

**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES COUNCIL**

9th May 2019 // MINUTES

Time: 6pm

Venue: Founder’s Lecture Theatre

* **Welcome and introductions**
  1. *Welcome from hosting sabbatical officers, Holly Hughes, VP Societies and Media (HH) and Dominic Brown, VP Sport (DB).*
* **Communications (Section for anyone to share events/updates)**
  1. *Elections Voting: 13th – 15th May. Please remind all members to vote!*
  2. *Student Group Training: the newly formatted SOTC. This will be held on 10th June. Shorter and more targeted training. All new committees will be invited, this will mainly be aimed at Presidents and Treasurers. This will tie into the new grant allocation process too.*
  3. *Committee Handovers: Reminder to make sure that you run some kind of handover with your outgoing and incoming committee members. Work through this however you wish in a format which works for you. HH can provide more support if you are not sure how to do this or what to pass on.*
  4. *Kit Tender: Coming to the end of the process. Our current kit contract with Samurai is running out in June, so have to go to procurement to allow companies to bid to be the new supplier. 7 submissions from companies. 3 open sessions, which were well attended by a range of clubs, and formed part of the official marking criteria. There will be the opportunity to attend kit clinics over the summer to take on any feedback from clubs around their current playing kit.*
  5. *CRM: Piloting stage ongoing with clubs and societies taking part and giving feedback. HH gave a demonstration of the CRM system, covering help articles, accessing the portal, creating a ticket. Using the portal is much faster and more efficient than using the student opportunities email address.*
  6. *Student Group Emails: These will all be moving from outlook onto google. This will synchronise with student groups’ finance access. This will make administering the accounts and supporting with issues smoother and easier, as the Students’ Union holds all of the administrative access for google accounts.*
  7. *New Group/Group Development Fund: Deadline to apply 24th May. This can be used to invest in new equipment or initiatives for next year.*
  8. *Democracy Review: CJ gave an update on the progress of the Democracy review, including the consultation, the recommendations, and the impact on students in all capacities. Students are encouraged to head to the Democracy Review website in order to see a summarised view of the changes. In order to change the constitution, 5% of the SU’s membership must vote in order to validate any changes. HH raised the point that the current system does not represent students in the most effective way, and this change is to make the student experience better. CJ explained a summary of the structures, including student collectives, policy enquiries, executives, service development groups. HH and DB discussed the merging of the VP Societies and Media and VP Sports roles, and how this will bring positive change for students. Questions were asked about the executives and non-portfolio positions for creative arts; constitutions and by-elections for individual groups. Please email or go onto facebook for more information.*
* **Officers report**
  1. *Colours Ball: Well attended and always things to improve.*
  2. *Varsity: More societies than ever, great to see clubs supporting each other.*
  3. *Facility Allocation: MB, DB, HH, BD working on facility allocation for training times. Updates coming soon.*
  4. *Annual Operating Plan for Student Opportunities: contributing to the operational plans of the Student Opportunities team for the 19-20 academic year.*
  5. *Venues Disciplinary: Reviewing the process which hasn’t been updated for a while to make sure this is most appropriate for students.*
  6. *Manifesto Planning: DB has been planning out how to deliver on his manifesto points over the summer and into 19-20 academic year.*
  7. *Student Group Training: Revamped and fit for purpose, to be more effective and helpful for students.*
  8. *Mental Health Training: Trained 30 staff and student staff over Easter. Another training session on 15th May from 2pm – 4pm. There are 4 spaces left.*
  9. *Ratifications: Two more new societies – Rock and Metal and Taiwanese. 17 Societies and 1 Sports Club ratified this year.*
  10. *Socs Ball: Looking at options for feedback and how to improve this event for attendees. This project will be picked up by next year’s officers, with lots of opportunities to feed in.*
  11. *Studio 3: £9950 of Lotto Community Funding to revamp media suites, which will be a big project and a massive opportunity for media outlets, groups and the local community.*
  12. *Academic Societies: HH and JO have finished their first paper for academic societies structure and support. This will be continued by next year’s officers.*
  13. *Email Changes: all groups will be moving onto a google email account.*
  14. *Media Elections:*
  15. *Policy and Procedure Review: Grant Allocation Process starting to begin*
* **Any other business**
  1. *Well done to Photography Society for their second place in the National Societies’ Awards.*
  2. *Sunday is the deadline to nominate for Laurels.*
  3. *LGBT Society: Glitter Bomb tomorrow at the SU. Eurovision Party on 18th May. World Food Fest on 1st June. Albert Kennedy Trust Gala on 3rd June.*
  4. *Riding: Pub Quiz take over at the Packhorse on Sunday.*
  5. *Thank you from both sabbs for a wonderful year.*