Welfare and Communities Board

06.05.25, Online

Attendance

Present:

* Maria Rubbani, Disabled and SLD Representative (BL), MR
* Rosie Nee, Disabled and SLD Representative (ME), RN
* Adam Khan, Trans Representative, AK
* Adila Bashir, Disabled and SLD Representative (BL), AB
* Hassam Naeem, VP Liberation, International and Postgraduates, HN
* Bishoy Yassa, Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Representative (BL), BY
* Diya Mary Selastin, International Representative (HSS), DMS
* Ravleena Wasan, Welfare Officer (BL), RW
* Arianne Jones, LGBT+ Representative (BL), AJ

In attendance:

* Ruth Truscott, Welfare and Liberation Coordinator (RLT)

General Liberation Fund

* One general liberation application was discussed and was passed.

PTOs

* AB and MR: Working on accessibility changes in Garrod, such as introducing more assistive text. Working with Dr. Benjamin, looking to increase accessibility profiles that can be sent out. Creating system for ECAP students to enhance confidentiality such as passing on messages, we don’t always know about specific ECAP needs and trying to figure out ways to combat that. GP placements teams don’t know about placement needs. Presenting at GP conference at mile end. Met with Institute of Health Sciences Education Senior Reps on overlap with education and making it more inclusive. Met with head of 4th year on adaptative curriculum. Neurodivergence guidelines and checklist. MR and AB ask for advice and help: advice on 5th year no exam adjustments, is this something to lobby the university or work with the university to lobby the exam provider. Also looking for support on lobbying DDS office with medical students and travel arrangement support: not a lot of support lots of last minute postcodes.
* NA: Gave advice on questions brought up: BLSA President RH has been working on a QM bursary paper, have been looking at adverse effects on medical students. NA: suggests working with RH on topic. MR: this side of the issue is DSA. As DSA students have taxi services at a subsided cost. However, taxi services need addresses and number of journeys 8 weeks in advance. Students don’t always have number of addresses or journeys. Want DDS to change process for medical students to make it more adaptable.
* ABJ: Raising money by selling merch for Starfish Great Hearts charity. Have sold the merch, just looking to order it. Aiming to create more of an LGBTQ+ presence at Barts. Working with Barts LGBT+ leads to make a more LGBT+ presence for patients and teaching so people can become more accepting and actually know how to treat different things. Also attended liberation awards, which was a lot of fun.
* BY: finished tenure at BAME+ rep, worked on Asian Heritage Month. Notes, Barts students, including self, are focused on exams. Did exit interview on Asian Heritage Month as Community Organiser. Haven’t have an opportunity to do anything else this month because no one is available.
* DMS: Has felt it have been really rewarding being international rep for HSS. Looking at improving support, for late arrival students, hand-held bidets. Helping with events at the international forum who have been receptive to changes. DMS has been keeping international students updated. Hosted a social for late arrival students, with support by student life team. Hosted pre departure information session, presented idea of handheld bidets to exec. Has been an advocate for late arrivals, been involved in international working group are looking at increasing support for late arrivals, managed to build WhatsApp of 640 international students and Instagram's. Restarted global cafes, where international students have been able to share their experiences. Worked extensively with women in law and working hard on women's wellbeing, hosted Galentines day in fb. Working on a games social with UCL and HN. Helping advertise with international students can vote in elections, collaborated with Rachel Hacking in visa changes publishing this information and clearing misconceptions, wrote an article about this. This followed from a misunderstanding thing that students were thinking this was still a marker of ages, but it was no longer was. Doing more roles in buddy scheme with international students being more involved. Being involved in more liberation events e.g. cultural unity week, Asian Heritage Month.

Executive Updates

* NA: Continuing working with the EDI team on Women's Space project, currently presenting back to the university in different spaces. Working on advisor's project with VP S and E presenting this to the university for context. Ran focus groups getting feedback from this, gathered all of the student voice presenting to the university and have agreed to put this work as part their enabling plan. Continuing to work on self-funded students, VP HSS interviewing students on their expenses, using this information to prepare resources to help such as an article. Working with VP LIP on HESPAL trying to members of the senior executive team at the university to keep discussing this. Launched Study Well on 06.05.2025. Running events, stalls, and providing support for exams and assignment period. Looking at employability gaps within different communities. Especially with Asian students, Bangladeshi women, who have the lowest progression rates. Continuing to work with officers, and the SU surrounding Islamophobia, have been interviewing different advisors. Have been supporting Rahma and Jovani with their work, working on a student forum on Islamophobia.
* HN: We ran the RGSU survey for international students. Meeting with RGSU and Saabs officers to lobby on actual changes that have come from it. Looking at finalising demands e.g. 20-30 hours, allowing to start small businesses etc. Have launch of research on 14th in Parliament. Running PGR UCU survey, working with London group Students’ Unions, increase London allowance from 3,000-5,000. Working on a proposals with the SUs and Russell Group unions. It is important work as the criteria was very old. Working on alumni project team. Working on new page on the website. Working with VP Welfare on HESPAL, shared with VP international of the university, others already doing this. Hosted board games with DMS and UCL international rep.

Scrutiny

* DMS put forward Hassam for commendation for his effort on Cultural Unity Week.
* DMS put forward commendation, for Nabihah and Rahma for Anti-Apartheid Week
* DMS and RW put forward Arianne and Lucy forward for LGBTQ+ Community Work
* DMS put forward Adam Khan for a commendation.

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**Voting record**

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|  | **Vote 1 for First General Liberation Fund** | **Commendation for Hassam Naeem** | **Commendation for Nabihah and Rahma** | **Commendation for Arianne and Lucy** | **Commendation for Adam Kahn** |
| **Nabihah Ali, VP Welfare** | For | For |  | For |  |
| **Hassam Naeem, VP LIP** | For |  |  | For |  |
| **Diya Mary Selastin, International Rep HSS,** |  | For | For | For | For |
| **Arianne Jones, LGBT+ Representative (BL)** | For | For | For | For |  |
| **Maria and Adila, Disabled and SLD Representative (BL)** | For | For | For | For | For |
| **Ravleena Kaur Wasan, Welfare Rep BL** |  | For  | For | For | For |
| **Bishoy Yassa, Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Representative (BL)** | For | For |  |  | For |