

Communities Zone

31st March
5-6pm

G.2A73 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present
 - VP Communities, Ellie Hammond (EH)
 - Housing Officer, Aidan Lewis (AL)
 - Arts Volunteer Officer, Tom Mackenzie (TM)
 - Sustainability Officer, Erin Smith (ES)
 - Co-curricular officer, Amy Taylor (AT)
 - In Attendance: 1 staff support
 - Absent with apologies: None.
 - Absent without apologies
 - International Officer, Reha Afzal (RA)
 - Media Officer, Brooke Mulholland (BM)
- **Minutes Ratification:** Minutes from meeting on 10 February ratified by EH.
- **Challenges to Order Paper:** Order challenged by EH to allow guest speaker Claire Wilson to start with speaking about introduction of a skills framework and taxonomy.
- **Dates to Note:**
 - Register to Vote stalls in Atrium: 2nd April
 - Easter Weekend: 3rd – 6th April, SU closed
 - Scottish Elections Hustings: April 8th by Debate Society, also accompanied by most other political societies at University
 - SU Awards: 9th April
 - Vishu Festival: 14th April
 - Big Stirling Tree Plant: 15th and 16th April (700 trees to be planted)
 - Student Council: 22nd April
 - RATE Awards: 7th May
 - Scottish Parliamentary Elections: 7th May
 - Student Leader Training: w/c 11th May – training days TBC
 - Mental Health Awareness Week: w/c 11th May
- Society dates to note:

- Global Justice Stirling collaboration with Palestine Solidarity Network: meeting discussing issues in Palestine, 10th April
 - Taekwondo and Rugby event: Ceilidh for all sports clubs to get involved, 300 tickets available, 14th April @ 8pm
 - Live Music society: Spring Concert, 7th April @ 7pm
 - SUDAS: Self – Written Plays showcase, 7th April
 - F.E.M x Politics x DSAS x SU collaboration: Intersectional feminism discussion, 7th April
 - HUSSARS x Cards Soc collaboration: Alice in Borderlands game, 9th April
- **Elections & Resignations:**
 - Spring Election Results
 - Union President – Ellie Hammond
 - Sports President – Harry Sawdon
 - VP Communities – Isadora Barbosa Fernandes
 - VP Education – Katie Parker
- **Reports**
 - **VP Communities, EH**
 - Final report as VP Communities, thank you to everyone involved
 - Planning SU Awards with JA
 - Finished Society Shield Progress with 5 societies shortlisted to win £500 (DSAS, HUSSARS, Global Justice, K-Pop and SUDS)
 - CPR training provided along Paramedic Society
 - Worked with White Ribbon Scotland to provide more GBV Training
 - Alongside Shinty club, organised Eating Disorder awareness event on campus
 - Lobbied University to sign Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty which encourages the shift away from fossil fuel developments
 - Community Food Initiative has been successful, looking for more volunteers
 - Big Stirling Tree Plant – plans for 700 trees to be planted on campus
 - During Green Week, a Kilo Sale, sustainability fayre and sustainability focused events were held
 - Sitting on recruitment panel to appoint new Vice Chancellor
 - **Arts Officer, TM**
 - Ran in Spring Elections
 - Work in Live Music society with soul band ensemble
 - Organised Arts fayre
 - Took over as President for Live Music Society, increased performing opportunities for the society

- Working to accessibility on campus, particularly around Creative Cottage
 - Spring Concert approaching
 - **Co-Curricular Officer, AT**
 - Voted in NUS election as NUS delegate
 - Working on Politics Society events
 - **Housing Officer, AL**
 - Supporting students with their individual tenancy needs both on and off campus
 - Offering advice and speaking with Accommodation
 - **Sustainability Officer, ES**
 - Investigated University's actions surrounding their Ethical Investment Policy – followed up to see if they are following guidelines
 - Running Repair Cafe and free breakfasts in Green and Blue Space
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - Claire Wilson (CW), University representative
 - University working on big curriculum change project – focussed around student outcomes and feedback to ensure students have better possibilities for pursuing career paths after university
 - According to employers, students struggle at job interviews and cover letters to convey the skills and experience they have. University aims to build on this through skills-based learning to prepare students for the workforce
 - Taxonomy is being created for students to be able to highlight, understand and articulate skills they're learning useful to the workplace through their modules.
 - JA and CW working alongside other University staff to connect societies more within the University framework and strengthen links between student communities and University
- **Student Groups and Curriculum: Connecting Student-Led Activity with Academic Learning**
 - Focus on having a formal connection between societies and academic divisions, where relevant
 - Skills workshops, role specific employability workshops, assigned departmental contacts, hold meetings, engagement reports
 - Feedback is needed to develop plans
 - Question proposed regarding logistics of gathering data, especially during committee changeover. Answered by JA: using Volunteering module to track all activities you are involved in, making it easy to handover to next committee
 - Question proposed regarding who takes this responsibility on in the society. Answered by JA: should come from president or Secretary

- Concern raised about workload this may further burden societies. Politics Society President to speak with JA further about this
 - Earth and Environment society feedback: great opportunity for students to create professional ties within the university and expand on their work, skills and experience
- CPR Training (Wednesday 15th April @ 2:30pm, Pathfoot)
- AGM reminders – forms must be completed with new committee members
- Student Leader Training
 - Now split into 2 days
 - Day 1: 11th May, 9am – 2pm
 - Day 2: 12th May, 9am – 3pm
 - Day 3 TBC – 13th May, hope to be ran for sensitivity and sensory training
- Playlist for SU Awards – people encouraged to add songs to SU Awards playlist available online and on EH’s Instagram
- Card reader for societies is now available for societies to use for events both on and off campus. Must book via [Society Finances and Grants page](#)
- Shadow your VP Communities to see what a sabbatical officer’s role entails
- **Any Other Business:** JA confirms that some Training day sessions will be recorded
- **Date of Next Meeting:** TBC.