

WCD Executive Minutes

Date & time	13/11/2024 – 17:00
Location	MOOREAX-034A
Attendance	<p>Olivia Davies (VP Wellbeing & Diversity) (Chair) – OD</p> <p>Francesca Hailey (Community Engagement Coordinator) (Secretary) – FH</p> <p>Laura Black (Student Voice Manager) – LB</p> <p>Sharanya Sivarajah (President) – SS</p> <p>Suhani Malhotra (PGT Students Community Officer) – SM</p> <p>Poppy Coates (Women Students Community Officer) – PC</p> <p>Naomi Tchesse (Students of Faith Community Officer) – NT</p> <p>Clarice Wong (Parent & Carer Students Community Officer) - CW</p>
Apologies	<p>JJ Littleton (Disabled Students Community Officer) – JL</p> <p>Mohan Dave (LGBT+ Students Community Officer) – MD</p> <p>Farah Rayammarakkarveetil (International Students Community Officer) – FR</p>
Absences	<p>Yash Chavda (Commuting Students Community Officer) – YC</p> <p>Piya Kher (Black & Global Majority Students Community Officer) – PK</p>
Abbreviations	<p>Community Officer (s) – CO</p> <p>Royal Holloway Students’ Union – RHSU</p> <p>Women Students Community Officer – WSCO</p> <p>Black History Month – BHM</p> <p>Senior Leadership Team - SLT</p>

Item	Action	Responsible	Due
6	Community Officers to recognise when Members of their Community may need access to Food Bank support and to refer them when necessary.	ALL CO’s	-
7	OD to take in the contributions made from the CO’s regarding Wellbeing Workshops and to use feedback to develop the Workshops to	OD	Term 2

	support academic and inclusion communities.		
7	CW to reach out the Health Studies department to see where they can support her and the Parent & Carer Community.	CW	-
AOB	NT to organise podcasts by getting in contact with FH or OD.	NT	-

Item	Notes	Action
1	<p>Welcome & introductions.</p> <p>OD welcomed the group and summarised the objectives of the Executives including what the Executives are, how they work and why they are important.</p> <p>OD introduced herself, summarised her manifesto and reiterate her support for the Community Officers as one of her main manifestos aims. OD further talked about her experience last year as Women Students Community Officer including the introduction of Women of the Month on the WSCO Instagram.</p> <p>OD then proposed introductions to the wider room and the room took it in turns to deliver introductions. All names of those present in the top table, introduced themselves and their role.</p>	
2	<p>Officer update</p> <p>OD broke down the differing Sabbatical Officer duties including how their roles work and how Officers get elected.</p> <p>OD then proceeded to talk about OD's manifesto which is split into three key areas: campaign weeks, CO's, and Wellbeing.</p> <p>CO: OD discussed 121's with Officers facilitated by OD herself + the varying actions being put together to help COs achieve their own manifestos such as campaign involvement or event planning; CO newsletter went out to communicate the presence of CO's with the wider student body</p> <p>Wellbeing: Wellbeing walk & talks to promote both physical and mental wellness – good feedback and engagement so far. Each week, different teams across the SU and university get involved each week</p>	

	<p>to showcase the different support; women’s only gym hours – survey completed with just under 400 responses with a consensus that yes, there is a want for women’s only hours – positive this will go ahead after piloting; mental health awareness training with the RHSU Trading Team last week and upcoming is student mental health training specific for student communities.</p> <p>Campaigns: Never okey; Stamp Out Spiking – training that the venues receive and spiking test kits – focus groups in term two that will find out more about what students wants; campus unity week – lots of events throughout the week that celebrate the Inclusion and Academic Communities – this was well engaged with Students and Societies; MENTION it - breaking the stigma on men’s mental health; Wobble Week (currently happening during the week this Exec took place) – successful collaborations with university stakeholders.</p> <p>Olivia’s Officer Update can be found here.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Community Officer Update</p> <p>NT: BHM contribution as NT appeared as a panel guest for the BHM Reclaiming the Narratives panel; focus group with university to help representation of students of faith and NT discussed working with the University to help build partnership between University Teams and Students and increase engagement; working and talking with first year Students of Faith from diverse backgrounds about their experience and helping them with their faith identify; during freshers, NT hosted a successful event with the Chaplaincy Team and explored ways in which she can work with the CT to collab and support Students.</p> <p>In term 2, NT wants to host podcasts and expand her marketing to help Students voice their opinion about Faith.</p> <p>PC: PC has hosted WSCC each month – this will be a yearlong project and fulfils PC’s manifesto point of connecting more with her community and connecting with her community; vision board event – chill and successful event as a part of campus unity week; Great awareness to free period products on</p>	

