

Annual General Meeting 2014

Date: Friday 2nd May 2014

Time: 12:25

Venue: KSU Common Room

Attendance:

Chair: Johann Galdies

On the Table: John Paul Mizzi, Steve Vella, Marija Cini, Martina Mizzi, Elena Schembri, Ryan Sultana, Daniel Vella, Alexander Hili

Agenda:

- i. Reading of the AGM 2013 minutes.
- ii. Matters arising from (i) above.
- iii. Committee's administrative report.
- iv. Annual financial report.
- v. Appointment of an electoral commission, if necessary.
- vi. Amendments to the statute.
- vii. General motions and other matters arising.
- viii. The role of non-executive members within S-Cubed's framework
- ix. Nominations/Presentation of the new committee.

Minutes:

No vote was taken to approve the agenda or no. Forty-two students were present. Eman Mifsud possessed no vote because he was no longer a university student, however was allowed to attend the meeting because he was an honorary member.

(i) Reading of the AGM 2013 minutes

Johann went through the minutes of the AGM held in 2013. He read the motions which had been presented last year and explained the theme of last year's discussion.

A vote was taken and the minutes were approved *nem com*.

Donatella Bongailas (BSc. Biology and Chemistry), Maria Attard (BSc Biology and Chemistry), Alexandra Degiorgio, (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and Christian Desira (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) joined the meeting at 12:29.

(ii) Matters arising from (i) above

No matters arose from the minutes.

(iii) Administrative report

Johann started by saying that in every event the executive always tried to include as much students as possible. He said that S-Cubed is a process which started eleven years ago. He added that the executive strived to be innovative, especially in terms of ideas. He said that this year the executive continued to be transparent with the use of minutes and these were filed in the archives of the organisation. He said that this year the organisation worked with several other organisations on several activities, including campaigns and social events. These organisations included both NGOs and student organisations. He finished by giving some points as advice for the next executive committee. He mentioned that they had to keep in mind how they can attract more people, as the more people an event has, the better the outcome would be. He said that the board had to remain innovative, and they should not be afraid to try new ideas, and the last point was about how the executive works internally.

Martina started by saying what her responsibilities had been. She said that during the past year S-Cubed came 3rd as the most active student organisation. She added that other reports had been published, such as the Grants Report and also the University Society Grant, where she said that eight grants had been allocated (and these were shared between the executive, including the last three members who had resigned before the AGM). She

continued by saying that this year's trip to Munich was a success and said that forty-nine students had participated in this trip. She thanked the present members.

Simon Aguis (BSc Mathematics and Banking and Finance) joined the meeting at 12.32

Elena started by naming the people who had resigned from the executive committee during the past year and why they did so. She thanked them for their contribution to the organisation. She mentioned that Alexander had joined the executive after Anna resigned, and he was allowed to join because he had placed 13th in the election. She mentioned the number of meetings, twenty-five in all, and mentioned that one meeting was held every week, and also other additional meetings during the year for planning events. Elena mentioned that a planning weekend was held in summer to identify the goals and purposes for the year's events and limitations. Elena mentioned that two sub-committees under the education office had been set up, which were the *Science in the City* subcommittee and the Science Communication Team. She said that as her work as Secretary General, her responsibilities had included: the maintenance of files, which contain all the reports of events and all of the minutes, as well as the file on the electronic drive. These are important for transparency and for the new executive, so that they can have guidelines for their year.

Marija said that this year the executive managed to obtain three sponsorship deals and said that it had proved difficult to get more. She said that her aim for this year had been to get profit and this was achieved. She said that during the year she had strived to be transparent and she did so by publishing monthly financial reports. She thanked the executive as such result could not have been achieved without them.

Ryan said that his main aim for this year had been to help students to become more familiar with S-Cubed and this was done through the *Facebook* page and the website. He said that the 'likes' on the *Facebook* page had increased by 500. He said that the organisation has a *Twitter* account which is linked to the website. He said that the organisation had a magazine as well and said that he had met with the designer and changed the magazine's structure. He said that it consisted of four sections and the aim was that every student could have the possibility to express his or her ideas. He said that this year only one issue was published. He said that this year, wristbands were produced and some of their profits were going to charity. He wishes that in future years more promotional things could be sold. He said that he had improved a section of the website and had added book review, which was proposed to him by Marie Claire Gatt, and also

introduced a blog with the same sections as the magazine and the aim was for this to be integrated with the magazine.

Kaylie Demanuele and Edera Degabriele left the meeting at 12:52.

He wished that next executive would integrate the blog with the magazine. He said that due to the several resignations, he had taken care to renew affiliations with international organisations. He wished that the next executive could work on the *Facebook* page and encourage students to participate more.

