



Minutes

Thursday 14th April 2016 – 18:00, Westlain House

Present: 39

	Agenda item	Notes and actions to be taken	Person responsible
1.	Committee business		
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting	The minutes for the previous general meeting were approved and shared.	
3.	Matters arising		
	Financial Break down 2015-2016, including a summary from last year's audit	MedSoc financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the society's affairs as of 31 July 2015 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended. The financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities.	
	Presentations from committee members showing the biggest challenges of 2015-16	Please speak to individual members for more information.	
	Addition of clause "MedSoc society presidents are not permitted to run for 2 consecutive terms in the position of president"	<p>This was suggested it was better to have a new president every year as it would bring new ideas to the role. Theoretically this should occur at hustings as there will be contested roles.</p> <p>For addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In previous years not often have presidents wanted to run again for the same role, and when it has occurred there has been negative reviews. It was commented that it may not be best for the society if the president was elected again. This situation has not occurred often, however presidents have shown to not put as much effort into the role in the second year. <p>Against addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It pigeon-holes peoples. If they have a good manifesto and ideas for the role, surely it would be best to have the best candidate and not disadvantage the committee by limiting 	

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		<p>the people who can run for the position. However, there are other positions the previous president could fill, and others should be given the opportunity to run. In previous years it was not passed to limit the role to those that had been in the committee before.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be situations where the role may not be filled and may have been filled if the president was allowed to re-run for the role. • Liaisons officer pointed out that presidents that have run twice have increased participation in their society and felt they have a running start when running for the second year. <p>The reasoning behind the previous suggestion of the president being a previous committee member was....</p> <p>Main problem is people don't vote, or won't run against people who have more experience as they feel intimidated. Instead of saying they can't run, mention in the societies handbook that it is preferred that it is not the same person running again, rather than making it constitutional. Also in presidents meeting, presidents should list their plans for that year</p> <p>For the future, possible introduction of accountability, and if MedSoc feel that the societies are not doing what they have said they will do then MedSoc could intervene, potentially dissolving the society.</p> <p>Vote to include in constitution: 31 Votes against 0 Votes for 0 Abstained MOTION NOT CARRIED</p>	
	<p>Addition of clause "MedSoc society presidents must be a student at BSMS, Brighton or Sussex University during their term"</p>	<p>Suggestion to also include that it also needs to be a MedSoc member.</p> <p>In the past presidents have been intercalating students who were not in the area, meaning the president can not be present at events or be able to attend meetings etc.</p> <p>There is currently nothing in the constitution about sub-society committees. There was the suggestion to include this in the constitution.</p>	
	<p>Removal of clause 8.11.4 and 8.11.5.</p>	<p>To change the committee advisor role from automatically going to the president so anyone from the committee who wants to do that role must run for it and it being anonymously voted on by the outgoing committee.</p>	

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		<p>Needlessly favourable to the president, when the president may not be the most suitable for the role.</p> <p>One point was that the president will almost always get this role should they want it, however the committee knows who is the most qualified for the job, and this may not be the president, and the committee may feel uncomfortable voting against their president in a room of peers. Gives current committee to look at gaps in new committee and may co-opt a member of the previous committee.</p> <p>Removal of 8.11.5: 25 Votes for 1 abstained</p> <p>Rewording of clause 8.11.4: 25 Votes for 1 abstain</p> <p>Unanimous vote to change the wording of clause, see below. Also to remove clause 8.11.5. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p><i>To change from: The outgoing President may choose to co-opt this position for the year following their Presidency without the need for election providing they receive a vote of confidence from the sitting committee of more than half of all available votes, and will not be able to vote for themselves. Casting vote will go to the sitting Vice President in such a scenario.</i></p> <p><i>To: Any member of the outgoing committee is eligible to run for this position, voting will be carried out anonymously by the out-going committee. In the event of a deadlock, casting vote will go to the sitting president or vice president.</i></p>	
	<p>Alteration of clause 8.10</p>	<p>Suggestion to change the name of Liaisons Officer to “Welfare and Inclusivity Officer”</p> <p>Liaisons Officer is a vague description, and the name does not describe the role. Inclusivity is something picked up on by our feedback, and therefore we wanted to change the role to address this.</p> <p>Medicine is a stressful course and it is important that someone is responsible for peer support and mindfulness. Anatomy society has very successful peer support, and this might be something worth adapting for ourselves.</p>	

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		<p>Liaisons officer is currently in contact with welfare at BSMS to produce an advice document on finding support when needed, as some feel intimidated by attending student support. This addresses feedback that MedSoc should “care more” for the student body. Could consider discussing training for this position. Suggestion for an anonymous “worry box” in which advice is offered anon. However, this would not need to be constitutional.</p> <p>Vote to change name: 30 for change, 0 abstain, 0 against. MOTION CARRIED</p> <p>Addition of clauses: 8.10.1- Shall run a student satisfaction survey at least annually 8.10.5- Ensure that all MedSoc events are inclusive of all MedSoc members. Vote to add: 30 Votes for MOTION CARRIED</p>	
	<p>Addition of clause 9.6.4:</p>	<p>Year representative elections to occur after the announcement of core committee. -Year representative positions should only be necessary if the role of social sec should not be held exclusively by a members of the year group</p> <p>Pointless in 5th years coming to hustings when no 5th years attend, when only 5th years can vote for their own years.</p> <p>Potential problem that if people wanted to run for a year rep role, but it was taken away due to the social secretaries being in that year. Instead of changing this clause, could still get rid of year reps from hustings.</p> <p>Current solution: Leaving as is, and including that “To delegate the role of Winter Ball organisation should they require assistance” This may lead to losing democracy of the election of 2nd year reps. Solution: Vote- For: 26 Against: 0 Abstains: 0 Passed unanimously</p>	

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	Addition of sub-clause 8.12.3:	To hold at least 2 Graduate/Mature or 'sober social's' a term Wording to: For: 26 Against: 0 Abstains: 0 Motion passed unanimously	
	Constitution and its Byelaws	Our constitution involves byelaws, and there is a need to separate next year. Constitution: What the society aims to do Bylaws: Rules to abide by	
	Removal of "Post-elective" from role of 4 th year rep.	The elective has now been moved to 5 th year so this is no longer necessary. For: 26 Passed unanimously	
4.	Any other business	Unanimous vote for secretary to be allowed to correct grammar and spellings	
5.	Date of next meeting		

Minutes taken by JL