	<p>campus – this aligns with PC’s manifesto point. Due to changes, this has gone from promoting to now stepping up the campaign to ensuring it ... ; SHAG week in collaboration with SS including blogs and posts, stands on sexuality and sexual health, events throughout the week and information / advice to help students, 5 successful podcast episodes that help debunk myths on various sexual health topics; women of the month to help celebrate the achievements of women across campus on social media each.</p> <p>SM: SM reflected upon her decision to apply for PGT Students CO and wanted to have more of connection as PGT Student. SM went on to talk more about connections and how difficult it can be to build them at university as an International and PGT Student. SM’s aim is to host events and to help the community to be there for those students and help gather ways on helping those students.</p> <p>CW: CW talked about how she wants to collab with societies and other Communities and how this can help the Parent & Carer Community thrive and be connected.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>President Update:</p> <p>SS began by introducing herself and gave some facts about her experience at RHUL so far. SS proceeded to break down her four manifesto aims:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Student Safety: SS broke down the various campaigns she is working on that open conversations and lobby the university on her aims. The main campaigns involved in this wider manifesto aim are: NeverOK Campaign; HelpNotHarm – Harm reduction campaign; Safe routes for Students. <p>SS is working with Molly Hanning from Academics Against Assault to support her campaigns on consent and active bystander workshop for students.</p> <p>SS took the University’s SLT for a walk around campus in the dark to show SLT a lack of Student</p>	

	<p>safety and how it feels for Students walking in the dark – walked around campus and next up to Egham and Englefield.</p> <p>Drug and Alcohol Awareness Week (w/c 20 Jan)</p> <p>Overall, Student Safety is to ensure policies are in place to support both their physical and mental safety.</p> <p>2) Celebrating Students / Student Experience + Campus Facilities: Campus Unity Week, Liberation History Months, recognition and rewards schemes, presidents’ reception.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commuter student policy inquires. - International student insight report - Sport insight report - Estates planning committee <p>Other bits and bobs – chair of board, committee + meetings, NUS – national union of students - Lead and Change Conference, conversations with politicians to lobby for Student needs.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>RHSU Priority 8</p> <p>LB introduced the new structure of RHSU’s Leadership Elections that will be introduced in the next round of Leadership Elections – the Leadership Elections determine the Sabbatical Officers and School Reps for 2025-26.</p> <p>Rationale on the change: The shift in how we want Students to vote on to determine exactly what we want to focus on for the year ahead, manifestos in the past have often been very similar or unrealistic.</p> <p>+</p> <p>Students feedback that they want priorities that truly impact them.</p> <p>How does it work: data analysis in term 1, twenty common issues that students are talking about; sign off at the big executive; during the leadership elections, students will rank the priorities – the results will determine the top 8 priorities for the SU,</p>	

