



Communities Committee Meeting - 16-02-2021

Attendance: LH (LGBT+ Rep, Communities Chair), GG (WCS Rep), HM (EM Rep), DM (Assistant EM Rep), CH (Assistant LGBT+ Rep), TAF (Assistant International Rep), AJ (Local Students Rep), AD (Trans & Non-Binary Rep), SWC (President), MP (VP)

Location: Zoom

Buddy Scheme

LH Not many responses but some. We should all fill it out. International students are signing up the most.

Updates

DM I've not been upto too much, been asking HM to give me more but she seems on top of it. Maybe a new facebook group? I'd like an online place that people can share their stories. Mostly for communicating to each other.

LH Did an AIDS awareness campaign - quite good. We should have a few more in the next few weeks, and hopefully will have a social.

GG I have a WCS forum on Sunday, I have a poster template that can be used. Assistant has resigned, need to fill the role if possible.

SG I think I'm going to run the disability chat in the next couple of weeks. Will help to meet people.

SWC When you are doing this stuff communicate with me to make sure that they are advertised on the Freshers' pages. Let me know what's going on!

TAF HM and I did chinese new year. It happened. Apart from that - *cat jumps on desk*

SWC Show us the cat.

cat is shown

TAF (cont.) I'm making posters about the impacts of Brexit. Hopefully will release those posters in a couple of days. I really like the idea of an international student book exchange – but could this possibly work? I would be doing it over easter term or later. Getting things to people could be hard even if it's quarantined

DM E-books?

TAF Perhaps?. I think it's a cute scheme and it'd be nice to do.

LH Could we do a book reading group/exchange?



TAF Could be good but I don't know about interest. It could sort of be like the buddy scheme, bit more personal? Unsure.

AJ We held a forum for local students, a few people came and raised issues. Got the ball rolling, good start. Need to follow up on stuff. I think we'll do another in a couple of weeks.

Newsletter

LH Would be nice if we all write something and then college sends it for us.

SWC Probably easiest to go through college secretary – I think you can just send it in and it should be fine.

LH Unsure on how to structure. Would be nice to have it out in Feb to have it out for LGBT month, some intersectionality perhaps. Integrate socials. It's not worth being really long.

CH I'd be nice to have a book/film recommendations from a specific group each month.

Forum

LH Forum yesterday was successful, we should all do one. We should communicate on specifics.

Freshers Workshops

LH Should all minorities get a workshop?

HM Are you centralised with association? It depends on how in touch you are. Anti-Racism is largely through DPOCA. I'd be against one big workshop because they are their own things. There is some talk about having them continuously. Especially 3 or 4 chunky workshops.

LH LGBT association mentioned it, but they are kind of a mess and don't get loads done. Aside from Freshers though it's hard to get everyone together.

SWC Hard for scheduling. It's tough to get everything in. I think it would be impossible to do 2 more workshops.

MP *reminisces over the fun that was organising the freshers week schedule in a couple of days in the midst of the pandemic*

GG Could we do a quiz on DUO?

SWC I'd rather do online workshops before Freshers' week. I am not convinced by the DUO stuff. We can do Zoom stuff even post COVID! People engaged with it this year. My perception of how anti-Racism workshops got going was a collaboration with DPOCA. I don't think the impetus HAS to come from the associations. We could take the first step. Other common rooms can follow us. I don't think it'll get done if we don't start it.



HM People will forget things, how can we remind them? Workshops can't really be responsible for making people not a bad person.

SWC College channels can still be used to advertise things. Pre-Fresh can be scared into attending things, and we can then have the in person things

HM We could do an anti-discrimination workshop?

LH Zoom could be bad for time zones

SWC we can be reasonable. Just do them at different times. We could let one or two through, we only need the bulk.

LH Could be worth us starting work on that as new minority reps probably don't have time or experience. It'd be nice to get it started before the roels are filled. Thoughts?

SG Best to run this through together so that it isn't disjointed.

LH We can set stuff up with google docs and then put it all together in a meeting

Intersectional campaign

LH I want to do this! Would it work? Would it be distasteful? There are obvious link ups, but other minorities could be included.

SG Focus on the overlap

DM It's kind of on the most fundamental level about fighting the same fight

CH I know the LGBT association is doing a working class campaign now.

SWC We could watch Pride – the best film ever created.

LH I feel like many minorities feel left out of one or more of their gourps. This could help them feel less alone.

AOB

SWC ST (SU President) interviewed me for culture commission and says that we are in the top 3 most inclusive colleges. Hurray and good job!

HM Departments are starting to be a bit more involved. College could pick up on things that departments don't do.

LH Can be difficult to know whether college or department is doing something at Durham

LH When is new principal announced?

SWC I wish I knew.