Sustainability Board

Wednesday 8th March 2023, 6:00-7:00pm, MS Teams

Attendance

Present:

* Amelie Anh Barone (Mile End) – [AB] **Chair**
* Leilani Van Someren, Mile End Sustainability Representative – LS

Apologies:

* N/A

In attendance:

* Zoe Sturgess – Sustainability Coordinator – ZS
* Radhika Thiagarajan - RT
* Joanna Croft - JC
* Lily Throssel - LT
* Laura Lachowicz - LL

Agenda item 1 – Welcome and introductions

* AB opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.
* Introduced everyone to new attendees

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of the previous meeting and matters arising

* AB ran through minutes from last meeting

Agenda item 3 - Updates from sustainability officer

* AB ran through updates
* AB FFF updates – setbacks run through re: event, hectic morning, as organiser was late, issues getting the clothing rails, updates on funding for ongoing events and on the workshop – has spoken to her but going to look into organising it
* AB – run through of website project – sustainable items to be easily accessible to students, sustainable alternatives – so people can go online and see this – sent a draft to ZS – looking at putting onto the university website – acknowledged that this will take some time
* AB – Planting event – happened in green week – very successful – wants to but some wildflower seeds to run some kind of event – looking into funding and staff availability to this – this her project

Agenda item 4 – Updates from sustainability rep

* LS – apologies for being late – updates on number one project – improving recycling – sent over posters to me – recycling tips – what you can and can’t recycle – waiting on approval for this – need to coordinate with estates who are making
* LS – Reusable plastic cups – so that we don’t have to use single-use cups anymore
* LS – cigarette campaign – reducing the litter – bins – posters – competition for picking up cigarette butts

Agenda item 5 – “Green Mary Rep” position

* ZS – Green Mary group rep – outline the idea – to be a role open to all students, as long as they are a member of the Green Mary Group – can be from any campus
* LS – agreed that this would be a great idea
* RT – Concerned about getting events over to Barts – already having low engagement from them – if we merge the roles then this may take more away from Barts
* ZS – clarified that we will not be merging the roles – it will be an additional role to open up for more student representation in sustainability
* ZS – opened this up to a vote – LS and AB in agreement – to be moved forwards to the next student council meeting for consideration

Agenda item 6 – Green Week debrief

ZS – updated on the outcomes of green week – really good engagement – 3 society events – unfortunately some events did not run as smoothly as hoped due to being ill with COVID-19 – Good support from Leilani and Amelie, which helped – biggest ever canal clean, allotment volunteering really popular – will hopefully run another session this month - over 200 students engaged across Green Week activities in total – numbers are up from last year

**Agenda item 7 – Elections Results**

ZS – announced the outcome of the results

LL – very happy to be voted in

ZS – will be in touch to arrange welcome meetings and hand-overs from current Officer and Rep once elections and voting concluded for Officer position next week (16th)

LT – mentioned she will likely be Officer as opponent has pulled out

AOB

***Student policy – Sustainability role in societies***

RT – bought up student policy – welfare officer having some additional responsibility

AB – Amelie expressed concern that not every society would be able to get a separate person to volunteer to be a sustainability officer for the society

LS – Agreed that it could be difficult – but agree it could be good if it’s compulsory – could increase engagement overall

LT – Thinks merging with welfare would be a good idea to get it going initially

RT – We can’t just override as it is student policy – so needs to be implemented in some way

ZS – A good idea to have as additional responsibility for welfare rep initially – put feelers out and see how successful it is – better to have something than nothing – RT agreed

ZS – to arrange meeting to discuss with student engagement team and RT

***Updates from sustainability coordinator on rep and officer project***

ZS – has submitted cigarette recycling boxes for potential funding – will keep everyone updated on whether this is something that can happen

Posters – still waiting to see what’s happening with the posters from estates – will push for a response on this and see if we can move forwards in any way

ZS – cups – asked LS to do some research on this – concrete idea to be submitted

JC – happy to support on the cups

ZS – to arrange a meeting between JC and AB to discuss this further

**Actions moving forwards:**

* AB – to do a poster or something about cigarettes
* ZS – arrange meetings with LS and JC re: sustainable cups and come up with a plan of action moving forwards, even if this can’t be rolled out this year, setting up the foundations for next year
* ZS – to arrange meeting with Student Engagement team and RT – re: sustainability role in societies
* ZS- to chase up on recycling posters
* **Next meeting – N/A final meeting of the year -** AB rounded off the meeting and thanked everyone for coming