



Communities Committee Meeting - 06-11-2020

Attendance: GG (WCS Rep), HM (EM Rep), LH (LGBT+ Rep), RM (Assistant WCS Rep), TAF (Assistant International Rep), CH (Assistant LGBT+ Rep)
SWC (President), MP (VP)

Absent: AD, AJ

Location: A Zoom Call

Forums & Campaigns

SWC I've been working with GG & AJ on organising a series of forums to do with Northern/WC Students at Durham. I'll be there alongside whoever is most relevant from this committee – it'll be open invite. It's not dissimilar to a college event that ran last year. Our aim is to create an inclusive space where people can talk to the leadership of the JCR. Often people don't know where to voice complaints/ bring up discussion points, this is a place explicitly for that. It'll be partially structured and partially not structured. We don't want to intimidate anyone, and office of JCR president can be a little intimidating, especially for Freshers. Rest of Committee could be useful for this. We're unsure on a name, as this is quite far reaching – we should put it under the same umbrella, with individual titles.

HM I know the EM reps last year did drop-ins, and this year we don't – is this sort of like a replacement?

SWC It's a little different. We're here to listen, but also focus on enacting positive change. Why aren't drop-ins being organised this year?

HM Unsure, the SU have been a little bit odd, and communication is different with Welfare – we never got training, so I assume we shouldn't hold them.

SWC It depends on how you market it, in my mind you can host a zoom call if you market it correctly. You do never know what someone is going to show up with, some people have linked issues. It can get difficult – as an organisation and we haven't provided you with the training, it's not really fair on you. I will look into this, perhaps it could be provided online. We could call it something like "I too am [Durham/Cuth's]" (Ripping off an Oxford campaign) – show that people are all important parts of the community.

HM "You're Cuth's too"

LH "We are Cuth's"

SWC Put any extra ideas in the chat. This will take a bit of time planning as a committee, but it's not like anyone is doing any better.

LH tells a bread baking tale

SWC Be assured that the University has received the recent Open Letter, I think the issue can be that the University often act too quickly and rashly, the PVC Colleges isn't even really aware of DPOCA as an organisation.