Welfare and Communities Board

16/11/2023, 5:30-7pm, Online

Attendance

Present:

* Tahmid Khan, VP Welfare (TK) (Chair)
* Matthew Beach, VP Communities (MB)
* Jules Buet (LGBT+ Rep ME) (JB)
* Naz Ismail (Women Rep BL) (NI)
* Oleg Aleksandrovich Bogachek (International Rep S&E) (OAB)
* Samarth Lakhanpal (International Rep HSS) (SL)
* Tia Blanca, (Welfare Rep BL) (TB)
* Taehyun Choi (International Rep BL) (TC)
* Shreya Senthil Sathya (BAME Rep BL) (SS)
* Aliya Simone Garraway (BAME Rep ME) (AG)
* Henriana Kombo Nguila Iyongo (Welfare Rep S and E) (HKNI)
* Ishani Nanda (Welfare Rep S and E) (IN)

Apologies:

In attendance:

* Ruth Truscott (Welfare and Liberation Coordinator) (RLT)

Liberation Fund

* RLT clarified guidance for Liberation Fund and what we can and cannot fund.
* RLT gave five minutes for the committee to read the applications.
* RLT confirmed the entire Liberation Fund for the year is £2,000
* JB as the applicant was asked to leave the room.
* RLT read out JB’s fund application and asked for comments.
* SS: Is this something we can force people to attend? RLT noted this will be a drop in session as can’t force people to attend.
* Vote was held for the fund. The full amount was funded.
* RLT read out JB’s second fund application. Asked for any comments.
* Vote was held for the fund. The full amount was funded.
* JB was welcomed back into room.
* RLT asked NI to leave the room as was the applicant for the other fund applications.
* The committee discussed the amount needed to be funded ( NI’s applications totalled to £1000)
* MB asked if we had to fund the entire thing
* RLT clarified can fund part of the fund as have done that in the past.
* AG noted the fund applications contained important events which would benefit university as well as the students. Would it be possible to ask the university to fund part of these events considering their importance.
* RLT clarified that AG was asking if we could fund part of this application through the liberation fund and part asking NI to liaise with the university to fund the other part.
* JB asked if there is a Women’s Liberation Month. RLT clarified there is not and there is not a Women’s Liberation Month fund because of this.
* OAB asked due to the limits of the fund, propose asking NI to ticket this event as already has 100 signups to pay £5 each for a ticket which covers the speaker fee and the liberation fund doesn’t fund this event.
* RLT clarified there is three strands of thought from the committee, shall we have a quick vote before we vote on whether to fund this, on what the ‘for’ option should be.
* MB clarified that the £500 was the speaker fee.
* Proposed the options. 1. Fund partially with the university funding the other part 2. The liberation funds the entire £500 3. The liberation fund does not fund any of it but we put forward the solution of £5 tickets.
* £5 tickets was agreed as the ‘for option’
* TK and RLT clarified now needed to do a full vote for the liberation fund in terms of for, abstain and against for the fund now the committee had agreed what the for option was.
* MB just wanted to note before that 100 signups is really impressive.
* TK asked to do two votes, one with the For agreed and then another vote between fully funding it and not
* RLT due to discussing and deciding what for was we couldn’t then do two votes.
* RLT and TK clarified what for was and what against was
* Vote Took place. Fund was not funded but solution of £5 tickets will be offered.
* RLT read NI other application.
* OAB raised same point as before.
* TK noted this application sounds like it is part of a wider event and thus a wider appeal.
* MB wants to mention in the notes to clarify is the Chairty doing active bystander will be paid or are they volunteers.
* SS asked RLT to check Teams messages. RLT and SS will discuss her idea outside of the committee.
* AG wanted to clarify the £500 is just for the speaker. RLT noted if that is all that is written in the applications budget then yes.
* JB noted as didn’t approve last fund application is important to fund at least one fo her application as worried will get to the end of the year and have money left in the Liberation Fund that we could have spent.
* OAB when does this fund get renewed. RLT this is till the end of August next year.
* AG is there option of money coming anywhere else for liberation. RLT noted this is the only liberation pot for non liberation months, so more general liberation work. AG asked if we run out of money could we still fund events. RLT noted would try hard to make sure there is still liberation fund money found somewhere but something to discuss later on.
* RLT noted if £2000 is too small for liberation fund PTOs and VPs can put forward changes and policies to change what they would like.
* NI came in to clarify that this should only be one application for £500 and not too.
* NI was asked to leave as the committee re did the vote for the £500 not the £1000.
* The Fund was voted to fund fully.

