



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Executive Council
Meeting held on Friday 24th February 2023
Board Room, Edinburgh College, 24 Milton Road, Edinburgh, EH15 2PQ
Or via Zoom
Meeting 10:00 – 14:00

Present

Ian Gaunt (IG)
Chris Sellar (CS)
Jonny Pearson (JP)
Cathy Gallagher (CG)
Dan Potter (DP)
Ewan Galbraith (EG)
Eamonn Laird (EL)
Ciaran O'Brien (CO)
Kirsten Mullen (KM)

In attendance

Pete Burgon (PB)
Stew Fowlie (SF)
Totty Sinclair Roads (TSR)
Vince Mayne (VM)
Anna Wallace (AW)

Apologies

Katherine Corbett (KC)
Robin McGregor (RM)
Alison Craig (AC)
Sarah Birrell (SB)
Heather Gault (HG)

[Actions](#)

1. Welcome, intro and scene setting

PB opened the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance and JP for hosting. Welcomed AW to the meeting and KM, here in KC's absence.

2. Homologation

Apologies were received from AC, SB, RM, HG and KC.

No conflicts of interest were noted.

The minutes from the previous meeting in November 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection. Actions were talked through and are all in hand.

3. Context

Top level updates around the table

Stirling- peak season, clubs are thriving, successes such as the University of Stirling v Dundee United football match created a real sense of collegiality, across all areas of the university, not about just sport. Need to find ways to recreate that feeling. Currently writing new strategy- economic and political context will be important as will retaining focus and not spreading too thin across too many areas. Uni is tasked with diversifying income hence larger intake of international students. Overall in good shape, buzz of activity.

Glasgow- need to harness a greater sense of community. Having netball game just before a Sirens match worked well and should be replicated so as to increase links to the community. Work with international student communities moving on apace. Changes in demographics changes the numbers across different clubs. Congratulated Stirling for the football match against Dundee United.

Dundee- huge increase in international students but unfortunately Uni wasn't ready. Sports clubs were ready but sadly a number are not yet engaged in sport. Concerns around accommodation in Dundee. EL moving into new role in university marketing, away from university sport.

Fife College- need to protect Wednesday afternoon- seeing less engagement as students using the day to work rather than play sport. Better engagement with competition but less with recreational programmes. New Dunfermline campus signed off and will have sport facilities, which will be excellent. Maybe sport on Wednesdays doesn't work in Colleges and we need to better understand and adapt for the different environments.

UWS- have some other learnings that could help with College layout as UWS previously struggled with Wednesdays- KM to speak with CO. Numbers are up, currently writing new strategy, international recruitment is up, retention is quite poor however- still seeing the fallout from COVID-19.

[KM](#)

HW- in good shape, have timetabled 'sport, community and wellbeing' into Wednesday afternoons so students are encouraged to take time out for them. Good at engaging with groups they know but less so with those they don't- like everyone, work to be done to engage international students.

Edinburgh College- College sector remains complex, a lot of moving parts. Overall EU and international students remain a small number collectively so lots of capacity for Scottish students and yet these students are going to university.

Conclusion- different colleges and universities will have a different blend, it remains complex. There is a risk to the culture of engagement, so we need to collectively drive culture in own environment.

4. Partner updates

SFC- 1 year funding model will remain thus for the foreseeable future as in line with Scot Gov funding. Winning Students bid went to Dec meeting- awaiting outcome. Upcoming joint meeting between SFC and **sportscotland**. Link to communities and local areas. No concerns about SSS funding.

Sportscotland- focus on Active Campus project- received 18 notes of interest. Hope to commence recruitment around Easter. Focus is to be ready to go, integrating new part of sporting landscape. Project remains a priority at **sportscotland**. Significant part of next bid to SFC will be about serving as an anchor to this network. Thanks to Bob Wyllie and others for huge amount of work in this space. AC will take over from SB as part of **sportscotland** reshuffle. Sincerest thanks to SB for her support and guidance over the past 11 years.

BUCS- Nationals taking place. Team entries up compared to last year, in conflict to Sport England's figures, so they are looking into this. Big Wednesday on 22nd March to round off 26,000 fixtures.

Large delegation went to Winter WUGS- hugely successful with 3 medals. Big well done to CP as Chef de Mission- did an excellent job. SSS should be very proud.

[TSR](#)

BUCS Conference 11-13 July.

BUCS TV has now launched.

Finance- in good shape, on budget.

Governance- number of appeals is down, culturally much better place to be, expanding the Governance team.

Culture- there is real value in shouting about what's going on- loads of incredible fixtures & varsity matches. Examples of great culture and collegiality.

Note of thanks for excellent conduct- Edinburgh physio helping injured female Cardiff rugby player- many thanks to Edinburgh physio.

[TSR](#)

5. SSS Strategic Update

Ticking along well, peak of activity. Balance of energy and attention between present and future.

Strong Org- healthy financial position, encouraging Development Audit results via KPMG, staff and volunteers are doing a great job- thanks to everyone. Placement students doing well.

