



University of St Andrews Students' Association Students' Representative Council

AGENDA

Tuesday 20 October 2015- Committee Room - 6.00pm

- 1. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 2. Apologies for Absence**
- 3. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Previous Meeting**
- 5. Open Forum**
- 6. Reports of Sabbatical Officers**
 - 6.1. Report of the Athletic Union President
 - 6.2. Report of the Association President
 - 6.3. Report of the Association Director of Events & Services
 - 6.4. Report of the Association Director of Student Development & Activities
 - 6.5. Report of the Association Director of Representation
- 7. Questions for Committees**
 - 7.1. Questions for Association Alumni Committee
 - 7.2. Questions for Association Community Relations Committee
 - 7.3. Questions for Association Environment and Ethics Committee
 - 7.4. Questions for Association LGBT Committee
 - 7.5. Questions for Rector's Committee
 - 7.6. Questions for SRC Accommodation Committee
 - 7.7. Questions for SRC Education Committee
 - 7.8. Questions for SRC Employability Committee
 - 7.9. Questions for SRC Equal Opportunities Committee
 - 7.10. Questions for SRC External Campaigns Committee
 - 7.11. Questions for SRC Wellbeing Committee
 - 7.12. Any Other Competent Questions
- 8. Unfinished General Business**
- 9. New General Business**
 - 9.1. J.15-22-A Motion to Amend Chapter 14: SSC Design & PR Team Committee
 - 9.2. J.15-24-A Motion to Devolve Affiliation Discretion to the Societies Committee

9.3. J.15-23- A Motion to Promote The Postgraduate Officer on the SSC Charities Campaign to an Executive Committee Position and Rename the position to Postgraduate Coordinator

10. Open Discussion

11. Any Other Competent Business

SRC REPORTS

ARTS/DIVINITY FACULTY PRESIDENT & SCIENCE/MEDICINE FACULTY PRESIDENT

EduCom has Collaboration Statements and Strategic Goals to achieve, And work has started on these, we believe.

Over this week, working groups have met,
And those which haven't done so yet

Are aiming to get together this week

So as to have made progress next time education committee meets.

The Faculty Presidents sit on all the working groups

To give support to the School Presidents as they jump through the hoops But also to
make sure we can see

That things in all the schools sit in a state of blissful harmony.

Since the last SRC, like Zara, we have been chairs

Or a "sofa" since we come in a pair.

We organised the ID4001/2 SSCC

And the agenda, at 17 items, was far from wee.

The reception from staff could be described as "mixed" But positive action points
were fixed.

We will review them at the next meeting in probably Week 8, Which we are sure will
make for an exciting date.

The first School President Forum of this semester has occurred.

The bulk of the discussion surrounded which Reading Week Alternative was preferred
In each school across the departments.

Also popular was how to prevent

Low MEQ submission, given the new online distribution.

Other points concerned how much mental health training was given to staff in this
institution, And whether school presidents were sufficiently cool

To warrant having a ring-fenced pot of money in every school

For that president's independent use

Without having to apply for money whenever an event requires biscuits and juice.

Finally, the new Welfare Class Reps have been trained.

This role Joe brought in this year, so in the class rep system this training is a change.

Eleanor and Ilaria attended the training to see

What the nature of the role was envisioned to be.

Informative were the ladies of Student Services,

And the reps came away no longer impervious
To the magnitude of their new role
Yet confident to commit to it heart and soul.
Given that a strategic goal of EduCom is wellbeing
These reps should be very beneficial, since they are feeling
Prepared in taking wellbeing forward
And we hope the School Presidents will use them, going onward.

So to conclude this is the end of our report,
If you have questions, please don't expect us to retort In rhyme, for that would drive
us mad
And our poetry skills are somewhat bad.

ASSOCIATION ALUMNI OFFICER

This week we've been pulling together the initial organisation for the Alumni Festival weekend; the organisational Launch event for societies and subcommittees will be held Tuesday 15th October in Sandy's at 7pm. The event form will then be made public for societies to put forward applications to run events.

ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY RELATIONS OFFICER

This week the Community Relations team was focused on the lead up to Raisin, as we had an online series of 'countdown tips' circulating through the Raisin 2015 Facebook page and the Community Relations Facebook page, and also put up posters in student hotspots. Additionally, our Cycle Safety pledge on Saturday 10th October went very well, as we managed to get ~50 pledges and we have had a lot of positive feedback about the campaign through our Facebook page, so we are hoping this is something we can do more of in the future. With regards to cycle safety, we are also working on a poster campaign to promote the Union's subsidised bike lights, which will hopefully start to circulate shortly after Raisin. Finally, we are also interviewing for the position of Publicity Officer on Thursday 15th October, and hope to welcome our new team member very soon.

