AF/25-26/04/06
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Activities Forum

6. ADF Policy Amendments

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Seconder(s): Nathalie Tedfors Lindell — Arts & Entertainments Chair

Decision(s): To **approve**

Union Notes

1) **Activities Development Fund (ADF)**
   a) The ADF is a pot of money set aside for clubs and societies to support the following:
      i) Funding **new and developing activity**, defined as an activity that is growing or is new for the club or society, and which aligns with their core aims and objectives.
      ii) Funding **unbudgeted success**, defined as an increase in costs due to an unforeseen success in a club or society.
   b) ADF is administered by the ADF Committee — a sub-committee of the Activities Forum.
   c) The size of the fund is set annually by the Union's Finance, Audit and Risk Committee. For the past three years, the size and allocations were as follows:

Year	Size	Allocated
2024-25	£70,000	£21,235.65
2023-24	£70,000	£33,766.87
2022-23	£70,000	£65,241.23

   d) The ADF policy currently prohibits the funding of food and drink, with no exceptions.
   e) Societies exist whose core aims and objectives include, or could be interpreted to include, the enjoyment of food.

2) **New Activities Process**
   a) The creation and management of new clubs and societies is delegated by the Activities Forum to the New Activities Committee (NAC).
   b) The conventional early timeline of fledgeling societies includes:
      i) Approval of initial idea (December or March, depending on round)
      ii) Applicants work on their idea and start to run low-risk events to build community
      iii) Approval of final idea (April)

c) For the past three years, the number of applications whose initial idea was approved were as follows:

Year	Initial ideas approved
2024-25	29
2023-24	20
2022-23	24

d) While new clubs and societies are able to, by definition, apply for the Activities Development Fund on an ad-hoc basis, there is no process to give them funding on "day one".

Union Believes

1. Applications which meet the spirit of ADF, but which are centred around food, should not be unduly excluded from accessing ADF funding.
2. Starting a new society with no funding hinders or delays its growth.
3. Students running a new society may, through their own drive and determination, be spending their own funds on the group without recompense.
4. A fixed amount of seed funding to each new group, to be used for community building, would be a good use of the ADF.

Union Resolves

1. To renew the ADF Policy, attached overleaf, for three years.
2. To amend the ADF Policy to allow funds to be used on food and drink, if the ADF Committee believes that it is integral to their core aims and objectives.
3. To amend the ADF Policy to provide £100 of funding to each new club or society upon approval of their initial idea.