



Student Activities Committee

A meeting of the committee will be held on 10th November 2023 at 10 am in AG-103.

AGENDA

Invited

C. Fieldhouse (LTSU VP, Chair), M. Halliday (Treasurer and first captain) M. Slavov (VP Islamic Society) N. Barker (secretary to SAC), K. Simpson (VP Men's Football), H. Tombling (VP Badminton), L. Ramshaw (Treasurer Dance/Social Sec CathSoc) J. Randall (Treasurer RATTs/Chair Gaming Society)

Present

C. Fieldhouse (LTSU VP, Chair), M. Halliday (Treasurer and first captain) K. Simpson (VP Men's Football), H. Tombling (VP Badminton), J. Randall (Treasurer RATTs/ Chair Gaming Society) N. Barker (secretary to SAC)

Apologies

M. Slavov (VP Islamic Society), L. Ramshaw (Treasurer/ Social Sec CathSoc)

1. Welcome and apologies

Quoracy was met so democratic discussions could take place.

MS was unable to make it due to timings, further discussions to be held on meeting times/dates

2. Membership briefing

CF introduced SAC and reasons for establishment followed by an introduction on quoracy.

CF explained the voting process that was discussed during the first SAC meeting and committee voted that this was a good idea to adopt moving forward.

Explanation of the SAC Grant including budgets, applications, and the agreed voting process.

3. Meeting occurrences

Discussion initiated on future meetings, only two more SAC meetings for semester one.

Monday, Thursday, Friday are not ideal days to meet.

Discussion in to more frequent 1 hour meetings instead of a two hour meeting. Committee decided it was better to meet for a 2 hour period to have the time to discuss multiple topics and make decisions in an adequate time-frame.

A poll to be sent out two weeks prior to future meets to gather the best time.

4. Matters arising

HT asked about the codes for the boxes in the indoor sports hall and who manages them

KS highlighted and discussed Sports travel, it's financially difficult to travel so far to other universities

5. Membership Numbers

October

This is through MSL, so memberships.

Club Members: 343

Society Members: 144

Student Group Members: 456

Most popular societies (in order): Islamic Society, The Gaming and Esports Society, RATTs

Most popular clubs (in order): Football (Men), Netball, Dance

November

This is through MSL, so memberships.

Club Members: 355 (3.5%[^])

Society Members: 150 (4.2%[^])

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Discussion on BUCS positions – committee feel as though other universities are moving up leagues which makes LTU clubs have to travel further for games.

Highlighted that Men's football should stay as most popular club due to highest members but highlighted that SAC and LTSU should encourage other sports players to pay their memberships

6. Applications for new Clubs and Societies

Overall, the committee have voted that that future applications for adoptions/reapprovals of societies do not need to come via the committee and can be done via the Activities Coordinator as they are adopting a society previously approved by SAC. These would be brought to SAC Committee as a notification and discussion if necessary.

Overall, the committee have agreed that future applications for adoptions/reapprovals of

sport clubs do need to come via the SAC Committee as there is financial, equipment and spacing implications to be discussed due to the possible adjustments needing to be made to the other clubs.

Together Society – This looks very similar to what the Student Union offer. A discussion was made on how much interest they would gain over the year – could they promote on social media?

If the society can't find the numbers now, then how are they going to in the future?

Discussion was raised about The Wellbeing Society having similar aims/purpose and a possible adoption was discussed.

NB informed that LTSU had a discussion with the committee and suggested an adoption and rebrand.

The proposal to adopt and rebrand as the Together and Wellbeing Society has been agreed under the following guidelines:

- A better description on how they intend to pay for events. Separate ticketing for events was discussed.
- Generate the 10 interested members including committee.
- A better description on how they are going to promote themselves for sustainability reasons.

Committee agreed that if this information is to given to Activities Coordinator, they can make the decision on whether the criteria has been met. If the criteria is met, the society is eligible for approval.

Computer Science Society – Overall a very descriptive and lovely application. This is a good application and great for students' employability on campus.

Committee have approved this as an official society.

CrimSoc Soc – Great to see they have support from the lecturers. As long as the students are happy with their finances and know that they have to charge the members when they want to host events.

The committee have discussed the concern on where the academic advice is coming from. The committee are happy to approve under the following guidelines:

- Clarification that the academic advice is coming from lecturers and academics or any student established as a student support member.

Committee agreed that this information is to be given to LTSU staff to make the decision on if the guidelines have been met.

If the above are met, LTSU will inform the group of approval.

Bollywood Society – Committee discussed that it is a great application and good to see that it something not offered on campus.

Concern raised the concern if it was to appreciate one culture, it would be good to see them to a range of activities.

A great display in support of the culture and it is great that the students interested are from multiple year groups which supports the sustainability of this society.

Committee have approved this group.

PEAR Society – Committee discussed the already established Philosophy society as it covers the same purpose. The committee are happy that they get support from the academic departments.

Committee discussed whether this would clash with a possible future Debate Society – but decided that this was not the case.

Committee discussed that this society should adopt the Philosophy Society and rebrand as Philosophy, Ethics And Religion Society (PEAR).

