**Equalities Council**

**MINUTES**

**Date: 30/01/2018 Location: INTER-243**

Attendance

* James Ansorg
* Chris
* Elodie
* Tressa Belesi
* Carly Newman
* Emma Halahan
* Raluka
* Pippa
* Willow
* Dan Curran (secretary)

**Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Officer Report
3. Accommodation: Issues and Solutions
4. Commuting Students and Bright Ideas
5. Motions
6. A.O.B

**Officer Report**

Health centre

Report complete and is outlining that an extensive full scale look at the whole wellbeing and health provision on campus. There will be some short term recommendations that can be implement such as new ways to check in and freeing up appointments by changing the way letter can be sought by students.

Housing Week

Wasn’t quite the success we wanted it to be, tried to reach out to new groups and see how we could help international students, first years and postgraduate’s students.

Raluka – international students have been more likely to go for Pad over returning to College accommodation due to the deadlines.

WW – College advertising the campus accommodation has impacted on the activities we have run.

Raluka – Still need to push for more work towards international students as the halls accommodation isn’t always the best choice especially with deposits that is charged. (Explore the prepayment that students are asked)

Let’s talk about Sex

Plans outlined and the websites shows the full break down. Big push for STI testing on Monday in the SU

LGBTQ+

Finalising plans for this

Change to add Q so that we can better represent students and increase intersectionality

ONE IN THREE

The week’s activities where there to raise awareness of the issues faced on campus to help the next steps of lobbying the College. Asked students to give feedback on their experience and how they would prioritise this work.

This will be formed into a big report to support the prioritisation of the sexual assault reporting system and work with the College to make sure that sexual assault is high on the College agenda.

To build the profile of the campaign we went out to function nights and reached out to the less engaged and had productive conversations around sexual assault.

Trialled the first workshop around bystander intervention which we will now hone and see how it can be run for more students and staff around the Union.

**Accommodation**

Highlights of the discussion that took place around accommodation on campus, split into 3 areas

Current issues and Improve experience in halls

* Kingswood – Closed block A and B – poor situation and lesser community
* Runnymede – price does not meet the expectation in this area – no cleaning, mould present (lots of moving requests have happened)
* Returning to campus costs? What are they charged, upfront payment of 200-300
* Should deal with improving current accommodation before building new ones – accommodation audit?
* Storing stuff over summer if moving back into halls
* Issues around the hall life team changes and having less resources on the nights to react to issues – need to add an overnight crisis nurse
* SU work around Halls life team? Do we need to get a group together?
* Improve experience in halls
* Security overnight – how does it all work (campus watch vs campus security) and what training do they go through?

Types of halls

* LSE has a system with quiet halls
* American universities take quizzes that match people based on answers/algorithms
* How do you work out the halls allocation – driven by supply or demand?
* Can help for disabled students in making an easier home life

Price vs quality

* Accommodation is too expensive for master’s students who have no support from parents etc.
* Might become self-selecting
* Need to model the price based on local areas to be competitive
* Catering system is quite expensive
* Finding storage for shorter contract halls
* Need to look at a range of accommodation? Mid-range and more lost cost

**Council tax update**

WW talks over the work done so far in drafting a letter that is going to 50 members of the borough council. Highlights the blog that has gone out and shows the work we are doing.

Ask people to fill the letter out so that we can load the council and force them to reply.

**AOB**

Health centre incident – wanting to get support for Extenuating Circumstances being told two different things from department and the HC