Scrutiny

* Welfare Officer (S&E) Henriana Kombo Nguila Iyongo, Ishani Nanda HI is working on podcast/radio show about intersectionality with Women of Colour president and AG. Aiming that this will be a safe space for the community to have these discussions. Working with University Welfare Reps on sexual harassment training so can help people who go through sexual harassment. Speaking to course reps within SandE to understand what the welfare issues are. IN- Working with HI, reaching out to directors of the courses aiming to collect their details. Will then email Heads of Schools if don’t get a reply.
* Welfare Officer (BL) Evie Russell and Tia DSouza, Working on consent week in December this will have residential drop ins, self-defence classes worked on with NI and screening. Aiming to get lots of promotion around consent. Working with a student on getting funding for mental health first aid. Reintroduced STI testing on campus.
* LGBT+ Representative (Mile End) Jules Buet Ran an event on how to find an LGBT+ inclusive workplace with Stonewall. Working on the two events put forward on Liberation Fund (Inclusive sex education and Black LGBT+ Talk) Working with Aisha on survey with SwD who have been in contact with DDS, finding out if their needs have been taking into account by university. Anticipating there could be more work that comes out with the survey results.
* International Representative (S&E) Oleg A Bogachek Attended UKISA (International Student Conference). Trying to meet with other international reps. Working on sponsorships for international student social in Drapers.
* BAME Rep BL- Shreya Senthil Sathya Currently working on an idea to get more water fountains around campus. Aiming to reach out to other reps to create a joint project as want this to cover both campuses.
* BAME Rep- Aliya Garraway Working with BOHAC which focuses on history, arts and culture, on a winter carnival. Aiming to get people together. Also contacting different organisations (black people talk, colours) in order to set up wellbeing and mental health groups at university. Working with HKNI and Women of Colour society to create podcast /radio show about intersectionality. Aiming to create a resource that can be used and shared.
* Womens Representative (BL) Naz Ismail Working with Women in Healthcare to deliver anti harassment campaign. In the campaign will deliver speaker talk and training of active bystander and an exhibition. Aiming to coincide with the international day of elimination of violence against women and children. Have done a study of harassment in campus. Met with CEO of QMSU, Mike. Working with BL welfare to deliver self-defence classes in consent week
* NI and JB were put forward for commendations. Votes were held and they will be put forward for commendation.

VP Updates

* MB: meeting on sustainability and NOASUK on decarbonation and investment. Launched post grad consolation group, worked with Student Voice PG Interns on this and chaired first meeting. With the VP BLSA and VP Welfare did tour around Dawson house, put forward housing improvements. Supporting students to put a bicycle repair business. Raised EDI team on university on how to feed in student feedback. Put together event with an arts organisation on sustainability week, have put information on the website to create a legacy of this work. Working on optional sustainability modules. Working on document for PTOs on all university meetings MB goes to that PTOs can come forward and ask for key points raise in there. Chaired liberation meetings Disability Awareness Fortnight: DAF and Jewish Heritage Fortnight: JHF, working with students on events for DAF to highlight PG disability research. Working on international mixer. VP S and E supporting on SAHA on what services are available. Supported on grants. Working on implementing student council policy such as free legal advice for trans students. Getting University to accept their historical racism. Extending the free menstrual products campaign. Looking at another motion which is on pastoral support. Working on international mental health support. Meeting with dental president on PGT support.
* TK: Working with SU President on food pantry expansion in reception. University agreed to fund building the expansion of the space and to fund the stocking of food pantry. Hoping to get it to open 27th of November. Communications send out when this occurs. Graduation Fund application in late October, huge increase from previous years of 200 applications to 500. Cost of living has affected this; we could only approve 100. Working to improve this to create a more sustainable forum of support. Working with Mike the CEO on paper to improve Multi-faith provision. Having a data collection exercise on usage in Mile End. Counting take place 11-6:30 with counting taking place every 10 mins. Data aiming to support this report. Aiming to replicate this at Garrod. Working with the University’s Financial Assistance Fund to improve the scheme. As have had feedback not accessible due to needing a heavy amount of evidence etc. Working on their website on FAQ section. Working on lighting improvement project.

AOB

* RLT noted it is currently Islamophobia Awareness Month, please attend any events you would like and check out the website for information. Also book in a meeting with RLT if you haven’t met already for staff support or if you feel like you need support.

Voting record [delete if no votes were taken]

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|  | Liberation Fund application 1. Fund full amount | Liberation Fund application 2. Fund Full amount. | Liberation Fund 3. For is to fund full amount.  | Commendation- Jule Buet | Commendation- Naz Ismail |  | *Add more columns if necessary* |
| Tahmid Khan, VP Welfare (TK) (Chair)  | Abstain | Abstain | For | For | For |  |  |
| Matthew Beach, VP Communities (MB)  | For | For | For | For | For |  |  |
| Jules Buet (LGBT+ Rep ME) (JB) | n/a | n/a | For | n/a | For |  |  |
| Naz Ismail (Women Rep BL) (NI) | For | For | n/a | Abstain | N/a |  |  |
| Oleg Aleksandrovich Bogachek (International Rep S&E) (OAB) | For | For | Against | For | For |  |  |
| Samarth Lakhanpal (International Rep HSS) (SL) | For | Abstain | Abstain | Abstain | Abstain |  |  |
| Tia Blanca, (Welfare Rep BL) (TB) | For | For | For | Abstain | Abstain |  |  |
| Shreya Senthil Sathya (BAME Rep BL) (SS) | For | For | For | For | For |  |  |
| Aliya Simone Garraway (BAME Rep ME) (AG) | For | For | For | For | For |  |  |
| Henriana Kombo Nguila Iyongo (Welfare Rep S and E) (HKNI) | For | For | For | For | For |  |  |
| Ishani Nanda (Welfare Rep S and E) (IN) | Abstain | For | For | For | For |  |  |