Daniel said that he had seen that S-Cubed's media was weak and so he strived to increase the quality of its designs and worked on every publication issued, making sure that it would have a good quality in terms of design. He thanked Denise Axiaq. He said that *Freshers' Week* was the most important week to attract students to participate within the organisation. He added that a photo competition had taken place to attract more students to the organisation and to the page. He added that he had worked to get more people to join subcommittees. He said that he strived to increase the quality of the posters,. Apart from the publications he made sure that the presentations were better designed. He thanked Owen Caruana and Jonathan Pulis for their help in taking photos. He said that he tried to work on a video for every event and he thanked Sam Chetcuti for his help. He added that he worked on the revamping the logo. He suggested to the next executive to continue improving on this years' work.

Steve said that this year he, together with John Paul, had tried to increase participation and exposure and to improve relations with other organisations.

Julian Bonello (MSc Physics) joined the meeting at 13:02.

John Paul started to present the events which had been held during the year. He mentioned the *Youth Market*, *All Abroad* (which had been sold out), the *Try Dive*, *Meet the Freshers* (which was aimed for all the 1st years), the 9th *Annual Science Seminar* (he mentioned how the seminar had been structured) and the *Paintball Showdown*. He continued by mentioning *On the Trail*, and said how it was structured. Steve continued after John Paul. He mentioned *Santa's A-List*, which was a joint event with five other organisations and said that the profits went to charity. He mentioned that an event with *MMSA* and *MHSA* was organised after the exams and was called *The Aftermath*. He mentioned other events, which were the *Annual Science Gathering*, and *Blackfish* which was another joint event. He said that the last event for this year had been *The Lab*, which was a four-hour open bar party and said that it was a success. Finally, John Paul and Steve said that they had

achieved their aims, however they thought that there was always room for improvement and thanked all the people who had attended the events.

Christian Desira left the meeting at 13:12.

Alexander said that his role had been that of Students' Relations Officer. He said that his responsibility had been to attend the *KE/KPS* seminars, which were organised by the *KSU*. He mentioned that a charity event had been organised together with the *KSU*. Together with the help of Thomas Bajada he had formulated a research & innovation report, which was presented by Thomas Bajada during the *Research and Development Conference* organised by *Pulse*.

Edera Degabriele joined the meeting at 13:14.

He added that he had helped during *Biology Week* and thanked Lara Galea and Jonathan Pulis for their help in the *Adopt a Plant* initiative.

Johann said that two members had been in charge of the Education Office, but they resigned due to personal reasons. He presented their work. He said that one thing that this office had strived for was to communicate science to the community.

Lara Galea and Michaela Sciberras left the meeting at 13:18.

He suggested that for the next year there should be a recruitment night held at the beginning of the scholastic year, as this office required a lot of manpower. He mentioned that the first event under this office was held in summer and this was *Science in the City* and *Notte Bianca*. He added that there was also a Science Communication Team, which was responsible for promoting science to younger generations. He said that this had grown this year, since apart from *Saint James Cavalier*, the executive had been approached by *Klabb 3-16*. He mentioned *Share It*, which was aimed for university students, where they could deliver a presentation about a topic which they liked. He also mentioned the star-gazing event, which was organised for students to observe the Perseid Shower.

Andre Zammit left the meeting at 13:23.

Daniel said that he had been chosen by the executive to represent S-Cubed abroad, in collaboration with *Mind Trekkers*, which was related to the science communication. He suggested that the next executive should continue to work with this organisation.

A vote was taken and the report was approved *nem com*.

(iv) Annual Financial Report.

Marija read the Financial report. She was that this year a new section had been introduced: Donations, were € 100 had been given to the *ESM*. She said that most of the events resulted in profits. She thanked the students who had attended S-Cubed events.

The report was approved *nem com*

Jasmin Cassar White left the meeting at 13:30.

(v) Electoral Commission

Yasmin Schembri (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) nominated **Julian Bonello** (MSc. Physics) who was seconded by Faisal Sadegh (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Karl Chirchop (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance), Lynette Aguis (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance) and Brandon Grech (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance) joined the meeting at 13:34.

Julian Bonello (MSc Physics) nominated **Timothy Debono** (BSc. Mathematics and Physics) who was seconded by Mark Galea (BSc. Mathematics and Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence).

