

Minutes
Communities Zone
21st November 2023

Minutes for the **Students' Union Communities Zone** meeting that was held on the **21st of November 2023** from 5pm in room **C.LTB3** and via **Microsoft Teams**.

To ensure the meeting is kept to time please ensure all attached papers are read in advance.

IN ATTENDANCE

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1.1 | Members Present | | |
| | Khalium Batbayar | KB | International Officer |
| | Zoë Crosher | ZC | Vice President Communities |
| | Anne Marie Hamfeldt | AMH | Sustainability Officer |
| | Justine Pedussel | JP | Housing Officer |
| 1.2 | In Attendance | | |
| | Abbie Cato | | |
| | Abi McLean | | |
| | Aisha Herrera Grau | | |
| | Alice Ali Rees | | |
| | Anh Dang | | |
| | Ann Murawski | | |
| | Ben McQuaid | | |
| | Blake Ross | | |
| | Chris Sorkos | | |
| | Dana Mackey | | |
| | Dean Smith | | |
| | Elif Yildirim | | |
| | Emily De Lombaerde | | |
| | Euan Bird | | |
| | Evelyn Sprague | | |
| | Freya Deyell | | |
| | Gregory Barton | | |
| | Herminia Seguro | | |
| | Ida Caspary | | |
| | Iona Davidson | | |
| | Iona Munro | | |
| | Korina Letinic | | |
| | Linzi Mincher | | |
| | Luke Bishop | | |
| | Maisie Pirrie | | |
| | Malika Schmit | | |
| | Nishtha Jindal | | |
| | Noemi Finetti | | |
| | Srun Manich In | | |
| | Toby Wordie | | |
| | Triskele Corbal | | |
| 1.3 | Observers | | |
| | Jordyn Austin | JA | Activities & Volunteer Coordinator |
| 1.4 | Apologies | | |
| | Rebecca Cameron-Park | RCP | Co-Curricular Officer |
| 1.5 | Absent without Apologies | | |
| | Arya Hasan | AH | Media Officer |
| | Shani Doudet | SD | Arts Officer |

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

Minutes ratified by ZC.

CHALLENGES TO ORDER PAPER

None.

DATES TO NOTE

- 4.1 Islamophobia Awareness Month – November
- 4.2 Co-Curricular Officer, Rebecca, hosting litter picks – every Wednesday from 9:30-12pm
- 4.3 Reminder: expense claims are paid every Thursday!
- 4.4 CZEC Deadline – 26th November
- 4.5 General Meeting – 30th November
- 4.6 First Responder Training, 2nd session – 5th December
- 4.7 SMHFA Training – 18th & 19th January

ELECTIONS & RESIGNATIONS

- 5.1 Sandro Notari has resigned from Housing Committee
- 5.2 Housing Committee Election: 1 lay (ordinary) Student Union member – no one stands in the election.
- 5.3 Communities Zone Executive Committee Election: 1 lay Student Union member – no one stands in the election

REPORTS

6.1 Vice President Communities

We had our initial first responders training last week, and I want to thank everyone who came. We started up the free festive food donation drive, the community food initiative, so you might have seen that around the Christmas light switch on yesterday and then we are doing a lot more around that. I am also attending winter graduations so I will not be on my laptop much on Thursday or Friday. If you need me for anything, email me tomorrow. Otherwise, I will not get back to you until next Wednesday. We started planning for the Societies Ball 2024, and there will be more about that later because I want to hear your opinions. I ran a survey about student parent experiences which received around 160 responses and currently working on a very in-depth report which will be publicly available once it's done. And finally, regarding buses, I have met with McGill's, and I am currently trying to work to ensure more reliability with buses. I have also been emphasizing a lot of issues that have been raised to me around bus driver behaviour about what is appropriate and what is not.

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

6.3 Co-Curricular Officer – ZC reads RCP's report on her behalf:

Rebecca has been surveying students and societies about their experiences with accessibility and society events. She has also been joining and meeting with the 'Get to the Point' campaign, which is a campaign run by some students in the Disabled Students Association of Stirling society. She has been running weekly litter picks with Gabi, the Union's Sustainability Coordinator, where she also provides breakfast at to provide breakfast during to help with the rising cost of living. Last week, they collected 5kg of litter from the atrium entrance alone. She is also looking at running career workshops at some point.

6.4 Housing Officer

About three weeks ago, we canvased all the university accommodation. We didn't get through all the buildings. We left out Willow Court, Juniper, and Beech Court because of key card access and we left out Andrew Stewart Hall because of privacy issues with entering the hallways and then knocking on people's doors. We compiled a list of issues that all are very reoccurring in all the flats and different buildings. Then we had a meeting with the university's housing management team, Liam Spillane and Joanne McManus, to discuss these issues. We were assured that they are all being investigated so when we have our next meeting with them, we will make sure that happened. Then we had Housing Week two weeks ago where we had a big housing fair with Citizens Advice and different organisations. We have launched a survey to ask students about their housing experience, so if you have not filled out my survey, please do so. There are two surveys. One for student accommodations that includes student purpose-built accommodation such as Riverside Quay. There is also one for private residencies including students living at home or who do not currently have a home.

