

Societies, Sports & Opportunities Executive Minutes

Date & time	27 th March 2021 – 18:00
Location	MS Teams
Attendance	<p>Lucy Brown (VP Societies & Sport) – Chair Kate Roberts (President) James Shannon Kayleigh Fryer Josh Miskin Charlotte L. Wassell Evie Skyrme Alex Parry Henn Warwick (VP Wellbeing & Diversity)</p> <p>Phill Dowler (Democracy Coordinator) – Secretary Dan Curran (Deputy Head of Membership Support & Engagement) Laura Black (Societies & Media Coordinator)</p>
Apologies	<p>Olivia Stocks Chloe Williams Afreen Shaikh</p>

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome	<p>LB welcomes members and notes apologies.</p> <p>LB welcomes AP as the incoming VP Societies and Sport and HW as the incoming President.</p>	
2. Minutes of the last meeting	LB takes paper as read and minutes are agreed.	
3. Officer Update	LB The Moves+ app's usability needs significant improvement and there should be more relevant rewards.	
4. Awards	<p>LB takes paper as read.</p> <p>AC opens up to questions. No questions are put forward.</p>	
5. BUCS & LUSL	<p>LB and LB take paper as read and note key context within through presentation.</p> <p>LB notes the next three years for student groups are focusing on recovery, rebuilding and growing.</p> <p>LB notes there are 18 clubs involved in BUCS and LUSL and costs associated per team entry.</p> <p>LB notes the Students' Union in year one will pay contributions for two entries into BUCS and LUSL per club. In year two this will change and be based on membership size with the Students' Union paying contributions for two entries for groups under 40, up</p>	

	<p>to three for groups between 40 and 80, and four for groups with over 80 members.</p> <p>LB notes that there are two groups that do not fit into the funding model as their cost go beyond identified contributions, but they will be supported to apply for Student Group Funding for the remaining amount.</p> <p>LB notes that the entry costs may change year on year and the model is based on 2019/20 entries.</p> <p>LB opens up to discussion.</p> <p>ES asks how it impacts groups accessing funding. LB notes that if groups have multiple teams, their risk factor will be considered as part of group funding.</p> <p>LB notes that the principles put forward coincide with Standard Membership and Student Group Funding proposals so should be considered with them in mind.</p> <p>Members raise concern of groups raising their membership fees to cover the costs to all or some members that may not get to take part. There is also concern that it will impact groups with existing financial struggles.</p> <p>LB notes that all groups will be worked with collaboratively, and that there will be groups that this impacts more in year two.</p> <p>JM asks how the Union will ensure that the costs of those in teams not receiving the funding will be protected from higher costs.</p> <p>DC notes that membership prices may only cover the activity that membership will cover, and not the costs of others.</p> <p>KF notes there will be a split in cost regardless, and raises concern that the split will act as a barrier to talent progressing through teams.</p> <p>LB notes that the access fund will be there to support those priced out of higher teams.</p> <p>ES asks how groups will receive the money. LB notes that the Union is invoiced for the total amount and in the process, the Union will pay the allocated amount.</p>	
<p>6. Standardised Memberships</p>	<p>LB and LB take paper as read and note key context within through presentation.</p>	

	<p>LB notes all groups will have a social membership and standard membership. After that members will be able to purchase 'top-ups' for further access to activity.</p> <p>LB notes groups will also be able to opt-in to provide instalment payments. These will be broken down by a full year membership, a term one membership and a term two membership which continues through term three.</p> <p>ES notes that the proposal is a positive step although communication will need to be clear.</p> <p>CW raises concern for added administrative work for treasurers especially in relation to travel top-ups. Members agree noting that groups might not know what their transport costs will be at the beginning of the year so may over or undercharge for this. KF adds that a transport cost would also put off supporters who may attend matches to support groups.</p> <p>LB notes that clubs are expected to identify travel costs at the start of each academic year, and have done so for years. Supporters will not need to purchase the transport top-up and groups will be expected to support this at a local level.</p> <p>Members note that some groups may attempt to circumvent this top-up as it risks more challenges than the current system.</p> <p>LB notes that the top-up is optional and groups may choose to continue with the current process for transport costs.</p> <p>LB notes that groups will be able to pick and choose the top-ups as needed. They are there to show members exactly what they're getting.</p> <p>LB notes that all changes would be incorporated into Student Group Training to bring everyone up to date.</p> <p>ES asks how the top-ups would filter into group accounts. LB notes that most top-ups would go into restricted accounts as they are reserved for specific activity.</p> <p>JS asks how associate memberships access the proposed model. DC notes that associate members are covered in the Unions' core constitution which over-rules anything that comes underneath it,</p>	
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	<p>although members will have access to any type of group membership.</p> <p>CW asks whether associate members are able to participate in competition. LB and DC note that each sport has specific rules around associate member participation in competition and needs to be identified within their sport. The only other area in which associate members don't have access to, are democratic functions.</p>	
<p>7. Student Group Funding</p>	<p>LB takes paper as read.</p> <p>LB notes three options available to group funding. Option A, which provides a guaranteed grant split by physical activity. Option B, which is a blanket guaranteed grant. Option C, which proposes a risk based approach.</p> <p>ES asks why there isn't a more flexible approach to the amounts given and queries the risk to giving groups up to £500 if they don't need that much.</p> <p>LB notes that there are only 5 groups that are considered high risk, but all options are affordable.</p> <p>KF raises concern that option C seems the riskiest and asks whether those groups in the high risk category are likely to go dormant with the funding.</p> <p>LB notes that all groups in the category are considered safe from dormancy with their activity and are in the category due to financial decisions of previous committees. If a group does go dormant and ultimately de-ratifies, all remaining funds go into the access fund.</p> <p>KF notes that identifying risks of student groups should be kept regardless of the outcome to support group development.</p> <p>LB notes that the total amount going to group funding has already been allocated, and if an option is chosen that costs less, the remaining money will go towards the Student Group Development Fund.</p> <p>CW notes that option B will free up the most money to the development fund, however groups prefer access to fund sooner rather than later, and groups don't access the development fund until September.</p> <p>LB notes that this funding model may only be used for the coming year as the focus is on group recovery.</p>	

	<p>PD notes that there aren't enough members present to formally agree which outcome to progress and an online vote will be conducted.</p> <p>Results of the vote:</p>	
<p>8. AOB</p>	<p>LB notes ratifications have been extended as the responses are not yet quorate.</p> <p>LB notes end of year social dates for SSO to consider will be circulated via email.</p> <p>CW asks whether bus tests will be available in the new year. DC notes that options regarding buses are currently being considered by the Senior Manager Team.</p> <p>ES notes ongoing work with the sustainability taskforce set up by KR. ES suggests considering having one member of each committee taking part in carbon literacy training and introducing a section in all group constitutions around sustainability.</p> <p>LB notes that sustainability work has been introduced into every team within the SU and will be taking a look at how it can be introduced to student groups. LB notes that it is also on AP's manifesto.</p> <p>LB thanks members for their time throughout the year as members of SSO, particularly this meeting as it will majorly influence groups over the next year.</p>	