

Societies Committee 5/10/2020

Attendance

Attending: Nathan (Chair); Alex (Vice-Chair); Izzy (Councillor); Airsoft; Anime; Art; Criminology; Craft; Christian Union; Computing; Corium; Disney; Doctors' Sci-Fi and Fantasy; English Literature and Creative Writing; Environmental, Ethics and Sustainability; Esports; First Love NUC; Geography; Hindu Society; History; LGBTQ+; Nursing; PENSA; Podiatry; Pole Fitness; Royal Diadem; STAR; Book

Total: 27

Gathered Voices; Vietnamese; Afro Caribbean; Business Society; Coffee Morning; Mature Students

Total: 6

Apologies: Tamara (Societies Officer); Claudia (Councillor); Midwifery

Total: 3

Not in Attendance: Jiang Yuanting (VP Welfare and Activities); Avenue Campus First Love; Future Leaders; Law; Northampton University Conservative Party Society; Radio Waterside; Real Talk; World

Total: 8

Chair: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Ratification

Chair: Explanation and clarification of ratifying societies

Some confusion from societies over whether they were ratified.

Chair: Lists societies to be ratified

Chair: Invites representative for Vietnamese society to speak

Vietnamese: Technical difficulties

Chair: Invites Gathered Voices to speak

Gathered Voices: General introduction of society

General questions re: social media and possible collaborations

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
25	0	0

Chair: Gathered Voices is ratified

Chair: Invites Vietnamese society to speak again

Vietnamese: General introduction of society

No Questions

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
26	1	0

Chair: Vietnamese society is ratified

Chair: Invites Afro-Caribbean society to speak

Afro-Caribbean: General introduction of society

General requests for social media

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
25	0	1

Chair: Afro-Caribbean society is ratified

Chair: Invites Coffee Morning society to speak

Coffee Morning: Begins introduction of society

Technical issues

Chair: Invites Business society to speak

Business: General introduction of society

Computing: Are they an academic society?

Chair: Yes, they are

General requests for social media

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
17	0	1

Chair: Business society is ratified

Chair: Shares society committee's Facebook group for social media links to be shared to

Chair: Invites Coffee Morning to speak again

Coffee Morning: Finishes Introduction

No Questions

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
19	0	0

Chair: Coffee Morning society is ratified

Chair: Invites Mature Students Society to speak

Mature Students: General introduction of society

Nursing: What is considered a mature student?

Mature Students: Anyone over 21

Mature Students: Clarify they want more than mature students to join

Chair: Move to vote of ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
20	0	1

Chair: Mature Students society is ratified

Chair: Moving to de-ratifying societies. There is a number of societies that have folded and need de-ratifying. Suggests that we vote on all at once.

Chair: Lists Societies to be de-ratified

Believers Love World

Chess

Chinese Cultural

Game Changers

Islamic

Latin American

KPop

Meditation

Occupational Therapy

Pakistani

Tourism

United Amayi

Bioscience

Photography

Marrow

UON Theatre

Chair: Now is the opportunity to speak if you believe any society should be handled individually or any questions.

Chair: Move to vote for de-ratification

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
14	3	2

Reports

Chair: Did everyone receive Society Officer's report

Chair: Shares report

Chair: Reminds societies the reports are to explain what their representatives are doing

Questions: Wrong date; Timesheet missing how much engagement has there been? ; Lack of detail shows lack of engagement

: Request for names to be left off

Chair: Offered information that Societies officer had attended allocations but recognises this is not reflected in report and all comments will be taken to council as societies officer is not in attendance to comment themselves

Chair: Move to vote of report approval

Agree	Disagree	Abstain
2	14	3

Chair: Report not approved of

General questions from societies just ratified about funding

Chair: Explains top-up grant

Chair: No report from VP Welfare and Activities and no attendance so no report physical or verbal to vote on.

Art: What is her role?

Chair: General explanation of sab and officer roles. Similar to Ryan's role last year.

Nursing: Explanation for non-attendance?

Chair: Non given

General agreement that it's important to know how societies are being represented and to hold people responsible for non-attendance.

Society Awards

Chair: Explains 3 possible options: One big event; Multiple small events; Purely online

Pole Fitness: Depends on corona

Chair: Absolutely but best-case scenario what would you prefer

General discussion on how option 2 would work money wise. Key points:

How much?

Would it be influenced by society size?

Just committee vs Whole society event?

Some support for one big event but societies feel this is unlikely given current government guidance.

Small events have some support from majority.

Online option seen as least favourable but most likely.

Chair: Would option 3 been seen more favourably if greater fanfare made of event

General agreement with this

Agreed among all societies that society awards is still an important event

Some societies not aware there was an event last year

Disappointment that no awards were actually given

Afro-Caribbean: How does someone become a councillor

Chair: Explains the process of voting for councillors last year

Online Meetings

Art: Has everyone been given access to zoom

Chair: Everyone who requested money for zoom has it many societies are using alternative meeting tools. What tools are people using? Is anyone struggling to sort it out?

Criminology: Struggling but attempting to use Facebook rooms

Pole Fitness: Can't really do online

Suggested tools: Zoom; WhatsApp; Skype; Collaborate; Discord

Chair: Suggested criminology stay behind to discuss further if they are struggling

Council training

Chair: Roger has had technical issues. Shared PowerPoint file. Quickly went through the PowerPoint highlighting the importance of bringing up issues.

A.O.B

Union Day

General disappointment in Union Day

Chair: Did anyone have more than 5 people talk to them?

Criminology: 3

English: 1

Airsoft: 1

Art: 5

Anime: 15 but only 5 joining

Book: 3

General agreement that the day felt wasted. Many societies expressing they thought it would be more interactive

Computing: How did last year despite absolute disapproval by society committee the required number of members get increased to 15

Chair: I believe its 10 members but it's a good point. I believe we had a small number of councillors last year and hopefully this year there will be better representation for societies. Suggested we could look at temporary stop to de-ratifying societies with small numbers due to Union Day with a future look at numbers. But needs further consideration.

Website

General discussion about how to edit society page

Airsoft: Question about minibus directed to union staff to find details.

Chair: Confirms date of next meeting