

SSC Minutes 27th October 2009

Present:

Director of Representation	Georgina Rannard
Director of Events and Services	Phil Pass
Association Chair	Emma Foley
Association Sustainability Officer	Benjamin Bridgman
Association Community Relations Officer	Holly West
SSC Societies Officer	Becca Ladley
SSC Volunteering Officer	Rachel Fullerton
SSC Music Officer	Luke Hodgman
SSC Broadcasting Officer	Phil Tortoroli
SSC Performing Arts Officer	Sam Fowles
SSC Charities Officer	Alex Dixon
SSC Debates Officer	Owen Wilton
SSC Ents Officer	Matthew Robertson
SSC Member for Society Elections	Clare McDonnell
SSC Member for Societies Grants	Carley Hollis
SSC Member Without Portfolio	James McWalter
SRC Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer	Libby Parker
Arts/ Divinity Senate Representative	Lukas Ross

Adoption of the Agenda

1. Chair's Business

- 2.1 Apologies for Absence: Matthew Guest, DoSDA; Andrew Keenan, President.
- 2.2 Minutes of the previous meeting
- 2.3 Matters arising

2. Presidential Business

3. Representation Business

The DoR has been working on academic matters and the class rep forum.

3.1 Motion to the SSC Proposing a Firmer Regulation of the Previous Motion Passed by the SRC (April 14th 2009) Regarding the Kate Kennedy Club and Similarly Exclusive Societies.

The DoR informed the committee that the motion was passed by SRC last week. Tom Kadri (KK President) was there and there was a long discussion.

The Equal Opportunities and Welfare Officer (EOW) made the case for the motion. She said that it is enforcing the previous motion, it shows our commitment to EOW and that the issue is not just about the services we provide, but about the image of the Association.

The Chair decided not to go through the motion point by point, but asked the SSC to ask any questions they had.

The DoES pointed out the motion should say "this SSC" not SRC.

The SSC Member Without Portfolio said that it is a difficult issue; we need to be clear on the Association's position on organisations such as KK, but it must be careful, as it is not business of Association to exclude students which this motion would do. The students involved in the KK are not saying they agree with these views (regarding the entry of women into the club); they have not broken Association rules as individuals.

EOW said that when she was writing the motion she tried to think about this; it is not about individuals but about not promoting sexism which the KK does promote.

The Charities Convenor said that his main issue with the motion is that it is about sexism, but you would have to apply the motion to all non-affiliated societies which then applies to groups like the Hummingbirds and all women sports teams. Also, it is not as if the KK Pantomime is advertised as sexist – it's for charity after all – therefore he doesn't agree they shouldn't be allowed to use services when any other organisation would be. He would disagree if they were promoting membership but not events.

The DoR made a point of clarification – one can't liken sports societies with KK as single sex sports are based on capacity of the sex, so there is a reason for distinction but the KK isn't the same. It's not about feeling bad about it but rather what the Union represents and what the KK represents clashes with this. Would the Association allow an all-white group to use the Union, for example? This is the same type of discrimination [although the DoR made it clear she was not accusing the KK of racism.] It reflects on us as an Association.

The Arts/Divinity Senate Representative responded to the Member Without Portfolio's point and said he believed that while the KK members are participating in the Pantomime, they are first members of the KK so the SSC need to look at them that way regarding the use of facilities.

The Entertainments Convenor noted that the Pantomime does involve non-members in the organising of the Pantomime.

The Member for Societies Grants said that the SSC wouldn't let racist groups use the Union, but we are focusing on one group here and singling them out.

The EOW Officer said that the point was that there is not just one [discriminatory] group, there is also the Lumsden Club. The question was raised about single sex singing groups.

The DoR said that since they are formed to sing in a certain way, it's a different structure and therefore they are not sexist.

The Societies Officer said that the armed services are allowed to use the Association services and they discriminate on grounds of nationality etc.

The DoR said that again the capacity to serve is not sexist but everyone is able to do charity work but the KK would exclude women anyway.

The Societies Officer said it seemed to her that the motion does just discriminate against the KK.

The EOW Officer said the Association would have to continue to think about unaffiliated organisations using the building, not just the KK. They are just the most prominent.

The Broadcasting Officer said that the problem with the KK is that they use events to attract new members.

The Charities Officer said that not all events are used explicitly to gain membership.

The Broadcasting Officer disagreed with him.

The Performing Arts Officer said that he didn't like KK as he believed them to be sexist. If they could run the Pantomime without promoting the KK then it would be fine. The Union might lose money, but in the SSC's position we need to consider students and losing the KK events may detract from the student experience.

The Community Relations Officer made the point that she didn't like the KK putting their posters on the Union. She believed that if the Association lost their events then it would lose money but ideally it would run opposing events.

