

SSO Executive Minutes

Date & time	Thursday 3 April: 17:00-19:00
Location	Moore Annexe – 034A
Attendance	<p>Carmen Anderson (CA) – Didn't attend Atinuke Baker (AB), Didn't attend Charley White (CW) Tomasz Ostrowski (TO) – Didn't attend Anna Tomongkhon (AT) Eleanor Wooller (EW) Issy Trapnell Hoyle (ITH) – Didn't attend Alissa Taylor (AT) – Didn't attend Sam Sattari (SSat) Bana Asqalan – VP Societies and Sport & Chair (BA) Laura Black – Student Voice Manager (LB) Julia Saunders – Student Opportunities Manager & Secretary (JS) Rachel Graham – Head of Active Lifestyle & Sport (RG) Kieran Nixon – Sports Development Senior Manager (KN)</p>
Apologies	<p>Rawand Al Hroub (RAH) Julian Littleton (JL) Poppy Coates (PC) Sharanya Sivarajah – President (SS)</p>

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
	Welcome & introductions	BA	
	Officer update	BA	
	Previous minutes / actions	BA	
	Results of January Ratifications		
	ALS Feedback and Insight	KN	
	Student Leader Conference	JS	
	Shout About It Week	BA	
	Society Awards Feedback	BA	
	Colours Balls Feedback	BA	
	Deratifications and 1-year reviews	BA	
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Big Exec Feedback - Hold date for Executive Thank You Drinks on 29/05 (after final SSO) at The Packhorse from 7pm. - Reminder to complete (read and respond) April Ratifications - deadline midday, Monday 7 April 2025. 	BA BA	

Item	Notes	Action
Welcome & Introductions	Introduced ALS to the group	
Officer Update	<p>Bana gave an update on what she has been working on this in Term 2. This included but was not limited to:</p> <p>This Girl Can Campaign – taster sessions</p> <p>Her manifesto aim of Strength & Conditioning classes, including a pilot programme</p> <p>Launching an International Student survey</p> <p>Planning EDI workshops around Antisemitism and Islamophobia</p> <p>Ramadan campaign, giving out dates and created a Soukh lounge to relax</p> <p>Society Awards, Varsity and Colours Ball</p>	None
Previous Minute Actions including January Ratification results	<p>5 groups provided documentation.</p> <p>Ratified 4: Karate, Cocktail, STAR, Urdu</p> <p>Alpha was not ratified</p>	None
Active Lifestyle and Sport (ALS) Feedback and Insight	<p>Rachel Graham and Kieron Nixon from Active Lifestyle and Sport attended to provide an update on the Sports strategy at the University and gain some feedback.</p> <p>The key takeaways were the ambition to make people healthy and happier. This includes Students, Staff and the local communities. ALS provide the sport service and facilitate it however ALS are not always leading the activity some is student led.</p> <p>RG presented the strategy with the key priority strands as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Move more -Be Fit -Inclusive clubs -Perform well -Enrich community -Activity Environment for 2030's <p>There is a need to think about future cohort. They are restricted by space, facilities and university budgets</p> <p>They work in partnership with the Students' Union and VP Societies and Sport (Bana)</p> <p>How have ALS supported sports clubs this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Intro of Surridge kit - 136 hrs a week of free on-site allocation - Meeting with sports clubs to understand goals for the year 	None

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organising bespoke and open workshops on key themes that clubs see benefit in - New staff hired to deliver Strength and Conditioning training - Volunteering opportunities for clubs - Worked with SU to develop club minimum operating standards - Celebration of club achievements through communication channels - Support in organising club events throughout the year <p>Planning for 25/26</p> <p>What can ALS do better or differently to help students to take part in physical activity and sport as part of their student experience?</p> <p>ALS wanted to reach groups they don't usually speak to.</p> <p>Everyone said physical activity was important for their wellbeing.</p> <p>It is apparent there is a lot of disconnect of what is offered and what students think is available.</p> <p>Opportunities for ad hoc activity</p> <p>Communication is a huge challenge</p> <p>Social structured opportunity</p> <p>They are doing what people want but just not getting it communicated well enough</p> <p>For clubs: There will be a more joined up approach with the Students Union to student group training in the Student Leader Conference this June</p> <p>Fit for purpose performance programme (S&C)</p> <p>Support package to assist improvement and ambition in clubs both in playing and their club community activities, building on clubs achieving minimum operation standards</p> <p>Celebrating success, not just at Colours Ball but for individuals too</p> <p>Visual representation of how all students can be involved and participate in sport and physical activity both competitively and non-competitively</p> <p>Co-designed communications plan with the SU for Club sport</p> <p>Lots more Societies getting engaged in using the space for tournaments</p> <p>ALS then asked: How can we make our physical activity and sport offer more accessible to help students achieve their desired activity level in the way that they want?</p> <p>We understand a new gym would be great but what can we do in the short term.</p>	
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	<p>AT – Participates in Polo. A big part of it is training their body off the horse. She doesn't feel like they have a space where they could access to train.</p> <p>KN – asked what sort of training would be involved?</p> <p>AT – a gym space with weights and field space to practice hitting.</p> <p>RG – the S&C sessions would be available to all sports clubs whether on or off campus</p> <p>AT – not sure if that's been communicated</p> <p>RG – not yet as new but will be</p> <p>SSat – Is there a closed off area for skipping, stretching etc. There is a small area in the gym which isn't satisfactory. Jane Holloway for classes which is good, but could it be kept open after hours for stretching, skipping etc</p> <p>RG – We can't just keep it open as needs to always be staffed but could advertise if and when it could be made available</p> <p>AT – suggested an idea for every sports clubs to do taster sessions on a rota basis each month</p> <p>KN – this is a communication issue as it does really happen. Work with the SU to do GIAG and groups do run their own but there is probably a missing link with the of campus groups</p> <p>SSat – started a discussion around the gym opening hours. Automatic barriers. Staff are in a separate building. Pure gym is open for 24 hours, wouldn't involve labour costs or need staff, wouldn't need monitoring and would bring in revenue. Only closest one is the Pure Gym in Staines. Your stance is probably that it is just easier to close at 10 which is better than it used to close at 9pm and at 6pm on weekends</p> <p>RG – original hours were a hangover from Covid but the building doesn't provide toilets, showers, changing which means we need to keep another building open needing staff. Also, they would have to keep the barrier open which provides access to other facilities. They recognise that it could bring in more revenue in the long term but it can't be facilitated at the moment. Keep pushing on the gym. Would need the university to sign off on Duty of care for the space to be opened without staffing.</p>	
Student Leader Conference	<p>JS - This year we are replacing Student Gorup Training with a 2 day Student Leader Conference. This will be held on Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 June, with 50 optional sessions delivered for all student leaders including committee members, academic reps and community officers by staff across the Students'</p>	

