Activities Forum

7. Use of Club or Society SGI for Event or Trip Subsidy

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Decision(s): To **approve**

Purpose: To establish clearer guidance and increased flexibility for clubs and societies when utilizing their Self-Generated Income (SGI) to subsidize events, specifically addressing the challenge in benefitting 'all members' that large membership clubs and societies currently face when attempting to make activities more accessible to members.

Union Notes

1. Self-Generated Income (SGI) refers to funds raised independently through sponsorships, memberships, and ticket sales. This is outside the scope of grant allocation.
2. Currently, there is a lack of clear, formal guidance regarding the maximum allowable subsidy per head when using SGI for club or society events.
3. Clubs and societies with large memberships (e.g., 200+ members) are disproportionately affected by restrictive subsidy "ceilings," as the total SGI required to significantly lower ticket prices often exceed perceived informal limits.
4. This lack of clarity has resulted in significant SGI balances sitting dormant, functioning as "dead capital" that provides no tangible benefit to the current membership of that club or society, or wider Union members.
5. Many clubs and societies find their events becoming increasingly inaccessible to students due to rising costs and falling grant allocation despite having the SGI reserves available to mitigate these price hikes.

Union Believes

1. SGI is student-generated revenue and should be reinvested into the student experience to promote inclusivity and high-quality engagement.
2. High-membership clubs and societies should not be penalized for their size; they should be encouraged to use their scale to provide affordable opportunities which are accessible to all members.
3. The primary goal of SGI should be to lower the barrier to entry for activities, ensuring that financial status does not prevent a student from participating in club or society events.
4. Empowering club and society committees to use their SGI for targeted event subsidies promotes financial autonomy and rewards and encourages successful income generation.
5. Successful income generation will be fundamental to longer term provision and diversity of activities if grant in real terms continues to fall.

6. Enabling greater event subsidy will likely increase beginner participation due to reduced cost of participation, enabling greater longer-term engagement by students with student led activity.

Union Resolves

1. To create and publish a clear "SGI Event/Trip Subsidy Framework" that allows club and society committees more significant discretion in lowering ticket prices for their members
2. To remove arbitrary per-head subsidy caps for events funded entirely by a club or society's own SGI, provided they maintains a healthy contingency reserve, and the event is truly open to all members.
3. To allow greater committee discretion in the allocation of an event subsidy when the overall SGI balance is considered to be 'very healthy', rewarding successful income generation.
4. To place greater emphasis on fulfilment and provision of the core activity being provided by the club or society when evaluating the extent of an allocated subsidy, not only per person allocation.