We hope that everyone had a safe and happy Raisin weekend, and would like to remind anyone who found themselves disturbed by the festivities in any way that they can contact us at comrels@st-andrews.ac.uk , and we will do our best to ensure that the incident is satisfactorily resolved.

ASSOCIATION ENVIRONMENT & ETHICS OFFICER

Week Four was Green Week, a joint collaboration between Transition, Environment Team and Environment and Ethics Subcommittee. This year has seen over 33 events, from societies including VegSoc, Enactus and On The Rocks, as well as community

groups such as StAndEn (St Andrews Environmental Network) and the Botanics. As well as coordinating the programme and publicity for the week, Environment and Ethics has hosted our own events, including a film screening and plastic bag swap.

ASSOCIATION LGBT OFFICER

Week 6:

- We had our EGM on Wednesday October 7th and elected Anita Mezza as our First Year Officer and Luke Shaw as our PG Officer. We now have a complete committee!
- Wednesday we are doing a Pub Quiz in Beacon Bar!
- Five lesbians eating a quiche: show is on Sunday the 22nd of November in the large rehearsal room at 7:30.

PRINCIPAL AMBASSADOR

-NO REPORT SUBMITTED-

RECTOR'S ASSESSOR

Catherine and I both had University Court on Friday, preceded by the annual Court Away Day - as I'm writing this on Thursday, I don't have too much to say about that! We've also printed and distributed flyers in all of the first year halls that let students know what the Rector is for, when to contact her, who she is, and how to contact her.

SRC ACCOMMODATION OFFICER

-NO REPORT SUBMITTED-

SRC EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER

Our committee has been working on quite a lot of projects! First, a big marketing push for Pangea, the international fayre which is in its planning and organising stages. Jackie interviewed for the Student Project Fund on Tuesday and they asked us to submit additional information about our budget so that we can be considered further. We are in the process of sorting marquee, sound, lighting, stage, etc. Marketing stuff will go up next week along with our new equal opps website and social media. Secured some speakers and acts, confirmations are slowly trickling in. Adam has been setting up venue bookings and coordinating with the Union bars for film screening and afterparty. Kate is working with TeachFirst to organise a series of workshops for students with disabilities. Kate also met with Morag in the Careers Centre to talk about publicising CV checks for students with disabilities, we'll also be working on a careers event with the Employability Officer and the Careers Centre. St Andrews Education for Palestinian Students event happened recently in collaboration with the Interfaith Steering Group; we'll be organising more events with them throughout the year and introducing cross-collaboration between our groups. Alice

will be setting up a committee for the StAnd Together initiative and continuing holding workshops for various groups on campus. Melissa will be working with admissions office to explore outreach possibilities for parts of Scotland not advertised for student intake.

We've pushed our meeting for this week to tomorrow so I'll probably have some amendments before Tuesday, but I can just give those in the meeting. Thank you so much! Hope you're well and surviving deadlines.

SRC EMPLOYABILITY OFFICER

Employability Training:

The Employability Subcommittee successfully lead the Employability Rep training for the first time on Monday, the 12th: More than 20 Employability Reps were introduced to the role at a joint training conducted by the Careers Centre (its Director, Paul Brown, and Pamela Andrew, Employability Coordinator) and the Employability Subcommittee (Outreach Officer, Emily Brett, and myself). The actual training was followed by a TeachFirst workshop conducted by Senior Graduate Recruitment Officer, Victoria Whitehill, who joined us from Manchester, to share how to create a successful event.

All in all (with lunch), the training lasted two-and-a-half hours and nearly everyone stayed till the end and feedback was positive.

Matching-Funding Model:

After the first hurdles for the implementation of a matching-fund model were taken two weeks ago with the Subcommittee allocating 750£ out of its budget, the Education Executive Committee agreeing to match this sum (taken from the EDF) and the Careers Centre contributing 1,500£, another milestone was taken during the Employability Officer's meeting with the Proctor, Lorna Milne, who stated the University would contribute a significant sum to this newly implemented fund. University's contribution to be finalized in a few weeks time at meeting with University's Director of Finance.

Lecture Shouts:

The aforementioned Education Executive Committee also pledged to introduce the SSCC of all Schools to the concept of tri-weekly lecture shouts and the idea was overwhelmingly approved by School Presidents. Idea introduced and discussed with Employability Reps at the training and public speaking help offered.

Disability Fayre:

Meeting with Equal Opportunities Officer to discuss joining forces in planning a Disability Fayre for second semester.

Other general business:

The Employability Subcommittee is well on track with the goals it has set itself and implementation is progressing more swiftly than expected. Not to say we're bored but

if anyone is keen to collaborate on employability-related projects, we have the resources to help and partner up (as done with Equal Ops).

