in agenda item 5.

2. Apologies

Lewis Akers (LEA) Head of political, hobby and social societies was absent without apologies.

3. Matters Arising from previous meeting

LA noted that since this was a new council that there were no matters arising and this will be relevant at the next meeting.

4. Policy Motions

1. Funding League

LA explained the funding league for this year.

EP asked about the criteria of SLP and charging a fee. LA explained that the SLP point is one that a few societies fall down on so could be changed. Also that charging a fee is included as the society are already not utilising all the funding open to them. LA also noted that the funding league is open to change

NE suggested that a potential change is that for SLP instead of it being all members, the criteria could be a minimum number of committee members.

DM noted that societies should be made more aware of the funding league. The council agreed that along with the clerk this should be worked on this year.

LA noted that any changes to criteria can be discussed at the next meeting.

DL called for a vote to approve the funding allocations:

Approve 7

Abstain 0

Against 0

The funding allocation for 2020-21 was therefore approved.

5. Meeting Structure- Exercise Breaks

DL explained the idea that If meetings are going on for over an hour, that we should have a 2-5-minute exercise break to stretch our legs, have a drink or use the bathroom.

NE noted she agreed with the idea as long as it doesn't mean the meeting goes over the allocated time.

DL then called a vote to approve the addition of an exercise break to meetings:

Approve 7

Abstain 0

Against 0

6. Dragons' Den

LA explained the process and asked the council how they would like to run Dragons den this year. Noting the changing nature of societies activities due to Covid-19.

DM noted that online events don't cost as much money as in person events and so maybe the criteria could be changed.

ZN agreed but noted we need to consider the possibility of being back on campus at some point in the academic year. NE suggested we should delay until back on campus. However, EP noted she would not like to delay the funding and then we don't get back to campus at all.

It was noted by EP and CO that online events can still have a cost for example a speaker or online platform, and so funding may still be necessary. Noting some societies are still running a lot of online events.

NE suggested two rounds of funding one now and one in January however it was agreed by council that it is a lot of work to apply twice for not a huge amount of money, and we do not want to limit applications.

DL called a vote to run dragons den this semester but change the criteria to mean that it doesn't have to be used solely for events:

Approve 7

Abstain 0

Against 0

The council then discussed dates, and in line with the societies policy agreed on the below:

Applications open: Monday 2nd November 2020

Close: Friday 13th November 2020

Presentations: WB 23rd

ACTION: LA to post poll on Facebook to find out availability to sit on the panel.

7. Freshers' Week

ZN explained the way the Freshers fair will work, and referred to the number of societies booked. ZN requested that council members attend the fair to say hi to the groups.

ZN discussed the taster events booked by societies, and noted she was happy with the number of events but any help council could provide to promote hosting an event would be great.

ZN talked through the events the Students' Association are running, and encouraged council members to get involved.

8. Memberships 2019/20

LA talked through the memberships from last year and noted that some societies were quite dormant. LA noted that she would like to work with the council to avoid having dormant societies and encourage committee members to keep working hard. However, LA noted this is a year like no other and so we don't know how membership will turn out.

9. Social Media & Communications

DM shared her ideas for the societies council social media. Including an "introducing the council" segment. She asked if members can send a photo to share and a short bio answering questions such as favourite animal. DM requested this before 29th September so that this can launch during freshers week.

NE said she would likely not meet this deadline but would send it ASAP.

ACTION: All to send DM photos and bio.

DM would also like a society feature every week on the social media. This will allow things to be more interactive and could perhaps feature short video from the society.

Other ideas DM shared included; an informative post every few days on societies and good news stories to cheer people up during lockdown and promote positivity.

DM also noted she would like to share societies events on Instagram stories so as not to clutter the main feed.

Council agreed with these ideas and thanked DM for her hard work.

10. Committee Training & 121s

LA provided an update that 100 committee members have signed up to training, which is the highest number ever at this point in the year. Also, 14 societies have signed up for 121s which is also high. LA attributed this to the online nature making it more convenient.

LA then asked all members to help promote these to their groups and particularly DM to promote on social media.

ACTION: DM to promote training and 121s on social media.

11. Feel Fab Feb

ZN explained that she will be responsible for Feel Fab Feb this year and wants to make it bigger and better this year. ZN noted her desire to have an event every day if possible and would love societies to get involved to make it even bigger.

*****JA EXITED THE MEETING*****

DM thinks it's a great idea, and it would be good to have as many events on as possible.

NE thinks this will be great due to the blended learning model GCU are using as it could help with isolation and loneliness.

EP agreed and also noted the benefits of being involved last year, however encouraged planning as soon as possible as last year's was quite rushed and last minute.

ACTION: ZN will begin planning and keep council up to date at the next meeting.

12. Verbal Reports- Updates/Objectives for year ahead

NE would like to contact each academic school to ask for help with setting up societies and also to explain further how the funding models work to societies. As well as the remit of societies council. NE also wished to set up a Zoom meeting for the committee members of academic societies to come along to, and asked LA for advice.

LA noted this was a great idea, and she would support this. LA also spoke through a session she attended to talk through academic societies with programme leads, and will send NE the PDF document.

ACTION: LA to send NE PDF.

ZN said she has been working on Freshers but aims to attend lots of societies events this year.

CO would like to build up info about the funding league and help with ideas for online events.

DM wants to make societies more visible this year, and have consistent communications.

EP would like to encourage intersociety engagement, and promote societies through her course.

DL would like to effectively represent everyone at Student Voice and support the other council members.

13. Date of next meeting

Council agreed that WB 16th November would be ideal and that a poll should be used to determine when.

ACTION: LA To set poll on Facebook group.

14. AOCB

EP asked which new societies which were in the works, LA explained that PENSA, SDG and a consultancy society are all completing the process.

***** The meeting concluded at 11:25*****

Matters Arising

Action	Date of Meeting	Notes	Progress
LA to post poll on Facebook to find out availability to sit on the Dragons Den panel.	25 th September		
All to send DM photos and bio by 29 th September.	25 th September		
DM to promote training and 121s on the social media channels.	25 th September		
ZN to begin planning Feel Fab Feb	25 th September	This can be a standing agenda item.	
LA to set up a poll for the date of next meeting	25 th Septemebr		
LA to send NE PDF document on academic societies.	25 th September		

