**UWS Students’ Union**

**Societies Council Minutes**

**Wed 5th May 2021, 1pm-2pm**

**Chair:** Clare Hunter, VP Student Development (CH)

**Clerk:** Jamie McDowall, Student Opportunities Coordinator (JMcD)

**No. of student attendees:** 12

**No. of societies represented:** 16

* Tabletop Games (SM, MD)
* Accounting (JJ)
* Photography (NN, TR)
* Accessibility to Education (SA)
* Women’s Group (NN, SA, AC)
* Greens (AC)
* Dramatic Arts (AC)
* Disabled (SA, MDM)
* Psychology (MDM)
* Nursing (LM)
* SNP (SA)
* Social Work (SA)
* Mature (GM, SA)
* Chess (MP)
* Friends of the Bees (SR)
* LGBT+ (MDM, SA)

**Union staff:** Irina Pelc (IR)

**Guest:** Claire Morris (CM)

Red text indicates action points to be followed up

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| **Agenda** | |
| 1.00 - 1.05 | Welcome |
| 1.05 - 1.10 | Update from Clare Hunter, Vice President of Student Development   * Register of societies present * Review actions from last Council meeting * Last calls for booking AGMs and ordering branded society merchandise |
| 1.10 – 1.25 | Open discussion on society activity this term?   * What’s worked well for your society? * What’s been difficult? * What does the Union need to do to help? * How can societies work together on these? |
| 1.25 – 1.40 | Society plans for the summer   * Are you planning on continuing activities? * Do you want help organising face to face activities if possible? |
| 1.40 – 1.50 | How can you help the Students’ Union improve how it supports societies?   * Societies Feedback survey and interviews * Nominations for 2021/2022 Societies Executive Committee |
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| 1.50 – 2.00 | Final thoughts and questions |

**Welcome, Introductions and Register**

* All societies welcomed

**Update from Clare Hunter, Vice President of Student Development**

* AGMs have been really good, and interesting. They will help me handover to the next VPSD
* Explained UWS Achievement Awards and how people can register for them
* We will soon begin planning for the next uni year
* Introduced Claire Morris, who will replace her as VPSD

**Feedback on AGMs**

* SA: They have gone well. There weren’t huge numbers attending but this was expected because of assessments. Social Work AGM did not have people from different year groups, which is something we need to work on. We’ve kept them informal and it’s not been a problem that there weren’t high numbers attending, new committees are now in place.
* JJ: We found ours really beneficial and have our committee set up. Numbers were lower than hoped because it coincided with covid restrictions easing and people having to work. It was good to see new faces. We are planning to make links with external partners and are working with the Careers and Academic Skills departments to plan events next year. This will help people identify what they can do after graduating.
* LM: I will be graduating this summer but love everyone I’ve met in the Nursing Society and have enjoyed seeing 1st years grow. I’d like to keep in contact with the society and help to link them with learning and training opportunities. Our focus has been on peer support and have received great feedback on this. We have had 15/20 attending each meeting. We want to keep this going.
* JM: It would be great if we can help you share ideas on developing peer support and creating links across different year groups. The Soc Exec can help with this.
* SA: These all sound great. Events to help people identify career options would be great.
* SR: We’re still trying to organise the FOTB AGM because everyone is really busy. Our plan is to organise a Speed Meeting event as part of this, to help people get to know each other.
* MDM: The Psychology Society are still working to get fully up and running again. Hearing other societies’ ideas is really useful. I want to plan similar things for our society.
* JM: We can arrange some meetings for our Academic Societies to work together to share and build on these ideas. We can also invite Careers and Skills staff to help plan events for next year.
* LM, JJ, MDM and SA all agreed to be part of these meetings.

**Society plans for the summer**

* LM: We want to maintain our activities over the summer. My best advice is to contact programme leads to see how they can help. We will be arranging drop in sessions for new students over the summer and will be doing this with help from Liz Richmond (School Enhancement Developer).
* JJ: Do we know what is happening with Freshers’ week?
* CH: The university are working this out now. It will be a mixture of online and in person events. We’ll keep you updated on this.
* JM: This will probably be spread over a few weeks. Everything was online this year but the uptake for societies was the same as the previous year.
* SA: We’re planning on meeting throughout the summer, which will mostly be done online
* SR: We might organise a garden tour/apiary visit in July

**Feedback survey and Societies Executive Committee nominations**

* JM asked society committees to complete the feedback survey, which will shape the development of society plans for the next year.
* JM also invited society members to nominate themselves for next year’s Societies Executive Committee, using the form on the website

**Final thoughts and questions**

* IR gave update on merchandise orders
* LM: How long will it take for us to receive deliveries?
* IR: Hopefully in a few weeks
* JJ: Where will people collect their orders?
* IR: We will agree on a campus for each society. If there are individuals who are unable to collect their order, we will arrange delivery for these.
* MP asked about the Chess Club meeting in person over the summer
* JM will send an email with details on when this will be possible, and how we can arrange it