



International Committee Meeting - 13/11/2024

Attendance: HT, DN, FL, JY, GD, AL, DL, AC

Apologies: CR, SS

Absent:

Location: Brooks JCR

Role Confirmation

HT: I hope at this point everyone knows and is happy with the roles they've been assigned. I really want to get the intro post out for next week. I've asked DM and CR to also be included in the Committee post as well.

What's been going on with the Motion

HT: LG, DM and I need to discuss some of the details of the roles I'm trying to create so the motion has been pushed to 1.4. It has been operating for the last few years but the motion is just to make the roles official.

Updates on Festival Research

HT: I'm aiming to have two campaign posts in Michaelmas so I'd like to know if anything has come up when you were looking online.

AC: We could do a post about Christmas around the world and how different cultures celebrate it.

FL: I have two ideas. In my own culture, we would have a lantern festival which is always quite popular because people can make their own lanterns. It could be an event we run. Also, 6th December there is a holiday called Nikolaus- where you polish your shoes and leave them outside the door and they're filled with gifts and chocolate. It may be a good way to come together pre-Christmas because the last week of term will be crazy with assignments so it may be nice to do something before. There's also a big German exchange community so the events would be well attended.

HT: I think that's a good festive topic to talk about in a post and an event. What materials would we need?

FL: All you would need is to polish shoes! If you had some traditional Christmas sweets, nuts and cakes and just the music. It would be just a nice get-together. You could include paper stars and other Christmasy activities.

GD: I know all the Christmas markets around the world are opening up as well so we could maybe tie in all these crafts and activities and make it into a market-like event.



DM: That's a great idea for making it into an International market.

HT: The question will just be logistics.

FL: You could put it together by having different tables represent different nations and label it as a 'market' because it has similar booths. You could print out photos of the most popular Christmas markets in each country and include information about what makes Christmas markets in each country special.

DM: You could definitely do that- you could make something (food, decorations, etc.). You could sell stuff and donate the money to the 12 Days charity (Durham Hygiene Bank). You'd have to get a health and safety check and you wouldn't be able to use nuts but with allergen checks it should all be fine. I think it would go down well as a daytime event.

HT: So if we say before the final week of term within 12 Days. If one of our festival campaign posts is Nikolaus. FL if you'd like to take the lead on Nikolaus and have a post ready for 1st December.

FL: We could do a post on Thanksgiving.

HT: One concern is the controversy around Thanksgiving and the indigenous people.

DM: Maybe we don't run a campaign but we could bring the food in if people want to celebrate.

HT: It is very close and there will be something at The Food Pit so maybe we leave it.

DM: We can address their event then. I know Hanukkah is on the same day as Christmas this year but it would be nice to get a post out with information about it.

Updates on Study Buddy Scheme w/ Cuth's Development

HT: Currently we have 23 sign ups and I'm aiming for 30. One thing we can see right now is that there are only 5 home students who've signed up. Worst case scenario RS and I pair international students together but there's still 6 days left to push the scheme. I'm going to repost it on my personal as well. I would appreciate it if you could do so as well. Please also sign up to the scheme yourself.

JY: We could try to create an incentive for people to sign up. Something like tie pins of the country flags for both students.

HT: We are closing the first round of sign ups on 19/11 and the second round will close 25/01. There will be a physical meet for the first time at the TLC. This time RS and I should be able to pair everybody up but if we get a lot more sign ups I may need some help.

Movember Post

HT: Last year I did a post for Movember about mental health from an asian perspective. I want to open the floor to you to see if there's anything you'd like to do linking international students and mental well-being. This would be a great time to make a post about it. In my



experience as an Asian, our culture can hide away from it but I would like to give the opportunity to express it. The deadline for this post would be before the 30th November if anyone wants to take on a project like this DM me and let me know. I learned a lot doing it last year and I think it is a good opportunity.

Plan to collaborate with PoC Rep 2024/25

HT: You may have seen we have a PoC Rep now.

DM: Historically, PoC Rep has worked with International Comm quite well. KT's role will be to represent both home and international PoCs. So there is room to work together. SHE's absolutely fantastic and keen to work with the committee.

HT: I would like to run some campaigns together about cultures. We still have plenty of time in the year to organise that.

AOB

DM: I would like to say this is such an exciting opportunity to sit on this committee. I read through all your applications, they were absolutely fantastic, and I was so excited. As much as you put into this committee, you'll look back and think you left something behind that international students didn't have beforehand. So use that to your advantage. Get involved with these campaigns. Take things to HT so we can make them happen. The most exciting thing is being able to look back and see what you've done. We want you to have a lot of stuff that you're proud of coming out of International Comm this year.

Meeting adjourned.