



Communities Committee Meeting - 13-10-2020

Attendance: GG (WCS Rep), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep), SWC (President), MP (VP)

Apologies: -

Absent: -

Location: Zoom Call

SWC Obviously we do not have a Chair in place for this committee. International Rep will be re-run as DA will not be in Durham this year. Local Students Rep I believe has effectively resigned, but I will check. I thought this would be a good opportunity to discuss what you all have planned. Since I'm not really the chair I'm unaware of your plans, and I do think it's important you all communicate with each other on this.

GG Been looking at doing some form of coffee morning event. It's hard for WC Students to connect, many freshers feel a bit trapped in their households, and have had insensitive interactions.

LH My coffee morning may well have worked better over zoom, but it worked ok in the Bailey Bar.

SWC The bar is currently struggling, and Freshers' can go, so potentially something could be arranged there. Potentially whole bar could be booked out.

LH It could get more interest now that other things have quietened down and opportunities to socialise have been reduced.

GG I'd quite like to do something about education as Classism isn't really well known. There isn't a dedicated month to do this, unlike Black History Month.

SWC Could potentially link up with the University Association. It's quite Cuth's heavy. Ultimately while it's important not to tread on the toes of BHM, intersectionality could be encouraged and shouldn't be afraid to cross over.

GG & HM say they are keen for this.

LH For the end of October, I was planning on waiting for Assistant LGBT rep and Trans & NB rep to be elected to do a campaign to do with the origins of LGBT+ activism. Could also be done in LGBT History month, don't mind waiting.

SWC We passed a fund for students to buy things relating to transitioning, just remember to pass this info on to who is elected. Demand currently isn't high, so we could advertise now. Prospective applicants will likely follow the LGBT+ account so makes sense to promote it there. Equally we can help organise an LGBT+ event in the bar within restrictions.

HM Next week we have been planning to do a play reading/discussion evening related to BHM, it's quite heavy so may try to make it a bit lighter, give others a chance to talk about art related to BHM. Anti-Racism Society has been set up; we want an AGM set up for that.



Going to release my letter at some point, it has undergone a few drafts. Liaising with DPOCA a lot. Keen to help organise intersectional events.

LH Could we all run a joint social/campaign together?

SWC Just be sure that it doesn't become too much of a conglomeration thing, not just an oppressed group social. Don't want complaints/accusations of tokenism. Are we any closer to finding out who is Cuth's BLM?

HM We simply do not know. They've got a fair bit of a following. It's a bit odd.

LH We could report it and set up a new one

SWC It's clearly well intentioned, but they have blanked all of us and DT, DPOCA President. It could start posting terrible stuff. I'll reach out again, but we may have to report after. Also, Communities Chair is coming up at the next meeting, I'd encourage you all to consider running. We've been a bit unlucky with it. The role is crying out for someone who knows why it's important to create that foundation. Obviously, this is not an endorsement of anyone in particular.

HM I don't really understand the role, there's a lot of weight behind it, and very few people are fully qualified to do it.

LH Could we not send a delegate to the exec from the minorities reps? It's a good role in theory but in practice I'm not sure.

SWC The issue is we've never seen it in practice. I understand the critique, it is a bit of a management role. You're never going to get someone who's experienced every aspect of oppression, just someone who can feed back the views and experiences of others. I think this is lost on people. I think people are more concerned about the abstract of the role, but we've never had it in practice.

LH I also fear we could get someone who is LGBT+, but racist, or someone who is a POC, but homophobic, etc. This could be paranoia, but nonetheless it's a concern of mine.

SWC One could argue that someone xenophobic could run for any role. We always have ways to bypass democracy if behaviour is provably terrible. Any further problems please let me know, I'm happy to help, but if I don't hear anything, I'll assume you're all ok.

Meeting Adjourned