Becky Camilleri (BSc. Chemistry) nominated **Edera Degabriele** (BSc. Chemistry with Materials) who was seconded by Maria Attard (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Edera Degabriele (BSc. Chemistry with Materials) nominated **Mark Galea** (BSc. Mathematics and Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence) and was seconded by Donatella Bongailas (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

(vi) Amendments to Statute

Johann read the first motion, which was related to the members issue. Eman said that he did not know whether the phrase ‘honorary member’ could be changed. Ryan said that the section for honorary members was going to stay as it is. He said that only the wording was going to be changed.

A voting took place and the motion was approved *nem com*.

Johann read the second motion, which was related to small changes in the statute. Thomas Bajada asked what was the change which was related to the Vice President and Secretary. Johann and Elena said that there was a clause which was listed under the two roles and had been joined under one role.

A voting took place and the motion was approved *nem com*.

Johann read the third motion. This was related to the extension of the executive committee so that events and activities which were started during the out-going executive's term could be done during the in-coming executive's term. Alexander said that in the beginning of the term there were two months until the executive found its footing. Faisal asked whether it would apply for this executive or from the next, and asked whether there were any plans for summer. Johann said yes.

Roderick Micallef (MSc. Interdisciplinary Science) joined the meeting at 13.47.

Ryan said that that amendment was introduced mainly because the executive wanted to accept projects which were in summer but could not with the current regulations. Faisal proposed to hold meetings with ideas for summer. Maria Attard asked whether there was any clear termination period proposed. Johann said that this was not a change over period and just a measure to be able to hold projects for the next year and it would be up to the next executive to take major decisions. Jasmine asked whether there could be a date. Ryan said that there should be an amendment to the motion. Thomas proposed that the temporary subcommittee should extend till the 1st of September. Johann said that the setting of the subcommittee was not to interfere with the decisions. Eman said that as an idea it was good, but one should keep in mind that it would be there for the years to come too. Eman proposed to hold an EGM if there was going to be a big event in summer. Johann said that in case of a trip it could work, but for a small event it would be waste of time. Daniel proposed a two-month extension of the subcommittee. Roderick said that he agreed that there should be a longer time for a hand-over period.

Yasmin Schembri, Anita Farrugia and Julian Bonello left the meeting at 14:04.

Roderick proposed the extension of the hand-over period. Roderick said that the new executive. Johann wanted to clear that the.???

Donatella agreed with what Roderick and Daniel had said, as the subcommittee was not bound to carry out the work planned. Becky said that the problem??. Ryan said that two ideas. Thomas said that the problem was about the duration of the subcommittee. Johann said that there was going to be an amendment to the motion proposed, with the date and also with what Roderick proposed, to present the work which was going to be worked on during this extension of the period. The motion was amended, and there was a discussion which regarded the term. A vote was taken, and Jasmine said that 1st September was too late and 31st July was too early, and she proposed a date in between.

Becky Camilleri and Lynette Aguis left the meeting at 14:28

Eman said that the motion was going to be useless as the new executive could have as many subcommittees as they wanted. Eman proposed to take a vote about the handover period or subcommittee. The motion was amend as follows:

A motion to add the following clause to the Statute:

“During the AGM the out-going executive has to present an outline of any work planned to occur after the AGM and the science students present at the meeting have to approve this outline of work for it to take place”.

Lynette Aguis joined the meeting at 14:36.

Rico Bonello left the meeting at 14:40.

A headcount took place to see how many students could vote for the motion. There were thirty-two members present in the room who were eligible to vote. There were eight abstentions. The motion passed.

Johann read the last motion, which regarded the addition of a clause to permit observers to attend the general meetings. Johann said that this was an individual motion and was not put forward by the whole executive. A voting took place. There were three abstentions. The motion passed.

(vii) General motions and other matters arising

Johann read the first motion, which would put Martina Mizzi as S-Cubed Student Recognition. The motion was approved *nem com*.

Johann read the 2nd motion, which would put Daniel Vella as S-Cubed Student Recognition. There were five abstentions. The motion was approved.

Roderick Micallef, Maria Attard left the meeting at 15:00 and 15:01 respectively.

(viii) The role of non-executive members within S-Cubed's framework

Johann said that he felt that the organisation should move forward especially by helping the executive. James asked whether this help would consist of joining in a subcommittee. Johann said that not necessarily the case.

Maria Attard joined the meeting at 15:05

Ryan added that any person willing to help should check the website or approach the executive. Eman asked how as an executive this year did to attract the people towards S-Cubed as helpers. Steve said that from his side he offered a free ticket with every fifteen tickets. Daniel said that from his side whoever helped him with the media he credited their work.

Simon Aguis left the meeting at 15:07.

Alex said that there were discussions with the dean for student recognition to help the student with going conferences abroad. Ryan said that there were plans to hold a recruitment night for students. He said that ??

