

Wellbeing, Community & Diversity Executive Minutes

Date & time	18 th November 2020 – 17:30
Location	MS Teams
Attendance	Henn Warwick (VP Wellbeing & Diversity) – Chair Kate Roberts (President) Ellie Matthews (Women Collective) Nathaniel McShane (Disabled Students Collective) Beverly Boateng (BAME Students Collective) Sampada Kotcherlakota (Commuting Students Collective) Phill Dowler (Democracy Coordinator) – Secretary Natalie Bates (Student Voice Manager)
Apologies	

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
2.	Investigate and promote ordering STI kits to your home.	HW	27 th Jan
2.	Contact Wellbeing to understand whether three counselling sessions is the standard	HW	27 th Jan
3.	Collaborate with Disabled Students Collective to produce hidden disabilities blog	HW/NM	27 th Jan
5.	Address feedback issue within Law and feedback to VP Education	HW	27 th Jan
5.	Investigate stigma against those that test COVID-19 positive	HW	27 th Jan
6.	Collectives to identify whether they will require group access to a Zoom account or whether use of Student Voice Zoom would be more appropriate	Collectives	27 th Jan
7.	Collaborate on Disability History Month	HW/NM	ASAP
8.	Create a plan for Interact in the next Executive	Executive	27 th Jan
8.	Share link to Patient Participation Group meeting	HW	ASAP

Item	Notes	Action
1. Welcome	HW welcomes members and notes apologies.	
2. Officer Update	HW takes paper as read and asks for input on key points throughout. Have you seen the STI kits in the SU Shop? The Executive understands that only those on campus and use the shop on a regular basis will know that they're there, although there may be some challenges with people using this option once it	Investigate and promote ordering STI

	<p>becomes common knowledge that they're there due to stigma.</p> <p>BB suggests testing kits being sent to your home or as a pick up option which was supported by NM with a call for increased promotion.</p> <p>What are your experiences with the Health Centre and what services do you expect?</p> <p>The Executive discuss a variety of issues surrounding the Health Centre in general including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Invasive questioning from non-medical practitioners.- Inaccessible processes- Re-direction to other NHS services that can be up to 20 miles away.- Forms they ask you to fill out to direct you appropriately have often led to students being passed around different services with no solution. <p>On the Anti-Racism Campaign, HW asks whether unconscious bias training would be effective or what other training and modules could exist.</p> <p>EM & BB agree that after carrying out some research it may not be the most effective. There is stigma that it's used as a tool to villainise. There are also concerns of sustainability and that it's often used as a check box exercise to validate that someone isn't racist.</p> <p>The Executive go on to agree that students wouldn't take a module on moodle or training seriously and that if it's not compulsory then it won't be an effective strategy.</p> <p>WCD also agree that so much work and conversation takes place with lists of actions and recommendations, but none of the actions are carried out.</p> <p>WCD recommends that more is done to open up the discussion in an educational way to help everyone understand the different forms that racism can exist. It needs to be embedded fundamentally in the same way that it is part of so many people's daily lives.</p> <p>Focusing on Mental Heal, HW asks whether members have used any of the services provided by the University and what other services could be available.</p> <p>Points raised by the Executive include:</p>	<p>kits to your home.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If you have a mentor already, regardless of what they are for, you're excluded from accessing counselling – This includes whether your mentor is trained in mental health support or not. - The forms and process to get support is a daunting task. - There should be counsellor profiles which include what they're experienced in so you can request counsellors with specific support. Such as LGBT+, race and other support. - There needs to be more diverse and black counsellors. - Three sessions isn't enough to get into anything before being directed to NHS. - More sensitivity training for professional services staff. - More wellbeing support for academic staff to support students in moments of crisis. - Personal tutors need to be more proactive in approaching students and increase their communication. 	<p>Contact Wellbeing to understand whether three counselling sessions is the standard</p>
<p>3. Collectives Check-In</p>	<p>HW leads a discussion to understand what the Collectives are up to and how they're getting on.</p> <p>The Executive unanimously agree that there are engagement issues with members but note that COVID-19 is likely having an impact on this.</p> <p>EM notes that there is only one Convenor in the Women's Collective at this point so is looking back to last year to see what can be brought forward.</p> <p>NM notes that there is only one Convenor for the Disabled Students Collective but there will be more in the coming day or so. The Disabled Students Collective is hosting a meeting to see how everyone is doing and what they would like to achieve for the coming year.</p> <p>NM plans to work with relevant student groups and highlight that those struggling with mental health or with hidden disabilities are welcome in the Collective and would like to publish a blog on this.</p> <p>SK is looking to run awareness raising activities for those that commute to understand the current issues that those in the Commuting Students Collective are currently facing.</p> <p>BB notes that the BAME Students Collective is looking to do more about what It means to be a person of colour all year round, not just during Black History Month. The aim is to celebrate more and would like to put together some kind of festival.</p>	<p>Collaborate with Disabled Students Collective to produce hidden disabilities blog</p>