Dev- Active Health Forum well received, Reffin' Brill delivery, LGBT history month, Boccia Special Project bid a triumph, SGB partnerships, Conference planning all tracking along well.

Comps- event entries up (including from College students), SSG an inclusive success, 6 National Squads in various stages, fixture completion rates remain high, Conference Finals in St. Andrews on 8th March.

Adv- Active Campus project. JF and MR connecting in across our existing model. BUCS agreement- thanks to CO for work in getting that done. CW doing some excellent work in Comms. Podcast doing well.

Collaborative approach has been incredible. Could we ask people to add SSS to their LinkedIn profile perhaps to better track where interns, volunteers are? Much more we could do in this space.

BUCS new strategy being written currently.

Home nations- working towards possibility of a multi-sport event in June 2024.

6. Strong Organisation

1. Finance- Net Profit Forecast

In good shape, currently forecasting a surplus of £20K though we expect this to go down as we re-evaluate our Competitions programme in particular for the final part of the season. It has been difficult to predict entry levels in this first full year post pandemic and certain sports will always do better than others.

Membership income is up as we are receiving £8,000K more of BUCS income than originally forecast. Merchandise income is down but this is mirrored in expenditure. Overheads are broadly as expected at this time and we will be taking a closer look at each area in this second half of the financial year.

Overall, we are trying to bring as much value to the membership through our competition offering, our development events and our advocacy work, while keeping a close eye on rising costs.

2. 22/23 Accounts and commentary

Final accounts now received, published and sent out to members with the following summary:

The accounts are recommended to you by the SSS Audit & Risk Committee and SSS Executive Council (via Drummond Laurie) as an accurate representation.

The SSS year-end accounts show a surplus of just shy of £51K for the year.

21/22 saw the return of activity post pandemic and with that a return to more predictable levels of income and expenditure. Membership fees were discounted by 10%, but returned closer to pre pandemic levels, and a surplus was returned on the competition programme.

It is important to note that 21/22 represents a high point in our grant funding and so whilst we enter 22/23 in a healthy position, we still expect to have to carefully manage our costs in the years ahead.

The surplus has been added to the Special Projects fund, which sits alongside our fixed reserves of £200K, maintained at that level as per our current policy.

3. KPMG Development Audit

Draft report received from KPMG- only one recommendation which is excellent. Achieved highest level of 'Satisfactory'. Final report to be uploaded once received.

[TSR](#)

7. SSS Exec Projects 22-23

1. Governance structure refresh

CS presented the RACI matrix- a tool for individuals to assess themselves within Committees. Chairs to take their committees through the tool. Remain open minded to do things differently. Terms of Reference for each group and role may shift based on the outcome of this, alongside the wider SSS governance. CS to communicate return date for information so committees have time to complete.

[CS](#)

2. SSS Membership fees

IG presented a membership fees paper. The top sheet tries to frame things. We want everyone to join. SF presented an adjusted FTE. Fantastic piece of work, good start point and adjustments are necessary. Financial pressures at all institutions and SSS is healthy. This works for next 2 years. The group posed the following questions:

- Have we got the College contribution right?
- Should we look at a hybrid of clubs and FTE?
- Could SFC cover the £140K so no-one pays a membership fee?
- Should we raise less to engage more?

3. Award categories review

CO presented the group's findings- institution awards are broadly speaking same to current SSS awards so feeling is that we should stick with this same set of awards. Hope to streamline the award process to make it easier and better- perhaps in line with institutions or wider SGB or BUCS awards so content can be replicated for different submissions. We need to be more flexible with the form and ensure the achievements are rewarded as opposed to the quality of the submission. Could we encourage a video as opposed to a written submission? CO to update the criteria and add it to Basecamp for all to view and comment.

[CO](#)

8. AOCB

Special Projects Fund

TSR to create a thread on Basecamp for SP suggestions from Exec.

[TSR](#)

SSS Conference ideas

- Concussion/ medical education
- Masterclass on specific topics as breakouts
- International student integration- how to collectively engage them. Inclusion rather than integration- intersectionality.
- Cultural awareness training
- Trans athletes
- Specific team of students to present on their experience on a topic

TSR to pass these on to IL

[TSR](#)

9. Closing remarks, future meetings and actions

PB closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their input and attendance and JP for hosting the meeting. Thanks to TSR for the minutes.

Next meeting- Friday 21st April: St. Andrews 10:00 to 15:00 with very little reporting, focus on projects.

[TSR](#)

ACTION LIST

Summary of Action	Initials
Speak to CO about learnings UWS had with struggles around engagement on Wednesdays.	KM
Pass on thanks to CP.	TSR
Pass on thanks to Ed Uni women's rugby physio.	TSR
Publish final KPMG report on Basecamp when available.	TSR
Communicate return date for RACI information so committees have time to complete.	CS
Update SSS Awards criteria and add to Basecamp for all to view and comment.	CO
Create a thread on Basecamp for SP suggestions from Exec.	TSR
Pass Conference ideas to IL.	TSR
Liaise with IG re hosting meeting 21 st April St. Andrews.	TSR