**SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**DATE: 5 Nov 18**

**PRESENT: Societies Chair**

**Socs PTO**

**VPUD**

**MINUTE TAKER: KR**

**APOLOGIES: see below**

**ATTENDANCE: Societies Committee Representatives- 23 attended in the end**

**1/18 Introduction**

* 1. **Apologies**

Apologies received and accepted from

OT

MBA (excused as they thought they could represent two societies. Given warning to not do it again)

Nigerian (excused as they thought they could represent two societies. Given warning to not do it again)

* 1. **Accepting Agenda / declaring conflicts of interest**

None received.

* 1. **Previous minutes/matters arising**

none

**2/18 Reports and questions**

**2.1. Vice President of Union Development**

Report:

Ryan has

* been talking to two companies about bespoke trips and has said societies should let him know if they are interested. He has also looked at Avenue SU room bookings- has worked to remove the cost to enable societies to go in that space esp if they are having non-drinking events and won’t get much over the bar
* He has been involved in looking for a mini-bus and deciding on its purchase. In regards to website he said it was hard to give an exact date for the website as there are issues with data but he will do a push for more sign ups once it’s up.
* Also helped with the setting up of UoN Bass.

**Action: none**

**2.2. PTO Societies**

Report: none submitted, she gave an apology and did a verbal report.

Jessica has:

* Looked into course based societies. She is researching about why course based societies are starting up and why they are popular and increasing. Also looked at the process for starting up new groups.

She couldn’t do the society social that was planned as she was ill.

**Action: none**

**2.3. Student Councilors**

Report:

The minutes were agreed for First Love Avenue Campus to continue to be a society. The councilors pushed for what was agreed at Societies Committee. There was a conversation whether a revote was needed but felt it isn’t now

Talked about room bookings costs at Avenue SU to get these removed

Brought up the need for alumni being able to join events-

**Voting approving all reports**

**Yes all**

**No 0**

**Abstain 0**

**Action: all (to feed back next month again)**

**3/18 Venue supervisor introduction**

The Engine Shed is free to use. Booking forms need to be in 7 days in advance. Good for big or small sessions.

The room has a projector and audio. You can now plug in a laptop. Café can be open for groups too if requested.

Avenue SU is open 6-8pm wed and thur for free definitely.

Otherwise thinking of moving to a deposit system to make it easier to book and less costly. Geography commented you have to book 3 hrs if you want it on another day. Alex said he would double check the process and get back to them.

**Action: Tonka (update all on final decision for Avenue SU cost)**

**4/18 Electing a new Student Councilor**

Sam (Dr Who) has stepped down as she represents both education and societies at Student Council. As she is not allowed to do both, she has chosen Education and a society position has opened up.

Committee attendees asked Student Councilors to explain their role:

Student Councilors are a spokesperson on behalf of Societies Committee at Student Council. Meetings are reported back to societies committee to tell them what has happened. They raise issues and concerns about how the University and societies is run.

They also take questions coming from other students and councilors.

Karolina Baran- Disney put herself forward. Vote to approve her as a Student Councilor

**Yes all**

**No 0**

**Abstain 0**

**Action- KR (Mary to be informed)**

**5/ 18 Employability Plus – Changemaker**

Mark Blaber: Employability & Enterprise manager at Changemaker

Changemaker is about creating as many opportunities to make them as employable as possible which includes getting employers on campus and developing skills through volunteering.

He introduced the Northampton Employability Promise: For any student who gets a 2.2. or above and a Gold award and can’t get paid employment, they guarantee 6-12 month internship- providing they continue to engage with Changemaker during that time.

He stated different year groups have different stages.

First year about doing a skills assessment and figuring out where you need development skill wise and where you also look at your values and interests (life hat).

Other ways student can also engage in their time at University which count towards the employability award:

* do 40hrs of paid work or volunteering
* attend activities they hold like careers fair and volunteer faire
* Unitemps- register with them, but can go to Changemaker if they don’t find anything through Unitemps
* Student Embassadors- get part-time work and help at Open Days and fairs etc

Changemaker have gone to all first years to tell them about the Award scheme. But 2nd and 3rd years may have missed out so society committees should share this information.

They also have something called Changemaker careers which also goes towards Awards - looks at doing something about a social problem. This may be in the form of a project.

You can find Changemaker in the learning hub next to info desk for more information or help.

**6/18 Society Varsity**

**Action: KR ()**

Societies that want to take part need to let Karolin know so she can get the equivalent society in Derby in touch.

