**MEETING OF SGSU COUNCIL**

**Steering Group – ‘Does your SGSU represent YOU?’**

**14th February 2017**

**6pm + LTA**

**ATTENDEES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **FH** | Francesca Harris | General Secretary |
| **KS** | Khadija Stone | E+D Officer |
| **AP** | Avin Philip | E+D Officer |
| **GB** | Gabriela Barzyk | Representation Officer |
| **SS** | Sunil Singh | Representation Officer |
| **CB** | Corey Briffa | SU President |
| **TA** | Tanisha Amin | VP Education and Welfare |
| **ANG** | Alia Nasir-Gonzalez | Marrow |
| **OS** | Ola Shogbeni | Dance Society |
| **HS** | Hawraa Selman | ABSoc |
| **EO** | Eric Owusu | - |
| **JW** | John Ward | Revue |
| **JG** | Jatenda Gochera | ACS |
| **AA** | Aneesa Awan | Photography Society |
| **AH** | Azeem Hussain | AppSoft Soc |
| **SK** | Salih Kadri | Debating Society |
| **AO** | Abdirahman Osman | ISoc |
| **ZN** | Zishan Naeen | Cardiology |
| **PA** | Priya Attra | HoMed |
| **RW** | Rebecca Waters | StreetDoctors |
| **AG** | Adam Gadhvi | KCSoc |
| **JK** | Jonathan Khadine | Music Soc |
| **PW** | Philippa Wallace | Geriatrics Society |
| **HJ** | Hannah Jones | TAD Soc |
| **KV** | Keerthena Veerapathera | Teddy Bear Hospital |
| **KJ** | Kate Jones | Sexpression |
| **JS** | Jewelle Stiles | Year 2 HCS rep |
| **SK** | Soniya Kamalraj | Year 2 HCS rep |

**APOLOGIES**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Athena Swan | CU |
| Wu Shu Kwan | Fashion Show |
| Genetics Society | Tooting Show |
| Arabic Society | Bake Soc |
| Game Soc | Volleyball |
| Student Minds | Saving Londoners Lives |
| Paediatrics Society | Sim Soc |
| Hiking and Walking | Tennis |
| Ladies Basketball | LINKS |
| Medsin | Ladies Hockey |
| Mens Rugby | Radiology |
| Henry Gray | Yoga |
| Sikh Society | Widening Access to Medicine |
| Hindu Society |  |

**REPRESENATION OFFICER REPORT**

GB gave a verbal summary of the written report.

**STEERING GROUP**

KS gave in introduction to the meeting and welcomed those who hadn’t attended council before. KS explained how the meeting was going to run.

KS gave a presentation on E+D and representation within the SU, including the 9 protected characteristics.

Lad Culture

*Zero tolerance approach to sexual harassment and assault?*

*Circles – songs that encourage rape “no daddy”*

*The lack of a sexual harassment/assault policy knowledge*

HJ: Havent been personally offended but can understand how someone might be if they heard some of the songs sung in circles. Could also be taken badly by a visitor to the university, especially as we are a healthcare university.

CB: Do you think the SU should police this?

HJ: I don’t think policing would work. Students need to realise what they’re doing - you don’t always think about what it is you’re singing or doing until you’re asked to and you don’t always consider the impact it could have on others. I think its more about coming up with a way to encourage people to think their actions rather than stopping them completely.

PW: It’s a culture thing. Maybe you could send something out to all the committees about the feedback we’ve had and see if bringing it to light would be enough, but I don’t think anyone else would be able to say anything to them apart from the SU as it’s within the Union.

CB: This kind of behaviour would fall under some other SUs policies which say that if things like that happened there would be repercussions. How would we feel about this?

PW: I don’t think we could have zero tolerance yet because of the culture.

TA: We do seem to have an overly accepting culture.

KS: What would you like to be done about this and do you think its something that needs to be tackled and addressed?

JW: We should have it so that they know how people feel about it rather than just banning it where people may just see it as an opportunity to rebel, but otherwise people may try to understand a bit more.

PW: I think we want people to realise what they’re saying. Currently they are saying it without connecting but when you really just look at it in black and white it’s pretty disgusting.

TA: I think part of the issue is that these songs etc are introduced at day 1 especially if you are in a sports team and you don’t realise the number of people who are not involved in that circle who feel differently.

KS: Do you have any opinions on the SU approach to sexual violence and harassment and how it would be followed up by the SU if you took something forward?

KJ: I think it should be publicised more. When you start at university its not really mentioned.

GB: Do you think a link on the website or emails would make a difference?

HJ: We should have safe posters, so that if something happens to you at the bar you know where you can go with it.

CB: I think this also would act as a deterrent.

KJ: I agree, I think the more you publicise that people know about this the less likely people will be to act on it.

TA: We could sign up to the safe nights scheme. Every officer or staff member would be someone you can approach if an incident occurred.

