

Societies Council Meeting 3 Minutes



Minutes of Societies Council Meeting 3 held on Friday 5th March 2021 at 10am on Microsoft Teams.

In Attendance:

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

1. Welcome & Declaration of Interests

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

2. Apologies

Barbara Baah (BB)-Head of political, hobby and social societies has sent apologies.
Chris Opoku (CO)- Head of Logistics has sent apologies.

3. Matters Arising from previous meeting

All matters arising have been resolved.

4. Approval of Previous Minutes

DL asked members to use the virtual hand to approve the minutes of the meeting from Monday 16th November 2020

Approval 6

Reject 0

Reject part of minutes 0

5. Policy Motions

New Society Approval

- Events Society
- Mindfulness Society
- Built Environment Society
- Debating Society

It was noted that these societies had been approved via Facebook poll but at this meeting a formal vote took place.

Approval 6

Abstain

Against

The above societies were therefore approved.

Funding League- Criteria Changes

DL talked the council through the funding league and through each of the criteria to gather everyone's thoughts. It was agreed that any changes would come into effect from September and this year's funding allocation would be based from the original criteria to keep it fair.

Number of Members- NE suggested that this is unfair as not all societies are capable of the same level of membership. The council agreed, and mentioned the societies of the month feature run by the Societies Coordinator. It was suggested this be built into the funding model, featuring a small payment each month to the society with the largest increase within the month. Thus, removing this criteria from the funding league. It was agreed this would be replaced with all committee members attending committee training.

All committee members completed the Student Leaders Programme (SLP) - NE raised that for all committee members to have completed SLP will be more difficult for societies with a committee of 10 vs a committee of 3. It was suggested that it should be a percentage of the committee required to complete SLP. ZN agreed and thought asking the full committee was too much. DL suggested asking that the president, treasurer and a third role complete SLP. It was decided that this puts too much pressure on these individuals, and that 50% of the committee would be suffice.

Charging a fee- The council discussed the place for charity based societies who do not find it appropriate to charge a fee. EP agreed and has found this within her own experience. Also, that some societies don't wish to charge a fee while operating remotely. It was agreed that this point would be changed to "Evidence of self-fundraising e.g. an event, sponsorship, membership fee or selling merchandise". As this allows the rationale for the criteria to remain but provides more flexibility.

Three events on website, registering by the deadline, submitting society pack by deadline and attending a 121 with the societies coordinator would all remain unchanged.

Council then discussed the weighting of each category, and agreed on:

Weighting	Category
1 st	Registered for the coming year by the deadline
2 nd	All committee members attending committee training
3 rd	Society Pack submitted by the deadline
4 th	One-to-One meeting with societies coordinator arranged and attended

5 th	Evidence of self-funding e.g. sponsorship, membership fee, event or selling goods
6 th	50% of committee members completed Student Leaders Programme
7 th	At least 3 events created on Students' Association Website.

Council then discussed the percentage of budget distributed to each area of societies funding and decided on:

Societies Funding League: 70%

New Societies Fund: 15%

Dragon's Den: 10%

Societies of The Month 5% (running from September-April)

DL asked members to vote on the discussed changes to the funding model:

Approve:6

Abstain:0

Against: 0

EP asked the societies coordinator to investigate if new societies can keep their funding for the next academic year instead of the Students' Association withdrawing it in July.

ACTION: LA to add the funding changes into the societies policy for approval by Societies Council and then Student Voice.

ACTION: LA to investigate the possibility of new societies keeping their funding.

6. Dragons' Den

DL explained we are quite far into the Trimester now, and activities will be dying down for the summer soon so asked council if they wanted to organise a second round of Dragons' Den.

ZN said she is aware of a society who would be interested in applying.

Council discussed options to run Dragons' Den but in a much less time consuming way. It was suggested that LA opens applications today to close in two weeks. Societies will only need to complete one round of the application which can be a video submission, PowerPoint or written application and council will make a decision based on this. Without the need for a panel meeting. Council should try and come to a decision before 26th March to allow time for the society to spend any funding.

