

Communities Zone

11th November
5-6pm

C.LTA5 / MS TEAMS

Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
 - Members Present:
 - VP Communities, Ellie Hammond (EH)
 - Arts Volunteer Officer, Tom Mackenzie (TM)
 - Co-Curricular Officer, Amy Taylor (AT)
 - International Volunteer Officer, Reha Afzal (RA) - left early and was unable to give report
 - In Attendance
 - 34 ordinary members
 - 1 staff support
 - Absent with apologies
 - Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Erin Smith (ES)
 - Absent without apologies:
 - Housing Volunteer Officer, Aidan Lewis (AL)
 - Media Volunteer Officer, Brooke Mullholland (BM)
- **Minutes Ratification**
 - Ratified by EH
- **Challenges to Order Paper: None.**
- **Dates to Note**
 - Weekly Free Community Breakfast w/ Global Justice: Tuesdays 8-10am in Chaplaincy
 - Disability History Month: 14 November- 20 December
 - CZEC Deadline: 16 November
 - Equality Zone: 20 November
 - Trans day of Remembrance: 20 November
 - 16 Days of Activism: 25 November – 10 December
 - CPR Training w/ Paramedic Soc: 3rd December
 - Society Dates to Note

- GSOC: 12-hour fundraising event for Stirling School of English, 22nd November @ 10am- 10pm
- DSAS to organise crafting event for Disability History Month (date tbc)
- Drama Soc: Spike Awareness fundraiser @ 7-9pm, 20th November, Slanj-A-Va
- Brig: Baby Brig talk, November 11th
- Neuropsych of Women Soc: Give it a Go, end of November (date tbc)
- Book Club: Murder Mystery Ball, @ Stirling rugby Club, 28th February
- **Elections & Resignations**
 - New Co-Curricular, international and Media officers
 - Resignations: None.
- **Reports**
 - Vice President Communities, Ellie Hammond
 - Sustainability
 - Ran Climate Festival involving 13 student volunteers and 16 events
 - Attended training session divestment, reinvestment and ethical finance
 - Worked alongside SOS UK
 - Challenges to University's impact on environment from university wide AI use
 - Organising Green week in March, including a Digital Clean-Up day
 - Parking and Transport: meetings set up to track progress of car sharing initiative, progress reported
 - Societies
 - Students' Union Awards evening planning
 - Paramedic Society granted Stirling Fund for CPR dummies
 - Grant achieved for society Common Room, the Conservatory in Airthrey castle
 - Funding achieved for sensory training for societies
 - Mental Health first aid training provided for societies
 - Gender Based Violence
 - 16 days of activism campaign
 - Challenges to JIMS presentation at Abertay University, revising University policies on external speakers to prevent such event happen at Stirling
 - WSARCS campaign launch with national partnerships
 - Accessibility and Equality

- LGBTQ drop in sessions success
 - Trans Solidarity Workshop and Non-Binary Workshop held
 - In consultation phase of adding tactile paving and braille, positive progress
- Housing
 - Working with marks out of Tenancy to produce informing articles for students about renting and finding accommodation
 - Meeting and supporting with Volunteer Officers in their role
- Other
 - NUS Election Campaign
 - Work with Global Justice society and Mina Society to form Palestine Coalition for Stirling Students
 - Movember campaign
 - Society fundraising leaderboard prizes
- Arts Volunteer Officer, Tom Mackenzie
 - Organised collaboration between art societies during Climate Festival
 - Live Music soc showcase launch following weeks
 - Elected as NUS delegate
 - Led non-Binary drop-in session
 - Attended Mental health first aid training
 - Plan to organise marketing and volunteering events with the Union
 - Plan for karaoke Night to be held next semester
- Co-Curricular Officer, Amy Taylor
 - Growing social media presence, meeting people important to role
 - Discussion of volunteering roles
 - Improving department integration
 - Elected as NUS delegate
- Sustainability Volunteer Officer, Erin Smith (presented by EH on behalf of ES)
 - Pursuing a local long loan bike project; bikes for hire for semester at low price – quote gotten for Recycle Bike
 - Challenges University on plans to replace gas-fired heat and power plant- speaking with professors
 - Open meeting to be set up for students to speak freely on their views about sustainability
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
 - Harm reduction
 - Raising awareness through student bulletin, social media, campus screens
 - Held 3 campus stalls – expanding outreach

- Exploring funding to bring back drug testing and expand services
- Surveys run to support shift from University's zero tolerance approach to harm reduction
- Holiday gift Boxes for Stirling Women's Aid: Union unable to organise this year so looking for societies to take over organising donations
- Society Success Stories: University social media team looking for society news articles for Student Bulletin to showcase society successes/news/events
- Society feedback Form: Be sure to fill out the form in Ellie's linktree to provide feedback on what you want to see from the SU and how we can support you.
- SU Awards
 - Themes proposed: Around the World, Carnival, Casino Royale, Alice in Wonderland, Great Gatsby/ Roaring 20s, Masquerade. Students vote – Casino Royale wins with 13 votes.
 - Call for performances, available compensation in forms of a free ticket or into society bank – SU still working out details on this.
 - DJ or Ceilidh: Ceilidh wins with majority vote
 - Nominations form open: open until March, you must provide a reason for the nomination for the committee to consider it
- Society Common Room starts 12th November, running weekly
- Bake Sales now permitted on campus under university conditions:
 - Good hygiene must be complied with food handling guidelines
 - Food Handling Guidelines must be signed and sent to SU, along with a comprehensive risk assessment sent at least a week prior
 - Disclaimer included at stall
 - Only baked goods
 - Ingredients clearly displayed with allergens
- **Any Other Business:** None.
- **Date of Next Meeting:** 3 February 2026
- **Reserved business:** None.