

Equality and Diversity Committee

9 October 2019

Minutes

Present:

Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS) (Chair)
Ntsiki Mkhize (BME Deputy Officer)
Molly Ferguson (LGBT+ Officer)
Dorian Clark (Disabled Students Deputy Officer)
Adil Rahoo (International Officer)
Tabitha Nyariki (International Deputy Officer)
Maggie Huminiecka (Mature and Part Time Officer)
Zoe Nichols (Sports E&D Champion)

Apologies:

Grace Nyariki (BME Officer); Maria Nagy (Women's Officer); Berni Stewart (Student Carer's Officer); Gillian Poynts (Student Carer's Deputy Officer); David Grimm (Care Experienced Officer); Vincent Waters (Men's Health and Alliance Officer); Monica Allen (Societies E&D Champion); Susan Docherty (VP SCEBE); Bethany Stevenson (VP SHLS); Eilidh Fulton (Student President); Adrian Lui (GCU Equality and Diversity Lead)

Present:

Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader (Clerk)
Caroline Miller, Representation and Advice Manager

1. Apologies

As given above

2. Minutes

Minutes of 23.04.2019 have been approved

3. Officers Reports

- A. International group is focused on expanding network this month including promoting on different groups and communities. In talks with Student Life for signposting/promoting. Held discussions with INTO GCU and Erasmus coordinator. Once networks formed will work on events. Next academic trimester a collaborative event and for Christmas plans to support students still here. Also collaborated with BME and sports for Show Racism the Red Card
- B. Mature and P/T – Meet with students from last year's group. Focus on growing membership – exploring the creation of a committee from different courses and years which would help with group capacity and sustainability. Have set up a meeting with two people who are interested in the committee. Planned collaboration and meeting with wellness department to discuss the needs of mature and part-time student health/wellness needs. Looking to achieve discounted membership to gym.

- C. BME (Moses on behalf of Grace) – October is Black History Month (BHM). Will be having movie nights and the Show Racism the Red Card day. Working on a multicultural night in partnership with Strathclyde. Also working on additional campaigns so groups focus is not just BHM.
- D. Disabled Students – organised a Facebook page to contact students. Created a medical information booklet for new students that was handed out at the Fresher Fair. Hosted a stall at the Fresher's Fair. Current work is focused on getting the medical information turned into a printed pamphlet for further distribution and getting mobility aids for students to borrow while at uni if they need. Also exploring social events like movie nights/chats and working on informational campaigns to increase awareness of hidden conditions that are less known but prevalent conditions like ME.
- E. LGBT – Hosted several guest speakers and had several Fresher events including LGBT brunch. Membership is strong.
- F. Sports – Sports committee is working on increasing inclusiveness for international students by introducing half year sports memberships in addition to the full year membership. Participated in Show Racism the Red Card and will be working on LGBT in sports campaign for Feb.

7. Upcoming campaigns

Mature and P/T students campaign for different access options to ARC. ACTION: Moses to speak to Gordon for ARC contact.

International Group is looking for collaborators for Cultural Showcase event –ACTION: All Speak to Adil or Tabitha if interested.

Scottish Language workshops – Looking to collaborate with groups with strong home student populations.

8. Collaboration of Groups

Discussed a day or week long event in trimester 2 where all groups bring something to the table with the focus of breaking down barriers for others to participate. Wellness focus possible. FTO champions are supportive and have bid for money to do a video: Standing Together for diversity and inclusion. ACTION: All All groups to think of an event/campaign that can be part of the large event/campaign.

9. Quiet Space

Originally was a gender and sexuality space and then added anxiety space. Currently not well used as ownership of room is complex. Group asked how this room could be better utilised. Suggestions include

- a quiet room for autistic and/or anxiety.
- Place for disabled students to make adjustments
- detox space from technology
- one to one space for opening up about issues that need privacy to talk about
- quiet space not specific to any one group

- information distribution point including mental health, domestic violence, etc.
- space for private calls to medical and helplines
- bookable for calls and dropping in
- nap pod

Overall there was general agreement that we need to promote it, raise awareness to full student body.

10. AOCB

Blog on 16 Days of Gendered Based Violence – Caroline will be writing on from the perspective of a first responder

Expiring students every year in July – why – cannot we just expire them on the completion of their degree. **ACTION: Sara** to find out

Date of next meeting has moved to 20th Nov at 3pm