

# Communities Zone

28th January  
5-6pm

C.LTA5 / MS TEAMS

## Minutes

- **Welcome**
- **In Attendance**
  - Members Present
    - Vice President Communities, Justine Pédussel (JP)
    - Arts Officer, Kushhali Gupta (KG)
    - Co-Curricular Officer, Ben Alker (BA)
    - Media Officer, Kyle Bruce (KB)
    - Sustainability Officer, Jani Belvalker (JB)
  - In Attendance
    - 33 Lay Student Members
    - 3 Staff Support
  - Apologies
    - Housing Volunteer Officer, Toby Wordie (TW)
  - Absent without apologies
    - International Officer, Nnamdi Igbokwe (NI)
- **Minutes Ratification**
  - Minutes ratified by JP
  - No objections
- **Challenges to Order Paper**
  - None.
- **Dates to Note**
  - LGBTQ+ History Month: February
  - CZEC Deadline for Grants, New Societies, etc: 2<sup>nd</sup> February
  - [Connecting Cultures](#): 5<sup>th</sup> February
  - [General Meeting](#): 6<sup>th</sup> February
  - [University of Stirling Day of Culture](#): 10<sup>th</sup> February
  - [Stirling Music Quest](#): Every Monday Until 17<sup>th</sup> February
  - Women's History Month: March
  - [Celebrating Holi event](#): 14<sup>th</sup> March
  - [Stirling Music Quest Live Final](#): 14<sup>th</sup> March

- o Inspirational Women's Awards: TBC
- o Election Dates to Note
  - ♣ Election Nominations Close: 11<sup>th</sup> February
  - ♣ Election Campaigning: 18<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> February
  - ♣ Alternative Hustings: 20<sup>th</sup> February
  - ♣ Hustings: 21<sup>st</sup> February
  - ♣ Election Voting: 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February
  - ♣ Election Results: 28<sup>th</sup> February
- o Society Dates to Note
  - ♣ Big Brig Talk: 11<sup>th</sup> February 6:30pm in Cottrell B4
  - ♣ Brig SEO Workshop: 18<sup>th</sup> February
  - ♣ TPS DRTPO: 20<sup>th</sup> May
  - ♣ The Politics Society Women's History Month Event: Week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> March
  - ♣ Photography & Videography Society Collaboration with the Art Society Exhibition Night: 2<sup>nd</sup> April
  - ♣ Creative Writing Fundraiser for SSPCA: 12<sup>th</sup> February in the Atrium
- **Elections & Resignations**
  - o 3x lay member positions available on the CZEC
  - o Ali Rees stands in the election
- **Reports**
  - o Vice President Communities, Justine Pédussel
    - Housing
      - JP plans to continue lobbying, getting more amendments into the Housing Bill and is meeting with MSPs.
      - JP Currently has meetings with 5 MSPs organised to discuss student housing and the Bill itself and hopes to meet with all MSPs in Scotland by end of March.
    - Sustainability
      - JP announces they have achieved The Divestment, thanks to the efforts of Global Justice, meaning the university will not directly or indirectly invest into fossil fuel or arms companies.
      - JP has achieved their Carbon Literacy Certificate.
      - JP lets students know they will be provided with access to the Feminist Society's open letter to the University, which has been ongoing since their 16 days of activism in December.
    - Societies

- JP announces that Global Justice will be the society showcase for January due to their big policy win and their organisation of free breakfasts on Mondays 8:00 to 10:00 am.
  - Buses
    - JP states that meetings with the bus company are moving slowly but some things are improving.
- o Arts Officer, Khushhali Gupta (KG)
  - KG looking to showcase what societies have been up to throughout the semester and planning to gather feedback on what resources, engagement or promotion societies would like to help them perform better.
  - Working on a collaboration between the media societies to share their skills and ideas.
  - In connection with the Art Society, KG plans to create pieces based on sustainability that can be displayed around campus.
  - Member asks how they can submit art pieces for the sustainability project. KG says they can get in touch with The Art Club with any submissions.
- o Co-Curricular Officer, Ben Alker (BA)
  - BA plans to interact more with campaigning societies and promote society activity throughout the upcoming semester.
  - BA hopes to define the remit of their position.
- o Housing Volunteer Officer, Toby Wordie (TW)
  - Report Provided by JP on behalf of TW.
  - TW and JP looked at the Enhancement Fund Application, from this they raised questions with the accommodation and money support team.
  - JP and TW along with the accommodation and money support teams will revisit this and hope to change the application to make it less confusing.
- o International Officer, Nnamdi Igbokwe (NI)
  - No report provided.
- o Media Officer, Kyle Bruce (KB)
  - KB highlights that the refresher's events were a success and has brought in new members to many societies.
  - AirTV and Brig have relocated to Airthrey Castle
  - KB promotes Brigs's Big Brig Talk on the 11<sup>th</sup> February and their Local News Workshop on that evening at 6:30pm
  - Air 3 Radio to host band showcase at The Tollbooth in Stirling on the 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7:00pm
  - Air TV planning to broadcast live programmes throughout campus due to receiving new livestreaming equipment.
- o Sustainability Officer, Jani Belvalkar (JB)
  - Around £996 raised from Sustainability Ceilidh.

- JB has been working with Global Justice to organise free breakfasts every Monday on campus and is looking for new funding to continue this.
  - JB has been participating in Green Impacts, a sustainability learning and awards scheme.
  - Alongside 3 sustainability societies, JB is planning a long hike and possible overnight stay excursion.
  - JB has an upcoming meeting with the Sports President to work on integrating sustainability initiatives into sports clubs.
  - Green and Blue space is planning to offer a biodiversity electricity training programme to students and union staff.
  - JB promotes a sustainability fashion fair taking place in the atrium, the following week.
- **Updates, discussion and decision topics**
    - Students Union Awards Ball
      - JP announces the date for the Awards Ball is the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April.
      - JP asks for members opinion on ticket price options. Would they prefer a cheaper ticket that doesn't include food, or a ticket that costs more but includes food and 1 drink.
        - The overall opinion was that members would prefer to pay for a ticket that includes food as it makes the event more of a special occasion.
        - Concerns were made over food options, but JP stated that members would be notified of a menu before tickets are purchased.
      - JP asks members for suggestions of the theme for the ball.
        - These suggestions were narrowed down to Hollywood, one colour, and sustainability themes.
      - Tickets for Awards Ball will be on sale 13<sup>th</sup> February, nominations for awards will also be open this day.
      - JP states they are looking for volunteers to help with shortlisting and refers to links in the agenda to sign up for this.
      - JP announces they are looking for 3 societies to perform at the ball.
        - A member asks how long the performances should be; JP replies 3-4 minutes.
      - JP references a link in the agenda to a shared folder where societies can upload pictures. Uploading pictures to this folder means the societies give consent for the images to be used at the Awards Ball.
    - Student leader training tentatively scheduled on the 12<sup>th</sup> May will be 9am – 5pm in collaboration with Student Support Services and the NHS. It will include sessions of inclusion, suicide prevention and more, along with the usual sessions from the Academy on general society training. Sessions carried out by the Union will be hybrid and recorded.
    - Campaign Training will be carried out JP for those who wish to learn how to campaign, share ideas and receive help and advice on campaigning. This session will be delivered on 10<sup>th</sup> February at 7pm, location TBC.

- JP introduces the Society Promo Project which is a collaboration with the University's social media team to promote societies to a wider audience and bridge the gap between promotion of societies and sports clubs.
- **Any Other Business**
  - CZEC Results: Ali Rees has been elected to the CZEC.
- **Date of Next Meeting:** 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025
- **Reserved Business**
  - None