

WCD Executive Minutes

Date & time	24 January 2024 17:00-19:00
Location	Moore 004/5
Attendance	<p>Nisha Bundhun – VP Wellbeing & Diversity (Chair) Hannah Hockin – President Alana Penney – Disabled Students Community Officer Olivia Davies – Women Students Community Officer Naomi Tchesse – Students of Faith Community Damita Saboor – Coopted Member Muscab Salad – Black & Global Majority Students Community Officer</p> <p>Laura Black – Student Voice Manager (Secretary)</p>
Apologies	None Received

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
1	Put Alana in touch with PDA D&N champion	Laura	29 January
2	Create an action plan based on survey results	Nisha & Alana	23 February
3	Put Damita in touch with PDA International Students champion	Laura	29 January
4	Arrange end of year student leader celebrations	Laura	23 February
5	Find out about process for support during exams	Nisha & Hannah	28 February
6	Make plans to promote how to vote abroad for elections	Laura	23 February
7	Find out plans for Diversity Fair and communicate to Community Officers	Nisha	25 January

Item	Notes	Action
Welcome	<p>Nisha welcomed all attendees and introduced two new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naomi Tchesse – newly co-opted Students of Faith Community Officer Damita Saboor – newly co-opted executive member 	
Officer Update	<p>Paper taken as read.</p> <p>Nisha explained she held coffee catch ups last term in collaboration with the Wellbeing department as well as led a Wobble Week campaign that included fun and educational events.</p>	

	<p>This term, Nisha explained she delivered a joint campaign with Hannah on alcohol and drug awareness. This week she is delivering a campaign on Healthy Relationships and is also planning for Women's History Month in March alongside Olivia, Women Students Community Officer. Part of the history month will include a campaign week on womens mental health as well as working with ALS on a sports accessibility survey and focus group to make sport more accessible to women.</p> <p>No comments.</p>	
Student Leader Update	<p>Olivia – Women Students Community Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to run women of the month social media campaign • Have some collaboration events with societies coming up including: tote bag decorating with Feminism Society and Women of Colour Society, and galentines cupcake decorating with Women in Stem society. • Planning underway for women's history month and women's mental health week as well as organising a Q&A panel as part of the month. <p>Alana – Disabled Students Community Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered events and campaign for disability history month last term • As part of this launched a survey asking disabled students about their university experience. • Neurodivergent society has been ratified so planning to collaborate with them. • Will be looking at campaigns for remainder of year based on survey outcomes. 	
Disabled Students Experience Survey	<p>Alana ran this survey during Disability History Month, collecting responses via Instagram, a Google form and at an event in the library. The question asked was: 'What would you change to improve your experience as a disabled student at Royal Holloway?'. Aiming to take feedback to the University to create change.</p> <p>Paper outlining responses taken as read. Key themes that were highlighted included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campus culture / awareness • Physical accessibility • Academic accessibility • D&N Service <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that there are only two sports clubs that disabled students can join on 	

	<p>campus: archery and chess. Hopefully this can be discussed in the sports accessibility focus group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A campaign: not all disabilities are visible. • PDA D&N Champion wanting to deliver training to student groups on being more accessible– LB to put Alana in contact with them so they can collaborate. • University have seen growing amount of students who are neurodivergent. But estates and D&N services are behind. Library space is too small. No safe spaces on campus. Funding is an issue, but it is still important. • Sometimes people are put off from suggesting ideas not because they don't think anything will happen. • Next steps including drawing feedback into an action plan, outlining what needs to be done. Bring SU actions to management committee. • SU shop mentioned in Speak Week as well so clearly an issue. 	<p>Put Alana and PDA champion in contact (LB)</p> <p>Create action plan (AP + NB)</p>
Women's History Month	<p>Nisha presented on plans for Women's History Month. The plan is to have a different theme per week:</p> <p>Week One: Celebrating women who advocate for EDI</p> <p>Week Two: health and mental health inequalities week: women's wellbeing week campaign</p> <p>Week Three: Women's Rights – past, present and future</p> <p>Week Four: Celebrating diverse women in our community</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's important to have something eye catching to draw people in. Could have people singing in Founders Square, to celebrate women. Allows people walking past to get involved. • Could we ask to use the exhibition space in the library and showcase work by female artists. • Have a campaign win during the month – something that can be achieved. Potentially use Instagram as a way to see what students would want. • Exeter University have a womens walk club – reclaim the night event that could be a good idea <p>https://www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk/whats-on/reclaim-the-night-exeter-walk-2023-p3392113</p>	

International Students Focus Group	<p>Nisha presented on plans to organise an international students focus group. She intends to advertise on Instagram and encourage students to sign up to understand their experiences.</p> <p>Nisha shared topic ideas and questions for the first focus group.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The topics and questions are all good ideas for the focus group. • Damita has just started the International Society and committee did some research prior to ratification and agree the topics relevant, and that people want to be brought together. • Suggestion that we run workshops on visa and immigration • International Students PDA Champion running initiative on creating a recipe book called 'a taste from home'. Will put them in contact with Damita. • How do we help international students feel part of the university? 	
Improvement Round Table: Rewards and Recognition	<p>Nisha initiated a discussion on rewards and recognition for the community officers and how can we use rewards to encourage engagement in the roles.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could we look at organising an awards ceremony to celebrate student leaders and activists on campus. Suggestion that this could replace the Summer Ball VIP reception drinks. • Would Community Officer of the month be possible? Or some sort of shout about it / promote good work rather than an actual award. • Community Officers should be paid roles. • LinkedIn recommendations • Even if not elected – how do we recognise individuals who are activists, creating change etc across the university? • Volunteering awards based on certain number of hours • Looking out for awards within the community or nationally not just at RHUL that we could nominate students for. • Commented that they feel supported as Community Officers. • Would be nice to do something to celebrate at the end of the year as well as a last executive's event. 	LB to arrange

Turn Up Campaign	<p>Paper taken as read. Questions around what else could be added to the student manifesto and does anything need clarifying.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add a point about investing more into D&N services • Funding should be the same for all UK students e.g. Wales different to England students. In Wales every student gets £11/12k but the amount you have to pay back is dependent on household income rather than in England where you receive different amounts based on household income. Maintenance loans shouldn't be based on household income because it is not an accurate assessment of funding support needed. • Mental health support needs to be highlighted as this is important and there are many issues. Including that GPs cannot transfer data. • Similarly, there is no transition period that exists between secondary schools to universities, whereas primary schools pass information onto secondary but at university, students have to advocate for themselves for the first time. • Issue where for exam adjustments, students have had to prove that they required the same at school otherwise it's not possible. This needs to be questioned. • Can we educate students on how to vote abroad for their elections e.g. US and Indian elections are both happening this year. 	<p>NB and HH to follow up.</p> <p>LB to make plans.</p>
AOB	<p>Leadership Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To aid in promoting elections, we should interact with societies for certain roles e.g. Feminism Society for Women Student Community Officer. • Could we hold a Q&A session for Community Officers and invite relevant societies. <p>Cultural and Faith Festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nisha explained that as part of her manifesto, she wants to do a cultural and faith festival event in term three to celebrate different culture and faith on campus. • Unsure on location – potentially the SU or Founders Square. • Founders Square is the most popular option. Similar layout to Festive Market. More likely 	

	<p>to stop there without prior knowledge it was happening.</p> <p>Community Officer Update Blog</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If anyone wants to do blogs for the SU website – let us know! <p>Diversity Fair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unsure on what is happening? Nisha to find out more information and send a clarifying email.	<p>Nisha to email to find out details</p>
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