

Warwick Liberation Coalition (First Meeting) - 13/06/14

Meeting Chair: Sam Parr (president@warwickpride.org)

1. Intro to the Coalition! - why we're a coalition, how we envisage working together

- Consensus that meetings should be twice-termly.
- Suggestion was made that it should be mandatory for liberation societies to send at least 2 members of exec to each meeting.
- Future meetings will hopefully be in MR4/5, more easily accessible and well known venue, greater space as noted that meeting had good turnout (approx. 30).
- Intended participants: liberation society execs, union liberation officers, union sabbatical officers, union campaigns coordinator, university HR & disability team, other interested parties.
- To look into the possibility of a joint SU events calendar for ease of sharing events amongst the liberation community and campus in general.
- Looking to do a combination of "week"-based campaigns and issue based campaigns over the coming year.
- Potential to run a number of coalition/joint events.
- Agreed that a chair should be chosen each term going forward. Similarly, for someone to take minutes.
- Communication will be via mailing list between physical meetings.

2. Intro to presidents and SU officers

[introductions were done!]

3. Review of the year in campaigns

- SU Welfare & Campaigns sabbatical officer, & SU President-elect: looking to support the work done by liberation societies, step up campaigning on liberation issues by collaboration between socs and SU.
- Women's Officer: SU policy on sexual harassment (zero tolerance), and work on No More Page 3 campaign.
- WASS: Work on No More Page 3 campaign, was sent to ASM and broke record for most votes for a motion. Also Kasbah and venue-based sexism.
- Pride: Lobbying for gender neutral facilities on campus, updating university gender reassignment policy, and running awareness events such as the annual Pride Week raising LGBTUA+ issues.
- Enable: Raising issues with Atos, estate repairs, skips in blue badge bays, inaccessible paths, and cuts to DSA. All should sign the petition against DSA cuts! SU to put signs with broken lifts with contact details.
- WA-RS: Being an ethnic minority at Warwick campaign, piazza photo campaign, micro-aggressions, how to be an anti-racism ally workshops and resources, film screenings and the anti-fascism demo.

4. Plan for next year - key campaigns & any dates/times that we all need to take note of

- WASS:
 - Freshers, lad culture/positive consent campaigning & dealing with harassment
 - 'don't be a shark, be a dolphin'
 - I <3 feminism campaign
 - Men in feminism campaign
 - Reclaim the Night
 - 'womanist'
- Ethnic Minorities Officer (elect):

- Black History Month in October, 3 weeks focus on 'Black History'/'Hidden History', missing and untold parts of history, 1 week focus on 'Rise Against Racism'.
- Equal opps for society.
- Campaign against 'slave auctions' held by societies.
- Engagement of all societies, including culture/lit. socs.
- Welfare Officer: should focus on 'why' and 'how' all socs can get involved in liberation. Look into publicising Campaigns Toolkit made by SU further.
- Disabled Students Officer:
 - Need to take a look at ways to increase attendance during awareness weeks.
 - Work with Careers - issue of disclosure in job applications.
 - Therapy dogs in the library (were popular this year), guide dog puppy school in Leam (could aid with their socialisation).
 - 'Day in the life of' campaign potentially, need to consult disabled students. (Days with impaired senses, wheelchair sports?)
 - Make sure freshers fair is accessible - stairs should not be unavoidable!
 - Create access guide for campus & venues.
 - Crossing points at Cannon Park.
- Pride:
 - People of Faith campaign, working to heal rift between LGBTUA+ community and people of faith.
 - LGBT asylum seekers campaigning.
 - LGBTUA+ engagement in sports - Equality Charter, work alongside Sports sabb.
 - Acronym specific coming out socials e.g. for ethnic minorities, disabled, trans*.
 - Lobbying for gender neutral facilities in university buildings.
 - Non-binary gender options on all university forms, including social sciences research forms.
 - Lobbying for liberation room.
 - Pride Week events.
 - Engaging media and tackling issues of LGBTUA+ representation in the media.
- Mind Aware:
 - Community mental health, work with Cov/Warks groups.
 - Current focus on depression/anxiety.
 - Campaign to challenge misconceptions around MH.
 - Look into setting up AA-type group.
 - Increased awareness of MH issues with personal tutors.
 - Monash has MH first aid-type courses, look into this for Warwick.
 - Ensure that such courses are well publicised and attended.
 - Videos in library.
 - Signpost 'where' people should go for support.
 - Think! with MH, cf alcohol campaigns.
 - Support for carers.
 - Maintain support through whole degree, not just freshers.

5. Report from Council

- Costumes motion did not pass at ASM.
- Two Ticks scheme - lobby uni to work with companies Two Tick scheme.
- No More Page 3 - policy to Senate, will be banned if policy passes there.

6. How to get more SU participation

- Need to increase voter turnout for liberation officer positions.
- Difficulty with self-definition in voter profiles - can be misused.
- Speech navigation system.

- Make election profile the first thing visible when logging in to vote.
- Look into providing training PRE-nominations, so people are more aware of the responsibilities of the positions.
- Introduce support/training for positions.
- Increase awareness on campus of what officers DO.
- Make job descriptions much easier to find, summaries online.
- Freshers speech inclusion.

7. How to contact your SU officer

- Union webpages.
- Each officer has their own email address.
- Look into liberation section of union website, to draw all this information together.
- Give idea of 'what' people should contact their officers about.

8. NUS conference funding, Black places

- Only 1 Black place at NUS Black Students conference
- Conference is near the end of the EM Officer's term of office, who should go? Suggest that it should be the officer-elect.
- Similarly there is only 1 place at Disabled Students conference.
- There are differences in the funding structures compared to the NUS LGBT conference, where we sent 7 people.
- Look into feasibility of increasing funding, even if it is only for extra observer places.

9. Black History Month

- Look into getting funding from SU sources such as campaigns fund, socs committee.
- UK Black Pride
- Southall Black Sisters (women)
- Pride, LGBT campaign
- Baroness Lawrence
- Diane Abbott
- Online forum
- Scientists

10. Know Your Rights campaign

- Workshop day on stop & search rights, protest rights etc.
- Focus on effects on liberation communities, but open to all.
- Planned for term 1/2.

11. Personal tutor system re-evaluation

- Look into creating an *alternative* personal tutor handbook to give to all personal tutors (union marketing).
- Lobby to add extra information pre-admissions such as enrollment form box or procedure to request discussion. Idea is to request tutor knowledgeable about liberation issues etc.
- Ensure students are aware that they can request to be assigned a new personal tutor, no reflection on them.
- Meet with senior tutor to discuss.
- Research experiences of students with personal tutors, create survey on personal tutors.
- Ensure that we report the good alongside the bad.

12. University funding

- Talk to Societies Officer RE funding

- Options such as Lord Rootes fund, Vice-Chancellor's pot, as well as bidding for things as a union e.g. more NUS conference places.

13. Cohesive liberation webpages on union website

- Current SU website leaves a lot to be desired.
- Look into creating a cohesive front for liberation societies and officers on the SU website, as a central hub for liberation communities.
- Space for Liberation Coalition business, current projects etc. as well as efforts of individual societies and officers.
- Ensure accessibility issues i.e. with current menus are fixed, hovering over menu options is inaccessible.

14. Syllabi campaign

- Lobby to make sure syllabi aren't just about white European men!
- Need to greatly increase exposure to writers from liberation communities.
- Ensure that they're not just in sections about liberation communities!
- Engage liberation community lit. students and writers.
- Contact academics for their support in this.
- Take a motion to student council/ASM.
- Send letter to course conveners/directors.