



Equality & Diversity Committee

10th October 2017 (14:00 – 15:00) in NH209

Present:

Rachel Simpson, VP GSBS (**Chair**)
Eilidh Fulton, Equality & Diversity Society Champion
Raven Hingley, Women's Officer
Fraser Knight, LGBT+ Officer

Apologies:

Eleanor McAdam, Deputy Disabled Students' Officer

Absent:

Lauren Aitken, Disabled Students' Officer
Idris Akormadu, International Students' Officer
Seun Babajide, Deputy B.M.E. Officer
Pelumi Daniel, Deputy B.M.E. Officer
Victory Nwabu-ekeoma, B.M.E. Officer
Elliot Turnbull, Deputy LGBT+ Officer

In Attendance:

Gary Kyle, Student Rep Assistant (**Clerk**)
Caroline Miller, Representation and Advice Manager

1. Apologies

As detailed above.

2. Matters arising

Following on from the previous Equality & Diversity (E&D) committee meeting (13th March 2017), VP GSBS pointed out that the previous clerk was no longer employed by GCU Students' Association and therefore was unaware if the previous committee action "Clerk to check if liberation groups can get sponsors and partners" had been resolved. Therefore, the new clerk would take on this action and report back at the next meeting as they are also the staff support for the liberation groups.

ACTION: Clerk to check if liberation groups can get sponsors and partners.

3. Introductions

- *Membership*

Membership of the E&D committee is the student officers of all liberation groups; International Students' Officer; Societies Champion; Sports Champion (still to be recruited); Student Carers' Officer (still to be recruited); Care Experience Students' Officer (still to be recruited); Full Time Officer Policy Lead; Representation and Advice Manager; and the clerk.

- *Functions of E&D Committee*

Group functions to provide catch-up opportunities from all the liberation groups so as to inform GCU Students' Association of their progress and where they might need additional support. Additionally, liberation groups are made aware of any NUS national campaigns and how they can get involved.

4. Officer Updates

- *Full Time Officer*

VP GSBS has been successful in including additional courses, such as "Unconscious Bias", into the Student Leaders Programme. Additionally, VP GSBS provided an update on her campaigning to the university to provide free sanitary products which is one of her three annual Full Time Officer objectives.

- *Women's Officer*

Women's group are holding movie nights and are keen on working alongside VP GSBS with her sanitary product campaign. Fresher's Fayre was a success and the group will be looking at getting more effective partnerships over the Trimester.

- *LGBT+ Officer*

Over 90 people have registered under the LGBT+ group (either self-identifying or allies). The group had a bar crawl event which was a success and have, so far, had two meetings with over 30 people attending. LGBT+ is looking at organising a joint-led social with the sports teams alongside working with the Stonewall campaign who encourage more LGBT+ participation in sporting events/activities. Additionally, Police Scotland is going to be visiting GCU to give a talk about safe protesting at Pride and how to report homophobic incidents.

- *Societies Champion*

No updates to offer on this occasion.

5. GCU Equality & Diversity Update

The GCU Equality & Diversity Committee meeting took place last week that VP GSBS couldn't attend. However, she has sat on a working group that are looking at an anti-harassment campaign similar to the "Full Stop" campaign ran by the University of Glasgow in 2016.

6. Upcoming Campaigns

The Women's liberation group are supporting the period poverty campaign in conjunction with one of VP GSBS' annual Full Time Officer objectives. They are also keen on raising awareness surrounding cervical cancer and to also work alongside the University of Strathclyde in association with their "Reclaim the night" march. VP GSBS is working with the University of Stirling to discuss introducing mooncups to GCU. This will allow additional, affordable options for students who menstruate and VP GSBS is looking into the financial implications this may have upon the university. VP GSBS has also introduced the "Responding to Gender-based Violence" workshops across the university.

ACTION: VP GSBS to provide workshop seminar dates for the "Responding to Gender-based Violence" at next meeting.

7. AOCB

The Student Rep Assistant discussed the opportunity of Liberation Officers attending the NUS Scotland Liberation Day (2nd November 2017) and, if interested, they ought to let him know as soon as possible. E&D committee members were also showed the GCU Students' Association "Equality and Diversity" video.

The LGBT+ Officer mentioned that the NUS UK LGBT+ Conference clashes with Election Week at GCU and this therefore creates an additional barrier in terms of engagement opportunities. He asked about the possibility of moving the GCU election date which VP GSBS will look into. The LGBT+ Officer also asked about the possibility of allied training in relation to sports societies to which it was indicated that students should be made aware of the importance of equality, diversity and inclusivity in their sports induction training regardless.

ACTION: VP GSBS to look into moving the GCU election dates.
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Finally, the LGBT+ Officer asked about gender-neutral toilet facilities across the campus and VP GSBS stated that there are gender-neutral toilet facilities but they are not advertised; therefore she will ask the university directly for details of gender-neutral facilities across the campus.

ACTION: VP GSBS to directly ask the university for the location of gender-neutral toilet facilities across the campus.

**The next meeting for the Equality & Diversity Committee is scheduled to take place on 6th
December 2017 (14:00-15:00)**