The Charities Officer told the DoR that he believed what she said was a loaded comment to make about racism.

The DoR insisted that it was a purely theoretical statement and not meant to imply that the KK are racist.

The Charities Officer said that the difference here is that the motion singles out the KK due to its membership as they do high-profile events. They don't stop the Union running rival events but they are very successful and they are part of the events calendar.

The EOW Officer objected to this and said there was a difference between events. The Opening Ball is not successful all the time; people don't want to go every year. The student demographic who attend is the same - just Freshers and those associated with the KK.

The Member Without Portfolio agreed that it was not as successful this year, but that it does bring in a lot of money year by year. This will affect the Union in the long- run. He said he believed the discussion was deviating beyond gender to the student demographic, i.e. class, which is the real problem. Economic factors will outweigh others.

The EOW Officer said she felt that people were abusing their positions; it is not about class or individuals but gender and sexism.

The Member Without Portfolio said that he didn't mean to offend anyone. He clarified that he brought up the class issue due to the comment the EOW Officer made about "student demographics". Economic benefits are the main consideration here.

The DoR asked if the discussion could focus on the motion as it is too big of an issue. She mentioned that people assume that the SSC would be against the motion, but why is this the case? This committee does the same things as the KK yet the Association is relying on an organisation which does what the SSC does. It is a conflict of interests. On the financial side, the DoR also has to think about this as part of her job, but it is dangerous to say that the stability of the Union is based purely on KK events. Should the Association sacrifice its ethics for this? If the KK stop using its services then there will be the same effect.

The Performing Arts Officer asked if there were financial figures for the KK events.

The DoES said that his main point was about finances last week. The KK pay for their events like any other society, which is why they were allowed to hold the Opening Ball on University property. They paid to be outside the Union, and he did complain to them about the banner on BESS. The figures for last year: Opening Ball made £11,000 gross profit; Pantomime - £2/3000 and as result the Union got the Welly Ball - £3,000 (which is run by a KK member) and FS - £24,000. So there was £18-20,000 net profit. 2007-8. Other events also organised by KK members made the Association £61,000 gross profit, £26.500 net profits. The DoES' concerns with the motion are that if the Association alienates them, they may stop using its services. He noted that he was not saying that the Union will definitely get these events anyway, but the whole approach [of the motion] should be considered. He mentioned that the Facebook groups last time [when the Principal sent the email] showed a huge split in student opinion; if we start banning things then we may lose other events, so it may be relevant to consider. The DoES said he was unsure what would happen but it was possible. The Association could alienate people and this may have some impact.

The Debates Officer said that the SSC had so far pursued red-herrings. It *should* stand for principles over economic factors, but any benefit we gain from passing this motion would be outweighed by this "official ostracism" of the KK which would clearly make people angry. The Association won't be perceived as going with its principles but rather as having a go at the KK. He said he understands why we are doing this but in the long term it wouldn't work like that. He asked if the Union could make the distinction between what KK does that causes it to get banned and what other groups don't do. He also said that it is possible that the Union's scorn won't really affect them using the services as this is about price.

The Music Officer believed that this is a difficult issue. It is about image. The Association can't be seen as supporting the KK as it is a sexist organisation but not supporting them creates issues and affects the student experience. Either scenario is bad!

The Performing Arts Officer said that the point shouldn't be that the KK put on good events.

The Societies Officer agreed with the Debates Officer that the Union is cheaper than other bars which may not affect the events, but reiterated that there is a huge split between the two views and either way the Union will annoy some people.

The EOW Officer made a comment on services. The Union staff are not making an effort

to like the KK, but the Union does have a competitive price and she felt that the SSC is over-exaggerating the impact this motion will have on people. If the KK do go elsewhere for their services, it won't be due to the motion.

The Charities Officer said that the SSC couldn't deny that KK events do get a lot of people attending so there is a huge number of people to whom the sexist issue is irrelevant. By splitting people the Union will send out a negative message.

The DoES said that when Louise Richardson released the statement, she wasn't expecting what an impact it would have and he believed that this would be the same. He said this was painting bad-case scenario, as he was unsure how people would react. The KK was previously not welcomed in the Union. He asked the SSC to move beyond events, as the discussion was circular. He said there were wider issues, such as: should the Union refuse to award Honorary Life Membership to KK members for good works? What's the long term view? Should the Union not let them use printing services for their events? Is it even possible to regulate this?

The Volunteering Officer said she thought that people would go to anything. If the Union replaced the Opening Ball then people would go to that instead. The Union should be changing the University's image to be progressive and this is part of that. The problems may only be short term. The SSC should stand on principles.

