



Strathclyde
Students'
Union

Equality & Diversity Committee

Meeting minutes: Tuesday the 10th of October, 5pm

Present: Morten Nielsen, Asad-Ali Sawar, Holly Cunningham, Julia Swann, Nayab Ahmad

Chair: Taylor Wong

Staff: Silja Slepjov

Taylor opens meeting with introductions from all members. Representatives present from SUMSA, FemSoc, LGBT+ and International Society.

Taylor is currently working on Black History Month events. Exhibition is currently open, all encouraged to go view.

Moving on to society updates. LGBT+ working on fundraising projects, mainly for Action for Transhealth. Also planning to bring in speakers from Equally Safe in Higher Education and Rape Crisis Scotland for an event, organising a Rocky Horror Picture Show night.

FemSoc are focusing on setting up and getting society running. Had their first meeting a few days ago, 20 people attended, feel it went well. A couple of volunteers expressed interest in taking on committee positions, which will be run as an open committee without individual jobs. Received ideas for events, including monthly meetings with a specific theme, both social and informative. Thinking of first one focusing on intersectionality.

Taylor: is there scope for running joint events with LGBT+?

Both society representatives expressed interest in this, especially on Equally Safe in Higher Education and inviting FemSoc to attend LGBT+ coffee mornings.

SUMSA are focusing on organising Charity Week, which takes place 23-29 October. Planning food fair, bake sale, bucketing on Buchanan and Sauchiehall Street. Bringing in speaker for Islamophobia Awareness Month, concerns over financing. Considering second event and Interfaith dinner.

Briefed on achievements during previous Charity Weeks. Emphasised that this year, all students invited to take part of bucketing and fundraising efforts.

International Society are focused on connecting international students with each other and home students by holding weekly meetings, day trips, including Harry Potter themed one and Enchanted Forest. A lot of organising going into this.

Taylor: Do you run any joint events?

Morten: On occasion with PhotoSoc and Nordic Soc. Organising Ceilidh and Whiskey tasting with Postgrad Soc. Would be interested in doing other collaborative events.

LGBT+ are also organising a joint event with choir and a mixer event with other LGBT+ societies across Scotland.



Next item on agenda, planning for various awareness events and campaigns.

BHM: Panellists needed for Moonlight discussion on 17th October. LGBT+ will ask members.

Cup of Tea With a Refugee: attendees needed. SUMSA will ask if any members with asylum seeker background can attend. Julia suggests also contacting the Maryhill Integration Network.

Interfaith Week happening 12-19 November.

Taylor explains What is my name? campaign, which focuses on people sharing stories about the origin of their name and identity. SUMSA organising Interfaith dinner but have it planned for February. Might still do November.

Taylor suggests foodbank and cooking a meal for homeless as a joint event with societies. Will be discussed at a later date.

Disability Awareness Month:

Taylor: Dinner in the dark idea to let people experience sight loss reality.

Julia raised point that this only focuses on one disability and quite a small segment of the student population have this disability.

Holly suggests focusing on hidden disabilities. All agree that this will be most important from an awareness-raising perspective.

Julia will speak to VPS and find out if any plans for Disability Awareness Month.

Reclaim the Night happening on 27 November. Concept and background discussed. NUS encouraging all Unions to organise an event across country. Bystander workshop will take place on 26th.

Julia explains that attendance used to be a lot higher, and atmosphere very positive when Rape Crisis Scotland had funding from GCC and event was held in the West End.

Also suggested speakers and after-event in vertigo.

Agreed that this will be looked into and if possible, added to the agenda.

Asad raised concern about not having communications about funding options for societies, often have to rely on handover from previous committee members. Union needs to do more, all members agreed. Silja will report this to relevant department and will work to improve this.

Islam Awareness Month: speaker Abdul Rafeel MacCarthy being invited. Other societies across Scotland have previously handed out daffodils with information, What Does Islam Mean to You? Campaigns, accolades for We Are Strathclyde – looking to emulate something similar this year.

Union Policy ideas: none raised but policy procedure explained to attendees.

Holly raised gender neutral toilets campaign, better signage and explanations needed across campus. Taylor will start working on this with LGBT society. Fem Soc are also keen to participate and will help in this.

Date of next meeting will be determined by Doodle poll, which will be up by the end of the week.