DL called for a vote on the Dragons' Den Plans:

Approve 6

Abstain 0

Against 0

7. STAR Awards

LA explained the details for the event. It will take place on Thursday 15th April from 5pm via Facebook live and YouTube. It will be hosted by the Full Time Officer Team, there is a possible DJ lined up and trophies will be posted out. Societies awards are; Best New Society, Society of The Year, Best Society Event and Best Overall Contribution from a committee member. LA encouraged the council to get involved and share this information with other students.

8. Memberships Update**

LA shared the current membership of each Society and compared with this time in 2020. It was noted that some societies such as nursing have thrived under the current conditions but that others have suffered.

Council took note and thanked LA for the information.

9. Feel Fab Feb**

ZN informed council that this month long campaign was a success. She also thanked EP and DM for their help with the volunteering videos. ZN also noted that there was a good motivation from students to get involved.

DL thanked Zoe for running this and noted it was well needed at this difficult time.

As Feel Fab Feb has now ended, this will not be included in future agendas.

10. Upcoming Starter Societies**

LA noted that there has been a good boost recently with new societies affiliating. There are still societies completing the process; PENSA and Greek Cypriot. LA also noted she had been in discussion with students interested in starting a Sign Language Society and Women in STEM.

11. Committee Elections & Societies Council Elections.

LA reminded council that the deadline for societies to register for 2021/22 was 12th March at 5pm and to remember to support societies in meeting the deadline. She also noted that nominations for the new societies council had opened, current council will be in place until May and then the new one will take over. NE asked if it is possible for anyone to remain on council, LA said yes but that they would need to follow the democratic process e.g. nominating themselves and participating in an election if contested.

12. Social Media Update**

DM updated that Instagram followers have gone up by 31 since the last meeting, and Facebook Likes by 12. DM has been trying to follow all current societies on Instagram which she thinks she has now completed. Upcoming posts include information on societies council activity, insight into

GCU Societies and a Student Leaders Programme post. DM will ask BB to send her information for an introduction post.

Council thanked DM for this, and also for her hard work promoting the FTO Elections.

ACTION: DM to contact BB for information for introductory social media post.

13. Verbal Reports- Updates since last meeting

ZN has been meeting with the Societies Coordinator for regular catch ups and attending Student Voice. SCEBE school board also mentioned how it was great to see a built environment society. LA thanked NE for her help with this society.

NE has been promoting FTO elections, AGMS and STAR Awards. She also attended a meeting with the Head of Department for Construction and Surveying regarding setting up the Built Environment Society.

EP has been emailing societies but isn't getting much response. The Societies Coordinator explained that it can be tough but thanked EP for her efforts, and advised keeping an eye on social media to see what societies are doing.

DM doesn't have anything additional to agenda item 12 and JA does not have any updates.

No updates were sent from CO or BB.

*****NE exited the meeting*****

14. Date of next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in the first fortnight of April, a Facebook poll will be used to determine exact date as usual.

ACTION: LA to create a poll to determine next meeting date.

***** The meeting concluded at 11:56am*****

Matters Arising

Action	Date of Meeting	Notes	Progress
DM to get in touch with BB for information for introductory social media post	5 th 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 th March		
LA to investigate the possibility of new societies keeping their funding.	5 th March		
LA to open Dragons' Den Applications.	5 th March		
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		
LA to send NE PDF document on academic societies.	25 th September		
LA to share info on Funding League.	16 th November		
Everyone to review the funding league and come prepared to the next meeting with suggestions.	16 th November		
LA to invite the Nigerian Students' Society to present and will inform members of the date/time chosen.	16 th November		
LA to share membership stats from October 2019.	16 th November		
DM to promote the E&E step challenge.	16 th November		
LA to ask members if they wish to enter the step challenge	16 th November		
LA to ask societies if they wish to attend social media training	16 th November		
CO to send LA useful resources on social media use.	16 th November		
DM to post social media content on what Societies Council is and the purpose.	16 th November		
NE and LA to attend meeting with Head Of Surveying and Construction.	16 th November		
CO to support Nigerian Students' Society with their funding application.	16 th November		