

Minutes from Equality & Diversity committee meeting

08/11/18

Present:

- Steve Slater - **Mature Students' Officer (MSO)**
- Adedayo Asaolu - **International Students' Officer (ISO)**
- Brendan Agu - **Part-Time Students' Officer (PTSO)**
- Rosie Murray - **LGBT+ Students' Officer (LGBT+SO)**
- Peťa Angie Maťusová- **Disability Students' Officer (DSO)**
- Titi Farukuoye - **Strath union VP Diversity (VPD)**
- Silja Slepnyov - **Strath Union Student Opportunities Coordinator. (SOC)**
- Joshua McCormick - **Student Engagement Diversity Intern. (DI)**

Apologies:

BAME Students' Officer (BAME-SO) Women Students' Officer (WSO), Student of Faith Officer (SFO), Post graduate Officer (PGO)

Agenda point 1 – Welcome.

- (16:30) **VPD** gave a brief welcome and organised a short icebreaker so the group could get to know one another.
- Followed by explaining the committee is elected to represent students from each of the liberation groups.
- **SOC** Explained the liberation flowchart showing how accountability works and where the committee and officers fit in.

Agenda point 2 – Role & remits.

- (16:45) **VPD** explained that the liberation officer roles were newly created this year and asked previous members of committee to share about their role and involvement in previous years.
- **LGBT+SO** explained about their experience as president of the LGBT+ society from the previous year:
- Host fun night/ games nights

- Organise events within the union
- Work on campaigns
- Facilitate a platform for the voices/ desires of the members to be heard by leadership
- Take an intersectional approach to work within the committee.
- **DSO** explained the difficulties faced by students with disabilities
- Worked last year to make the society more active within the union/ on campus
- Awareness raising
- Host craft sessions
- Respond to emails and signpost students to available support services
- **VPD** then moved on to new liberation officers and opened up the space so they could present ideas for what they believe the role involves.
- (16:55) **PTSO** wanted to understand what services are/aren't available on campus
- Tackle the issue of drop out for part time students
- **VPD** explained that there are different structures for liberation officers. Some liberation officers are accountable to the liberation group committees and some are accountable to the student body.
- (16:56) **ISO** is aiming to highlight key issues for international students such as harassing emails some students have received from the university.
- How can we integrate international student groups so they can be a unified voice?
- Develop a platform to connect international students.
- (16:58) **MSO** will find out about the Mature Students' Association.
- Understand the needs and desires of mature students.
- Understand what powers are available to officers.
- What contact powers are officers able to access?
- (17:00) **VPD** informed that the mature student association (MSA) is located in the Livingston tower.
- **SOC** updated that (MSA) hadn't re-affiliated yet.
- **MSO** also asked about data gathering within the role and **SiS** suggested running a GDPR training would be a possibility.

Agenda point 3 – Accountability VPD

- (17:05) **VPD** explained her plan for the rest of the year and gave detail of the work she had done for BHM and other events.
- **VPD** is aiming to increase representation and increase the voices of students from underrepresented groups.
- **VPD** explained some of the joint work she does with the university including sitting on the E&D committee where she can influence policy. She is the chair of the International Student Task Force which aims to match the universities international outlook and strategy to recruit increasing numbers of international students, with services and a university environment equivalently supportive for international student.
- **DI** as well updated the committee on the development of estranged student support initiatives and strategies for increasing inclusion and representation.
- **VPD** updated the committee on Fight for the Night.
- **VPD** discussed with the committee about the relaunch of the Liberation room and discussed what desires the group had for using the space.
- **DSO** asked if the current Liberation room will be closed.
- **VPD** No the Liberation room will remain open.
- **LGBT+O** Will it still be Liberation space.
- **VPD** Yes, the room will still be specifically for Liberation identifying students to use.
- **LGBT+O** explained that the current room is primarily used by committees and that it was a good space for that.
- **DSO** informed the committee campaign material is often kept in the room.
- **VPD** suggested providing lockable storage space for each Liberation group in the Liberation room.
- Group approved VPD's report.
- Group discussed the democratic procedure of the committee and if there was anything in place for quorum, passing motions etc.

Agenda point 4 – Motion writing & Strath Union democracy

- **DSO** asked VPD for NUS motion submission dates.
- **SOC** walked the committee through how to develop a motion. 3 main ways: motion maker (on the website), through the committee and presenting a motion to parliament.
- **ISO** asked if motions were limited by word count.
- **SOC** explained there was no limit but there is a usual structure within the motions that are presented, between 1-2 pages.
- **SOC** also suggested the group look at policy motions already on the union website to see structure and if any of the committee needed help in developing a motion the democracy team on level 6 is always available to help.
- **SOC** explained that any student can make amendments and question a policy at any time so creating a well structure and developed policy is beneficial to allow it withstand argument.

Agenda point 5 – Comfort breaks (17:25)

Agenda point 6 – University committees & officer campaigns

- **VPD** asked the committee members what their next actions.
- **MSO** will talk to and make connections with the MSA.
- **ISO** will contact the different international societies and work with them to plan the way forward.
- **PTSO** Find data in respect to number of PT students and develop a platform for hosting events.
- **DSO** Finish list of people for DHM, host another crafternoon and develop panel discussion and short film with JM.
- **LGBT+O** Plan Beyond the Binary Workshop (5th DEC), update on gender neutral toilet map, develop world aids day in cooperation with the pharmacy society.

Agenda point 7 – Lapsing policy (17:55)

- Due to time constraints the committee didn't have the opportunity to consider the lapsing policies. However the committee were informed that all union policies were

available from the union website. A handout was provided on the night which including the lapsing policy but there wasn't enough time to go through and decide which were relevant/ important.

Agenda point 8 – AOB

- **MSO** What does the affiliation do for a club within the union.
- **SOC** explained that affiliation allows liberation groups/ clubs and societies to apply for funding from the union and use the room booking facility of the union for free.

Next meeting:

- Committee agreed to meet either the first or second week in December.

Actions (Deadline – Before next meeting):

- **SOC** Send out information on liberation rooms and access codes to each of the officer.
- **JM** Bring forward a democratic structure procedural document for the committee.
- **SOC** NUS motions submission dates to be provided to officers and addition of NUS motion as part of next agenda.
- **SOC** Put **PTSO** in touch with the widening access team so he can find details on the students he represents.
- **SOC** to check if she has access to Part time student information through the union to assist **PTSO**.
- **VPD** to order arts and crafts products for DHM event.
- **VPD** contact Advice Hub and check what art supplies they have.
- **VPD** develop a functional lapsing policy system that recognises relevance/irrelevance of policies and send out to committee for decision making.
- **DI** consider technical solutions like Skype for people to attend the next meeting.