



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Executive Council
Meeting held on Friday 31st January 2020 in the Court Room, Cottrell Building, University of Stirling,
FK9 4LA
Meeting 10:00 – 14:00

Present

Pete Burgon (Chair) (PB)
Ciaran O’Brien (CO)
Georgia Moran (GM)
Paddy Everingham (PE)
Cathy Gallagher (CG)

In attendance

Stew Fowlie (SF)
Totty Horn (TH)
Vince Mayne (VM)

Apologies

Andre Reibig (SFC) (AR)
Sarah Birrell (sportsotland) (SB)
Neil Brown (NB)
Maddy Watson (MW)
Chris Sellar (CS)
Jonny Pearson (JP)

[Actions](#)

1. Welcome, intro and scene setting

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked Cathy Gallagher for hosting and for the excellent catering.

2. Homologation

Apologies were received from AR, SB, NB, MW, CS and JP.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

The minutes from the previous meeting in November 2019 were accepted as a true reflection. The actions arising from the meeting were talked through and all actions were noted as complete, with the group having a look at the new Development page on the website- which was very well received. Thanks to Gavin Rittoo and Nicola Scott for their work on completing this. The dashboard will be updated in February, so as to be more accountable.

SSS Awards

The group talked through the awards criteria document as provided to the group. Much discussion ensued and VM added that BUCS were also in the process of reviewing their awards criteria and it does present its difficulties, notably with institutional representation and contribution to an institution. The group agreed that the female and male athlete winners must make a contribution to their institution. It was concluded that we are heading in the right direction with the criteria and comments were welcomed through Basecamp to iron out the criteria. SF will talk to CS to agree how to move things forward with Exec.

SF

3. Business Updates

1. Strategic plan- progress v targets

SF talked through the progress in each area of the strategic plan, with the help of the online dashboard.

A small number of membership invoices remain unpaid; we are hopeful to get a few more institutions joining this year and will continue to engage with those who are yet to join.

City of Glasgow and Fife College are both now working through the CSA, which we are delighted about.

There remains a bit to do, both to meet our annual targets and also our strategy targets, but we are ready and excited for the challenge. The next 10 weeks host 2/3 of our annual events so it's full steam ahead at HQ. PB thanked the team for their hard work.

2. Finance matters- period 5 figures

SF talked through the period 5 figures which forecasts a small surplus at year end. We are in a healthy position with our debtors and continue to have tightly managed finances.

The group discussed ways in which to best utilise grant funding. VM wondered if internships might be an option. CG asked about Special Projects - if further bids has been received and where we stood with any active bids. The group agreed that whilst we may not have supported as many bids as initially expected, the criteria remain correct and by sticking to them, we are making the right decisions. The possibility of raising the total available, which would invite larger bids, was discussed, so this may become available in next academic year. Next steps are for Management to discuss all current bids, TH to create a live Special Projects tracker and renewed communication inviting bids to be had, in particular with the Development team, but also across the network, in all conversations.

Management Group

TH

All

4. Partner Updates

1. BUCS

VM presented the BUCS update, starting with the launch of the new initiation reporting tool on the BUCS website <https://www.bucs.org.uk/report-an-initiation.html>, due to go live the following week, alongside 'My BUCS' and BUCS league table. VW felt that a culture change is required- sport is a privilege and not simply an entitlement and the student community needs to realise how fortunate they are to have such incredible opportunities available to them. The case of initiations and the poor culture surrounding them needs to change. VM gave some harrowing examples of very dangerous activity that had taken place, going on to say that they expect initiations to become a criminal offence. Cases now generally go straight to the student disciplinary, rather than going through the various layers of sports unions as was previously the case. Initiation cases are becoming very high profile and can be very damaging to an institution's reputation. The reports are highly confidential, shared only amongst 2 staff members at BUS and VM. The group agreed that SF would be copied in to cases relating to Scottish institutions. The Chair gave credit to VM and the BUCS team for putting together such a brilliant tool and trying to tackle such an important issue.

VM has had contact from Chinese heads of student sport, who are very keen to mirror the BUCS model, with senior managers coming over for Big Wednesday and Finals to meet with VM.

BUCS Play has been through another iteration and the app is working well.

There is changes work ongoing in various regions.

VM hopes to create an opportunity (alongside SSS) to meet Stewart Harris, to help build the relationship.

Lastly, the newest version of the partnership agreement between BUCS and SSS is about to be signed, further cementing the collaboration between the two organisations.

2. sportscotland

In the absence of SB, SF gave an update on the relationship with funding partner **sportscotland**. SF sent off the annual reporting the day before. We are starting to look at SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) data,

which hasn't been considered in such depth until now. We are mindful and careful about the protected characteristics which is really positive step forward.