Simon Aguis joined the meeting at 15:09.

Maria asked how the executive would attract more people towards it. Daniel said that he promoted the subcommittees and the students approached the organisation. Maria said that throughout the year she had seen no call for other subcommittees apart from science communication. Ryan said that the call was out as there was no one who spoke to the executive. Johann said that during *Freshers' Week* there were calls to join the subcommittee. Maria suggested in promoting a subcommittee individually. Steve said that it is the most difficult thing to do. Alexander said that once the students approached the executive, the executive had enough help. Daniel suggested that the next executive should put a call for a portfolio. Maria said that it should give time to get to know the people and see their potential. Johann wanted to make it clear that there was always the need for help. Thomas said that he had discussed this matter with several of the executive members throughout the year.

He suggested that it was important for the next executive to build on what was already built and explore new angles.

Faisal Sadegh and Timothy Debono left the meeting at 15:13.

Alexander suggested the present students to approach the executive with any ideas that they have. Jasmine said that it should be more open. Ryan said that he wanted to suggest some few things for the next executive. He proposed some workshops, such as workshops in media; he said that that the executive needed people to help them to find more people. He proposed that the Student Relations Office should be more open. Eman said that the energy of ownership should be emphasised, and it would show that S-Cubed is for everyone, for it is something that everyone is doing. He said that an exponential growth in the attendance of the events and *Facebook* had taken place. Thomas said that one should be cautious with the involvement of people, as the more people there are the better the help and the division of work would be. Ryan said that next year there should be a subcommittee for every office. Steve said that he had no problem. Eman proposed to set up a long term vision. James said that Thomas had proposed internship and asked whether there was a space on the website for such thing as more people would know about it.

Faisal Sadegh joined the meeting at 15:30.

Ryan said that it was a good idea and said that last Friday he had added a new section on the website which was called *Opportunities*, and he thought that this should continue in the future as well.

(ix) Nominations/Presentations of new committee

Johann concluded by thanking the past and present executive and also every person and organisation which he had worked with during this year.

He read out the nominations for the next election.

Antonino Mazzanello (BSc. Chemistry with Materials – Year 2), proposed by Jean Paul Formosa (BSc. Chemistry with Materials) and seconded by Jennifer Attard (BSc. Chemistry with Materials).

Brandon Charles Seychell (BSc. Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Maria Attard (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Alexandra Degiorgio (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Matthew Spiteri (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance – Year 1), proposed by Elena Schembri (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance) and seconded by Nicole Busuttil (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance).

Karl Chirchop (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance – Year 1), proposed by Elena Schembri (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance) and seconded by Simon Aguis (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance).

Valentina Gauci (BSc Chemistry – Year 1), proposed by Elena Schembri (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance) and seconded by Julia Zahra (BSc. Chemistry).

Thomas Bajada (BSc Biology and Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Stephen Vella (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Maria Attard (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Simon Aguis (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance – Year 1), proposed by Stephen Vella (BSc. biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Alexander Hili (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Jasmine Cassar White (BSc Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Becky Camilleri (BSc. Chemistry) and seconded by Graham Gilson (BSc. Chemistry).

Jonathan Pulis (BSc. biology and Chemistry), proposed by Martina Mizzi (BSc Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Daniel Vella (BSc. Chemistry with Materials).

Lucia Farrugia (BSc Biology and Chemistry – Year 1), proposed by Stephen Vella (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Alexander Hili (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Antia Farrugia (BSc Physics and Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Alexander Hili (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Simona Tonna (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Kaylie Demanuele (BSc Chemistry – Year 1), proposed by Brandon Seychell (BSc. Chemistry) and seconded by Kirsty Goodlip (BSc. Chemistry).

Marija Cini (BSc. Banking and Finance and Statistics and Operations Research – Year 2), proposed by Daniel Vella (BSc. Chemistry with Materials) and seconded by Claire Gatt (BSc. Mathematics and Statistics and Operations Research).

Stephen Vella (BSc. Biology and Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Martina Mizzi (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Daniel Vella (BSc. Chemistry with Materials).

Alexander Hili (BSc. Biology and Chemistry – Year 2), proposed by Martina Mizzi (BSc. Biology and Chemistry) and seconded by Daniel Vella (BSc. Chemistry with Materials).

Elena Schembri (BSc. Mathematics and Banking and Finance – Year 2), proposed by Daniel Vella (BSc. Chemistry with Materials) and seconded by Martina Mizzi (BSc. Biology and Chemistry).

Thomas Bajada proposed an applause for the executive members who were not going to try again for the next year.

Meeting adjourned at 15:39.

President

Secretary General