SRC EXTERNAL CAMPAIGNS OFFICER

More fun times with External Campaigns! A quick list of what we're currently up to:

- We're still working with the Refugee Action Group discussing further options after their incredibly successful donation campaign. I'm looking personally at options to visit Calais at some point to see the situation myself to see what could be further done.
- The Sanitary Products Motion I spoke about at last week's meeting as met a snag due to the numbers not quite adding up. We're looking into other potential options and ideas. We're committed to getting results on this issue in order to make life easier and save money for nearly 60% of the student population. Further with regard to this, we've spoken to Enactus about their RubyCup project. They are very keen to work with us on this, and we're further looking into ways to promote the good work they do and incorporate it into our proposals.
- A re-run of last year's successful *Pints and Protest* event will be making a reappearance (subject to approval) in Sandy's on Thursday 29th October at 6pm. This event is aimed at getting more movements off the ground. It will involve myself and the External Campaigns subcommittee facilitating discussion between students and societies with an aim to helping them get campaigns off the ground, no matter what stage their idea is in. There'll be a Facebook event once it's confirmed, and it would be wonderful if you lot could share it about a bit. This is part of our ongoing mission statement of informing students and societies what we can do to help them, and helping them to get their ideas off going.
- Further to that, as always we're in small-level discussions with various individuals and societies about several potential campaigns.

SRC MEMBER FOR RACIAL EQUALITY

Preparation continues for Pangea. We're now less than a month away, and we'd still love people to get involved! If anyone would like to participate they can contact me at my email, ja75@, but if you just want to see what we're up to, the Facebook page is now up and running: <https://www.facebook.com/PangeaStAndrews>

SRC MEMBER FOR FIRST YEAR

Concentrating on raising and publicising Wellbeing's raisin pack giveaways, the alternative space and water stands to help them survive the weekend. Hoping to get a feedback session soon for first years to pinpoint any issues that can be improved.

SRC MEMBER FOR GENDER EQUALITY

-NO REPORT SUBMITTED-

SRC MEMBER FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

-NO REPORT SUBMITTED-

SRC MEMBER FOR MATURE STUDENTS

-NO REPORT SUBMITTED-

SRC MEMBER FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

I am meeting with Morag in the Careers Centre to publicize their events catered to students with disabilities. We are also arranging an email to send out to all students with disabilities notifying them of all upcoming events and a portal offered through the Careers Centre that is tailored specifically for students with disabilities to make sure that students are aware of all events and opportunities offered to them as none of them seem to be taking advantage of what is offered yet. I am also working with Teach First and Inclusion Scotland to arrange a visitation day where they can come run a seminar for students who are interested in teaching or politics.

SRC MEMBER FOR WIDENING ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Attended my first equal ops meeting on Wednesday 8th October and was brought up to date with all the upcoming events.

Omar introduced some ideas that Max had wanted to work on and I hope to be able to complete some of these

- 1 Alternative prospectus is an idea put forward - showing the 'real' or alternative St Andrews from the one seen in the University prospectus.
- 2 Jobs notice board for university vacancies in the union
- 3 Flyers with scholarship and grant information
- 4 More prospectus at open days for everyone not just for those with grades suitable for St Andrews.

I have been given access to StAN which is an interactive mentor / tutoring program which admissions is trying to get up and running. I have thought that this would be a good platform to start from to include additional areas and schools into the out reach projects.

Omar has agreed to help me put together a presentation of ideas to put to admissions about increasing the Universities out reach programs.

SRC POSTGRADUATE CONVENER

All postgraduate reps have now been trained and are ready to start working in their role. They are already planning various events in the different Schools.

We are also looking at the results of last year's PTES (Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey) and PRES (Postgraduate Research Experience Survey) to work on issues that need to be addressed in the different Schools. Furthermore, the conversation about improved tutor training continues with the Proctor's Office and reps from the relevant Schools.

In November, there will be two workshops running targeted at final year undergrads and taught postgraduates to find out more about a PhD in St Andrews. More information can be found [here](#) and places are available to book via PDMS for the [Arts](#) and the [Science](#) workshop.

The PG Society has successfully co-opted a new Events Convenor and Secretary. The Postgraduate Gala took place this past Friday and another bus trip is coming up on Halloween.

SRC WELLBEING OFFICER

Wellbeing have been running a publicity campaign on the Raisin facebook page with info on safety, logistics, general tips, and basic facts. We are also running a Bucket List competition (deadline end of semester 1) for Raisin families to send in photos of them ticking off 5 or more items on the list - the aim is to encourage academic family relationships to last beyond Raisin. We ran two speed adoption events which were very popular. We have 500 Raisin Packs to hand out on Thursday and Friday. We will be running a water stand on Raisin Sunday outside the Union from 12.

