



Royal Veterinary College Student's Union

Council Agenda
Thursday 5th November 2020
1700hrs

Via Zoom

1. Welcome and apologies

2. Confirm minutes of last meeting – All **1700-1705**

3. New society proposal: Dance – JT (**Appendix 1**) **1705-1715**

4. SU Events policy – QW (**Appendix 3**) **1715-1725**
 - For Council to approve
 - Questions and suggestions prior to this are welcome

5. SU Environment policy – ON (**Appendix 2**) **1725-1745**
 - Breakout room workshops:
 - Council members will be assigned to a breakout room for 10 minutes.
 - Members to consider the following:
 - Any omissions or errors
 - Comments on individual policies and strategies – do you agree or disagree?
 - Is it achievable or not ambitious enough?

6. Exercise initiatives – JT **1745-1755**
- Feedback from students suggests they are struggling to prioritise exercise.
 - Discussion on initiatives we can implement to engage students in physical activities, particularly in mind of national lockdown.
7. AOB **1755-1800**
- N°1 Student's Union
 - TLDR

Appendix 1 - Dance Society application

Background: Dance society currently exists as a group within the Performing Arts Society. They have felt that their group is separate enough that they would like to form an independent society to manage their own organisation and funding. Their proposal is to form a funded society, initially asking for around £5k as a budget, the majority of this highlighted for competition entry fees. They have since altered their application for funding (see below). Also below is a copy of their provisional constitution.

RVC Dance Society Proposal and Constitution.

- a) A list of potential members is as follows (names obtained from a signature list posted on all RVC Dance Facebook pages):

Name	Email	Name	Email
Helaina Cressy	hcressy7@rvc.ac.uk	Aleenah Spencer	aspencer18@rvc.ac.uk
Katie Youngman	kyoungman18@rvc.ac.uk	Megan Roberts	mroberts18@vc.ac.uk
Kathilynn Teeling	kteeling6@rvc.ac.uk	Jo Salisbury	jsalisbury5@rvc.ac.uk
Celina Bjørseth-Andersen	cbjorsethande18@rvc.ac.uk	Matty Clarkson	mclarkson7@rvc.ac.uk
Mary Godfrey	mgodfrey19@rvc.ac.uk	Maysa Shaar	mshaar19@rvc.ac.uk
Mia Hanlon	mhanlon18@rvc.ac.uk	Mary Hirst	mhirst18@rvc.ac.uk
Amy Bradford	abradford7@rvc.ac.uk	Jasmine Ng	jng7@rvc.ac.uk
Chiara Matrone	cmatrone19@rvc.ac.uk	Gulten Sadrettin	gsadrettin19@rvc.ac.uk
Neha Sharma	nsharma18@rvc.ac.uk	Jemma Arnold	jarnold19@rvc.ac.uk
Lucy O'Dell	lodell7@rvc.ac.uk	Constance Fisher	cfisher7@rvc.ac.uk
Griselle Martinez Traverso	gtraverso18@rvc.ac.uk	Maria Semidey	msemidey19@rvc.ac.uk
Lucy Wildblood	lwildblood7@arc.ac.uk	Naedia Clarke	nclarke19@rvc.ac.uk
Lily Kwok	lkwok18@rvc.ac.uk	Monica Perlzak	mperlzak9@rvc.ac.uk
Isabella Alcazar Prada	ialcazarprada19@rvc.ac.uk	Robert Ryan	rtorres7@rvc.ac.uk
Zoe James	zjames18@rvc.ac.uk	Lindsey Herbert	lherbert19@rvc.ac.uk

Caitlin Taylor	ctaylor7@rvc.ac.uk	Sophie Thomas	sithomas7@rvc.ac.uk
Jason Desranleau	jdesranleau18@rvc.ac.uk		

b) The proposed membership fees are as follow:

£15 for a year's social membership

- *Allows members to attend open classes and socials, and to come on tour*

£50 membership for those on the competition dance team

- *Allows members to attend competition rehearsals and accounts for a portion of costumes/transport*

Disclaimer: These fees are subject to change/questioning, any advice on pricing/budgeting is greatly welcomed.

c) Request for funding? Please estimate how much you would need to start running the club and justify the amount.

We would like to request a grant of £1500 for the 2020/2021 academic year.