The changing lives programme is gathering pace, with Eilidh Patterson in particular, involved. CG proffered that whilst this project is hugely valuable, we mustn't lose sight of what we're here to do, to enable and facilitate students to participate in sport and enhance their student experience by this means.

Our development staff had an excellent catch up recently with their partners within **sportscotland**.

VM offered his help with the leadership programme if this was required.

3. SFC

In the absence of AR, SF noted that we need to continue our engagement with the SFC.

CG gave an update on Winning Students, a programme supported by the SFC. The programme currently supports 150 students across Scotland, with funding agreed until 31st July 2020. AR has put a huge amount of work in to support the programme and for this we are truly grateful. New funding avenues are now needed. CG has assured SFC that they're doing everything they can to look into new income streams but they will need to reimagine the structure of the programme. CO commended CG in managing such a difficult situation. SF echoed his thanks.

5. SSS Strategic Plan consultation- shaping our approach

SF presented the Strategic Plan Consultation, as shared with the group on Basecamp.

The concept of SF's roadshow was once again well received, though PE and GM noted that differing views would be voiced, depending on the audience (Director vs Student President v Staff).

CG expressed her willingness to appoint an external consultant (contractor) to help shape the new strategy, as SSS staff time is so valuable and could be better spent. SF agreed though is mindful of wishing to steer the consultation in the right direction. SF felt that we may be able to leverage something out of Conference. VM proffered that the staff should be involved in the process too. PB echoed that we want to be both staff led and member led, so appointing an external consultant but consulting with both the membership and the staff team, and using Management Group to check and challenge. CG said we shouldn't be shy to let the consultant go off and run with their own ideas- if we brief them well enough, they will go in the right direction.

SF

SF said the next step is to pull together a short 2 page brief with supporting material and go out to tender in early March. CG wondered if a member institution might have a consultancy team within a business school, for example, we could draw upon.

In terms of the finances, we aim for the project to come in under £10K.

PB concluded that discussions are encouraging and positive and we need to keep the momentum going.

6. Future Financial Model

SF presented a comparison of the 2011/12 figures, with those from 2019/20, looking into the various areas of income and expenditure, to set the scene.

SF then presented the possible funding streams as points of discussion.

1. *Repurposing staff* - have a business development/ commercial post
2. *Sponsorship and commercial activity increase*- PE suggested that student accommodation may be a potential sponsor. We've got leaders, excellent individuals, who demonstrate skills through sport and will be attractive to big companies with the same values as those held within student sport. We must ensure the sponsorship is targeted and thematic.
3. *Extending grant funding*
4. *Sweating our assets e.g. aiming to generate more profit from our sports programme*
5. *Individual membership*- ask the question what the value proposition is to individual students so perhaps linking in a professional or a student. VM suggested we should survey both students and staff.

6. *Radically changing how we link to SGBs*- shift to affiliation landscape. CO isn't sure the right level flows back from SGBs, thinking we could get better value if we were controlling funds ourselves. Look into where the control sits within the data and cashflow. Value, financial, beneficial partnership agreements and lean on **sportscotland** to broker or manage conversations.
7. *Review status- become a company*- could we look into how BUCS is structured, for assistance, and potentially work closer together?
8. *Increase membership fees*- last resort
9. *Crowd funding or going out to alumni network*- qualitative data exploring by the Sports Sabbs group.
10. *Shrink our activity*- last resort

All

The Chair thanked the group for their discussion and encouraged them to continue engaging with the topic of future financial planning.

11. AOCB

1. Scottish elections

SF asked if we should support the SSA ahead of the 2021 Scottish elections, as we have in the past. The group agreed that we should engage in the process, but consider carefully whether to do so from within SSA, or as a separately named partner.

2. Charity- back on side

PE enlightened the group about 'changing room talks with Libby and Graeme' which he felt could benefit the whole network. The group encouraged PE to put a Special Project bid in for this. The group then discussed charity work and campaigns and how we decide who to support. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the first meeting of the academic year.

3. Dates and venues for the diary:

- a. Exec 4- Friday 1st May, Oriam
- b. SSS Conference- Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th June, QMU

4. Confirm actions and close

PB closed the meeting, congratulated both Chris Purdie and Stew Fowlie for their Heads of Delegation roles with the World University Games GB Team. Thanks to TH for minutes and CG for the catering and a special thanks to BP for his contribution to our sector. He will be a huge loss to us, but a great addition to BUCS and we're delighted he's staying within the family.

ACTION LIST

Summary of Action	Initials
SF to talk to CS/ Comps Committee about Awards and how to move forward with criteria discussions.	SF
Discuss and review all current live Special Projects bids.	Management Group
Create a live Special Projects tracker.	TH
Mention Special Projects in conversations across the network.	All
Pull together a short 2 page brief with supporting material on the strategic plan consultation and go out to tender in early March.	SF
Continue future financial planning via Basecamp.	All