Welfare and Communities Board

10/10/2024 5:30-7pm, online

Attendance

Present:

* Nabihah Ali, VP Welfare, (NA)
* Hassam Naeem, VP Liberation, International, Postgrads (HN)
* Lucy Lai, BL LGBT+ Rep (LL)
* Arianne Jones, BL LGBT+ Rep (AJ)
* Shirli Williams, ME BAME Rep, (SW)
* Bishoy Yassa, BL BAME Rep, (BY)
* Adam Khan, Trans Rep, (AK)
* Rosie Nee, ME Disabled and SPLD Rep (RN)
* Grace Bailey, ME Women Rep, (GB)
* Diya Mary Selastin, International HSS Rep, (DMS)
* Ravleena Wasan, BL Welfare Rep, (RW)

Apologies:

* Sameer Siddiqui, Welfare HSS Rep

In attendance:

* Ruth Truscott, Welfare and Liberation Coordinator, (RLT)

Policy One

* The prosper was not in attendance so the policy was noy discussed

Terms of Reference

* No comments or corrections. Vote took place, Terms of Reference was approved.

VP and PTO Updates

**VP Updates:**

* NA: Working on different pieces, Projects
* HN: Has launched pre-departure session for international students with PTOs, this was one of the first times this has occurred. Hosted bingo night event with residences. Was involved in the rebranding for IHM with VP HSS. Working to incorporate sustainability in all liberation campaigns. Currently working with Sustainability Rep for ME on a Black History Month event. Working with VP HSS on an IHM x Sustainability article. Working with ACS on a social media collab which explored where students can go for advice, immigration help and Visa support. Was able to communicate where to go for students who were struggling to find that advice. Has collaboration with VP Welfare support QMUL on their buddy scheme which aims to connect new students with existing students who can provide guidance. Currently just for 1st year undergraduates but hopes to expand to Postgrads. Working on cultural unity week as 40% of QMUL students are international. Aiming to celebrate diversity and provide everyone a platform to connect. It will be a new liberation campaign, working with EDI university team, QM residences and other stakeholders. Aiming for all students to have a cultural exchange. Looking at international scholarships. Specifically global talent scholarships, a QM owned scholarship. However, some schools are ineligible. Looking at why only for some programmes. Meeting with new VP international Helen Bailey.

**PTO:**

* AK: Currently focusing on policy changes to assist with trans community. For example, has put in two policy changes, one to change by-laws to allow the trans rep to be involved in BLSA. Creating spaces for feedback from the community. Has organised three trans check-ins: One at Whitechapel, Mile End and off campus. Have shared this around and sharing this in the trans network. Developing more outreach in different departments. Has developed trans awareness training for staff and students. Action for AK to reach out to RLT on how to help spread this training. Currently attending various LGBT+ events and working to get charities such as Elop and Positive East on campus.
* BY: Met with Staff support. Been contacted by ACS BL and BL Innovation societies. They are bringing in some speakers who discuss counteracting racism in healthcare. Planning a Multi-cultural event in Barts. Working towards having this on the Thursday 5th December. Contacted all societies to get involved. Booked old library and back up book for old pathology museum. Working with Women in healthcare for social injustices and diversity in healthcare. More liberation campaign ideas in the future.
* AJ and LL: discussed curriculum reform in different courses, reached out to GP 2 leads and LGBT Health SSC. Helped LGBT+ society in fresher fayre, supported freshers fayre and helped organise Drag bingo (sold over 54 tickets!) Begun planning campaign for HIV board in Garrod, T-shirt sale in starfish, organising Consent week. Want inclusive curriculum integrated in one and two. Continue working with BL LGBT society
* SW: aiming to intergrate intersectionality into all things, look at creating a campaign that will run for length of role. Created an Instagram for BAME Rep. Showcasing information in decolonial Lense. Looking starting a society about intersectionality
* RN: Begun reaching out different societies for DHM collaboration and other ways to improve accessibility all around. DDS said making a video for information to be easily understandable. Qmotion have some quiet hours, have offered some accessible sports. Reaching out to library about a quiet, sensory room for students. Waiting to set up a meeting. Reopened social media pages and have a list of resources shared. Sharing events for Societies and outside organisations, subscribing for disability friendly, weekly or month newsletter. Working with Catholic Fellowship Disability initiative to create opportunity for work. Off campus that students are made aware off, some delays with NHS, trying to find other options
* GB: Meeting with staff support, self-defence class in Qmotion.
* RW: completed BL families. Supporting Welfare reps throughout the year. Posted about World Mental Health today. Starting to plan consent week aiming to have it in the first week of December. Currently planning to have some panels, talks by sexual health doctors, myth busting. Working with LGBT reps to have positive east workshop. Planning to have drop-in sessions at first year’s accommodation. Give out some goodie bags, carrying out myth busting on social media and on posters.
* DMS: support for late arrival students, have more cultural events, have hand bidets in toilets, world mental health day a lot of international students struggle would like to create a support circle, want an international ball during unity week.

AOB

* RLT: If PTOs have not booked an intro meeting, please do. Please also get involved with liberation, currently Black History month lots of events happening please check out Whats On page and attend any you can!
* NA: running a stall for BHM, please come along.
* AK: Echoed what was said before, please get involved in liberation, says it is an inherent part of the role PTOs all do,
* AK: happy to work with anyone on any intersections. Action for AK to get in contact with RW on consent week.
* DS: Asked to have next meeting in person,
* RLT to put it to committee for online/ hybrid

Voting record [delete if no votes were taken]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Vote 1 Terms of References to be Approved |
| Nabihah Ali, VP Welfare, (NA) | For |
| Hassam Naeem, VP Liberation, International, Postgrads (HN) | For |
| Lucy Lai, BL LGBT+ Rep (LL)Arianne Jones, BL LGBT+ Rep (AJ) | For |
| Shirli Williams, ME BAME Rep, (SW) | For |
| Bishoy Yassa, BL BAME Rep, (BY) | Abstain  |
| Adam Khan, Trans Rep, (AK) | For |
| Rosie Nee, ME Disabled and SPLD Rep (RN) | For |
| Grace Bailey, ME Women Rep, (GB) | For |
| Diya Mary Selastin, International HSS Rep, (DMS) | For |
| Ravleena Wasan, BL Welfare Rep, (RW) | For |