	<p>the priority 8 will become the Union's priority for the following academic year.</p> <p>Sabbs: Candidate statement, list top 8 priorities, for the top three – identify 2 or 3 actions they would like to achieve to address the issue.</p> <p>Part-Time Officers: Community Officers – May Community elections. – rebranded because of strategy and changes within the SU structure. Community Officers will write a manifesto as usual.</p> <p>Once the priorities are decided... Sabb induction / workshop / report shared with Uni + publish on website / each priority will be assigned to a Student Exec and updates throughout the year / working group also throughout the year to ensure RHSU are working on them.</p> <p>Data the RHSU is reviewing to gather priorities: Speak week, RYU 2024, policy enquiries; exec min etc.</p> <p>PC: Asked about society and sports elections and whether manifestos will still impact – candidate statement as language</p> <p>NT: What about the other priorities for example if a successful candidate can they choose other priorities that don't make the final 8 – A: LB said yes, there is room to explore.</p> <p>LB: Further talked about how liberation issues will never not be priorities and will not make the priority list as they are always priorities for RHSU.</p> <p>PC: Asked if more data will be collected to help collate the top 20</p> <p>NT: What happens to the remaining 12? LB responded that hopefully there will be a nice alignment and when it gets to 8, they have been voted in to deliver on those things.</p> <p>PC: What happens if elected Officer's priorities don't align with the one chosen</p>	
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	<p>LB point of being a student representative in the Sabb position as Sabbs are there to represent all Students so the Sabb should deliver upon student priorities, but actual delivery will be flexible.</p> <p>NT: Can they collab with an Officer to help fulfil their own priorities even if they don't align. LB, yes – there is an op for feeding in. Student involvement in all and is always welcomed.</p> <p>NT: Is there a union for the teachers? LB – Yes, but they are more national unions. UCU is the largest that exists for academics.</p>	
6	<p>Advice x Foodbank Vouchers: What can Communities do to promote and support.</p> <p>Introduction video presented to meeting about the Advice centre. OD explained the advice centre and the support they provide for Students and Communities.</p> <p>The discussion led to how Students can access the Foodbank and how the Advice centre are referees for the foodbank service.</p> <p>The aim of this item as discussed by OD is that Community Officers are welcome to bring awareness to this referee service if they identify someone in need in their community.</p> <p>NT: Can we share this information? OD, yes + refereed to the financial advice team at the university.</p> <p>OD explained how the process worked for CO and who the Officers can contact and how can help the Communities.</p>	
7	<p>Wellbeing Workshops feedback</p> <p>Olivia is currently working on the implementation of 'Wellbeing Workshops' which will cover a variety of topics and provide further support. These will be housed on the SU website so whether it is 12pm or 2am these will always be there for students to access, there are 16 workshops currently planned to include Stress Management techniques, feeling safe</p>	

	<p>on a night out, digital detox and using sport to benefit your wellbeing. These sessions will be delivered by specialists in the area that the workshops are based on. For example, the Wellbeing Teams and the Advice Centre.</p> <p>To help support the development of Wellbeing Workshops OD asked the meeting ‘What activities will be benefit different Student Academic and Inclusion Communities?’</p> <p>Ideas were sparked through an activity for this item where Members were given post-its and A3 paper and had time to note how Wellbeing Workshops can support their Community.</p> <p>NT: For the Faith Community, NT would like to see talking and hosting open and inclusive spaces that allow that talk to flow – emphasise the communication in faith and how networks can support Students.</p> <p>PC: PC reviewed her manifesto aims and her points were infused by her manifesto and the demands from her community including support for sexual health, networking, and signposting support.</p> <p>CW: Focus on communication and educating parents on how RHSU can support them. CL is interested in Dental health and wants to focus on how she can use this to support her community as she recognises the struggles for parents with their children and it can be time consuming for them.</p> <p>NT: Added about the importance of conversation including their experience on cramps and the intersection between faith and women. Also, feeding back on CW point, NT recommend getting in contact with health department about supporting dental aim.</p>	
8	<p>Student feedback: Email and form submissions</p> <p>No Student feedback presented.</p>	

9	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Reminder for Student Leaders to attend Mental Health Awareness Training. Completion of this training will result in a badge being added to CO pages on the RHSU website. If can't attend, then discussions will happen between OD and the Advice centre to complete the training. <p>NT asked PC about filming for SHAG week and how she did it. PC responded that she used a room in the Advice centre and to speak to FH or OD for support on setting this up.</p>	
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