

Societies, Sports & Opportunities Executive Minutes

Date & time	27/01/2022 17:30 – 19:30
Location	Arts 031
Attendance	<p>Alex Parry (VP Societies & Sport) Henn Warwick (President) Kayleigh Fryer Josh Miskin Dan Phillips Will Nicholson Immy Small Tom Avann Rebecca Davies Milo Dack</p> <p>Dan Curran (Deputy Head of Membership, Support & Engagement) Laura Black (Senior Development Coordinator) - Secretary</p>
Apologies	Tana Randle Chloe Baker

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
1	Email end of term reviews form	AP	February
2	Take feedback on promotion of de-ratified groups to Student Opportunities team	AP	February
3	Clarify concerns around Half/Full Colours criteria to all sports clubs		February
4	Feedback the release of the seating plan and issues around swapping seats at Colours Ball to Student Opportunities team	AP	February
5	Feedback to the Student Opportunities team about the timeline for Society Awards nominations	AP	February
6	Speak to Cinema Society about laws surrounding publicising film titles in advance of screenings	AP	February
7	Reach out to Economics Society	AP	February
8	Share Google Form about late night bus service	All	February
9	Schedule catch up about ratifications	AP	31 January 22

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome	AP welcomes members and notes apologies.	

<p>2. Officer Update</p>	<p>AP takes paper as read.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Varsity IS asks about live streaming for offsite groups as discussed in previous meeting. AP explains that Student Opportunities wouldn't be able to livestream offsite groups and it's also unlikely for onsite livestreaming. However, guidance will be issued to groups on how they can arrange their own livestream which can be advertised on the Varsity webpage. <p>MD asks whether stewards will be present to monitor alcohol. AP confirms there will be designated drinking areas and stewards will be present to ensure alcohol is not brought into other areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural & Faith Festival KF asks how many cultural and faith societies have gotten involved with the festival so far, suggesting that any who have not reached out yet are kept up-to-date with any plans. AP adds that 10 societies have expressed interest so far. • Manifesto Updates End of term reviews: AP explains that there were only 9 responses and asks what can be done to improve this going forward. KF suggested making the email about the reviews more enticing and potentially offer a reward for those who fill it out. IS adds that it should be promoted more on social media. <p>WN, DP and IS state they did not receive an email about the form so this will need to be investigated in advance of sending out the review at the end of term two.</p> <p>HW suggests putting a note on the form to say how long it takes to complete to encourage more people to fill it out. KF suggests improving the formatting.</p> <p>HW asks how many SSO members completed the form but not many had. AP will send form for completion.</p> <p>Communications Channel: WN asks whether it would make sense to use SharePoint instead of the Google Drive given the move to Teams for communication. DC explains that this would be something that would be looked at long-term but would be a massive piece of work as the Google Drive is utilised a lot across the Union.</p> <p>IS worries about engagement on Teams as many are unsure how to use it. AP adds that this is likely to be the case for any platform used but there will be guidance created for student groups to refer to.</p> <p>KF suggests to keep other channels open whilst moving over to Teams and to make sure to communicate to members why Teams is being used.</p>	<p>AP to email end of term review form</p>
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<p>7. Freedom of Speech</p>	<p>HW takes papers as read.</p> <p>HW asks for feedback on the papers, specifically looking at whether the language is understandable, if anything is missing and if everything makes sense. HW adds that this is currently the consultation stage to make sure everything is ready when the Bill passes.</p> <p>KF asks what happens whether someone expresses hate speech at a student group event, and whether SU staff can be present at events to support in these occasions. DC clarifies that for all high profile guest speaker events there will be SU staff present as well as security to support.</p> <p>MD asks what happens when an individual invites someone onto campus rather than a student group. DC explains that the SU is only able to govern student groups and therefore this would fall under the University's jurisdiction to monitor. However, it is a grey area that requires further clarification before the Bill passes.</p> <p>JM asks why the paper refers to four specific protected characteristics but it doesn't extend to all nine. DC explains this is because the Bill only refers to those four.</p> <p>JM asks whether we can stop speakers coming onto campus for what they might say. DC clarifies that speakers can only be stopped if there is a perceived threat of hate speech after clear previous evidence that they have done so in the past. The Code of Practice refers to what criteria would be used to evaluate whether there is enough evidence to justify declining a speaker on campus.</p> <p>KF asks whether you can use the terror threat level as a reason to not hold a guest speaker event. DC says that it would likely need to be a local threat that would also need to be confirmed with the local police.</p> <p>JM asks what is meant by reputational risk to the Students' Union in point 4.5.3 and 4.5.4 in the code of practice, asking whether it's about the impact on how students view the Union. DC explains this is not the case, it refers to more serious reputational risk that may also have legal ramifications.</p> <p>MD asks how much detail would need to be provided to the Student Opportunities team about the content of the event and how would a group know how to implement the opportunity for a balanced view. DC explains that it's not all events that would require this, it's more likely to be higher profile ones and it would be a measure the Student Opportunities team recommend putting in place, rather than it being a requirement for all guest speaker events.</p>	
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	<p>KF asks if there is something to put in place to protect against timewasters i.e. if a group invites a large number of speakers with the purpose of utilising SU resources knowing the Bill would mean they would have to put on the event. DC says there is not a specific measure for this, but the SU would only be involved where a guest speaker event is definitely taking place.</p> <p>MD asks about point 4.8 in the code of practice and what is meant by stopping a speaker from leaving. DC clarifies that this would be about safety and in serious occasions may require support from the police in order to make sure the speaker is able to safely leave the campus.</p>	
<p>3. De-ratifications</p>	<p>Accounting, Finance & Management outcome: Dormancy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group should remain dormant in order for them to have more opportunity to be revived. The course is still running and so maybe with more time there may be interest to revive it. <p>Blueprint Investment outcome: De-Ratify</p> <p>Diplomatic outcome: De-Ratify</p> <p>Gospel Choir outcome: De-Ratify</p> <p>Hip Hop outcome: De-Ratify</p> <p>Refugee outcome: De-Ratify</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD notes that this group operates on a more ad-hoc basis where some year's interest may be higher than others. • DP adds that this does clash with some of the work of Volunteering and IS mentions Amnesty International does similar work <p>KF asks whether there can be promotion of de-ratified groups as well as dormant groups, so students would still be able to revive or re-ratify them.</p>	<p>AP to take feedback to Student Opportunities team</p>
<p>4. Colours & Societies Awards</p>	<p>AP explains that the awards are returning to in-person at the De Vere Beaumont Estate for Colours Ball on 4 March, and in the SU Hall for Society Awards on 26 May.</p> <p>AP asks whether there are any concerns about Colours Ball:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IS talks about Covid which is a general concern that will remain ongoing, but DC adds government guidance will always be reviewed. • KF says that the event runs itself so there are minimal concerns. 	