**7/18 Number to start up a society- Ryan/KR**

Discussion on the number that is needed to start a society. Comments recorded below:

* Many said it depends on the society starting up
* If society not strong enough will die anyway regardless of the change in number
* Only 3 out of 9 societies would have started up from our new societies if they needed 8 (incl 3 committee)
* Less numbers e.g. means new societies that start up can fold more easily or if just a group of friends then more likely to fold after a year
* Why make it harder for our groups?
* To develop and increase societies a smaller number is safer, 10 might reduce start-ups and those that would have succeeded.
* Get more after they start-up.
* Beginning good to have just 5. After one year you could increase the number of people in a group-to 10 minimum
* The way people hear about societies means that 5 people with the same vision come together. The more people the more people are pushing the society and it’s aims
* Best to start of 5 .. then they can aim to get more people with the SU support. You can check to see if they build up the membership over time.
* Q: When would membership be measured. A: just before main election time

Discussion so no decision needed.

**8/18 New Societies Ryan**

Q. Asked Societies Coordinator whether the society is different to other Christian faith societies. KR said their affiliation is different, but faith societies are a grey zone and decided by Societies Committee on a case by case basis

Pensa: PENSA is a Christian Society which will pride itself in providing an in depth study of the word of

God through fellowship, discussions, Prayers, Evangelism and Bible studies.

Y 12

N 5

A 3

**KR (waiting on the Constitution as aims and objectives of proposal read due to sending error)**

Salem Northampton Campus Fellowship:

They want to create a society where students feel safe and can meet together. Also a space where they can improve on their talents and see where they go after university, career wise. It is about offering another society that students might feel more comfortable in. They also want to do events and socials like movie nights

Q. What makes your society different as 5 already exist?

A from Salem.: All part of the same faith, part of one body but about where you feel more comfortable in.

Q. Does this not mean you are just fighting for the same members?

A. Societies PTO: dark way of seeing it, there are different churches, so just do it differently.

Y 10

N 4

A 6

Environmental Society (recreational)

Y 22

N 0

A 0

Want to get people into nature and understand it more and the issues that exist. Want to create a greater appreciation for nature.

Pole Fitness

Y 18

N 0

A 1

The aim is to be able to do fitness a bit differently with a sport that combines gymnastics, strength building, core building, dance, with the ability to relax and express ourselves.

Q: Why is it not a sport?

1. Societies Coordinator: They have to join in with Bucs competitions to be a sport but it is a possibility for the future.

Islamic : The Islamic Society aims to promote a positive relationship between Muslims and non-Muslims on campus, as well as creating a safe space for Muslim (and non-Muslim) students to seem advice, express their views and meet with one another.

Y 18

N 0

A 2

Decades : Aim is to have a great time whilst celebrating the fashion, music and culture from previous decades.

Y 13

N 1

A 5

UoN Computing: The Computing Society main aims are to bring together students interested in computing and to provide as much insight into the computing industry as possible while giving members the opportunity to network with potential clients and employers.

Y 22

N 0

A 0

UoN Bass: UoN Bass aims to bring students together through music, teaching DJ skills and production

techniques. About developing student DJs

Y 18

N 0

A 3

Northampton University Conservative Party Society: The Northampton University Conservative Party Society aims to bring conservatives of social and economic mind sets together weekly to discuss conservative party policy, organizing campaigning activities alongside the party for its members alongside debates and practical campaigning skill sessions which shall provide individuals with life skills making them set for social activity in the future.

Y 14

N 2

A 5

Advertising Students- The primary objective is to bring together our course of BA Advertising and Digital Marketing (and joint honors) across the years but it is open to all students.

Y 20

N 0

A 0

**9/18 AOB**

**Action:**

Societies Coordinator gave feedback that there was no budget for hot drinks and also reminded groups that the term 1 grants expire if not used. If societies want to transfer them to another term they should send an email stating what event and why it was not held in term 1.

Also stated reimbursements are currently done using the old reimbursement form on the website under committee hub> finance.

**10/18 Date of Next Meeting: 26 November 18 at the Engine Shed 6-8pm**

If you have any questions please contact Ahmed, the societies chair: [uonsocs.chair@northampton.ac.uk](mailto:uonsocs.chair@northampton.ac.uk)

**All dates of committee meetings at the Engine Shed**

1st October, 5th November, 26th November, 7th January, 4th February, 4th March, 25th April