



Précis and action points from the Scottish Student Sport Executive Council
Meeting held on Friday 23rd September 2022
Room 3.23 St. Leonard's Land, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ
Or via Zoom
Meeting 10:00 – 14:00

Present

Ian Gaunt (IG)
Chris Sellar (CS)
Jonny Pearson (JP)
Robin McGregor (RM)
Katherine Corbett (KC)
Heather Gault (HG)
Cathy Gallagher (CG)
Dan Potter (DP)
Ewan Galbraith (EG)

In attendance

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

Apologies

Eamonn Laird (EL)
Sarah Birrell (SB)
Ciaran O'Brien (CO)

Actions

1. Welcome, intro and scene setting

PB opened the meeting, thanking everyone for their attendance- great to be in person.

2. Homologation

Apologies were received from SB, CO, EL and CG (until 1100).

No conflicts of interest were noted.

The minutes from the previous meeting in May 2022 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection.

3. Context

Top level updates around the table

Edinburgh- excellent engagement in Welcome Week, excellent sign ups in sport, feeling like a 'normal year'. Working with students to understand which sports clubs are able to take members part way through year. New international students' sports club up and running- funding received from the University, enabling participation in various sports and socials. Shift in membership- students buying one semester at first and not the full year.

HW- successful Welcome Fair, good engagement in taster sessions, slightly behind in membership, campus abuzz with activity. Demographic of the population feels different (1500 Indian students, for example) so working to engage different groups, issues with visas (international students).

Glasgow- campus thriving, however accommodation crisis in Glasgow so GUSA ensuring all have access to sport regardless of where they're living; student welfare is the focus.

Saints- excellent engagement across all levels, facilities free for students at start of term so membership total TBC, costs of living pressures for students are in everyone's minds.

Edinburgh College- fewer full time students than projected and funding is based on FTE so challenges times persist. Campus is busy but not busy enough. Putting on free breakfasts to help with cost of living crisis, expect surge in take-up from October as temperature drops. Junior football team that started during pandemic is thriving.

NESCOL- campus is bustling, gyms open and classes running again, positives to be had. Sport and wellness coordinator has just been appointment.

4. BUCS-SSS partnership

VM spoke to the paper provided to the group in advance of the meeting. BUCS have very little resource, budget is tight; challenging times across the sector. BUCS have looked at SSS alongside all other regions. Flat fee v itemised fee- tricky to quantify each area, remains a partnership, more granular. Previous agreement was a SLA which didn't feel right; now it is more of a partnership.

Exec wished to understand how annual fee has been reduced by approx. £20K, to £8K. Group felt they get a huge amount of support from the SSS office, fixtures bespoke to Scotland, feel this fee reduction will result in a drop in service. BUCS also get an excellent deal from SSS. Exec seek assurance that the Scottish members will be consulted during the process and that the service they receive will not be diminished.

BUCS plan to have increased staff capacity for fixture administration, replacing like with like, no drop in service. Any new employee(s) could even be based in Scotland.

Exec members also voiced their concerns around the value that BUCS attributes to SSS' other work. They wonder why the model needs to be changes as it's working well currently. They also reassured BUCS that it's OK to treat regions differently as it's the right thing to do given Scotland's unique characteristics. Current proposal doesn't feel like an improvement- with potential reduction in funding, staffing and service.

A solution needs to be prioritised and accelerated, as it is critical business to SSS. Fundamentally the members' voice needs to be heard regarding the new partnership and it was agreed that a dedicated meeting be arranged between VM and Scottish member representatives (+/- SSS input) as an immediate priority. VM to contact TSR to arrange an initial meeting, beyond which CG would lead a working group as necessary to bring proposals back to SSS Exec.

VM/ CG

21/22 fee remains unpaid- VM to ensure this is settled.

VM

A&R will review partnership as part of Risk analysis at its Autumn meeting.

A&R

5. SSS Strategic Update

Comps- events season is underway with golf event at Montrose at the weekend the first of 120 events this year. 6 National Squads planned with 2 others in discussion. Record entries for She Can She Will football cup- 18 teams with 14 teams entered into the QPS.

Dev- Active Health Forum well received, thanks to Stirling for hosting. RB courses under construction for the year. Interesting opportunities around boccia and kabbadi. Institutional welcome week interaction across the country. AMOSSHE meeting attended by 2 staff- great visibility.