For the past few years, the dance team has existed under the umbrella of the Performing Arts Society. In the first year after it's inception, members of the dance team were required to pay subs for PAS, only to have none of this money used for dance-related costs, as all competition entry fees, transport and costumes were paid for out of the pockets of the members of the team. In recent years we have worked with the PAS committee to try and work out a balance so that the dancers benefited from the money they brought into PAS, however with PAS taking steps to become self-sufficient so that in future they won't have to rely on SU funding, it has become clear that this is not conducive to the needs of the dance team and it is not fair that the money brought into PAS through ticket sales be used to subsidise the dance team's activities.

As a new independent society, Dance Society would continue to run weekly open classes, as well as competition dance rehearsals for the numerous dance styles we enter at intercollegiate dance competitions including BUCS and Southampton. The largest costs for the Dance Team are those associated with these competitions, with entry fees often being between £15 and £20 per dancer per competition, plus travel costs. That is why we have set Competition Dance Team (1st Tier) subs at £50 to cover the cost of entry to two competitions with money left over for travel. However we require financial support from the SU as we cannot hope to cover the cost of additional expenses, e.g. costumes and props, through subs payments alone.

We feel that a Dance Society would be a great addition to the clubs and societies at the RVC as it would cater for all students, from those who've never danced before and want to learn a new skill, to those students who have taken dance classes since they could walk. Many students

who have danced before university look to continue their passion through university and we want to be able to provide that opportunity to them whilst also providing a warm, welcoming atmosphere for students to socialise with each other across all courses and years at the college.

This year we had 33 members pay subs for the dance team, and we currently have 33 signatures for our society proposal. Below is a breakdown of the dance expenditure for the past academic year (2019/20) as evidence of our need for SU funding:

Income

Subs in - £580 from 33 members (avg. £17.57 each)

Personal contributions from dancers - £736 (£23 each from 32 dancers)

Fundraising (bake sale) - £75 (cash spent on costumes)

Total: £1391

Expenditure

Competition fees - £1026

Costumes - £914 (6 dances)

Coach to Southampton - £608

Petrol for BUCS - ~£150

Total: £2698

(Dance deficit paid with existing PAS funds from SU grants + musical/panto ticket sales)

d) Constitution:

- I. RVC Dance Society
- II. This Club/Society aims to better integration between students of all courses, in all years, through two-three open classes for all and six-seven competition dance rehearsals per week.
- III. Membership of the society is conditional upon being a student at the Royal Veterinary College. A “plus one” may be allowed per student, but requests will have to be made a minimum of 24 hours in advance to the President of the society by email.
- IV. In Trimester 3 of each year, an Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held, where all fully-paid members have the ability to run for a position on the committee, which includes (but is not limited to); President, Secretary, and Treasurer. At least one member of the committee should be available at every meeting. Further roles may be applied for and opened, if within reason. There may be provisions for two

Secretary/Treasurer roles; one in each campus. Expenditure accounts will also be presented in this meeting, on request.

- V. The responsibilities for the president include: general supervision of society, resolving conflicts, reserving studios for classes, coordinating the rehearsal schedule, contacting members in regards to meetings, arranging competition entries. Joint responsibilities with the Secretary/Treasurer include having at least one committee member available.
- VI. The responsibilities of the Secretary include: managing social media and email accounts, sending out notices to the membership, and advertisement for the society. The responsibilities of the Treasurer include: keeping track of members/numbers, collecting subs, keeping record of all payments (income and spending), setting budgets for travel and costumes.
- VII. The first President shall be Helaina Cressy, as the founder of the society. The first Secretary shall be Aleenah Spencer and the first Treasurer shall be Amy Bradford. The first Vice President shall be Mary Godfrey, and the first Social Secretaries shall be Jasmine Ng and Katie Youngman.
- VIII. The society shall meet multiple times a week (exact date and time TBC) during term dates, to participate in dance classes, the dance style of which is pre-organised. A set rehearsal schedule for competition dances will be organised at the start of each term, and open dance/fitness classes will be arranged on a monthly basis.
- IX. All students of the RVC are welcome, whether you are an experienced or novice dancer and regardless of your prior training and ability.

Dance Society Grant Application

To Sam and SU Team,

Firstly, thank you so much for keeping the potential of dance society in your minds. We really appreciate you considering us for our own society given the various reasons for splitting from the Performing Arts Society outlined in our original society application. I am writing in reply to your request for a revised budget for term 1.

Given the current circumstances, the likelihood of competitions occurring in a normal matter are up for question. The dance team has run virtual auditions and is meeting virtually for about 9 hours a week in preparation for any possibility of competing next year. However, we do understand your request for a new budget since we cannot receive that amount of money without confirmed fees and RVC's permission to attend events. After discussion with the Dance Society Officer Committee, we have agreed that currently our only expense would be purchasing our own Zoom account. Our classes are around 1 hour each, which as of right now we are using the

Performing Arts Society Zoom account. Should we be granted as our own society, we would like to purchase a Zoom Pro account in order to support our independence from PAS in addition to ease in avoiding overlapping rehearsals between PAS and Dance.

