

Agenda

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Time 3:00-5:00pm

Remotely- Teams

1. Attendance and Apologies

Attendance

VP CHMLS	Wiktorja Swoboda (WS)
VP CEDPS	Noah Yeates (NY)
VP CBASS	Archan Raval (AR)
International officer	Vidya Sagar Reddy Kurre (VK)
LGBT officer	Kira Nelson (KN)
Staff	Craig Lithgow (CL),
Staff	Ciara Haynes (CH)
Staff	Andy Proudfoot (AP)
Staff	Ruth Sharma (RS)
Staff	Rebecca Davies (RD)
Staff	George Blake (GB)
Staff	Christopher Hepworth (CH*)

Apologies

BME officer	Layla Ali Mohammed
VPSA	Connie Fernandes

Late Apologies

Womens Officer	Daisy Partridge

EU officer	Hannah Knoerk (HK),
Disability officer	Georgina Wilson-Cousins (GWC)

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Circulated

3. Matters Arising

ACTION - CL – To dig in archives to find the latest of where we got with this, find maps etc.

Connie asked Jeremy Tanner but no major updates.

ACTION - CL to speak to Tim wells about replacement of space so we can get use of our space back and additional provision for multi faith space.

Action – AP – look at that and do some specific training, briefing documents for them, external contractor forget to include them in conversations and work we do, not

automatically include all those contracted. Draft something up, the whole piece, interaction with our customers, work to do, recommendations from students on how they can feel safer. Start process now and something we can deliver. AP I can do that.

AP met with security manager to get people on site for an en masse training session, rather than doing training piecemeal. The hope is that this will ensure that on key issues security at the venue will be more in tune with the standards we expect and more in line with the values of the organisation.

4. Update from Executive Officers

a. Full time officer's reports – Verbal Updates and Senate Reports

AR has met with Tom Betteridge and Ashley Braganza regarding reviewing the feedback system between lecturers and students as it is currently. The plan is for this to be updated by march/april. AR is working with staff in the University wellbeing team regarding a Mental health campaign. AR is also continuing work on the misconduct Campaign.

WS shared how the majority of her time has been spent getting up to speed and in introduction meetings. She has however been playing a major role in the sexual health and harassment campaign along with Noah which has seen some promising developments – Cup covers etc. Linked to this, WS is part of a Changing the Culture working group with Noah. WS spoke of a student engagement group she is apart of which aims to help students be as successful as possible while at university. WS has also helped out with Rep activities such as Congress Hoodies, social etc.

NY has met with the secretary of State for education and attended University Council meetings. The new VC is joining us. The main campaign NY has been working on is the SH&H campaign with WS, DP and KN. He has met with Dale from Spectra to discuss consent and sex education workshops. He has been working with clubs and societies to ensure better safety measures and cup covers are now available. NY is also apart of working groups for Changing the culture, review of reporting procedures and review of the Sexual violence policy. NY has also helped out with rep activities e.g Congress, Hoodies and Socials etc.

b. Part-time Officer reports

VK apologized for not submitting a written report. He have an oral account of his work. VK has been working on a winter wellness campaign. It will be social media focused. VK is writing an article about how to stay mentally well during the winter which will be extremely helpful to international students

Motion for Student Union to call for reduction in tuition fees

and others. He is also in meetings with Hillingdon NHS education staff to see if they have resources that can be shared. He was working with president on a campaign aimed at helping students who are currently suffering due to rules on having to return home first if they want to change course due to tier 4 visa rules. VK spoke on how he is looking forward to One Brunel sessions. He would also like to work on a Right to work campaign and encourage students to register to vote. He would like to be more involved in international fees discussions.

KN

KN explains how meetings have been cancelled and they aren't entirely sure what they are meant to do. However, they will continue to book meetings with Wiktoria and talk with Ciara. They have a meetings booked with ED&I manager Henrietta. LGBT History Month is coming up in February so they think there will be a lot to work on then. Finally, they are in conversation with CF regarding rainbow laces. Craig added that to set up an event speak to Andy (LGBT society event)

5. Policy Prioritization Process

George to talk through the process so far and those who have taken on tasks to give updates.

Motion 1: Motion for Student Union to call for reduction in tuition fees

Action: NY to bring this up while talking to Secretary of state for education. A list of other universities with fixed fees over the lifetime of a course has been taken to council regarding Fixed fees for international students which has helped them to reconsider the value of this proposal. Lesley has gone away to review how this might work.

NY/CL to chat to Lesley before meeting to ensure that communication is clear and to see what progress has been made.

Action: involve international officer where possible on conversations to do with fixed international fees.

Motion 2: Homophobia and Transphobia Hate Crime Motion

Action: Send to Ciara

Motion 3: Motion to lobby the University to create Multi-faith praying space on campus

RS is leading this motion. She is arranging meetings with the appropriate people

including the Muslim Chaplin who is writing a thesis relevant to this topic.

Action: Ruth to continue meetings and update us with progress.

University has a long term plan to develop a functional multi faith space in dedicated building but this is likely to be at least 5-10 years away.

There are currently no short term plans to create more space however so any plans would likely involve the repurposing of an existing space.

Motion 4: Stop stressing our Mature and Postgraduates Students

RS points out that the title is confusing and that mature students are not actually included in the content of the motion.

VK explains that the current moving out period of on campus accommodation often overlaps with dissertation deadlines. This whole set up impacts international students and causes a lot of stress. Lots of students are submitting EC's because of this and getting rejected because of not having appropriate evidence.

Action: NY explains that FTO's meet with accommodation staff often therefore officers can discuss this in the next meeting.

6. Vice Chair

A volunteer is needed to be vice chair of Executive Committee. CF received the second most votes in the previous election and so if people are happy, she could be vice chair. This was put to the committee and the alternative option to run another election. The committee was happy for CF to be vice chair.

7. AOB