

Wellbeing, Community and Diversity Executive Minutes

Date & time	29 th January 2020 – 18:00
Location	Windsor 1-05
Attendance	Lucy Simpson (VP Welfare & Diversity) - Chair Jack O'Neill (President) Charlton Jenkins (LGBT+ Collective Convenor) Kunwar Jain (International Students Collective Convenor) Sammy Miller (Disabled Students Collective Convenor) Emily Howling (Womens Collective Convenor) Dom Brown (VP Sport) Megan Beddoe (Sports Clubs Coordinator) Phill Dowler (Democracy Coordinator) – Secretary
Apologies	Shanika Ranasinghe (PGR Collective Convenor – Performing & Digital Arts) Jessica Okafor (BAME Students Collective Convenor) Milo Dack (Mental Health Network) James Giles (Commuting Students Collective Convenor)

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
WCD: Nov	Investigate the development of English language support	LS & KJ	Ongoing
2.	Liaison between Disabled Students Collective regarding Varsity 2020	MB & DB	Ongoing
3.	Circulate Student Voice report to all members and investigate summary document	LS	9 th March
3.	Investigate the NSS results with a demographic break down	LS	9 th March
5.	Compile feedback and develop next steps for the Executive to progress the campaign.	LS	9 th March
8.	Investigate running further Mental Health training sessions	LS	9 th March
8.	Communicate concerns raised by KJ to the International Team	LS	ASAP
8.	Collaborate with LGBT+ Collective to run focus groups	LS	9 th March
8.	Contact SU SMT regarding Medicine access toilet	LS	ASAP

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome	LS welcomes members and notes apologies.	
2. Varsity Accessibility	DB & MB led an activity to identify opportunities to improve the accessibility for Varsity. Members are asked to answer a series of question. Responses will be turned into themes which will hopefully highlight barriers to the event. All input will be	

	<p>taken to the Varsity 2020 Working Group which is predominantly made up of University staff.</p> <p>The questions explored were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you attended Varsity before? • If no, why not? • If yes, what would have made your experience better? • What would make you feel like the event was 'for you'? <p>Responses of attendance was mixed with some identifying that it was due to weather, not being involved in a sport, or surrounded by those who do.</p> <p>For those that attended previously. Suggestions included improved spectator spaces with adequate seating and accessible viewing, music and face painting.</p> <p>In response to the final question a variety of feedback was provided. This included ideas such as livestreaming, better advertising of accessible events, improved support for trans and non-binary students and athletes with education for cis counterparts. More opportunities for those interested in the social aspect of sports rather than the focus of competition, as well as activities that may appeal to a wider group of students, such as an egg and spoon race, tug of war or a sack race.</p> <p>SM offers ongoing support in the lead up to Varsity.</p> <p>DB & MB thank all members for their contribution and leave the meeting.</p>	<p>MB & DB to liaise with SM</p>
<p>3. BAME Research Project</p>	<p>LS announced the launch of the new Student Voice Report: BAME Inclusive Student Experience which took place during Academic Rep Conference. The report is available online for all members to read. LS provided an overview of some of the recommendations and methodologies behind it.</p> <p>JON highlighted that there some immediate actions which can be done quickly, while some are longer term, which for now we will focus on initiating. The report highlights that there is more to the attainment gap than just the gap itself. The University are welcoming of the report.</p> <p>EH asked whether there could be a summary document produced that would be easier to digest for those with less time but the desire to know the</p>	<p>LS to circulate links to digital publication</p>

	<p>outcomes. This would also then be easier to direct others to.</p> <p>LS recommended that the Executive Summary would be a good place to start if you have less time, but that a summary document could be looked into.</p> <p>JON updated the Executive on the progress of the PGR research which is currently being reviewed ahead of being published, and careers of which there is a focus group on the 5th of February.</p> <p>SM requested a breakdown of the demographics of the National Student Survey (NSS) could be shared with the group.</p>	<p>LS to investigate a summary document</p> <p>LS to investigate accessible NSS data</p>
<p>4. Nutrition Campaign</p>	<p>LS provided an update regarding the week long nutrition campaign which included producing resources such as a meal planner and booklet. The goal of the campaign was to make people aware of the link between not only body and also mental health. To recommend a more well-rounded nutrition that works for an individual rather than strict diets. Feedback was sought from the group or further questions.</p> <p>CJ recommended that if it was to be run again, to collaborate with the vegan society as it was a missed opportunity. Lots of people assume veganism isn't healthy but the society has lots of information on how to be healthy and vegan and would have liked the opportunity to do a talk.</p> <p>LS welcomed the society to produce a guest blog if there is interest. CJ recommended LS email the society inviting them to do so.</p> <p>SM highlighted that on some media regarding the campaign, there was text that spoke about 'guilt free' food which for those with eating disorders, has a strong negative connotation surrounding guilt.</p> <p>LS explained that there was due to be a talk that looked into this area more specifically with an external organisation although they became unavailable. In turn, another session was put on that discussed diets and mental health. This will be looked at more closely in the future.</p>	
<p>5. Civic Rights Education</p>	<p>LS introduced Civic Rights Education as part of the Executive's campaign previously agreed. After briefly going into what civic education is an activity was lead to understand the key topics members would like to focus on moving forward.</p>	<p>LS to compile feedback and develop next steps for the Executive to</p>

