

E & D 11 March 2020



Equalities and Diversity Committee

Wednesday 11th March 2020

Present:

Moses Apiliga (VP GSBS) (Chair)
David Grimm (Care Experienced Officer)
Vincent Waters (Mental Health and Wellbeing Officer)
David Howie (Open Place)
Tabitha Nyariki (International Deputy Officer)
Monica Allen (Societies E&D Champion)

Apologies:

Grace Nyariki (BME Officer); Ntsiki Mkhize (BME Deputy Officer); Maria Nagy (Women's Officer);
Caroline Miller (Representation and Advice Manager); Zoe Nichols (Sports E&D Champion); Maggie
Huminiacka (Mature and Part Time Officer); Adil Rahoo (International Officer); Gillian Poynts
(Student Carer's Deputy Officer)

Present:

Sara MacLean, Student Voice Team Leader (Clerk)
Adrian Lui (GCU Equality and Diversity Lead)

1. Apologies

As noted above

2. Minutes

Minutes of 12.02.20 was approved

3. Upcoming Campaigns

EDN have organised an employability workshop in partnership with careers. Will feature guest speakers and a consultant who specialises in BME employability.

4. Officer/Champion Update

4.1 Care Experienced – On the 21 April will host a workshop in partnership with Social Work Society focusing on the lived experience of kids in care and the social pedagogy to help support them. Will feature speakers on leaving care and about love in the care system. Pub quiz on 8th April (Wednesday) 6pm for Care leavers but all invited

4.2 Mental Health– talking to University staff about survey of provision of mental health, as during Mental Health Day conducted a poll of 137 students with clear majority responding they do not

know what resources the university has for supporting student mental health. Thus, group is focusing on helping students to understand what is available – lack of single source. Group social event in early April

4.3 Student Voice Open Place (DH) – working on collaboration with Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland discussing care experienced students.

4.4 Societies Champion – Clubs and Societies are current in handovers phase. Common good society is tonight and will be electing new chairs - group urged to get involved. Sustainability fair in a few weeks as part of E & E showcasing and promoting sustainability. Promoting E&D in sustainability. Asked group how E&D and lib/rep groups can get involved.

4.5 International – International Students are partnering with EDN on employability workshop and in discussion with careers about hosting a specific workshop for international students.

5. GCU Equality and Diversity Update

Tackling Racism short life working group will be presenting recommendations to People Committee next week. Looking for volunteers on Thursday 19th March to have a student presence at this high level committee. Will email relevant officers.

Accessibility project – discussing the Students' Association involvement to increasing consistency across the university.

Example of good practice at the university – E&D committee of the Social Science degree discussing introducing sunflower lanyard's (hidden disabilities) to their course. This would be good to spread to other programmes. Vincent noted that he has spoken to Susan about the sunflower lanyards and this could be good for the E&D next year.

6. 2019/20 review

Group discussed what they would like to be noted that happened this year as well as what they would like to see in future year.

MHWO responded that there has been an increase in the already dire use of disabled car parking by non-blue badge holders and that this should be addressed before next year. He has been in touch with estates and they noted they will review the spaces. At the moment there are 10 disabled parking bays taken up by skips – sends a message about how the university views disabled parking.

MWHO noted that sanitation at the university continues to be a problem and it is students with protected characteristics that are often the most affected by sanitation issues. The Business Continuity Group has agreed to get in the wipes and gel in as soon as possible but that more needs to be done next year including advocating for more cleaners who are better trained and paid.

DH noted his ongoing collaborations with Health and Social Care Alliance (HSCA) Scotland in setting up a programme called “digital alive” with an outreach strand. This could be a potential collaboration for next year's E&D.

ISDO noted that the Tackling Racism will be making recommendations and that E&D should follow up with these to ensure implementation.

ISDO also noted that they wanted to do a festival of different independence days for international and EDN students but lacked the time. Would be good to continue next year.

CEO noted that Social Work Society are a good group to collaborate with especially around Care Experienced students.

Group discussed improvement to funding for Lib/Rep groups. More clarity on the Common Good Fund and how the money is allocated to groups. Also concerned that groups and societies getting money and not using it. It was noted that new groups do not getting as much money but that was not clearer in the application process. Seed funding for group has not increased in line with the non-increase of block grant from university for the SA as a whole, yet university says that this is important to them –not getting an increase from the university is impacting E&D Work.

7. AOCB

Group noted that all four who were successfully elected were members of E & D. Also discussed how to increase engagement around elections – encouraging lecturers to give time in their lecture to vote for example.

Chair reminded groups that at events no to share food at events due to coronavirus

8. Date of Next Meeting

This was the last E&D of the year.