

Policy Motion for a non-sports society equivalent of the AU dinner

GM Notes:

- The AU host a dinner, with awards for the sports clubs and their members, held in Penbryn Upper Dining Hall this year.
- The union makes no such provision for non-sports societies
- Other universities reward both sports and non-sports societies and their members. As an example, here are those provided by University of Surrey's student union: Best Entertainment Society, Best Departmental Society, Best International Society, Best Religious Society, Best Voluntary Society, Best Newcomer, Phoenix from the Flames (Best Revived Society), Best Overall Society, Best Society Member, Best Committee Member, Best Social Officer, Best Web Site, Best Publicity Officer, Best Secretary, Best Treasurer, Best Vice President, Best President
- University of Surrey decide the awards based on a guild members vote. An alternative option, such as that used by University of Southampton, would be to invite nominations and then appoint an awarding committee. The committee makes decisions based on criteria such as: How many full members does the society have? How has the society encouraged new members? Has the society achieved its aims? In its activities has the society been a positive representative of Southampton University and the Students' Union?
- By getting sponsors it would be a fund raising opportunity for the union. For example, Imperial College Society Awards were sponsored by Deutsche Bank.

GM Believes:

- The awards would be an added incentive to committee members to do well for their society.
- Those that win would feel rewarded for their effort, and encourage them to work just as hard for their society next year.
- Most societies wrap up the year by having a committee dinner anyway – an annual awards ceremony would mean all societies would be able to take part without need for organising somewhere in town. This would not only be easier, but also a cheaper option, plus it pumps money back into the union.
- It would be beneficial to arrange this societies dinner at the same time and place as the AU dinner. A venue is already booked, and food arranged – all that needs to be done is to increase capacity.

GM Resolves:

- To mandate the Student Activities Officer, to take on role of adding non-sports society awards for the 2006/2007 academic year.
- To mandate the Student Activities Executive to decide on the different categories of awards. The example list from University of Surrey (above) could be used as a base.
- To mandate the Student Activities Executive to decide on a mechanism for choosing the award winners. This could be by nomination and public vote or nomination and an awarding committee.

- To mandate the Student Activities Officer to look at potential alternate venues. Penbryn Upper Dining Hall may not be big enough.
- To mandate the Student Activities Officer to approach sponsors as a means of fund raising.

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Seconded by: Andrew John Hutchings

Passed: 8 May 2006

Lapses: October 2009