As of right now, we plan on having all members (competition team and non-competition team) pay social subs at £15 each. Additionally, we do plan on completing our fundraising goal of at least £100. However, we are still hoping to ask for £120 for the Zoom Account so we can purchase it sooner (given subs may take a while to come in) and save our subs money for virtual socials and a potential end of year show case.

	Price	Quantity	Total
Expenditure			
Zoom Pro Account	£120	1	-120
Income			
Subs	£15	30	+450
Fundraising	£100		+100

Total Grant Application: £120

Thank you so much for your consideration and we are very excited to hear from you again.

Sincerely,
Amy Bradford (Dance Society Treasurer)

Appendix 2 - Draft Environmental Strategy

Royal Veterinary College Student's Union Environmental Strategy **DRAFT**

Policy

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) Student's Union (RVCSU) aims to operate with environmental efficiency, actively seeking to benefit our local environment, including its biodiversity, through our actions. RVCSU will also strive to ensure that its actions are beneficial to the wider global environment, helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Background

RVCSU recognises that its members have declared a global climate emergency. RVCSU has committed to becoming carbon neutral in scopes 1 and 2 by 2030.

Strategy

As far as possible, subject to resources, financial limitations, and legal powers and duties of the charitable organisation, RVCSU will:

1. Consider the impact its activities have on both climate change and biodiversity issues and will endeavour to introduce measures that either mitigate negative outcomes or actively support beneficial outcomes.
2. Consider the impact that the goods and services it procures, including the environmental commitment of its suppliers, has on the environment
3. Seek to only use contractors and suppliers who have their own environmental policy, which is continually reviewed, updated and measured against recognised, best practice
4. Support local businesses, particularly those providing local employment and services
5. Support initiatives for community energy projects
6. Support local initiatives aimed at climate change and/or biodiversity protection or enhancement
7. Meet all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
8. Encourage its Members and employees to take responsibility for ensuring that the best environmental policy is used and adhered to at all times
9. Ensure wherever possible safe walking and cycling routes are available for students to travel to and from both campuses
10. Support energy reduction strategies within the university and student halls.

Other considerations:

- Empower students to make their own contributions to environmental sustainability
- Hold RVC to account over its commitment to becoming carbon neutral
- Hold itself to account over its commitment to becoming carbon neutral
- Consider its impact on local biodiversity and local environment
- Strive to promote positive changes in both these areas
- Something about reducing waste in general at SU events (e.g. at Fresher's Fair lots of pens, badges etc. are handed out and no doubt a lot of these end up getting binned in the end)
- Reducing/banning T-shirts for SU events (possibly for SU societies too?)

Notes from EAUC:

- I'd consider broadening the strategy and framing it around 'Sustainability' as this allows the Union to campaign and undertake actions that aren't necessarily environment-led or carbon-led, but instead focus on wider sustainable development issues - for example embedding sustainability within the curriculum, or campaigning for free sanitary products for students. Similarly, you could formally endorse and support the UN Sustainable Development Goals within the strategy document. By doing these two things it meant I was able to get myself on to steering and working groups at University of Stirling and have a legitimatised reason for being there.

Appendix 3 – SU Events Policy

SU Events Policy

This policy has been drafted in response to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions both nationally and within the RVC. The policy will be reviewed at each SU Council meeting and at any time Council sees fit to amend or review the policy.

Members of the Royal Veterinary College Student's Union (RVCSU) shall adhere to RVC guidelines as well as government and local guidelines. In addition, RVCSU members shall not:

- Organise or participate in any in-person events that are affiliated with any RVCSU clubs or societies, this includes sporting and social events.
- Advertise any non-RVCSU affiliated events through RVCSU or RVC media channels (e.g. Facebook Hub).

Matters not directly pertaining to RVCSU clubs and societies

Concerning matters which are directed to RVCSU, but which are not directly pertaining to RVCSU clubs and societies will be passed to relevant members of RVC staff.

Disciplinary measures

Where a matter is raised with the RVCSU which directly contravenes the above policy, the relevant club/society and/or its members will be reprimanded under the guidelines laid out in the RVCSU disciplinary policy. These can be found in the bylaws on the RVCSU website [\[here\]](#).