	<p>calendar also ends in term two whereas societies are more likely to continue into term three, why is one of the reasons why it was the societies awards that was moved into term three.</p> <p>Additionally availability in the venues is extremely limited, and any other date would've involved the cancellation of other student group performances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KF added that when communicating the change in timings for the awards, the rationale will need to be clear for everyone to understand. • MD mentions that people may have an exam the day after the ceremony, but DC explains whilst it's not 100% confirmed yet the final exam date is usually the Thursday with only one or two exams on that day itself, so a handful of students may be impacted. The impact on students will try to be limited as much as possible. 	
<p>5. Future of awards</p>	<p>DC explains that the Student Opportunities team is conducting a wider review into the awards. The review will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a survey post-Colours Ball and Society Awards • Collating SU Staff feedback • Collating SSO Feedback • Conducting focus groups with student group members and committee members • Benchmarking against other Students' Unions <p>This feedback will then be analysed to form feasible plans that could potentially be taken forward.</p> <p>LB asks for thoughts on what should be asked when reviewing awards. KF suggested asking people what they think the awards mean and what are they for. This should be to both committee members and group members.</p>	
<p>6. Year 1 Reviews</p>	<p>Baking: Remain dormant</p> <p>Cinema: Remain active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are advertising films but shouldn't be due to licensing issues. <p>Desi: Remain active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is noted that they are missing the role of Secretary, however the rule on having the three core roles filled is more relaxed this year given the difficulties as a result of Covid. <p>German: Remain active</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their general risk assessment has not been completed but other one-off risk assessments have been for their events. Further training on general risk assessments is needed in the future. 	<p>AP to speak to Cinema society about the advertising of films</p>

	<p>TedX: Remain dormant</p> <p>SSAGO: Remain active.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The society have had issues due to the different admin processes of the SU and SSAGO but do still have activities planned. <p>MPA: Remain dormant</p> <p>Cycling: Remain active</p> <p>93% Club: Remain active</p> <p>Economics: Remain active but require further support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AP and the Student Opportunities team have not heard from the society this year but they do have a large membership base. AP should reach out to them to see what they have been up to, 	<p>AP to reach out to the Economics society</p>
<p>8. AOB</p>	<p>SU Elections Promo – Noms close 6th Feb. Book in a 121 with Phill (email the voice team)</p> <p>Student Voice Conference Update & Promo – DC explains that the schedule is to be released soon. Over 100 ideas submitted for the conference on the back of Speak Week, so will be an exciting event to get involved in.</p> <p>Colours Ball panel – an SSO rep is required to sit on the panel. An application form will be emailed imminently so keep an eye out and apply by 7 February.</p> <p>Late night bus service – HW asks for feedback on route for a late night bus service run by the University. This is more of a general use not just post-SU use so will not drop students off directly at their door. KF notes the current route of number 8 bus is a good route and that it's important to cover the back of Englefield Green and back of the Station. HW to create a Google Form, please can everyone share the form once released.</p> <p>In-person SSO - Consensus that the next SSO should be held in-person.</p> <p>Ratifications – The next ratifications week is w/c 31 January and there is only one group to be ratified – DNA. AP to schedule a catch up to give everyone an opportunity to discuss and ask questions.</p> <p>Staff Changes – DC explains that he will no longer be attending SSO as a result of staff changes, instead LB will attending in his place.</p>	<p>All to share Google Form</p> <p>AP to schedule ratification catch up</p>