J.15-22

A MOTION TO AMEND CHAPTER 14: SSC DESIGN & PR TEAM COMMITTEE

Owner: SSC Design & PR Team

In effect from: Immediately after approval

Review date: N/A

THIS SRC AND SSC NOTE:

1. The Students' Association Constitution and Laws regulate the activities of the Students' Association.
2. The most up-to-date version of this chapter of the laws online (from 2013) contains a number of articles that are not in line with current and/or best practice.

THIS SRC AND SSC BELIEVE:

1. The proposed amendments will bring the Laws in line with current practice, and improve them where necessary.

THIS SRC AND SSC RESOLVE:

1. To strike the current Chapter 14 and replace with the updated version of Chapter 14.

Proposed:

Design Team Committee

1.Aims

The SSC Design Team aims to provide the opportunity for students with an enthusiasm for design to learn graphic design skills, and to participate in design-related activity and workshops.

To offer design and promotional services, wherever needed, to the Association and its affiliated societies.

The SSC Design & PR Team aims to advertise or assist in advertising and promotional activity for the events, services and representational functions of the Association and its affiliated societies.

2.Committee

2.1.Design Team Membership

The Design Team Committee shall have the following members:

- 2.1.1.SSC Design & PR Convener (Convener & Chair)
- 2.1.2.Vice-President
- 2.1.3.Secretary
- 2.1.4.Treasurer
- 2.1.5.Marketing Officer
- 2.1.6.Web Coordinator
- 2.1.7.Special Projects Coordinator
- 2.1.8.PR-Offline Head
- 2.1.9.PR-Online Head
- 2.1.10.Social Coordinator
- 2.1.11.Director of Student Development & Activities
- 2.1.12.Director of Events & Services

2.2.PR Team Membership

The PR Team Committee will be a sub-committee to the Design Team Committee. The PR Team will focus on publicising the Association's events, and as directed by either the SSC Design Team or Director of Events and Services. Its actions and spending shall be monitored by the SSC Design Team Committee. Its membership shall be:

- 2.2.1.SSC Design & PR Convener (Convener & Chair)
- 2.2.2 Online Head
- 2.2.3 Offline Head
- 2.2.4 Director of Events & Services
- 2.2.5 SSC Design Team Special Projects Coordinator
- 2.2.6 SSC Entertainments Committee Events Officer (non-voting)
- 2.2.7 Other appointed committee members as deemed necessary to fulfil the workload, as appointed by the SSC Design Team Committee.

2.3.Meetings

1. The committee shall meet fortnightly throughout the year, and at other times as necessary.
2. The SSC Design Convener will take the chair.
3. In the absence of the SSC Design Convener, the Vice-President will chair.
 3. Quorum
The quorum shall be three-fifths of the voting membership of the committee.
 4. Notice
All members of the Committee must be given at least 24 hours notice of any committee meeting.
3. Annual General Meeting
 - 3.1 Procedure
 - 3.2 The AGM shall be held during Semester Two and shall:
 - 3.3.1. Require 14 days notice.
 - 3.3.2. Be publicised widely in such places and by such methods as the committee shall determine from time to time.

- 3.3.3. Shall elect all Design Team Committee positions
~~3.2.3 Shall not elect PR Team Committee positions~~
- 3.3.4. Be open to all matriculated students of the University of St Andrews, except those who have exercised their right to opt out of the Students' Association under the provisions of the Education Act 1994.
- 3.3. Business
The order of business shall be:
31. Report of the SSC Design Convener
 32. Report of the Vice-President
 33. Report of the Marketing Officer
 34. Report of the Online Head of PR Team
 35. Report of the Offline Head of PR Team
- 3.4. Elections
- 3.4.4.1. AOCB.
 - 3.4.4.2. No person shall hold more than one position on the Committee at any one time.
- 3.5. Elections
- 3.5.1. Elections shall be conducted by a secret ballot using the STV system
4. Interviewed positions
- 4.1 The SSC Design & PR Convener will be appointed by the SSC Convener Selection Committee as described in Chapter Three of the Laws.

4.2 The following committee members will be appointed by the SSC Design Team Selection Committee, which will be composed of the SSC Design Team Convener, the Vice-President, the Director of Event & Services and the outgoing office holder:

Online Head of PR Team

Offline Head of PR Team

5. Committee Vacancies

5.1 Committee posts that shall, from time to time, fall vacant for whatever reason shall be filled by an EGM ~~co-option from the SSC Design Team Selection Committee.~~

6. Committee Decisions

Should a consensus be unobtainable at a Committee meeting, a vote should be taken. Those members of the Design Team Committee shall be eligible to vote and in the event of a tie, the casting vote will be held by the Chair of the meeting.

J.15-24

A Motion to Devolve Affiliation Discretion to the Societies Committee

This SSC and SRC note:

- The Laws of Association restrict the SSC Societies Committee's discretion over which organisations may be affiliated to the Association as Societies.