6.5 International Officer

This month, I have been focused on Islamophobia Awareness Month. As you know, we have had the public exhibition that was done with collaboration with the MEND community. This is the Muslim Engagement and Development NGO that works in mainly Scotland. We also did a workshop on Islamophobia and how establishments like universities and students can get involved with it. I am hoping to work on getting the university publicity working with these organisations for the next month, next years. Hopefully this awareness month can be done on a larger scale next year. We were also able to do fundraising with the societies for Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP) and to help Islamic Relief UK. We raised over £600 for MAP, and we also had a lot of local businesses helping us with raffles with over £300 worth of prizes donated. If any societies are looking for charity work like raffles, to go into coffee shops and asking them to collaborate as they are always keen and friendly. For winter, I will be focusing on getting the International Festival in April or March organised. If any societies have any international students wanting to do an event of anything including fashion, music, film, anything just approach the union.

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

6.7 Sustainability Officer

We ran a workshop on sustainable fashion and fast fashion. I work a lot with Gabi and the Green and Blue Space. We went to a conference to get people to do different field survey techniques to organise a bio blitz for Green Week in March. We have got funding for the Community Garden through the Stirling Fund and to run the workshops mentioned previously. The Community Garden has been planted.

UPDATES, DISCUSSION AND DECISION TOPICS

7.1 Society storage – lockers update

Following a meeting with the University's Head of Estate Development, it is confirmed that these lockers will be installed outside of the Green & Blue Space. Priority will be given to media societies and societies who previously have equipment in our lockers before the space was shut down. Then the societies who kept items in the club cupboard will be offered space then if there are any lockers left, they will be opened to the remaining societies on a first come, first serve basis. It looks like these will be available in January.

7.2 SMHFA – register your interest link

This does not train people to be health workers, but the knowledge presented and understanding developed in the course will help remove stigma and give confidence in approaching a person in distress. This will also look fantastic on your CV and overly equipped with knowledge on how to support members of your society as well as other people in your life. This training will not be opened to fourth year students as they will not be on campus for longer than a year. Only one committee member from each society will be permitted to participate in the training as there is only 16 spaces available for next semester. There will be another opportunity in 24/25 academic year for 16 more. Please only sign up if you can commit to the two full days from 9:00 to 17:00 on the 18th and 19th of January as this is a very intense course

7.3 Creative & Cultural Spaces Fund

This is funded by the Stirling Fund. Since the closure of the upper floor of the Student's Union we understand that it is harder to book venues. This fund is if you would like to host an event and would like some money to go towards it. The maximum you can apply for is £250.00. It is the same as applying for the societies grant and you can find it on the Student's Union website, and you just fill out the form and send it to ZC and JA.

7.4 Volunteering Module

Currently implementing a volunteering module on the union website which will allow volunteers to log their hours and keep track of their experiences. At the end of the year, you will be able to download achievement records. It will show you how much time you have dedicated to volunteering. This module will be used to log your internal volunteering roles within the Union and the university, but you can also use it for any external volunteering that you do as committee members. You dedicate a lot of time to volunteer because that's what you do. We are encouraging you to keep track of this and this will help you prep things like My Stirling Award, and it is another thing to show future employers. This will launch next semester and we will send out more information about the launch once we have it confirmed.

7.5 Funding Workshops

JA wants to do workshops to show how to make your funding applications the best they can be. If you are applying for Societies grant or Vice chancellors funds you should come along to this workshop. We will be inviting the university staff, founders, and people who would choose if they wanted to fund you. By a show of hands, several people seemed interested in the workshops.

7.6 Society Awards Ball

A vote was taken on preference for a DJ or Ceilidh at the societies ball (presented on screen with results not released). Next, a question asking whether a theme is wanted. (presented on screen with results not released). Final question is requests of themes. None of the answers were published.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Election results

N/A

8.2 Questions

8.2.1 Q: Is there any plan to change the venue of the Societies Ball due to the large number of attendees?

ZC: We usually have it in The Golden Lion, and we have been looking at different venues, but the Golden Lion is the biggest venue in Stirling. There was another option, but the dance floor is too small. I have been to the Societies Ball for the last two years, and I know it is squished. We are going to continue to look, but Stirling is horrendous for venues.

8.2.2 Q: Do we know what week the refreshers societies fair is going to be on?

JA: It will be the week of welcome week which is the week of 22nd of January.

ZC: The societies fair will be on the 1st week of January. Welcome week, which starts on the 22nd and I think right now we are planning it to be Tuesday 23rd but I do not know if this is confirmed.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 30th January 2024

RESERVED BUSINESS

N/A