NSS Referendum

*“Students are going uninformed of both arguments for and against the boycott”*

SK: I didn’t find out about it in George’s at all, I only heard about it when I was in Queen Mary’s. Most first year students don’t have a clue and it seems like if you’d gone to the university to explain the controversy behind the survey people would be a lot better informed.

TA explained about TEF and that we have had open meetings trying to explain to students and get engagement on the issue. We wanted people to be informed and understand before Christmas. No one attended, what would have drawn you in?

HJ: I think making it compulsory by putting in a council meeting for example makes people come and listen.

KS: How would you feel if things were imposed during council in order to get people to attend and listen, for example this steering group?

PW: I think its very difficult, dealing with a lot of different people. For example I am a final year GEP so I don’t really feel part of the university and if I was being forced to come to regular meetings then I might find that annoying being on placement etc as I am in a different place in my degree to a lot of other students. Maybe every other month might be ok. Could even make it constitutional for society presidents to read a specific email and put across any views from them and committee if anyone wanted, not so much a compulsory thing but gets a response from people in a more urgent and necessary way.

Gender Neutral Toilets

PW: I think this is good as long as it’s not every toilet so that caters for everyone.

CB: This is within plans within the SU refurbishment

TA: I would just be like their own cubicles each with a toilet, mirror and sink

HJ: I think makes sense and I have previously wondered why things aren’t like that anyway

Gender Lectures

*Include in repro lectures?*

*Transphobia*

*Separation of gender and assigned sex*

*Misgendering*

*Transphobic healthcare services*

JW: I was talking to someone in CBL who said the lecturer had slides from years ago using very outdated terms which can be very incorrect and inappropriate for some people. Before lectures people were making so many incorrect assumptions so think should be more emphasis on gender identity and it is statistically a big issue that isn’t recognised enough.

HS: In first year it was ok and we got a fair bit on gender identity but not so much in second year and third – doesn’t get acknowledged.

KJ: Pronouns is really important and maybe there should be a lecture on it as can be really offensive and hard for some people

HS: A lot of the time people just don’t know they don’t meant o be offensive

CB: as a healthcare university should be tackling it

KS: asking for what preferred pronouns are should be more normal

JW: We had slip ups in our stereotyping session which definitely shouldn’t be happening and could be included more in there

HS: David Gillot gave a good lecture. I think the problem starts with the lecturers though as if its bad then it can only get worse

CB: what would you do if you did witness a lecture teaching something very wrong?

HS: I speak to the SU as don’t know who else. Same as with anything else that you would put a complaint forward for

CB: Tanisha and I are working on a feedback system for lectures that will hopefully be introduced in time for next September. Will allow feedback on individual lecturers and will be linked to their promotions, in order to be promoted will have to present that they’ve met criteria to show they teach well and give extra help etc. but also anything major bring it to Tanisha and I.

Liberation Officers

*Eg women’s officers, disability officer, inclusion officers, LGBTQ+ and BAME etc – how would people feel about having more roles on exec like that?*

SK: Do you feel there’s demand for it?

GB: This idea came form someone that feels there’s a gap for it so that it’s a specific person for people to go t about these things

AP: I don’t feel we have too much on as E+D Officers to do it but it’s possibly more about people feeling comfortable to go to them

GB: Also in terms of training we have limitations so would be good to have someone who would be dedicated to this

CB: These officers would be people that self-identify in those roles eg woman as a women’s officer

JW: We have societies such as iFemSoc maybe we could thinkabout giving them more SU power rather than new officers to make it easier maybe

HJ: What do you think you could do to do that?

JW: We could give them more information of how they can expand their help to the student body not just society members
HJ: It would be good if the SU could offer training for those people that take on the role.

KS: We had thought of this for show directors etc at the beginning of the year and it could also be for other society presidents – do you think this would be a good idea?

All agreed.

PW: A day for the society presidents at beginning of year would be a really good idea. I would have really benefitted from this and for you to tell them what you expect form the presidents of societies and will help in handovers also. Or a handbook or something as if you don’t get a handover then you are stuck, and you end up making it up as you go along rather than meeting the SU expectations. This may already be available but I don’t feel that we are signposted to it if it is. If you’ve never done it before then its really hard.

CB – also works as a networking event between presidents

SU Structure

KS: do you know who your SU officers are and how the elections work?

JW: what’s the diff between senate and exec?

GB: exec is made up of the officers who are elected and we come together fortnightly give reports on what we’ve done and plan to do, society proposals happen here. Council is like this to discuss society issues such as rooms. Senate is where year reps come together to discuss cohort issues.

JK: At the heart of these issues is that all these things are available but people don’t bother to look into it even in council hardly any society representatives come. People only really do things because they feel it’s a duty, not because they want to. There are no real repercussions if you don’t, just send apologies.

PW: think that sometimes take ourselves a bit seriously, we do these things for fun because we want to and we enjoy it.

ANG: It’s on the individual if they don’t come to express their opinion.

CB: People tend to come when something really matters to them/

**DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

14th March 2017 – 6pm - LTA