

Club Health Protocols
A note by the DPCS

Background

In the past weeks I have received an unprecedented number of new club requests (>10) at various stages of gestation. While there is nothing specifically wrong with this it does make me wonder whether our current systems allow us to accurately reflect and cater to the needs of our current student population in the most efficient manner possible and whether we are wasting resources on lost causes. I also don't believe that we can continue expanding at a rate that would be suggested by entertaining 9 applications at each month's NCC particularly due to financial constraints. I also don't know that it is fair on the committee to be asked to give up in excess of 3 hours for this per month on top of everything else they do as part of their roles.

I'm concerned that ICU has got to the stage whereby we have spent so much time saying how great the clubs & societies are and how many we have, that it's now the case that students don't feel as if they can perform their hobbies without them being made into one. I think importantly, from where we are sitting we can see that for the bureaucracy that is imposed on clubs and the effort that goes into setting them up it is not something to be taken lightly and is definitely not a right.

I believe:

- We should look after our existing clubs
- Be mindful of the limit of resources that include:
 - Room bookings/ space limitations
 - **Money**
 - Storage space
 - Time of all the people involved who help facilitate clubs.
- The clubs that we do have in existence should reflect the current interests of the student body
- What/ if we do make changes they should involve minimal to no extra work to enforce.

Matters for consideration:

- New Club Start up procedure:
 - Form layout – more space for aims & objectives?
 - Financial Breakdown a pre-requisite?
 - Pre-screening by CSB on basis of forms?
 - Make clear to existing clubs that they are expected to expand through all club officer email?
 - NCC standing Orders?
 - Probation time?
 - Length of slot for NCC?
 - Increased powers of the NCC to fuse club applications, rename clubs to be logical, and more along these lines.

Other things to consider:

- CAG/RAG project definitions
- RWB portfolio definitions and making these a part of the form?
- Minimum membership targets?
- Dormancy procedure:
 - o Conditions for making a club dormant
 - o Dormant club rights
 - o Length of dormancy
 - o Does dormancy include the next FF?
 - o Is it conditional on Naughty officer status i.e. Would it actually be able to get going again
- Club Closure
 - o Right to appeal?
 - o How long before it could be started again?
- Changing the following paragraph of the Clubs & Societies Policy:

11. The Union shall permit club and societies to be formed freely by groups of students with common aims, provided they do not reject the aims and objects of the Union or its rules and policies, particularly the Equal Opportunities Policy, and no club or society currently exists which caters to their needs. Clubs and societies, once formed, should avoid changing their aims and objectives so that they do not clash with those of an established club or society, without the prior consent of this established club or society.

-Any thing else that I haven't touched on here?