**UWS Students’ Union**

**Societies Council Minutes**

**Wed 27th January 2010, 3.30pm-4.30pm**

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

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

**No. of student attendees:** 10

**No. of societies represented:** 14

* Games Development (EA)
* Christian Union (EA)
* Accessibility to Education (HE, EG, SA)
* African and Caribbean (RM)
* Women’s Group (EG)
* Greens (EG)
* Dramatic Arts (EG)
* Physics (EG)
* SNP (SA)
* Social Work (SA)
* Accounting (JJ)
* Photography (TR, NN)
* Tabletop Games (JR)
* Mature (GM, SA)

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

Red text indicates action points to be followed up

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| **Agenda** | |
| 3.30-3.35 | Welcome |
| 3.35-3.40 | Introductions   * Register of societies present * Final opportunity for Societies Executive Committee nominations |
| 3.40 | Societies Executive Committee nominations close |
| 3.40-3.45 | Update from Clare Hunter, Vice President of Student Development |
| 3.45-4.05 | Discussing society activities for this term   * Society Introduction Events * Social events hosted by the Union * Taskmaster Events * What other events are societies planning? |
| 4.05-4.10 | Societies Executive Committee Voting |
| 4.10-4.25 | Societies Handbook and website   * Feedback * What else do societies need help with? |
| 4.25-4.30 | * Societies Executive Committee Election results * Final thoughts and questions |

**Welcome, Introductions and Register**

* All societies welcomed
* CH was delayed joining the meeting because of internet issues. JM suggested altering agenda while waiting for CH. JM introduced new staff member Irina (IP), who will be helping with the delivery of society events and activities, and asked societies for their thoughts on January
* EG: we have stepped back from society activities this month to focus on uni work and to help us relax a little
* JR: Tabletop Games have kept meetings going, with other committee members taking the lead on activities but it has been a hard January finishing term 1 uni work

**Societies Executive Committee Elections**

* GM was only nomination for one of the two remaining committee positions. GM was unanimously voted onto the committee. The next committee meeting will be held in a few weeks’ time

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

* CH joined meeting (but her internet connection was an issue throughout). CH understands this year has been difficult for societies but they have still been active which is great
* The Students’ Union are organising events which societies will be invited to take part in. These will hopefully help with maintaining society activity online and a sense of community amongst students

**Discussing society activities for this term**

* IR: Introduced and explained the Taskmaster events which the Union will be hosting
* EG: This sounds really good. Will you make sure they are accessible to all students?
* IR: yes we are making sure our plans are inclusive and can be adapted to meet peoples’ needs
* HE: This sounds fun and will be good for kick-starting societies this term. It will be nice to get the uni year started again
* IR: explained we will also host more general social events for societies to help their members get to know each other. This will be mainly aimed at new societies who are in the process of getting started
* JJ: This might be good as a start for our society to get people speaking to each other (as long as it doesn’t clash with exams etc)
* SA: The main issue for Social Work Society has been the lack of buy in from academic staff
* JM: We have been working to improve our links with academic staff and will continue to do this
* IR: Introduced and explained Tiktok competition
* EG: Be careful with setting challenges. Tiktok works better when it happens naturally and can be cringy when started by organisations. People who don’t already use Tiktok won’t engage with it
* JR: People in our society don’t use Tiktok. A competition might be a bit awkward
* JM: Explained how there is prizemoney/funding available to provide societies with graphic design support (eg. logos) and designing and buying society merchandise (eg. hoodies). How this can be won still needs to be finalised but focus will be on rewarding societies who engage with activities
* EG: We had been looking to get merchandise and people were willing to pay but the university campuses being closed made distribution too difficult and expensive
* CH: The Union will work out and organise the logistics of this
* JM: shared link for quick feedback survey on these events and support. A short break was taken for people to complete it

**Student Council policy on Captions on social media posts for people with visual impairments**

* HE: This policy was passed at last Student Council meeting. Link was shared: <https://www.uwsunion.org.uk/representation/sauwsstudentsvoice/passed/?idea=153#idea153>
* HE: Explained how social media posts should include descriptions of any images and that when using hashtags, every word should start with a capital letter. This is to ensure visually impaired students know what is in the images and don’t feel like they are missing out on anything
* HE: It would be good if we can create a guide to explain this
* JM: This can be organised at next Exec. Committee Meeting. HE happy to help with this

**Other thoughts and questions**

* JR: The amount of money in our society account still doesn’t show up on our admin page on the website, which would be much easier than having to email to ask how much we have
* JM: We are aware of this. For this to work we would have to pay for an additional package which, in the summer, we could not justify the cost of. We will review this again and will try to develop an easier way for societies to keep track of their accounts
* SA: We are hosting a Social Work Society event but don’t know the best way to promote this. What’s the best way to do this?
* HE: We could also do with help getting engagement in our events. There’s been a drop as a result of zoom fatigue etc.
* JM: As well as Irina we now have an additional member of staff to support communications. We can help promote your events on our website and social media. Hopefully the events we are hosting will be able to help with engagement too. The Exec. Committee can discuss a plan for this at their next meeting
* TR: We are having another welcome event this term. Is there a way to share a zoom link securely for our event?
* CH: We can do this through our website. We can add the event on our What’s On page and people receive the zoom link once they register
* IR: This can also be done using Eventbrite
* SA: We’ve used both for different events and have found Eventbrite worked best for us. We found it easier to access.
* JJ: Is it possible to receive additional help for setting up our committee?
* JM: I will be contacting societies next week to offer to help with this
* EG: Can the society list on the website be tidied up to remove unnecessary search filters and make it easier for people to understand what’s available for them
* JM: Yes. This can be reviewed at the next Exec. Committee meeting
* JM invited everyone to attend Society Introduction Events next week and will share the details for these
* CH thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting