

Minutes
Communities Zone
10th October 2023

Minutes for the **Students' Union Communities Zone meeting** that was held on **10th of October 2023** from 5pm in room **C.LTB4** and via **Microsoft Teams**.

IN ATTENDANCE

- 1.1 Members Present
- | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------------------|
| Khaliun Batbayar | KB | International Officer |
| Rebecca Cameron-Park | RCP | Co-Curricular Officer |
| Zoë Crosher | ZC | Vice President Communities |
| Katie Gethings | KG | Vice President Education |
| Anne Marie Hamfeldt | AMH | Sustainability Officer |
| Justine Pedussel | JP | Housing Officer |
- 1.2 In Attendance
- Aaron Caulfield
 - Aisha Herrera Grau
 - Alex Lewis
 - Ann Murawski
 - Anna Buchan
 - Ben McQuaid
 - Blake Ross
 - Charlie Britten
 - Chloe Liddell
 - Dana MacKay
 - Edwin Amoah
 - Ella Mannisto
 - Euan Bird
 - Euan Morgan
 - Fay Jolly
 - Herminia Seguro
 - Jack Armsworth
 - Janhavee Belvalkar
 - Johanna-Ellie Robertson
 - Julia Ciemiega
 - Korina Letinic
 - Laila Hisham Anter Faried
 - Lina Hoech
 - Linzi Mincher
 - Lynn Hansen
 - Magyar Levente
 - Maisie Pirrie
 - Malaika Schmit
 - Margeaux Ettiene
 - Marta Fernandez Borrego
 - Moesha Pawankumar Chhabria
 - Morgan Campbell
 - Rory Wood
 - Sandro Notari
 - Srun Manich In
 - Toby Wordie
 - Valeryia Siarheyeva
- 1.3 Observers
- | | | |
|---------------|----|--|
| Jordyn Austin | JA | Activities & Volunteer Coordinator |
| Gabi Brame | GB | Sustainability Coordinator |
| Natalie Hay | NH | Democracy & Representation Coordinator |

1.4 Apologies
N/A

1.5 Absent without Apologies
Shani Doudet SD Arts Officer
Arya Hasan AH Media Officer

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes ratified by ZC.

CHALLENGES TO ORDER PAPER

None.

DATES TO NOTE

- 4.1 Black History Month, Celebrating Our Sisters – October (Black Chat, Latin Dance, Decolonising the Curriculum, Wellbeing Talk)
- 4.2 Eco Living Beeswax Wraps – 12 October
- 4.2 CZ Deadline: new societies, constitution amendments, Societies Grant – 15 October
- 4.3 CZEC 1 – 17 October
- 4.4 Committee Drops Ins – 17 October, 2-4pm via MS Teams
- 4.5 Campaigning Period 10 – 17 October
- 4.6 Voting Period 17 – 19 October
- 4.7 President Social – 20 October
- 4.8 Halloween Crafternoon – 25 October
- 4.9 LGBTQ+ Working It Out with Careers team – 8 November

ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

- 5.1 Communities Zone Executive Committee Elections
 - 5.1.1 Society Presidents (x2): Aaron Caulfield (Labour Society) and Herminia Seguro (Book Club) are elected.
 - 5.1.2 Lay (ordinary) Student Union Members (x2): Janhatee Belvalkar is elected. One position remains open; nominations will reopen at the next meeting.
- 5.2 Housing Committee, Lay Student Union Member (x1): Aaron Caulfield is elected.

REPORTS

6.1 Vice President Communities: Report can be read in Paper A of the [General Meeting Agenda](#).

6.2 Arts Officer: [SD was absent and did not provide a written report.]

6.3 Co-Curricular Officer

I've contacted committees of societies that I will be dropping into their meetings next week or two to get involved with their charity work. I've not heard back from some, but I will be emailing again tomorrow. I'm looking at improving the accessibility of volunteering, a lot of volunteering such as the garden and fundraiser stalls involve very active physical tasks that can create a variety for those with mobility difficulties. My goal is to use the feedback from my mobility aids to be survey and encourage some amendments within the union. I was also looking at the possibility for refreshers having a volunteer in the heart day. I have a PowerPoint for it as well as charity volunteers.

6.4 Housing Officer

The semester started off with a meeting with accommodation services, which was successful-ish in the sense that we got them to admit that there are quite a lot of issues and to promise to help us fix a lot. One of our projects right now is we're going to start canvassing in November, I believe it's November 4th. So, if anybody's interested in doing that, please send us an e-mail and join. The more people we have, the more the more efficient we could be. Our second project is the Housing Fair where we'll have stalls and a Know Your Rights event that would be for private tenancies as well as purpose-built student

accommodations. That would include accommodation like Riverside Quay and things like that. If anyone is interested in helping out with these projects, please reach out.