This SSC and SRC believe:

- The Societies Committee's remit includes the determination of the Association's Policy with respect to affiliated Societies, which it is unable to effectively undertake without discretion over what organisations may be affiliated.
- Some of the restrictions introduced on the basis of OSCR regulations are more restrictive than the regulations actually require.
- A Societies Committee elected with a mandate of changing affiliation regulations should have the ability to affect such a mandate.

This SSC and SRC resolve:

- To strike from chapter 9 of the Laws of the Association §2.2, §2.3, and §2.4
- To insert into chapter 9 a new §2.5.4 with the text "Any other conditions that the SSC Societies Committee may adopt".

Proposed on the Recommendation of the SSC Societies Committee



**UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SSC SOCIETIES COMMITTEE**

12 OCTOBER 2015

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Students currently attempting to form a new society are subject to constraint by undue oversight barriers whose actual effect diverges from their theoretical purpose – that being to comply with the regulations of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator which demand the Association not inefficiently allocate funding (such as to duplicate societies).

PROBLEM: the affiliation of a new society requires that the Societies Committee certify that the proposed society's stated aims will not clash with those of any existing society. But this review metric is flawed because (A) the preponderance of proposed societies' aims are vague and aspirational, as students are focused on what they intend to do and not on language of governing documents they have yet to write; (B) existing societies' constitutional aims are often overarching and equally-vague because they are required (by the Association) to explicitly operate within them at all times, and are also difficult to change; and (C) there is no practical or effective existing mechanism by which students may proactively avoid a clash in society aims by reviewing, in advance, language in the constitutions of all 150 existing student societies. Societies' stated aims thus invariably fail to encompass the substance their actual activities.

The Societies Committee has therefore found itself in the untenable position of having to compare inaccurate measures of proposed societies against equally-inaccurate measures of existing societies when considering Affiliation Requests – prime conditions for the creation of bureaucratic malaise. To continue to bind the Societies Committee to this incompetent standard of review, by direct causal extension, renders its oversight of affiliating societies to be one less of substance than of the pretence thereof.

SOLUTION: in the section of the Laws of the Association containing the conditions for “new and continued affiliation” of societies (excerpted herein), insert language noting that affiliation shall be contingent in part upon compliance with policies articulated by the Societies Committee; and also eliminate the immediately-prior, superfluous sections for clarity (text of insert included in motion and herein). The Societies Committee may then consider Affiliation Requests in light of whether the new society would actually duplicate the conduct-in-practice of existing societies. In so doing, it shall be able to ensure that the Association continues to comply with OSCR regulations, and may do so in the manner it prefers – oversight whose tone is that of when a lawyer counsels a layman, and not as when a mother harangues her teenage child.

EXCERPT OF RELEVANT SECTION IN LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION

{Chapter 9}

§2.2. A student society shall be affiliated to the Association on:

§2.2.1. The receipt of a copy of the Affiliation Agreement signed by an agent of the society;

§2.2.2. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the society's constitution meets all requirements laid out in the Standing Orders for Affiliated Societies;

§2.2.3. The receipt of the names of not less than twenty-five matriculated students who are ordinary members of the society; and

§2.2.4. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that all terms of the Affiliation Agreement have been met; and

§2.2.5. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the society's aims do not duplicate the aims of any other society.

§2.3. A student-run project without a defined membership shall be affiliated to the Association on:

§2.3.1. The receipt of a copy of the Affiliation Agreement signed by an agent of the organisation;

§2.3.2. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the organisation's constitution meets all requirements laid out in the Standing Orders for Affiliated Societies;

§2.3.3. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that all terms of the Affiliation Agreement have been met; and

§2.3.4. The satisfaction of the SSC Societies Committee that the project's aims do not duplicate the aims of any other society or project.

§2.3.5. Clear demonstration by the project managers that the inclusion of a defined membership would be unworkable, or else detrimental to the stability of the project, as agreed by the Societies Committee.

§2.4. All subsequent references to societies shall include student-run projects, unless otherwise stated.

§2.5. The new or continued affiliation to the Association of a society shall be conditional upon:

§2.5.1. The adherence to the society's constitution and policies;

§2.5.2. The responsible management of the society and its accounts as recommended in the publications of the Societies Committee, in particular audits; and

§2.5.3 The adherence to the terms of the Affiliation Agreement.

