**UWS Students’ Union**

**Societies Council Minutes**

**Tues 30th March 2021, 1pm-2pm**

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

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

**No. of student attendees:** 17

**No. of societies represented:** 15

* Tabletop Games (JR, SM, AM, R)
* Accounting (JJ, GS, ML, MS)
* Photography (NN, TR)
* Accessibility to Education (HE, EG, SA)
* African and Caribbean (RM)
* Women’s Group (EG, NN, SA, AC)
* Greens (EG, AC)
* Dramatic Arts (EG, AC)
* Disabled (HE, SA)
* Physics (EG)
* SNP (SA)
* Social Work (SA)
* Mature (SA)
* DBA (RA)
* Care Experienced (LD)

**Union staff:** Louisa Winning (LW)

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 * Overview of using Microsoft Teams for communication between societies |
| 1.10 – 1.30 | How have things been this term?   * What’s worked well for your society? * What’s been difficult? * What else would you like to achieve in the rest of this uni year? * How can societies work together on these? |
| 1.30 – 1.50 | Societies Elections and AGMs   * Proposed timeline * Support available from Union for organising these * Union supporting purchasing of society clothing |
| 1.50 – 2.00 | * Final thoughts and questions |

**Welcome, Introductions and Register**

* All societies welcomed

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

* Some actions from the last council have been completed. Others have been passed to the societies Exec committee and we are working to take these forward. Work has been slow as students have been busy and the work is completed on a voluntary basis
* Lanarkshire union is moving onto the Street and more information will be provided when it is known
* Ayr commercial offering is being looked at and there will be new furniture in the space again more updates will be provided in due course
* Paisley union has had PowerPoints upgraded for study and general use. We will also be getting a PA system. Upgrades will continue. There will also be a meal offering in conjunction with uws when face to face events resume and Wednesdays will be billed as the society/ sports social event

**Upgrading Society logos**

* CH: We have funding to help societies improve their logos, or create new ones. CH thanked societies for completing the poll to give their opinions on this. Most societies said they are happy with their existing logo.
* LW joined meeting to explain benefits of improving the definition of logos and how we can do this for you. Improving quality of logos makes it easier for the Union to promote societies and also ensures logos can be transferred on to merchandise.
* LW gave demonstration of how she can upgrade existing logos for this. Societies were happy for this to be done to their logos.
* LW will send a form for societies to request help with creating a new logo. A few societies have already arranged this.

**Societies Elections and AGMs**

* EG asked about running society elections so this agenda point was brought forward
* JM explained process we will be using to support societies with their elections and AGMs (details of this are all in the Societies Handbook). The aim of this is to keep things simple for societies, make it easy for members to get involved and help societies prepare for next year. JM will share full details for arranging these in next few weeks
* SA: Wants to keep things informal, members don’t want to vote
* EG: Asked about flexibility, can we use our existing systems for voting?
* JM: Yes you can, as long as it’s fair and accessible to all members. Our template for the AGM’s will be aimed at keeping these sociable and not unnecessarily formal
* LD: Worried about finding new students to get involved. Don’t have enough to run elections at the moment
* JM: We will help with this
* NN: Can we have ours in September instead?
* RM: We would also like to do ours in September
* JM: The reason for doing them in April is so that societies are organised in advance of Freshers’ but we can organise a second round in September. If we’re organised with the planning it should be fine
* EG: We want to make sure ours are fun and celebratory. We’re happy to share our ideas for this

**Society Merchandise**

* GS: When can we order merchandise for our society?
* JM: We can arrange this in the next few weeks. We plan to link this to AGMs. We will provide options for what merchandise you can buy and will help with the logistics of buying and delivering
* EG: Can we get funding for merchandise?
* JM: Yes. Societies who took part in Taskmaster have already been allocated some. We want to tie funding in with AGMs. We will work with Soc Exec to decide the fairest way to allocate the remaining funding, rather than asking every society to submit funding applications
* JR: Can we buy merchandise which isn’t clothing
* JM: Yes we can organise this

**Other points and questions**

* JR: What is happening with volunteers interviewing societies to highlight what we’ve been doing this year?
* JM: This will still be happening. Volunteers have been busy with other things but will get back to you soon. If they aren’t able to, we will do these with you. We will also open this up to other societies.
* JJ: Accounting society ran careers event and are organising an Escape Room event. Others are welcome to join this.
* Members thought escape rooms sounded like a good idea for an event.
* RA: Can people who will soon be completing their thesis be on a society committee?
* JM: Yes
* JR: Is it possible to set up a direct debit form our society account for online game subscriptions?
* JM: Yes this should be possible. If you send me the details I will check with Romina (Finance Coordinator)