The Community Relations Officer agreed with the Volunteering Officer.

The Societies Officer said that the SSC was discounting those who support the KK and this will have an impact.

Bruce said that he had an HLM of the Association and the KK (for work done at the Pantomime, he accepted it for that charitable work – he doesn't support the Club wholly). He said that this was an emotive subject and divisive. This is not the first time the issue has come up; there were always people who haven't agreed with the KK. Previously, the SRC raised the motion and the SSC didn't support it or diluted it. The Pantomime in its previous guise was a big, whole week event but it is now smaller. The KK got around the fact that people didn't like them. They asked more people to be involved. They were close to SVS previously and local organisations. A production company could be separate to the KK, so a policy of banning the KK could be enacted without cancelling the Pantomime. The SSC can support some of the motion while allowing a Pantomime with KK involvement.

The Member Without Portfolio asked what would happen if a KK member ran for election. He said he believed that the SSC needed to accept what while they would not be running as a KK member, their image would be associated with that, so he thought there were wider implications of the motion. The Association needs a structure where people don't feel excluded from running for positions.

The Broadcasting Officer asked if the KK gave out a good message. They are part of what's wrong with the town as they are not progressive. If the Union makes it clear that it is targeting the Club and not its individual members, it might solve some problems.

The Sustainability Officer said that the motion won't really become immediate knowledge.

The Charities Officer made that point that this news will travel fast, but that the only people who would hear it are the ones who care one way or the other. There are ways the Union can get round the motion so that the KK can hold the Pantomime but this is not the only issue. Bruce is right in that it is an emotive issue; there is nothing we can say to change people's minds.

The EOW Officer said that she didn't think the motion was so controversial. It is not a personal act. The motion merely upholds the principles that the Association already has. That is the point of the motion.

The DoR supported that point. It is about what the Union stands for and type of town we live in. Money is not the main issue, the motion is based on firm economic and ethical principles.

There followed a secret vote.

In favour of the motion – 6. Against the motion - 10 (8 and 2 proxy).

The motion fails.

5. Events & services business

The accounts from Freshers' Week are finally sorted. It looks like it made a good profit of £11,500, which is up on the last couple of years. The DoES said he appreciated everyone's help. The Societies Fayre made £8,500 which is also up on last year. Starfields made a slight loss but it was ok in the end.

The Debates Officer asked if the profit from the bar was included.

The DoES said that this didn't include the bars, just the tickets sold etc. The themed Bops are going well. Tonight's is "come as yourself". James is dressing up as Bruce for Hallowe'en. Tomorrow, Hallowe'en is being shown at 8.30pm in Venue 1. Thursday night is the medic hecklings and foam party. The On The Rocks launch (with live music) party is on Sunday and in the evening Project Zambia launch is on. Calvin Harris is on Tuesday, he was hired by Underground Sound for the event and the Union is being paid to do the event.

A student came today asking why people can't eat in Union at lunchtime. This is a legal issue to do with Beatons, but the DoES asked the opinion of the SSC on whether people should be able to bring in food and eat upstairs or in redevelopment plans.

The Charities Officer said that in the long term the Union should have a coffee shop.

The Member for Societies Elections believed it was necessary to look into this issue. Once Beatons closes students can bring in food.

The Member for Societies Grants said that if food production goes on in building then you cannot bring food in at any point.

The Societies Officer said that there is a need for societies etc to be able to eat.

The DoES said that Beatons can provide food for events or students can bring pre-packaged food.

The Community Relations Officer thought that this is an important issue, especially for commuting students and people in DRA.

The Charities Officer suggested that the SSC should look into this as Beatons is offered as service.

The Volunteering Officer said that people can't buy lunch everyday.

The Broadcasting Officer believed that if the Union opened the space as a cafeteria then it would get people in there and maybe they would be inclined to buy things and get more involved.

The DoES will look into it more.

6. Student development and activities business.

7. Sabbatical Question Time.

8. Officers' business

8.1 Performing Arts Officer

There's an issue with Mermaids - they invest in shows or production companies, but they don't always get the money back or know how much money they have. This document is to regulate how production companies work (to ensure the Union gets bank statements etc). Gillian, Julie, Phil and Matt have approved this as have the Mermaids committee.

The Societies Officer said that this might have issue with the Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Just So.

The DoES said that as they are affiliated societies they are not included here.

The Debates Officer asked if people would know what they're signing
The Performing Arts Officer confirmed that they would and that the Charter was basically ratifying current policy.
The Member Without Portfolio said it would keep the auditors and Bruce happy!
The vote followed:
1 abstention and 14 votes in favour of passing the document.