{end excerpt}

COMPLEX PROCESSES REFERENCED HEREIN

- LTP Request – *A Request for Leave to Proceed to Affiliation* is the product of the submission of a *New Society Request Form* to the Societies Committee’s Affiliations Officer, whereby students attempting to form a new society disclose the aims and activities of their proposed society. This effectively takes the form of a motion considered during a regular Societies Committee meetings which, if approved, permits the new society’s officers to proceed towards an Affiliation Request. Said motions are often preceded by discussion of whether the proposed society’s stated aims present a potential conflict with those of an existing society – as permitting a proposed society to proceed to the next phase of affiliation requires a substantial amount of additional work, which would *ipso facto* be onerous to require of the officers of a proposed society whose subsequent Affiliation Request is likely to be denied.
- Affiliation Request – *A Request to Become an Affiliated Society* is the product of when a proposed society’s officers, whose LTP Request was already approved, submit certain critical documents to the Societies Committee for review (e.g. a constitution, a declaration of the society’s aims and activities, a general risk assessment, etc.). As considered during a regular Societies Committee meeting, this effectively is a *pro forma* document review – only in rare instances accompanied by debate as to whether the proposed society’s constitutional aims will overlap with those of an existing society, as this will have already been addressed (as above).

HURDLES ALREADY IN THE CURRENT AFFILIATION PROCESS

When a group of students decide they wish to form a new society, they are required to complete the following steps, and in the following order:

1. To agree upon a series of intended aims and activities for their proposed society, which are stated as part of their LTP Request, and as conveyed to the Societies Committee’s Affiliations Officer. The Affiliations Officer thereafter conveys the LTP Requests to the Societies Committee.
2. The Societies Committee must then determine whether the proposed society’s disclosed aims and activities, which it must infer as faithfully representing the intended governing (i.e. constitutional) aims of the society when fully formed. By rote, as above, consideration of a LTP Request is when the Societies Committee effectively certifies its intention to affiliation a new society.
3. If the Societies Committee denied the LTP Request on the grounds that the proposed society’s aims clash with those of any existing society, the officers of the proposed society would need to proceed as follows:
 - 3.1. Arrange a meeting with the committee of the societies with which the proposed society’s aims would overlap.
 - 3.2. Argue convincingly to said existing committees that the proposed society poses no substantive threat to their activities, membership base, sponsorship relations, and so on.
 - 3.3. Petition the existing societies to draft a carve-out in the stated aims of their respective constitutions, in order to eliminate any potential clash with those of the proposed society.

- 3.4. Thereafter, each society whose aims would overlap with those of the proposed society would need to do as follows:
 - 3.4.1. Draft and agree upon revisions to their respective constitution, in order to eliminate any clash with the proposed society's own aims.
 - 3.4.2. Schedule a general meeting (in the preponderance of instances, an extraordinary general meeting, or EGM), and give notice to its members and the general public at least 10 days in advance.
 - 3.4.3. Conduct a general meeting, wherein changes to the society's constitution must have been drafted in advanced and circulated; where said constitutional amendments are duly debated; and where said amendments are approved by the general membership of the society.
 - 3.4.4. Provide written notice of the amendment to their constitution, as regards the proposed society, to the Societies Committee and the proposed society's officers.
4. Thereafter, having successfully petitioned each society with whom the proposed society clashed in their respective aims, the students attempting to form a new society could then return to the Societies Committee and re-submit an LTP Request.
5. The Societies Committee would then review the LTP Request, and would have to again deny any such Request unless it was confident that any possible issue regarding the proposed society's aims had been eliminated.

As should now be evident, the current process by which students may form a new society is strenuous and time-consuming in instances wherein any overlapping aims arise. Considered on its own, this process appears in need of reform – especially when the actual timeline for the above process is never less than four weeks, and usually at least ten weeks in the majority of cases (i.e. an entire semester).

SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL CAUSE FOR ALARM

The LTP Request process, as above outlined, is additionally complicated by several underlying problems. These exist regardless of whether the Societies Committee approves or denies a LTP Request on the grounds of a clash in societies' stated aims.

1. A proposed society's disclosed aims, almost without exception, are written in aspirational and vague language because the students attempting to form the society are often focused on what they intend to actually do with their newly formed society if their LTP Request is approved. In the preponderance of instances, these students have no reason to suspect that their success in the affiliation process hinges upon their ability to unintentionally circumvent language that could be construed to clash with that of other societies. Nor do they often understand that the Societies Committee is more concerned with syntactical convergence than the substance of what they actually intend to do with their proposed society.
2. Students attempting to form a new society have no means of reviewing the stated aims of the approximately 150 student societies in order to ascertain whether their proposed society's aims will clash with those of an existing society. There is no practical nor effective means by the Societies Committee can collate societies' constitutions for public access. Although societies may easily supply such documents

upon request, or publically of their own volition, the vast preponderance decline to do so.