	<p>EH suggested housing as a topic which was supported by the group.</p> <p>SM pointed out most people don't know that you have to tell the receptionist at the doctors, what your appointment is for. Members of the group support general advice around medical support. Other suggestions included work and benefits, law and the equality act.</p> <p>JON queried whether the goal was to signpost, provide support or link to national bodies. LS responds that the vision is to signpost and provide information.</p> <p>LS queries whether the group would like to focus on the two agreed topics, or any more previously mentioned. The group agree to focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Medical Support • Equalities Act 	<p>progress the campaign.</p>
<p>6. EDI Policy Statement</p>	<p>LS provided an overview of the circulated paper and explained that policy statements are what the Union may believe about a specific area with outcomes built into it. The supporting procedures and processes would come later.</p> <p>EH asks how the Union would actually follow through on the outcomes identified. LS responded that this would be part of the processes and procedures that would come after.</p> <p>EH adds that the first outcome feels like something that can actively be done, but the others feel too aspirational. Could anonymous reporting be built into the statement?</p> <p>PD explains that statements are aspirational beliefs that the Union would work towards, how to get there would be the contents of following processes as the statement would apply to all members of the RHSU community.</p> <p>LS adds that all statements will go to an all student referendum in May.</p> <p>Further feedback was requested via email and JON added that if members are struggling to think of outcomes, it is easier to consider the beliefs and then think, if everyone followed them, what life would be like.</p>	
<p>7. Elections</p>	<p>JON provided an update regarding the current elections. Nominations close on the 7th February</p>	

	<p>so please consider any roles. If members have questions to get in touch with either the relevant officer, the Student Voice Manager or CEO.</p> <p>School Rep elections are also open with nominations closing on the 12th of February for those that are continuing studies.</p> <p>There is also a recommend a friend function for those that may need a nudge to run for a role.</p>	
<p>8. Officer Update</p>	<p>LS provided an overview of the circulated update and focused on the questions built into the paper covering updates on mental health training, the feedback service for wellbeing services, GP surgery, transgender student support and student sex workers support.</p> <p>On the point of providing mental health first aid training and whether the Union provided more sessions, EH asked what other services might be reduced if the Union ran more sessions. LS explained that it may impact the level of service provided by the Student Opportunities or Voice teams.</p> <p>SM suggested putting out a poll to the wider student body in case there are those who would be interested in which case it might only be putting on one or two more sessions.</p> <p>CJ supported this and suggested putting on one session with a limited number of tickets and if registration were to fill up quickly, the Union could investigate putting on further ones.</p> <p>LS provided an update an update on the GP service. KJ added that there isn't good enough signposting on how to access and use the support, especially to international students. Most don't know that the GP service exists.</p> <p>On the point of trans support, LS will meet separately with the LGBT+ Collective and CJ offers to support running a focus group as there is a pool of students on campus willing to support this.</p> <p>SM adds that there is a concern as it has become common practice to overlap access toilets and gender neutral toilets into the same space, although a GNT and an accessible toilet, is not the same thing. LS agrees with this and adds that it is built into a proposal to the University on GNTs.</p> <p>CJ mentions that the GNT in the Medicine venue locks from the inside. After an incident took place,</p>	<p>LS to investigate running further mental health sessions.</p> <p>LS to feed KJ comments to the International Team</p> <p>LS to meet with CJ and LGBT+ Collective regarding a focus group.</p> <p>LS to contact SU SMT regarding the toilet in Medicine.</p>

	<p>it took 15 minutes to get inside. SM adds that it poses a health risk to users.</p> <p>LS seeks initial ideas for the student sex workers support and EH suggests linking to an anonymous platform. LS intends to engage with departments to develop statements of confidentiality so students can approach teams with confidence.</p>	
9. Collectives Update	<p>CJ updated the Executive on some of LGBT+ Collective current activities, including looking into housing support for LGBT+ students, developing an LGBT+ student experience survey and writing a blog to celebrate LGBT+ history month which starts on the 1st of February.</p> <p>SM updated members on the Disabled Students Collective on current activities which includes working with Kate Roberts (VP Education) looking into the assessment green sticker scheme which hasn't been updated since 2003, a talk with GuideDogs UK and the ordering of badges that say 'Happy to move for you'. These badges tell those that need a seat on public transport that you're happy to move for them.</p> <p>KJ provided an update on the International Students Collective which highlighted a march that took place on the 23th of January to raise awareness of mental health, language support and climate change. There was a good turnout and would like to see improved signposting and intend to continue focusing on mental health.</p> <p>EH highlighted that the Women's Collective is collaborating with FemSoc and the Women in Physics group which will include coordinating activities and a calendar of events to celebrate Women's History Month in March.</p>	
10. AOB	<p>JON encouraged members to attend the Careers focus group on the 5th of February. Further details on the Students' Union website.</p> <p>LS encourages members to consider items they would like to see on the next agenda so there was more direction coming from the executive.</p> <p>PD invited those interested in running for an Officer role in the elections to attend the campaigns training taking place on Friday 31st January in Arts External Seminar room at 10am.</p>	
Close of meeting	<p>LS thanks all members for attending the meeting and looks forward to convening the next on 18th March</p>	