Adv- good to co-host Sport Hour. Asked by SFC and sportscotland to write blog pieces. Continuing to represent the members. Part of Scot Gov student mental health and wellbeing group- SF attending meetings on regular basis and will have the opportunity to present on the role of Sport and Active Health as part of the agenda for the next meeting.

Strong Org- recruiting LH replacement, pleased to be listed as Investors In People finalist for Employer of the Year.

Overall good momentum, well placed in lots of different conversations- encouraging.

Active Campus- funding available for coordinators in the College network- notes of interest will be sought in the coming weeks, so hoping recruitment will commence soon and posts begin in early January.

6. Strong Organisation

1. Finance

i. Approve 22-23 budget

Improved headings and format of budget for better clarity, in line with business areas. Sustainability tracking categories added to Xero and visible in new expenses forms, to better monitor carbon footprint and report at the end of the year. Thanks to members for embracing this change.

As agreed at AGM, presenting a breakeven budget. Ambitious sponsorship target. Aiming to make a little more in sports programme. NS cost neutral. Rest is broadly the same as in previous years with small increases across the board so we will continue to closely monitor all spend.

Small salary saving for 22/23 with LH sadly leaving us.

Exec endorsed the approach and approved the budget for the year.

ii. Approve Special Projects Fund timeline and parameters

Group talked through the Special Projects proposal and agreed the following changes- increase max per bid to £5,000 with a total of £50,000 available this year. Get in touch with SSS Senior Staff to discuss a bid for more than £5K. Ensure all bids receive institutional sign off. TSR to make these changes, then publish in Sept Newsbites. Also share past projects with Exec.

TSR

iii. Note investment conditions (SFC & sportscotland)

Usual investment reporting deadlines looming- SF to complete reports.

7. SSS Exec Projects 22-23

1. Governance structure refresh

The group were shown a matrix on the current structure, with numerous groups. Working group to map out the structure, understand any gaps and consider the best structure and how to use it. Need to make communication easier, be more mobile and nimble, less meeting heavy.

CS to lead this project + one sports sabb yet to be determined.

EG/ HG

2. SSS Membership fees

Working group to explore the current membership fee model and decide if update is required. To be done by AGM. IG to lead this project, with RM and DP supporting.

3. Award categories review

Working group to explore award categories and decide if update is required. To be done by March.

CO to lead this project + one sports sabb yet to be determined.

EG/ HG

4. Active Campus

Working group to explore Active Campus opportunity in conjunction with partners.

JP to lead this project.

Working group leads

5. BUCS

Working group to explore the SSS x BUCS relationship and define partnership moving forward, following first step of member consultation meeting.
CG to lead this project.

Working group leads

8. Exec meetings 22-23

Structure, focus, venues and guests

The group agreed to giving shorter updates in future meetings, making use of Basecamp to post papers and committing to reading them in advance of meetings. Meeting hosts were decided as follows:

Friday 18th November: Glasgow

Friday 24th February: Edinburgh College

Friday 21st April: St. Andrews

TSR

9. SSS Strategy 21+

Long term targets and reporting

The operational plan was shared with the group, and saved to Basecamp. Underpinning the projects for the upcoming year and beyond, it is iterative and comments are welcomed to the staff team throughout the year. Workshop time will be created in November meeting so as to run through the target sheet as a group.

TSR

It was requested that the College presentation SF, JP and KM made to **sportscotland** be shared with the group. SF to post in Basecamp.

SF

10. Closing remarks, future meetings and actions

PB closed the meeting, thanking everyone for their input and attendance and Heather for hosting the meeting. Progress made has been made- feels like an excellent start to get into various projects and meet the challenges to come. Thanks to TSR for the minutes.

ACTION LIST

Summary of Action	Initials
Pay 21/22 partnership fee	VM
Contact TSR to arrange subgroup meeting in Scotland	VM
Review BUCS partnership in Risk Register	A&R
Update SP paper and publish in Newsbites	TSR
Share previous successful SP bids with Exec	TSR
Leads to meet with relevant group to start working on projects	Group leads
Non-deployed sabbs to signal interest in awards/ governance project groups	EG, HG
Liaise with meeting hosts- Glasgow, Ed College, St. Andrews	TSR
Put workshop time for operational plan target sheet on November meeting agenda	TSR
Post College presentation to sportscotland in Basecamp	SF