6.5 International Officer

The first thing I did was create an Instagram account just because that's the easiest way to reach people. If you have Instagram, please follow @stirling.voices with your society account and your own accounts because everything I do will be posted there. You'll be able to reach me instantly because I'm always online. Second thing I'm working on is making an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer committee position. For every society and sports club that has more than three committee members, the fourth position should, I believe, be an EDI Officer because that is one of the key positions for inclusion. This motion will be introduced at one of the general meetings before the end of the year. But we want to talk to all societies and sports clubs to make sure that it is being introduced as a community effort so that you all understand exactly how this will go on. If you have any opinions about it, please come talk to me or anyone in this Students' Union. There will also be surveys going out to all committees. Please fill that out just to let us know what your opinions are on that matter. You can also send that to your society members so they get to fill it out as well. Another thing is I really want to use the Instagram account I have to share people's stories. So, if you're an international student or a person of colour, please reach out to me. I just want to make cute reels about you talking about your culture, food, language or your experience living here to just spread more good news and your stories. If you're a person who identifies with any different cultures other than Scottish, please come up to me. I want to celebrate your core celebrations like Lunar New Year, but I need members of the community to come to me and let me know how and what would be the best way for me to organise those, as I don't have a lot of experience other than just my own culture. Tell your members to speak to me or message me on Instagram.

6.6 Media Officer: [AH was absent and did not provide a written report.]

6.7 Sustainability Officer

I've been working alongside Sustainability Coordinator, Gabi, quite a bit within the Green & Blue Space. We've been running weekly gardening sessions, which are Wednesdays 2 to 4. We also did apple picking about a week or two ago and with those apples, we did a juicing session. We're working with Transition Stirling to get these sorts of workshops in place and to get more students involved in Transition. And then I've applied for funding from the Stirling Fund to get more materials for workshops. We've also had litter picks on campus, and I've run networking and introduction to sustainability events for people to kind of get a feel for what to do at Stirling and how it all works. We've got Active Travel Week next week and then Green Week we're planning in March, I believe.

UPDATES, DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

7.1 RAAC – booking Venue, society storage, etc.

Studio, our main bar and food outlet, is closed, as well as all the Union offices. The main Union office is now in the atrium just between Nisa and the Union shop. The society storage spaces have closed as well, so we're currently working with the university to get new lockers for societies to store their equipment. They haven't yet found a space for this, so those updates will go out as soon as I can get them myself. If you're interested in booking Venue for an event, you'll use the [Union event booking form](#). But please bear in mind that because Venue is now our main food outlet, it will be slightly harder to book. So please just be flexible and be patient with Union staff. And you need to book at least 14 days in advance (that doesn't include weekends or bank holidays).

7.2 Society Feedback: Societies' Fayre, start of the semester, Diversity & Inclusion Officer

Some students asked to bring back the marquee for Societies Fayre. The marquee was hired by the university and is very expensive, so they didn't want to pay for it this year. The last-minute switch wasn't ideal, but that was because of the concrete problem. You might have seen that Scran, which is the university's main food outlet, closed, so they wanted to have Haldane's open because it's kind of their only hot food outlet left. So that was unfortunately out of our hands. In the future, we'll ideally put all societies in Campus Central. Hopefully, we can have everyone inside next year if we can fit them.

ZC will go through the feedback and take everything into consideration. Everyone is encouraged to contact us if you have more feedback you'd like to discuss, and we'll respond as soon as possible. Students are also encouraged to provide anonymous feedback about the EDI Officer committee position motion, which will be reviewed at a later date by ZC and KB.

A student asked what the procedure is for constitution amendments. Last year, the previous Vice President Communities passed a motion which meant that for if your constitution was being amended to just to add another committee member, then it can just get approved by VP Communities. But if the constitution is being amended to add anything else, it needs to be approved by the CZEC.

Another student asked about the first responder training and when it will be held. ZC is scheduling dates and will be in touch when they are confirmed.

7.3 General Meeting – Motions that will impact societies

First Responder motion proposed by ZC passed, so the Students' Union must encourage all committee members to attend first responder training. The training is super quick and easy – about an hour, and it has had a really positive impact. If you're interested in reading more, ZC can provide data on the impacts and how helpful people find the session. If you have any questions at all about this motion, students are encouraged to email ZC.

7.4 Committee Drop Ins

First committee drop-in session will be held on the 17th of October from 2-4pm on Teams. These will continue to be scheduled throughout the year, so keep an eye on your emails for the next dates.

7.5 SMHFA training for committees

The Union now has the capacity to offer committees the opportunity to participate in Scotland's Mental Health First Aid (SMHFA) training course. This is an accredited course and will look fantastic on your CV. The training will likely take place in January, just around the week before teaching starts. We will be circulating those dates as soon as we have them booked. And if you would be interested in taking the training, please let me know just so we have kind of an idea that people would be interested in it.

7.6 Community Garden sessions will be held every Wednesday from 2-4pm.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Election results are shared. (Refer to article 5, Elections & Resignations, to review results.)

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 21st November 2023

RESERVED BUSINESS

N/A