If PEAR committee accept this adoption and rebrand – this society is approved.

Accounting & Finance Society – Committee discussed the sustainability of societies on campus but great to see that the application had been discussed with the Business School.

A discussion was held to adopt the Business Society and then the committee can consider running events that involve Accounting and Finance.

Committee have approved this society following an adoption of Business Society.

Apprentice Society – Although a full application has not been submitted the committee have discussed the application. The application so far is not strong.

Committee would like to know:

Where the funding is going to come from if they have external speakers?

If they are not charging membership, how are they going to fund their events?
How are they going to meet/ How often?

If apprentices are from across the UK how can they meet? Is there a local meeting point already existing? How would travel work as they would be unable to reimburse travel

costs as there is no membership fee? Have they considered using virtual platforms to host their events? Would this improve the apprentice students' sense of belonging within a community or would online be an additional barrier?

How are you going to get members?

If there are only two interested members currently, how do they plan to increase their interest?

How do you picture the handover process?

From a sustainability perspective, the committee raised the concern of the election process and how could this handover occur especially given the pre-existing commitments of apprentice students

7. Applications for the Student Activities Committee funding

Explanation given on how funding works and the two pots that have been sourced for both clubs and societies.

No applications for the Student Activities Committee grant

8. Varsity

Date agreed for the 17th. Committee have agreed it's not an ideal date, but it would be better to play one that do not have a Varsity at all.

Committee would like Varsity tops to ensure the University teams are represented and we look like a solid unit.

Discussion on Team numbers that we are taking to York St John. We need a push on getting clubs to sign up to Varsity.

Discussion on the Training set up before Varsity.

Possible struggles on getting international sporting students back on to campus in time, but these will be picked up by captains.

Discussion of mixed Basketball, Badminton. Badminton has one female player who is interested in BUCS, LTSU to ask the question to York.

Discussion on Bradford used as Varsity competition. The committee would like to approach Bradford to see the possibility of a Varsity. Main concern is on the location of Bradford and their facilities are spread apart.

Committee voted that an approach to Bradford for a possible varsity should occur next year.

9. LTSU Awards Evening

Critique

- Overpriced,
- Terrible food
- Awards given out were poor.
- Venue is the main problem – too expensive and the bar is too expensive.
- A different location would be important as it has become stale.
- Committee agreed they would rather pay more upfront as a ticket to ensure cheaper drinks. Discussed the possibility of having a drinks token involved.

-Ideally cheap drinks

- If the ticket is going to be around £30 then it needs to be good food.

- Discussion of the Sports/Society person of the year

-Discussion the addition of the Inclusivity Award.

Does it cross with the Sustainability award?

10. Sustainability

A presentation to be held by CF on the sustainability of clubs/societies.

Discussion on LTSU to reach out on to new groups and check in on them to ensure they know their roles to prevent committee drop-out. Committee suggested that it would be good to work more closely with newer clubs and societies to ensure that they are being supported and having a good start to the year.

The committee discussed the sponsorship forms provided by LTSU, some felt like it could be too over the top. Clubs thought that it some of it seems unnecessary but understands that LTSU is trying to protect clubs from any financial issues.

Committee discussed that they would like to start finalising sponsorships from July next year to make sure that they are prepared for their first games and practices back from the summer break.

Money is the main issue with Sustainability. Everything costs and travel is the main issue. Clubs are struggling to see where they can get money from when they already have memberships and sponsors. Societies feel comfortable on the money front.

Committee agreed they are happy to have a Sustainability presentation and workshop next meeting from CF.

11. Communications

Newsletter is not a great idea and highlighted that they already have so much to check and keep up with from a student perspective that reading newsletters would not be a priority for them.

Overall Union communication is much better from the whole of the team, committee leaders aware of who they can go to for support. Realised that the Students' Union is a bigger support system than they thought last academic year.

Microsoft Teams is good and working well as it means we can see each other's replies and quickly see the chain like a text thread.

One possible concern with the Teams channel is that possible leaders could be easily overwhelmed by the number of members – possible skill training on this?

Discussion on channels being created for each role, eg. a chat for all treasurers, etc?

Societies would prefer emails go to all committee or the main three roles, whereas sports would rather split.

Committee discussed this and agreed this is mainly a club specific issue due to the bigger groups of committee.

Committee agreed that it would be good to include phone numbers on constitution for the case of emergencies but highlighted that it should be optional and LTSU should inform students of what number would be calling them – it was highlighted that students may not answer calls from unknown numbers.

12. Any Other Business

Discussion on parking on Wednesday for LTU Sports teams, committee would like to know if clubs or committees can get free parking on Wednesdays for fixtures, along with Umpires. They highlighted Yarnbury as possible alternative for parking for sports teams – NB, CF and Activities Coordinator to discuss further.

Discussion on Kit delivery that has been very slow and poor – NB discussed update from company and expressed that LTSU are chasing the kit delivery as they can.

Committee discussed the new kit designs and agreed that they preferred the older designs.

13. Dates of next meeting for 2023-2024

To discuss and decide on next date and time in the SAC group.

Item A: Membership numbers update

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