

PG Society Committee Meeting

Date: 14.11.14

Time: 13.00

Location: Main Bar (Union)

Present: Tania Strützel (PG Convenor), David van Brussel (PG Society President), Scott Schorr (Ball Convenor), Alison Holiday (Secretary), Syme van der Lelij (Treasurer), Andreea Oniga (Event Convenor), Fay Morrice (DoSDA)
Brianna Vandrey

Absences: Ondrej Hajda (DoRep)

1. Approval of last week's minutes

Minutes from the 7th November were approved. Scott is editing minutes from The 31st October.

2. President report

David will book the bus for the Edinburgh trip this week. The social with LBGT went well. David met with Syme this week to make a budget for semester 2.

3. Convenor report

PGT review meetings are still ongoing. On the 13th of November the first transition event was held for students in the Arts considering a PhD at St Andrews and one will be held for Science students in two weeks time. Tania met with the retail manager for the university cafes, as they want to update the Gateway café. On 11th November Tania met with postgraduate reps from all Schools.

Tania attended an accommodation meeting with one of the two private halls companies that are building accommodation for the next academic year. They are keen to work with students. These halls of residence will have room for 241 students. The company has not decided who to target the accommodation at but Tania made it clear that postgraduate students would want postgrads only flats and 52 week contracts. The rent for this accommodation is currently standing at £165 per person per week which Tania stated was high and suggested they consider doing a deal with a business.

Tania also met with the Careers Centre who are trying to arrange an event in the spring for PhD students looking for non-academic careers.

4. Treasurer report

Syme and David made a new budget, which was made available to the committee on Facebook. There is £1100 extra this semester and so this money was re-allocated to semester 2 events. It was discussed whether having 2 buses on the second semester bus trip would be feasible. This is possible if we raise ticket prices to £11, it was agreed that this was still a good deal.

5. Semester 2 events

Andreea has discussed hosting a running dinner with Fine Food and Dining society. She also received enthusiasm from Shimmysoc for a joint event. She has not yet had a reply from Swing dance society and is meeting with bubble TV on the 15th November.

David suggested that we book Sandy's bar for next semesters events. He also had a response from Whiskey Soc who are excited to host a tasting with us.

6. Debate with UDS

David met with Charlotte, head of the University's Debating Society, about a jointly hosted debate during refreshers week. The proposed motion is regarding staying or leaving the EU. The Rector and one other guest speaker are already confirmed. As this is a big topic it would be reasonable to have 6 speakers, 4 experts and 2 students. The cost would be a maximum of £150 and our job would be to arrange the remaining speakers. The committee agreed this sounded like a good idea.

7. Alumni weekend

An alumni weekend is being held in April, which we may want to host an event at. However, it was agreed until we know more about it we shall postpone discussion.

8. Edinburgh bus trip

David will book a bus this week and send out an email about tickets. Porsiana has created some marketing material, which has been implemented as the event's Facebook cover photo.

9. Pre-grad social

Tania still has no news on subsidizing this event. Andreea suggested that an after party might be popular due to the graduation ball early end time.

10. Graduation Ball

Poker Soc are willing to host table games, for example 2 poker and 2 black jack tables. The following items have been confirmed: DJ, Ceilidh, Strikeforce, Janetta's, wristbands, audio and transportation of equipment. Scott and Horizonz are to organise decorations this week. Tilted frame photography has been booked for 3 hours for £375 and are bringing props.

Wristband collection will be at the pre-grad social and if possible in front of Younger Hall throughout the day.

It was discussed that a rundown of the timings of events should be posted on Facebook.

11. Any other competent business

Next week the meeting shall be in the Committee room.

Date of next meeting: 21st November 2014