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**Welfare Zone Committee Minutes**

Tuesday 13th February 2018

Minutes

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In attendance: Ahmed (Chair), Harris, Sama, Jack, Ella, Kshitij, Kate (Secretary)

1. **Apologies**

Lily was unable to attend- Ahmed provided her update- she is currently working on Women’s Week and the Consent Campaign.

Ahmed presented a brief AOB at the start of the meeting- he suggested the last Welfare Zone be joint-he proposed Wednesday 14th March start at 5pm. All in attendance agreed.

Action: Kate to schedule the next Welfare Meeting as the above.

*Danial arrived at Welfare Zone.*

2.0

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| Action | Update |
| Ahmed to write a motion regarding reps missing meetings and how their case will then be referred to the VP Welfare in the first instance | Ahmed wants this to be put in for the next academic year. He will draft a motion and pass to the next VP Welfare. |

1. **VP Welfare update on work**

-Asian Heritage Month is taking place this month. Exhibition Boards are displayed in the Hub, the next event is on Thursday: South Asian Mental Health. Ella offered to help Ahmed out at this event. Ahmed will put signs up so people can find the location easily.

-Faith Forum- had the Head of Student Membership come along. Getting new carpets fitted, other renovations to come.

-Updated on the visit from the campus in Paris. They are coming in on Friday- Ahmed asked if reps wanted to help with the tour. Many were keen.

-Currently drafting a survey with Kate on Mental Health Provisions in the University for students.

1. **Part Time Officer updates on work**

-Danial:

-Most societies have now been meeting him regarding the BME Network.

-Jack:

-Jak assisted Linn with her Clothing Transfer and put a box at BL for donations. Been looking at posters and information about Pride Week to assist Bethany.

Sama:

-Working on Women’s Week. Planned a series of events for the week of the 12th March. Library square on the Monday- giving out leaflets, bake sale, and body positivity. Two film screenings planned, a women’s forum. Ahmed mentioned he has a contact for someone for domestic abuse- he will pass to Sama to assist her.

Sian:

-Had a meeting today regarding International fee status. Met with the Student Engagement Officer at the University and drafted a document for information we need answers to. Finally feel like getting somewhere with the fee status.

Ella:

-Had SHAG Week- went really well. Positive East came in- had a film and quiz night, gave out lots of leaflets and freebies in Library Square- students were really happy with this. The Abuse in Relationships Panel and the Consent Training went really well and Residences came along as well. From the Consent Workshop Ella carried out a survey on people’s thoughts on it- she will pass to the next Welfare Rep so they can use it in the future.

Harris:

-Update for Lily- she is working on the Consent Campaign with Harris, explaining to students what Consent is and isn’t. Will be pushing a video as part of Women’s Week.

-Working on a cultural and international food festival in March in collaboration with Sian. This will be held during Welfare Week.

-Welfare Week- there will be a film night, showing the film Easy A. Wednesday night there will be a drag show- LGBT+ society will host this.

-Stall on the Thursday- getting people to talk about sex- there is no shame in speaking about sex and personal experiences. Aim is to make it more acceptable to speak about.

-Mental Health Awareness Week- second week of April.

-Safety Campaign. Need to meet with the head of security again. Going to take a motion to AMM about getting better lighting in Whitechapel. Ahmed happy to second the motion.

*Tilly arrived at Welfare Zone.*

Kshitij:

-Met with lecturer who looks after International students in the Business School, going to meet in reading week.

-International Language Day

-For Asian Heritage Month taking part in the Bake Sale.

Tilly:

-Planning an Action for Access event. Will be inviting members of staff from the University/encouraging them to come along.

-Going to put a lunch on as an incentive for people to come. It is more targeted at staff although students can come.

-Going to have information on the walls about access and facts etc. Examples of things staff have said to disabled students.

**5.0 Discussion: Danial’s previous update about the statue in the GriffInn** (This point got moved forward as Danial has to leave early)

-Danial explained why he broached the subject in the last ME Welfare Zone meeting. He felt it was the best forum to bring it up in.

-Harris provided the group with information about the statue and how it got there originally.

-Ahmed said Rakin has been looking into getting it removed this year.

-Harris explained that it hasn’t been removed as no students have complained about it. Danial felt this wasn’t the point- it was offensive so it shouldn’t be there. It might be students find it offensive put don’t know the correct channels to report it.

-Danial said he is happy to take the matter to the BLSA Board. Rakin is looking to remove it and replace it with something else.

-Harris said we need to be mindful of the sports teams as they have an affiliation to it. Tilly felt this wasn’t a justifiable reason- why should we be mindful of racists?

-Danial asked if there is a clear timeline Rakin has put in place for it’s removal. Harris said currently there is no clear timeline.

-Tilly emphasised that this is a big issue- a disgusting representation of an indigenous group- it needs to be removed.

-Harris aims to create a timeline for it’s removal- there has been staff involvement in the process- it will be removed.

1. **Sama to ask Welfare Zone for Budget for Women’s Week Events**

-Sama requested money from ME Welfare Zone for Women’s Week.

-Kate said we needed to account for some money for Tilly’s upcoming event.

-All reps present decided they were happy for Kate to work out how to divide the budget.

Action: Kate to allocate money to Sama and to Tilly.

1. **Discussion: Should the Union live stream its Student Council meetings?**

-Tilly felt this wasn’t a good idea as it is a data protection issue.

-Harris felt it would improve engagement- we live streamed the hustings last year.

-Tilly felt it was better to livestream through the website if we did it as a student would have to log on to see it. This would mean it was only students who saw the livestream.

-Ella felt that we wanted to be more engaging as a Student Union.

-Tilly felt that videos stick as they are around forever and people can change as they get older- the thoughts they have when they’re younger aren’t always the same through life. We could be potentially hindering someone’s future with video content.

*Bethany arrived at the Welfare Zone meeting.*

-Ahmed said how would we live stream questions? Harris pointed out that comments can become nasty.

-Harris asked if other Unions do live streaming. Bethany said yes Manchester but through Facebook- not a good forum.

-As a whole reps were happier if there was a portal students could log into to view the livestream.

-Harris and Tilly felt videos can be taken out of context.

-To achieve the portal idea- Ahmed said we would need professional equipment to achieve this, but it would help to include our satellite campuses more.

-Harris found then read out the motion about this issue from years ago. It said risks needed to be looked at.

-Group decided that we need a risk assessment to be carried out for this before a decision is made. After this Ahmed will then take back to the Board of Trustees.

Action: Ahmed to get a risk assessment of this idea.

1. **AOB**
* Bethany brought up the issue of the bursary at the University. Ahmed said he has a meeting with the University on the 26th February about this. Bethany wants to attend- Ahmed said he wasn’t sure this would be possible.
* Bethany provided background to this issue to the group. The University didn’t consult students about the bursary- just last year’s sabbs.

-Study Well- Harris asked Ahmed what’s happening regarding Study Well. Ahmed and Harris to have a meeting with Kate next month about this.