	<p>The Executive agree that students seem to be significantly more focussed on career based opportunities and BB highlights the formation of a BAME Law Network that is looking to launch next term and suggests building a central hub for all BAME students that includes careers, food and wellbeing information.</p>	
<p>4. VP Wellbeing & Diversity and Collectives</p>	<p>HW asks what expectations Covenors have for the relationship between the VP Wellbeing & Diversity and Collectives.</p> <p>The Executive identified general principles and hopes that include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Streamlining students to join collectives. - Being a voice for Collectives and challenging those that resist their ideas. - Support and check-ins on a regular basis. 	
<p>5. COVID-19</p>	<p>HW leads an activity to understand what Collectives would expect to see in another lockdown.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved communication, especially from academic staff as this is often different from the communication coming from the general information. - Assurance that things will be ok. - More information on the support available to those isolating as this isn't widely understood. - Consistent support as students transition in and out of blended and online learning on a regular basis. - The introduction of a University wide no-detriment policy. - More current information that is easier to access <p>BB notes that there is no year one grading feedback within Law for current second years to understand their progress.</p> <p>When discussing whether campus feels safe, the Executive agree that campus does not feel like a safe environment due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The majority of students or staff not wearing masks on campus regardless of the mandate. - NHS Track & Trace is generally ignored. - Social distancing is not maintained across campus. - A growing culture to not be tested as those testing positive are being stigmatised. - Students don't know who should be isolating as there has been some instances as those that should have been isolating continued to leave their property. 	<p>Address feedback issue within Law and feedback to VP Education</p> <p>Investigate stigma against those that test COVID-19 positive</p>

	The Executive agree immediate work needs to be done to de-stigmatise testing positive for COVID-19.	
6. Collectives Funding	<p>As part of the Collectives funding the Executive would like to investigate the use of a communal Zoom rather than individual use.</p> <p>The Executive agrees Collectives Funding proposal.</p>	Collectives to identify whether they will require group access to a Zoom account or whether use of Student Voice Zoom would be more appropriate
7. History Months & Webinars	<p>HW & KR discuss the role Collectives play in history month activities and encourage collaboration for those yet to take place.</p> <p>NM notes that it is Disability History Month and KR adds that there are some activities being hosted by other Students' Unions.</p>	Collaborate on Disability History Month
8. AOB	<p>PD updates the Executive on the current co-option of remaining Convenor positions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disabled Students and International Students Collectives will have filled all positions with the results of a byelection being released in the coming days. - Womens Collective will be having a byelection in the coming weeks for remaining position. - Commuting Students Collective is co-opting for a position that became available. - PGR Collective has co-opted two Convenors with academic departments supporting this process. - PGT Collective will look to co-opt in term two. <p>PD asks what the Collectives preferred method of communication is and the Executive agree a blended approach of MS Teams and email is preferred.</p> <p>PD introduces an opportunity for Collectives to access the Interact function of the Student Life guide to promote their activities and engage with a broad variety of students across campus. The Executive agreed to look at this in the next Executive meeting.</p> <p>HW invites members to join a Patients Participation Group meeting with the GP taking place on the 19th November at 11:30.</p>	<p>Create Interact plan in the next Executive</p> <p>Share link to Patient Participation Group meeting</p>