

INCLUSIVITY & DIVERSITY ZONE MEETING MINUTES

2nd April 2019 | 17:30 – 18:45

Register

Andrew Costigan, President of Inclusivity and Diversity (PID), Ralph Lending, LGBT+ Rep (RS), Phoebe Bastiani, Women's Rep (PB), Rayan Shipton, Trans' Student Rep (RS), Mayanie Koroma, Counsellor of Scrutiny (MK).

Welcome and apologies

Apologies received from Jess Clunan, Disabled Student's Rep (JC).

Approval of the last minutes

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Matters arising – Resolved

“JC – One of the biggest changes to occur to the Trans Rep role is that it is would be elected in the main election rather than LGBT+ AGM. Given that the current Trans Rep was voted in by 8 members at an AGM and the incoming Trans Rep was voted in by 4 individuals in a main election what will be done to increase awareness of the position?” (Taken from previous minutes)

RS – Regarding the issue with only four trans people voting: in Trans Group we found a technical error for multiple people when voting. The question of what characteristics apply to you didn't come up for some people and the system instead had saved their previous answers from when they last voted. Since trans wasn't on the list in the last election that meant Trans Rep didn't come up for multiple people in trans group and so they couldn't vote on it. This likely happened to many trans students since - if 16% of students engage in voting and 1% of the student population is transgender - about 26 students should have voted for Trans Rep.


Reports

- 1) President, Inclusivity and Diversity

Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2021

AC – Presented the first draft of the mental health and wellbeing strategy written by the University. Outlined the structure, appendices and highlighted the implementation plan and operational imperatives.

AC – Outlined concerns over the use of language featured in the strategy, similar to concerns about the Sexual Violence strategy. In the vision “To develop...” is used in reference to developing an inclusive campus. AC argues that it could be better worded as “The University provides...”. HUU is billed as a key strategic partner in the introduction, but is not regularly referenced in the remainder of the document. Happy that “Service Provision, delivery and evaluation” has been selected as a priority in strategic objectives. AC showed concern over a lack of clarity in the



strategy over how some aspects will be achieved as he perceives there is no mention of diversifying internal support and the role of student engagement officers is not made clear within the strategy despite their presence in the academic hubs as part of an attempt to assist students with some concerns.

MK - Highlights that compared to other university mental health strategies, there doesn't appear to be any legal framework in this strategy. Questions what kind of scope the strategy will operate under.

AC - Reminds the zone that the strategy is a draft and there is still time to question the university on specific issues.

PB - Notes that the strategies of Bristol and York are "flashier" and more appealing. Questions whether a similar document will be produced for Hull.

AC - Entirely possible, believes this strategy document will form the foundation of the bigger strategy.

Participation Grant

AC - Explained proposals to create a participation grant for students in hardship who wish to join a society, sports club or participate in a give it a go scheme. Outlined the three other institutions that currently do this - Sheffield, Edinburgh and Strathclyde. AC highlighted differences between how institutions run these grants, sources of funding and how they are allocated.

PB - Questioned on what the grant could be awarded for as some costs are unforeseen.

AC - Outlined examples of what is approved for spending by other institutions and how this could operate at Hull.

2) Disabled Students Representative (**Report sent in advance**)

JC - Continuation of looking for interested students to take on the position of Disabled Students Rep next academic year. Concerns that the role may not be taken up in future years if there is no rep elected by the October by-election.

JC - Clarified with the proposer of M. 1819 - 29 the purpose of Disabled Students Rep is not to specifically assist students filling out DSA applications, but has done due to concerns over the capability of the university to do so.

JC - Continuation of the development of plans to split the role of disabled student's rep into two i.e. physical and developmental and cognitive differences.

3) Women's Representative

PB - Assisted the proposer of M. 1819 - 29 and M. 1819 - 30 with the drafting and seconding of motions sent to Union Council.

PB - Successfully raised over £100 for ROSA and the Charlie Watkins Foundation through a charity fashion show.



PB – Continues to organise “Body Positivity Week” (Provisional title).

4) LGBT+ Representative

RL – Continuing to work on setting up the LGBT+ society in place of the former liberation group.

RL – Planning ahead for next year. Consideration of running for LGBT+ representative again in the by-elections if time/schedule allows.

RL – If re-elected, consideration of organising a campaign focused on “coming out”, supporting individuals with the positive message of being yourself.

5) Trans Representative

RS – Commented on the success of recent fundraising events including a bake sale and karaoke session. £40 was raised for the charity “Mermaids” supporting gender diverse and transgender children, young people and their families.

RS – Organised a trip to Trans Pride event in Leeds.

RS – Maintaining regular office hours and continues to support the Trans support group weekly. Additionally have put up posters to advertise the group further.

6) Counsellor of Scrutiny

MK – Raised questions to PB regarding how as women’s rep, outreach to minority ethnicity women could be increased and whether there can be any outreach events catering specifically for these people.

MK – Raised concerns that minority ethnicity students MK has spoken to do not know there is a women’s rep.

PB – Acknowledges that more could be done to reach out to minority ethnicity women but expresses concerns over the use of language ‘most’. PB explains that ‘most’ suggests no outreach has been done at all.

MK – Believes ‘most’ is not accurate but highlights an additional problem has been the lack of consistent BAME representation this academic year.

7) BAME Representative – Presently no BAME Student’s Rep.

Items for discussion

No items tabled for discussion.

Any other business

No additional business raised.