The Charities Officer asked if Charities could still be in On The Rocks.
The Performing Arts Officer said yes.
The Member for Societies Grants asked if the Mermaids birthday party was successful.
The Performing Arts Officer said that it was.

8.2 Broadcasting Officer

He is working on big things for STAR which will help in the long-term so everyone will hear about it soon.

8.3 Charities

The cloak room rota has been set up. CHAS is coming in next week to talk. Cool Runnings is on in the cinema at 10.30 next Wednesday. They are also selling pumpkins. Also, there's an issue with risk assessments. There is face painting on Friday. The rodeo is in December. He will do risk assessments for these.

The Societies Officer told the Charities Officer to go to the general office for risk assessment forms.

Race to Paris is underway. There is an information meeting on Thursday.

The DoR said that there would be a Sabb race and asked the SSC to mandate that Matthew and Andrew must be a team on RTP. There was a unanimous vote to mandate this.

They are sending 17 people to Morocco on the 11th September for a big fundraiser. Charities also had an EGM so now there is a full committee.

8.4 Debates Officer

The Debates Officer has filled the positions which resigned. Debates have been going to competitions - there was one open to all Freshers' in Scotland which they won, (applause). There was a final in Edinburgh which they won as well.

8.5 Entertainments Convenor

They must reply to the Health and Safety Committee. After issues of fire alarms they were instructed to make the Venue 1 PA cut out in the event of a fire alarm, but he has concerns about the risk of this (and opportunities for tampering with it). Bruce will take action on this. It is also duly noted that Venue 1 is pretty... only for the purposes of Hallowe'en.

8.6 Music Officer

There was an EGM today. There's a full committee now. Regular Open Mic nights are taking place. He is meeting STAR later in the week to discuss collaboration.

The DoES brought up nominations for postgraduate elections, voting day is Thursday, 5th November.

8.7 Societies Officer

They are coming to the end of the affiliation process. The constitutions have been looked at. They are up to date with everything. The budget has been ratified by Board and the budgets need to be gone through with Matthew. The Gin Society's account has been

closed and they are unsure why. The Societies Officer was advised to contact Stephen Haraldson about this. The Societies Officer agreed to do this. There was an Odd Ball meeting. The Societies Officer asked anyone interested in becoming involved in this to contact her.

The Charities Officer said that some societies haven't been affiliated and that this needs dealing with.

The Societies Officer said that the issue is about charitable societies and needs to be worked through.

The Member for Societies Grants explained that some societies cannot be funded by the Union as this would be funding another charity. The DoSDA is going to send a letter to a lawyer to ask about this. There are problems with charity law and no-one is sure what is going on. The charitable societies won't be unaffiliated but they cannot be funded.

The DoR asked about the documents that Philippa Dunn wrote.

The Charities Officer said that the problem is that it was Philippa's opinion and the opinion of a lawyer is needed.

The Member for Societies Grants assured the SSC that there would be a contingency budget set aside for societies that could not be affiliated yet.

The Debates Officer thanked the Societies Committee for all their hard work over the last few weeks.

8.8 Volunteering Officer

There was an EGM. SVS has had a full committee for a while but they need another EGM this week.

The new recruitment officer is working on the database.

The events committee going to hold a big event at the end of the year but it is planning it now.

The nominations for the best volunteer award is coming up.

8.9 Community Relations Officer

The Officer is hopefully sending 5000 postcards out in *In Focus* in January. She asked if Star is going to be at the Festive Lights.

The Broadcasting Officer was unsure about this.

She met with Rob Murray-Brown and STAR seems to be doing the whole festival. They are not turning on the lights or hosting the switch-on.

She wants to run the bike lights campaign again but there's a new police officer who is unsure about the process,

The DoR said she could help the emails.

8.10 Sustainability Officer

There is an action plan for the sustainability policy to be implemented.

The Officer has finished reviewing the Fairtrade Policy, which really needed doing. Hopefully this will happen at the next meeting.

There is information on the website about the Inter-Hall Energy Competition.

The DoES told the Sustainability and Community Relations Officer that there will be a second hand bike sale soon. A charity in Glenrothes employs disabled people to make the bikes and sell them. He suggested that they meet up with them to work out how to advertise the event.

9. Officer question time

10. Any other business

11. Notices

11.1 Next meeting of the SRC will be the 17th November

11.2 Meetings of the sub-committees:

ENTS - Wednesday 5pm, Union

Sustainability - Tuesday 4pm

SVS EGM - 7pm Wednesday

Community Relations - Thursday 2.20pm

Societies - Wednesday 4pm

Charities - Monday 7.32pm

Musfund - Tuesday at 6pm, meeting STAR this Friday at 7pm

STAR - 6pm, Wednesday