- 2.1. Even if students had access to the constitutions of all 150 existing societies, those attempting to form a new society would need to review many of them in order to ensure no such clash existed.
3. When drafting a constitution for a society whose LTP Request has been approved, or when re-drafting the constitution of an already-existing society, students predominantly use over-arching language when writing the section regarding the society's aims. Said constitutional language is thereby conspicuously non-specific, and thus make discerning subtle differences between a proposed and existing societies the oversight equivalent of organising piles of sand on a windy Scottish beach.
 - 3.1. This is in part due to repeated cautions from the Societies Committee, as well as the Association more generally, that any activities conducted by each society's committee that are outwith its explicit aims are breaches of the fiduciary duty of said committee members, and may well expose individual to significant legal and financial liability.
 - 3.2. It is in part also due to the fact that society's officers often draft constitutional aims in the same aspirational and vague mind-set in which they drafted the aims stated on an LTP Request.
 - 3.3. It is in part also due to the fact that there is no incentive for a society to write constitutional aims that are *not* broad, because in retaining over-arching language they reserve a wide degree of lateral wiggle-room for themselves and future committees to commit to new activities without having to undergo the process of constitutional amendment *in advance thereof*, in order that their new activities might be conducted without administrative issue (see above).
4. Societies' stated aims, per their respective constitutions, consistently fail to identify their activities and purpose in practice to any degree of useful specificity. Therefore, when the Committee is attempting to decide whether to approve or deny a LTP Request based on whether a proposed society's aims will overlap with those of any existing society, it is forced to use an inaccurate standard to measure a new society in relation to equally inaccurate measurements of existing societies.

The above problems demonstrate the presence of serious flaws in the current system of affiliating societies, whose administrative iniquities have also been addressed herein. The net effect of these issues is an overwhelming barrier of oversight obligations that the Societies Committee is forced to erect in the path of new societies – despite the fact that it shares the disbelief of ordinary students at its height and the difficulty in surmounting it.

To illustrate, if only in part, the above problems in a less abstract manner, let us now consider some ways in which they manifest in practice.

REAL INSTANCES WHERE THESE PROBLEMS HAVE ARISEN

Below are several examples of the manner in which the problematic circumstances discussed above have inhibited the affiliation of new societies (no. 1 and 2); and have forced the Societies Committee to nearly break itself upon the verbatim text of the Laws, in order that it might continue to serve the Association as the Laws direct it in substance to do (no. 3).

1. Forced denial of LTP Request: Save the Elephant Society
 - A LTP Request submitted in early September 2015 on behalf of this society was denied by the Societies Committee because of a clash with the aims of the Wildlife & Conservation Society, among others.
 - As a result, the Societies Committee commanded that its Affiliations Officer be directed to counsel the students attempting to form said society about the possibility of carving-out an exception in the constitution of the societies with whom the proposed society clashed in stated aims.
 - The students did indeed seek carve-outs that would permit the Societies Committee to re-consider an LTP Request from the Society. This process is, as of Week 5, still ongoing.
2. Repeated forced denial of LTP Request: STAARTANGO Society
 - A LTP Request that was submitted in *September 2014* was denied by the Societies Committee because of a clash with the aims of the Latin & Ballroom Dance Society, among others.
 - As a result, the Societies Committee recommended that its Affiliations Officer counsel the students attempting to form said society about the possibility of carving-out an exception in the constitution of the societies with whom the proposed society clashed in stated aims.
 - The students did indeed seek the carve-outs that would permit the Societies Committee to re-consider an LTP Request. As a result, they were successfully affiliated in *April 2015*.
3. Approved LTP Request, in theoretical contravention to Laws of the Association: ANSA Society (Association of Norwegian Students Abroad Society)
 - A LTP Request that was submitted in early September 2015 was approved by the Societies Committee, despite extended discussion of whether the proposed society's aims clashed with those of the Scandinavian Society.
 - The LTP Request was approved because the Societies Committee, in the last 12 months, has repeatedly reviewed such requests from students wishing to form societies for cultural or national groups about whom another society has already claimed jurisdiction by its respective aims.
 - Based purely on the text of the stated aims of ANSA Society, it clashes with the Scandinavian Society because of the former's intent to provide social and cultural exchange amongst and within Norwegian students in St Andrews. However, the LTP Request was approved because another equally-valid interpretation of the same text demonstrates ANSA's intent to conduct events focused on Norwegian students in their own right, compared to Scandinavian's intention to conduct events focused on Norwegian students as a part of the Scandinavian student community – an obvious and substantive difference.

RESOLUTION IN FAVOUR OF REFORM

As a result of the above, the Societies Committee has been prevented from approving the LTP and Affiliation Requests of any society whose stated or intended aims are even vaguely conflicting with those of any of the approximately 150 student societies already affiliated to it. This is the case despite the fact that the operations of said societies do not conflict in their actual conduct-in-practice; and thus, to fund them (approving their Affiliation Requests) would not expose the Association to allegations of breaching of OSCR statute.

