

**Societies, Sports & Opportunities Executive Minutes**

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| Date & time | 23rd May 2023 17:00-19:00 |
| Location | Moore 0016 |
| Attendance | * Alastair Copland (AC) (VP Societies & Sport) - Chair
* Hannah Hockin (HH) (President)
* Julia Saunders (JS) (Student Opportunities Manager) - Secretary
* Sharanya (SS) VP Education/Incoming President

SSO Members:* Charlie Kerr (CK)
* Luca Smith (LS)
* Ella Vallely (EV)
* Issy Litvak – (IL)
* Peter Collier – (PC)
* Muscab Salad (MS)
* Harrison Clinton (HC) (part attendance)
* Madelaine Gray (MG)
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| Apologies | * Deya Kombakova – SSO member
* Leo Davies (LD)
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| Item | Minutes |
| Officer Update | National Conference (NUS)Festival of Language and Cultures: Tough due to exam period. May be hosted in October next year. AC pushed for funding for groups to participate. £100 per group towards the event.Society AwardsStudent Group ElectionsUpdate on Student Led Calendar. Created and launched but detail not sent to groups yet as working on process. Will be communicated over the summer. For communities, ticketed events & Student group events.Storage: WH working on a report of what is required/inventory needed to be stored.Finances: JM working with finance on new system. Will be trialled over 24/25 for launch 25/26. Sport: AC feels university sees sport as a commercial service rather than a supplementary wellbeing service. Concerned sports budget may be slashed (no evidence of this currently but a concern) |
| President Manifesto Reflection | HH presents (share presentation). |
| VP Soc Sport Manifesto Reflection | AC (share presentation)Question HC: Varsity next year: Surrey awayCK: Commercialisation of Sport: Strong sense that this shouldn’t happen. Is this something that will be worked on next year.AC: more mature approach is to do benchmarking and research to determine the way forward. There are income targets on Sport which makes people focus on those. Doesn’t know what they do right now so can’t advise on that. They don’t profit of of students.EV: Will AC talk to next VP on supporting non-BUCS sports? AC part of wider sports strategy on making more space on campus for more groups to use. EV feels like off campus sports get shafted as have to ask to be recognised. ALS end of term recap didn’t include any off campus sport. Concern about those groups who are training off campus late at night next to a pub.AC feels like there needs to be a joint strategy for ALS/SU for promo and how we represent groups. 2 issues: How do we support funding and how do we represent them from a media perspective that is consistent.JS mentioned new Off campus funding for next yearIL: Off campus large events, how those sports are structured and understanding so it can be supported. Lack of understanding of off campus tournaments and non BUCS sports. Perhaps a meeting with each off campus group to understand their sports and tournaments better.AC mentioned the shout about it form. Will raise to Bana. Form to include medals, achievements, tournaments to get information to the SU so they can better celebrate groups. Once we have the information how do we share it.EV: asking off campus sports to fill out a form is again asking the group to do the work rather than us just knowing about it.IL: Is there away to do a directory/encyclopeadia of all of the sports tournaments. AC possible that he can work on that.HC: Kit – what do we do with kit that we have? Club owned, not used. Can’t sell. Will we get money towards it.Conversation over phasing out of new kit. Is there a 3 year phase . JS said didn’t think that was agreed to with Surridge. AC to email ALS tomorrow to confirm. JS: attend meetings next week and ask the questions then. HH suggested lobbying for it if not.AC: would people attend a forum. LS: Societies that care would go but those that don’t wouldn’t. IL: could you share what is being discussed in advance to encourage people to attend.AC: will leave a handover for BanaEV: Freshers fair – was it randomly allocatedJS: Groups wanting space were given it and rest were allocated.HC: What happened with ratifications? Not closed yet.AC: Ratifications over the summer. Do the sabbs do it over the summer or do they wait until November. Proposing setting a date in the summer.  |
| Society Awards Feedback | LS: Thought it was really good, food and layout was better than last year. Confusion over whether there was a theme? AC feedback from last year that theme was financially inaccessible and style.Everyone thought it was really good. Other societies, seating was an issue for some who weren’t sat with each other. 2 Italian soc. Dance were not with each other. JS suggested that some groups were too big. Feedback that cake was bad. Vegetarian meal only 2 slices of halloumi. Really good feedback.AC: How did people feel about meal first then awards. LS :Law preferred it. Good as people had exams so wanted to. get home early, hence people left before the afterpartyAC asked generally for Colours and Socs what format is preferred.EV said would prefer food first so people don’t get so drunk.LS: Alcohol choice not just wineIL: Do you focus it more on the meal so people come without even needing to be nominated. Were media groups included as Board feel like they aren’t included in the awards. There was discussion at board saying they weren’t included in awards. Opps need to make it clearer that they are.MG: sometimes media groups use different forms of email addresses.LS: if they had looked on webpage they would have seen media groups mentionedMontage: video didn’t get showed much. JS explained we weren’t provided with much footage.LS: felt bad for Opps staff serving food. JS explained let down by some student staff. |
| Annual Review | Include clarity of processes. Feedback on how people feel the SU works. In training explain why expanse claims take so long. |
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| AOB | PC: Memberships need to be paid before people can claim expenses back. Can the SU reiterate this. Difficult for the treasurer to push this repeatedly and would stop groups/the SU getting into debt.Can we add weather into Risk assessment guidance before student group training.HC: What is AC working on next few weeks: Student Group training, handovers, Sport. Lobbying for esport space. LS: Concensus that would like Society awards in MarchRoom bookings: Can they get earlier room bookings on Wednesdays for societies when sports have fixtures.AC: agrees. Raised in term 1. We were given 10 slots from Nov-Dec. Has been raised a lot and again this week. Confident the university will focus on this more for commuting students. On Sharanya’s manifesto also. |