*Committee Members Present*

**Activities Committee**

8th October 2024, 10-12pm

*Devansh Jhamnani – Activities and Employability Officer*

*Lara Parker – Sports Officer*

*Alex Keen – Education Officer*

*Supporting Staff Present*

*Harriet Berrington-Hughes – Senior Student Group’s Co-ordinator*

*Samantha Macbeth – Student Activities Manager*

*Ella Kirk-Bower – Minuting*

**Trigger Warnings:**

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| **Item No.** | **Item Title** | **Meeting Notes** | **Actions** |
| **Start** |  |  |  |
| 1 | **Welcome & Introductions** | **DJ to chair the meeting** |  |
| 2 | **Constitutional Changes** | **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Book Club**  **Voting: LP, DJ, AK**  **Outcome:** New Constitution approved  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **BACAS**   * **HBH:** Bacas removed student staff liaison, publicity and social sec to be combined. Sports officer added   **Voting:** LP, DJ, AK approve  **Outcome:** New Constitution approved.  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **HR Society**   * **HBH**: Their constitution was on the wrong template before, changes had been approved before but you requested it on the correct template   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK approve**  **Outcome:** Society Constitution Approved.  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Meal Prep**   * Everyone reads the constitutional changes.   **Voting: LP, AK, DJ approve**  **Outcome:** New Constitution Approved.  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Welsh Society**   * Everyone reads the Constitutional changes.   **Voting: LP, AK, DJ approve**  **Outcome:** Constitution approved.  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Ghanaian Society**   * **LP**: Do we know why it was sent back? * **HBH**: It was unclear how many social media officers wanted. The group have confirmed two.   **Voting: LP, AK, DJ approve**  **Outcome:** Constitution approved.  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Egyptian Society**   * **DJ:** They have added an additional sports rep   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK approve**  **Outcome:** Constitution approved  **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **Railsoc**   * **AK:** Are they changing the membership fee? * **HBH**: Their objective to buy each fresher a hi vis vest was not approved at previous meeting, they have said they now just want to change their fee from £10-5   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK approve**  **Outcome:** Constitution approved. |  |
| 3 | **New group proposals** | **Present: LP, AK, SM, DJ, HBH**  **UOB MEDTECH**   * All members read new group proposals, constitutional and aims * **LP**: looked before why sent back * **AK**: wondered why they wanted so many people on their committee, their response seems reasonable. People’s circumstances change * **HB**: feedback last time was about asking the group to consider condensing committee roles * **LP**: have they just gone ahead with chair, treasurer secretary? * **HBH**: No. all of the 3 branches of tech and want people in those branches. * **HBH**: Is everyone happy with reasons given for having large amount of roles? * **LP**: What’s the reason? * **HBH**: three branches need to fill roles, lots of plans, people’s circumstances change, allows people to have experience, Medsoc has big committee * **LP**: they aren’t a medsoc group so shouldn’t use it to clarify. But happy to approve * **HBH**: decided not to be a med group but mostly medschool students   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK approve**  Outcome: approved as a new group  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, SM, HBH**  **VISA Birmingham:**   * **AK**: previously rejected on basis technicality, had external links that were queried, name would cause confusion for international students. Same issues are there. * **LP**: agree with what AK said * **HBH**: want to reject them again with a separate reason? * **LP**: Not sure about name. What does VISA stand for? * **HBH**: Victory, international students and associates * **DJ**: The name could create confusion with students. * **AK:** Ask them to change the name? * **DJ**: can we suggest they change the name? * **HBH**: you can send it back for further info, give feedback on the name and ask if they are willing to change it. * **LP**: Lets tell them that visa is confusing and visas can be an issue for international students, they get guidance on it, people are going to be waiting for a reply from the VISA Birmingham Insta and it’s not going to help them with their ability to study. * **SM**: any other concerns if you look through application and constitution? We don’t want them to change their name and then come back to AC if there are still other issues. * **HBH**: chaplaincy had concerns with the wider church they are affiliated with. * **AK:** They want to convert people in their community which is a problem but is the community their university comm or within the society. We should ask them to get rid of that part of their mission. * **LP**: should we reject them and not allow them to reapply, or do we say they can’t be a group with the mission to convert people. * **SM**: Offers to check policies with **HBH** * **LP**: Is it coming back to the next Activities Committee? * **HBH**: Probably would recommend this because it is a complex conversation, better to come back to the committee.   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK**  Send back clarifying issues with the mission and the name. **SM** and **HBH** to look into policies.  **Reason:** Society name is confusing, and their mission could potentially clash with Guild and University policy.  Result:  SM and HBH to look into issue surrounding policy. If it is an issue, group to be rejected. If not an issue, to go back for further information regarding objectives and name  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, HBH, SM**  **Hindu Sports**   * **HBH**: previously sent it back to ask them why it’s necessary to have Hindu sports as a separate group. * **DJ**: Is this a new society or is it part of the Hindu society, are the Hindu society happy for this to go ahead? * **HBH**: It’s members of Hindu breaking up to make a new society * **AK**: Transferring committee was difficult but they seem to have sorted that out. Concerns with it being a satellite society but this has been cleared. * **LP**: Have they filled the committee members that are going to be on both committees? * **HBH**: I believe so. * **LP**: Happy to approve. Not sure that this couldn’t have been just in Hindu but could be to do with membership fees and the fees paying for their sporting activities.   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK**  Everyone agrees to approve.  **Outcome:** New group approved.  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, HBH, SM**  **Azerbaijani soc:**   * Everyone reads the proposal, constitutional aims and society roles. * **LP**: Happy to approve?   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK**  Everyone approves  **Outcome:** Society Approved.  Result: Society Approved.  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, HBH, SM**  **Voices for her:**   * **HBH**: When staff members spoke to them she told them about intersectional feminist association. Group wanted to make a new group. * **LP**: Happy to approve if the group they potentially cross with hasn’t been in contact, its ok. * **HBH**: Do you want to look at constitution, they’ve added a lot to core roles and extra roles? * **SM**: Around publishing articles, there are processes in place for other groups that do this that take considerable resource. If they were to have a website I don’t know resource wise currently that we could support that in terms of a proofing process. * **LP**: Should we go back and say that? Happy with extra committee roles that they’ve put in * **SM**: fundraising and campaigning could be done without writing articles? * **LP**: Happy to go back with feedback that if they want to be a campaigning and fundraising group that campaigns for marginalised women in need, happy with that. * **AK**: happy to go back and say happy to approve if they can get rid of what we can’t support. * **LP**: They applied to be a campaigning and fundraising soc but the only thing they have written about is writing posts. They might need to change their committee roles and responsibilities around articles and writing. * **HBH**: if we tell them about changing what they are planning to do, staff members would work with them to change the constitution to be in line with what is wanted.   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK agree to send back for further information**  Result: Send back for further information – change focus away from being a media group as we do not have the resources to currently support this, focusing on being a campaigning fundraising group  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, HBH, SM**  **IBM Z Soc**   * **LP**: what is IBM Z? * **HBH**: is it a computer company? * **DJ**: yes * **HBH**: We have feedback from Algosoc and CSS. Algosoc is fine with this. CSS have said they have a slight concern with 2.1.3 objective. * **LP**: I’m not sure that that is valid. Every group is trying to create an inclusive community and support network. If that’s their only concern there is not enough crossover to not approve IBM. * **HBH**: They have got two affiliations, IBM and Your Big Year. They will provide resources and different opportunities for them. * **DJ**: Happy to approve them. * **LP**: Happy to approve and it is good they have identified their main risks.   **Voting**: **LP, AK, DJ** approves.  Result: Society Approved.  **Present: DJ, LP, AK, HBH, SM**  **Electronic and Electric engineering soc:**   * **DJ**: Is there any similar society? * **HBH**: We didn’t go out for feedback so I suppose we have mechanical engineering but we didn’t go out for feedback. They are different enough because one is electronic, and one is mechanical. * **LP**: do we have an electronic engineering course? * **AK**: Yes, we do. The Constitution is very thorough in their risks. * **LP**: Membership is £10. That is more than standard. Have they said where they might spend that? * **AK**: They want to offer practical experiences for people that a lower membership couldn’t cover. * **HBH**: Guest lecturers etc.   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK** approves.  Result: Society Approved. | **ACTION: SM and HBH to look into anti-proselytization policy and how this may impact the new group proposal** |
| 4 | **AOB** | * **HBH**: Ballroom dancing grant application. To spend their funding for taster sessions by the 1st October but because the taster sessions fall differently and their coach invoices them, they want to change the date to November.   **Voting: LP, DJ, AK** approve.  **Outcome:** Grant deadline date changed for Ballroom Dancing.  Result: Date changed to November for the grant deadline for taster sessions.  **Chair confirms no other AOBs and ends the meeting** | **ACTION: HBH to inform group and change the grant deadline** |

**Date & Time of next meeting: 7th November 2024**