

# Welfare & Liberation Committee Meeting 1

## 10<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 2pm

**Trigger Warnings:** Classism, Islamaphobia, self-defence

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
<p><b>Committee Members</b></p> <p><b>Aaliyah Simms</b> (AS, Welfare &amp; Community Officer, Chair)</p> <p><b>Robin Hayward</b> (RH, Trans &amp; Non-Binary Students Officer)</p> <p><b>Manisha Kaur – left early</b> (MK, Ethnic Minority Students Officer)</p> <p><b>Daisy de Labilliere</b> (DdL, Student Member)</p> <p><b>Jo Birch</b> (JB, Student Member)</p> <p><b>Maiar Elhariry – arrived late</b> (ME, International Representative)</p> <p><b>Students</b></p> <p><b>Amira Campbell (AC)</b></p> <p><b>Guild Staff</b></p> <p><b>Solomon Gibson</b> (SG, Representation Coordinator, Minute Taker)</p> <p><b>Rozena Nadeem</b> (RN, Democracy Coordinator)</p> <p><b>Jo Thomas</b> (JT, CEO)</p> <p><b>Lucy Gill</b> (LG, Student Voice &amp; Representation Manager)</p>	<p><b>Imogen Mann (IM)</b></p>	<p><b>Louisa Martin</b> <b>Sifat Mohammed Istiak</b> <b>Bhuiyan</b> <b>Eleanor Thomas</b></p>

No.	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Questions</b>	<p>Those in attendance introduced themselves and explained their roles both on and off of the committee.</p> <p>This meeting was not at quorum – decisions cannot be finalised here.</p> <p>Discussions for any idea and policy proposals and Beliefs &amp; Commitments were therefore not had, and were forwarded to the next meeting.</p> <p>Items forwarded to the next meeting included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Islamaphobia definition</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Classism definition</li> <li>- Self-defence</li> </ul>	
2	<b>Welfare &amp; Community Officer &amp; Liberation Officers Update</b>	<p>AS – Staying Safe campaign has taken priority in wake of spiking scandal; harm reduction has taken less priority. Guild officer’s priority campaign is mental health – with a focus on action rather than “awareness”, looking to answer why people aren’t come back after LoAs. Has been working on the Collegiate recovery programme and looking for pathways to help students with eating disorders and addictions. Has also been working with university to get information put on the back of toilet doors (wellbeing resources).</p> <p>RH – Has been working on plans for trans day of remembrance. Continuing work to expand and make visible gender neutral bathrooms in the Guild and throughout University. Dealing with events and policy submissions about University of Sussex.</p> <p>AS – Working with the university and officers to address issues with changing names via the university website.</p>	
3	<b>Guild Inclusion Calendar</b>	<p>RN – An email has been sent to committee members with the Guild Inclusion Calendar attached. Members were asked to think about how they would like to action this or what events or campaigns you’d like to help to support. Amira has also joined us from Black Voices to talk about what they’re up to.</p> <p>AC – Working to lead the black voices campaign and here to update committee. Currently working with a team of 13 people, mainly on decolonisation, black mental health and black student data.</p> <p>Working on decolonisation with reps team, planning to run a workshop event for reps on curriculum. Had previously worked closely with music department to understand how reading lists, essential reading and assessment can endorse black academia and support black students. Making sure black curriculum is properly assessed.</p> <p>Working in collaboration with “Breathe Uni” (who are a multi-institution organisation) on black mental health to create spaces for black students. Had event that brought together people who had facilitation training to help do some community organising.</p>	<b>RN – To ask Imogen if she would like any</b>

		<p>JB – Likes idea of decolonisation of curriculum, interested in helping. What might be helpful is to have the idea of focusing on language and discourse and how that's affecting the colonisation of the curriculum, i.e. history or definitions. How can we embed non-western historical and teaching contexts? Could we make sure we do events on decolonisation and commonwealth and empire?</p> <p>AC – Wei-Lun does one world event and it might be worth getting linked up with this.</p> <p>JB – LGBT – would like to get involved in these events, making sure the commonwealth games are LGBT friendly.</p> <p>AS – It may be worth getting in touch with Robin and Eleanor key contacts for LGBTQ PTO.</p> <p>The 25th of November is national carers' day, could this be added to the calendar? It is worth putting an emphasis on making people aware of what a carer is.</p> <p>RH – Trans visibility day is on 31st March couldn't see it can we add? – Has anyone looked into Ostara celebrations on the 20th of march, pagan spring equinox?</p> <p>JB – Is it worth noting Halloween or pagan New Year, and or Saturnalia? Next year polyamory day is on the 23rd of November.</p> <p>AS – How could we support students who are spending Christmas on campus? Could we invite chaplains and associations into the wellbeing spaces?</p> <p>RN – Imogen isn't here, but is planning for disability history month. Will can ask whether shed like help but if anyone else is interested. – will set up a meeting to facilitate this.</p>	<p><b>support from committee on Disability History Month</b></p>
<b>Student Submitted Ideas</b>			
<p>5</p>	<p><b>Idea Submission Updates</b></p>	<p>RN – Menstrual products and Menstrual health education – Students wanted the Guild and the university to provide free menstrual products and make commitments to education in and beyond the uni. Action was to have officers to research viability and logistics of free menstrual products, and also look into non-binary inclusive education. The result has been free products for students to collect freely in Guild and Advice.</p> <p>AS – Want to make sure products are nice and not just cheapest, and happy to get involved with this. Making sure products are size and price inclusive is also important.</p> <p>DdL – Keen to collaborate and to look into sustainable period products, because they aren't always affordable upfront.</p>	

		<p>AS – We could run another sustainable period workshop, try and get money to provide free items?</p> <p>RN – If another event is action then committee members could help facilitate the event if they are interested in doing so.</p> <p>RN – Provide outreach to student for university mental health services – Idea says university needs to provide more outreach to students who are struggling with their mental health. Last year we discussed gift box with community wardens team, to help students who struggling. The original proposal however, was to ask the university to formulate a mental health outreach strategy.</p> <p>AS – We should continue to lobby the university to make sure they are committing to outreach.</p> <p>JB –The university have better resources and a duty of care. This is also moral requirement of the university to do something about this and perhaps legal obligations too.</p> <p>RN – If we do welfare boxes again we will need to check how these boxes got distributed – needs to understand how those works.</p> <p>AS – Maybe we need to lobby the university to better understand and identify when people are struggling. Maybe by looking at attendance in a positive way rather than punitively?</p> <p>DdL – Agrees blanket approach is needed because students might not feel able to advocate for themselves on sensitive topics.</p> <p>AS – Office priority camping is about lobbying the university to sing up to mental health charter. So this looks at root causes and mental health provision. Beyond awareness and toward tangible action. There is a listening campaign to facilitate this, committee members welcome to sign up.</p> <p>DdL – Is working with the Samaritans, could we ask for their help and learn from them? It's hard to find mental health resources on the university intranet, maybe we need to think of better ways to get this out to students.</p> <p>RN – We should move the classism definition follow up to the next meeting so we can move on to the next item today.</p>	<p><b>RN – To look into how welfare boxes worked previously.</b></p>
<b>Additional Items</b>			
	<p><b>All Student Meeting &amp; Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>The next Welfare and Liberation Committee Meeting will be 18/11/21 at 2PM DST</p> <p>All Student Meeting is scheduled for 01/12/21 at 12PM DST</p>	

	<b>AOB</b>	AS – Invited committee members to contact her for support and discussion.	
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