	Union and University depts. Pizza will be provided for lunch on the Monday and the conference will end with a free BBQ for attendees at The Packhorse.	
Shout About It Week	<p>This will be a campaign led by VP Education Madeleine Gray and Olivia Davies from 19-23 May. It is dedicated to celebrating the work of all student leaders over the year</p> <p>It is also in recognition of transferable skills gained in committee roles and other student leader positions</p> <p>It is Community officer and school reps based however Bana will be shouting out about Socs and Sports clubs and will use the Shout about it form</p>	
Society Awards Feedback	<p>CW - Drinks tickets said you got a pint but at the bar were given half a pint (Vouchers)</p> <p>Other than that it was good</p> <p>EW - Food was cold, but didn't mind it</p> <p>AT – one committee member had an upset stomach after the tiramisu, could smell the fridge smell</p> <p>Tiramisu wasn't popular. The dust on the top made people choke.</p> <p>Desert came out in the awards which was disruptive</p> <p>Difficult to keep that amount of food warm</p> <p>Someone didn't like the rice – no sauce</p> <p>Preferred doing the food first and then the ceremony</p> <p>Everything else went well, it was nice.</p>	
Colours Balls Feedback	No one attended Colours Ball at SSO this evening	
Deratifications and 1-year reviews	<p>Bana explained the process that groups that have been dormant for over a year need to be reviewed for de-ratification, and groups that have been active for a year should be reviewed.</p> <p>De-ratifications</p> <p>CW – asked whether groups with a similar core purpose money from groups could have that become de-ratified</p> <p>JS explained the funds are moved into the Access Fund account which is available to students for memberships</p> <p>SSat – could promote that these groups that exist as people don't know</p> <p>CW/EW – it is on the website</p> <p>BA – It is also advertised at Freshers</p> <p>JS – we could promote them more throughout the year</p> <p>We decided to take de-ratifications out of the meeting as we have too few people in attendance</p> <p>1 Year review:</p>	<p>JS to ask JM to provide context and create a form.</p> <p>Complete before the next SSO in May and discuss results then.</p>

	<p>Albanian – have a committee but have not been active</p> <p>AT – A friend is part of the society, they do social events but not official ones. BA to reach out to see if they require assistance with the processes.</p> <p>Automotive – active. BA to reach out</p> <p>Cat – very active</p> <p>Comic – very active</p> <p>Cybersecurity – engaged with Comp Soc for Hackaway</p> <p>Filipino – runner up for Best New Society</p> <p>Geog – runner up for Sustainability</p> <p>IceSkating – very active</p> <p>International Society – active but not approved event. JS suggested we link them to the community officer</p> <p>Makers – very active and won crests and freshman</p> <p>MedSoc – very active</p> <p>NDS – very active</p> <p>Swiftie – heard less but still active</p> <p>Touch Rugby – all resigned so now dormant</p> <p>EW – suggests should have a chance to be dormant before de-ratified</p> <p>Ukrainian – active</p> <p>Women in Stem - active</p>	
- Big Exec Feedback	<p>Feedback from Big Exec.</p> <p>EW - it was nice meeting everyone from other execs</p> <p>Thought it was nice that Tony Logan and Daniel Curran were there from the SU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold date for Executive Thank You Drinks on 29/05 (after final SSO) at The Packhorse from 7pm. - Reminder to complete (read and respond) April Ratifications - deadline midday, Monday 7 April 2025. 	