**Union Exec Meeting 23rd November 2020**

Attendees: Harry Sheppard (HS), Jawad Ahmad (JA), Safa Ahmed (SA), Hamad Khan (HK), Annas Mazhar (AM), Paige Dawson (PD), Arran Rangi (AR), Dafydd Jones (Chair), Onome Ogwuda (OO), Saad Khan (SKH) (Late)

**Agenda:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| *Time* | *Item* | *Person(s)* |
| 1600 | Roll Call | All |
|  | Apologies |  |
|  | Sabbatical Officer Updates | Sabbatical officers |
|  | PT Officer Updates | PT officers |
|  | Union Council | Chair |
|  | Christmas Activities | VPW |
| 1645 | AOB |  |

# Minutes:

Apologies

Belle Linford (BL)

## Sabbatical Officer Updates

SA – After BHM, JA and SA did something for Islamophobia Awareness Month. Sexual Violence reporting tool by the end of Sabbatical term. SA and Pree6+187t two-week forced marriage campaign, making students aware due to the prevalence of forced marriage over the Christmas period. SA and JA doing ABCs of adulting video series, about finances, health, accommodation. Period care packages for self-isolation, students have been using the service. SA launching a phone bank for commuter and non-unite students, volunteers will be doing welfare check-in, bank will be up soon, delayed due to 2nd lockdown. 400 students in international buddy scheme. Various training, MH and Anti-Sexual Violence, working with Bonnie to get one student per club to do training.

JA – Why is my curriculum white campaign going live on the 30th of Nov, towards de-colonising the whole curriculum at Aston. JA will help with diversity drive and research. Putting in measures for next year, changing the term “touchpoint”, due to student confusion. Resources on the impact of plagiarism and some research will be done. JA will work with Ruth to find a solution for students who don’t plagiarise intentionally. JA working to make the similarity report available to students, hopefully by TP2. JA wants to introduce information on the website for facilities for postgrad students. Making sure that Student Reps system is used to its fullest extent and work with University to ensure rep system is transparent. JA will be investigating the effect of strikes by UCU and reducing this impact on students and hours.

HS – Talking with university about university approach to blended learning and accommodation problems with leaving Unite accommodation.

## PT Officer Updates

PD – ran online campaign for Trans Day of Remembrance and for transgender awareness. Dan Pres LGBT Society working on helping students changing their name on Uni systems (Blackboard) without the system being exploited on vexatiously.

AR – Working with Andrew Byers, and on creating a sustainability committee.

Chair – Asks if AR would speak later, as members need to be elected at council or co-opted.

AM – AM and Balraj getting a section on the website for disability history month. Disability talk on the 26th about experiences working in the SU. Working with Richard and Nadine on setting up a group.

SA – asked AM about whether the welfare pages on the website were shown?

AM – says these will be used as template.

PD – also wanted to raise some money for World AIDS day, due to lockdown not able, but online campaign pack is available, that PD has requested.

SA – Is it just online events?

PD – information vague.

## Union Council

Chair – talked about Union Council

SA – asked about bringing in a motion on the changing some officer roles

Chair – keep away from March, as this will be when the next elections will be.

AM – how is council run?

Chair – council will be done on Blackboard collab, has several advantages.

AM – Noted problem being able to go on the Blackboard if you are not a student.

JA – Only way to keep other people is to put the whole thing on Blackboard.

JA – shared suggestion about using WASS appointments in future.

## Christmas Activities

SA – University meeting – MLK, Unite and Union come together doing activities for those on campus who are not going home or must self-isolate. Facilitating events and activities for these students. All events around Aston will be documented and publicised. Asked if people would let her know of anyone has any ideas for events, and that funding requirements will be covered. SA also facilitating payment for some students.

JA – would like to keep the SU open for students who are still on campus, speaking to Max.

JA – term will begin on the 28th of January, with the two weeks prior being assessment period.

## AOB

SA – Will motions on EndSARS and Disability Awareness be discussed?

Chair – Will be there if motions are sent, one motion in so far.

SKH – Joins meeting.

All - various songs discussed for song of the fortnight.