The Societies Committee's recurring denial of LTP and Affiliation Requests under the circumstances addressed herein have prevented a number of students' proposed societies from affiliating. Many of these – outwith the restraints set on the Committee by the Laws of the Association – are likely to be exceedingly meritorious and deserving of a place among existing affiliated societies. The Societies Committee thus recommends the following reforms, in order that it be empowered to better fulfil its responsibilities to the Association and the individuals whom the Association itself serves.

A PROPOSED SOLUTION

Pursuant thereto, the Societies Committee urgently recommends the following:

- Amend the Laws of the Association at §2.2., §2.3., and §2.4. – striking the problematic language in §2.2., as well as the now superfluous language in §2.3. and §2.4. – and insert at §2.5.4. “Any other conditions that the SSC Societies Committee may adopt.”

The result thereof being that the Societies Committee may do as follows:

- Pursuant to the regulations of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, and as already directed by its Special Rules of Order, the Societies Committee shall continue to NOT fund, by its grants of any kind, societies who intend to:
 - §4.1.1.1. Purchase goods or services offered by the Association from another vendor, when the undertaking for which the aforementioned are required does not necessitate purchasing said items from another vendor.
 - §4.1.1.2. Purchase goods or services for purposes outwith the society's declared aims.
 - §4.1.1.3. Purchase goods or services in a non-cost-effective manner.

{end excerpt}

And in an effective and reasonable manner, it shall ensure that even its non-discretionary grants (e.g. start-up grants, top-up grants), which may be dispersed without the Societies Committee's prior consideration of the purpose thereto (as with all discretionary grants), are dispersed upon mutual agreement between the Association and the respective society of the immediately above.

The combination of these factors will ensure that the Association maintains OSCR compliance by not funding societies' activities that are duplicative (i.e. an inefficient expenditure of the Association's funds).

- The Societies Committee shall adopt a policy administering to the affiliation of new societies to further ensure that the substance of their actual activities do not unduly overlap with those of another existing society (the matter of Association funding having already been addressed as above). Such a policy will take the form of the following, subject to amendment:
 - Outwith amendments to its Special Rules of Order, the Societies Committee shall allow itself enough acting discretion to consider LTP and Affiliation Requests on the grounds of whether the proposed ordinary society's intended and/or existing conduct-in-practice does not substantively infringe upon the conduct-in-practice of any existing society.
 - If an LTP Request is approved, the Societies Committee will give prompt notice to existing societies (by email) of the intended aims and conduct-in-practice of the proposed society, as disclosed to the Societies Committee. This shall constitute the start of a 7-day societies-consultation-period, wherein societies may comment or object to the approval of an LTP Request; and wherein the approval of said Request is deemed provisional, subject to automatic finality in the absence of a formal objection.
 - Should an existing society wish, they may object in writing or in person, whereupon the Societies Committee would subsequently reconsider and perhaps reverse its approval of the LTP Request, or extend the period of its provisional approval to allow for additional consultation with societies, and/or additional consideration by the Societies Committee.
 - NB: in the instance of an extraordinary proposed society whose intended and/or existing conduct-in-practice may be understood to infringe upon the conduct-in-practice of an Association subcommittee, the Societies Committee will continue its current practice of applying a heightened standard of review to the LTP Request. This would thereby continue to make it exceedingly unlikely that a society may be formed that would duplicate and/or undermine the activities of an Association subcommittee.

Pursuant thereto, the above changes are so recommended in earnest.

:CLH/AKOB/MT

(END MEMORANDUM)

J.15-23

A MOTION TO PROMOTE THE POSTGRADUATE OFFICER ON THE SSC CHARITIES CAMPAIGN TO AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITION AND RENAME THE POSITION TO POSTGRADUATE COORDINATOR

THIS SRC AND SSC NOTE:

1. With regards to the position of Postgraduate Officer, the SSC Charities Committee resolved that it would be more useful to have a postgraduate member on the Executive Committee.
2. This would allow the postgraduate member to have voting rights and would be able to create a postgraduate sub-committee with a structure resembling that of other Charities Campaign Subcommittees.
3. With regards to the position of Postgraduate Coordinator, the SSC Charities Committee resolved that their role would provide a link between postgraduates and undergraduates, and assist the events coordinator in organising events for postgraduates.

THIS SRC AND SSC BELIEVE:

1. There is a need for postgraduates to become more involved in predominantly undergraduate activities.
2. This direct link would open up the charities committee to a wider audience and help make campaign activities more inclusive.

THIS SRC AND SSC RESOLVE:

To report the following amendments to the Laws of the Association to SAB with the recommendation that the same do pass:

1. Add 2.1.1.14. Postgraduate Coordinator

PROPOSED: SSC Charities Committee (Charities Campaign)