



Equality and Diversity Zone Tuesday 7th February, 5pm DG014

Present

Chair

Katie Irving - VP Welfare and Diversity (VPWD)

Students' Union Officers/staff

Izzy Tooke – Vice President Education (VPE), Paul Murtough – Representation and Democracy Coordinator (PM)

York St. John University Staff

Marije Davison – Equality and Diversity Adviser (MD)

Student members

Jacob Smith (JS), Fran Rhodes (FR), George Hewlett (GH)

Apologies

Welcome & Introductions

VPWD welcomed all in attendance to the meeting and presented staff with the opportunity for introduction

Items for Any Other Business

Agenda Items

- 1. Election of the Zone Senators**
- 2. Minutes and Matters arising**
- 3. LGBT History Month**
- 4. Upcoming celebrations**
- 5. Stonewall achievement**
- 6. Open discussion**
- 7. Any other business**

1. Election of the Zone Senators

VPWD introduced the Senate and expanded on what Senate's intended purpose is
Jacob Smith was elected to Senate

2. LGBT History Month

LGBT Society Gender bread campaign will be hosted to raise awareness of the diverse body of students. Stand will be placed in HG (13th-17th)

MD updated that the university are running some events centrally and all the information can be found on the university website

3. Minutes and matters arising

VPWD provided updates on the actions taken from the last meeting.

JS updated those promotional materials for the men's health awareness are readily available. A stall was held for Prostate cancer. There will be a joint venture between Cricket and Saints Radio.

VPWD updated that a motion was passed at Senate for increasing the number of braille facilities on campus and talks are currently underway with Shelly Calvert and Marije regarding toilet door signage.

Regarding more opportunities for disabled students and participation activities VPWD is meeting with Charlie Freeman

FR noted in relation to this that she is in contact with the lead for 'Go ball' and has since become aware of a number of other possible activities such as *sound tennis, sitting volleyball, Boccia, table tennis, Wii Sport etc.*

Action: VPWD to discuss other activities with CF in regards to inclusivity

VPWD updated that the fun run will take place, with adaptations for those who have accessibility issues. This will take place at 1pm, Haxby Road facility.

FR requested the possibility for an earlier time to allow for a less pressurised/busy period.

Action: VPWD to look into this

JS requested that VPWD look into accessible routes for the grounds

Action: VPWD to liaise with Sports and Activities Manager

VPWD updated on the 'Transgender policy' – a survey will be circulated by Anna Deacon to all students.

VPWD and PRES attended the 'York celebrates difference' event in October which presented an opportunity for volunteers

JS stated the no communication about the event and opportunity was circulated.

VPE stated that there were some logistical communication errors. Currently involved in planning process for the next events and students will be involved.

Action: Officers to ensure communication is circulated RE: opportunities for students

VPWD stated that the 'Not On Our Campus' campaign, whilst initially targeted at Sports and Societies committees, it was branched out to Course Reps utilising students who have a wider network to promote.

FR stated that the RSA's are also involved.

VPWD also mentioned the consent workshops and student attendance, finding that students who could be deemed as 'needing' to go, did not attend.

FR stated that students in halls and RSAs get treated in a different manner.

MD asked in what way

FR stated that due to the nature of halls, RSAs are to look out for a large number of students who often keep to themselves, it therefore means that students who attend are those who don't need to go attend and it is not the focus of the sessions.

MD asked if this could be made mandatory

VPWD stated that this could be an integral part of the summer Sports and Societies training

JS said that it could be beneficial to visualise promotion in order to standardise the sessions and raise awareness; ensure all students are contacted.

FR asked if it was possible to run for all year groups, rather than being only level 1 students; this way the message can be passed down from year to year.

VPWD stated that the Sports day has not yet been organised but initial meeting has taken place.

4. Upcoming celebrations

International Women's Day – 8th March

FR stated that the Feminist society will be working closely with the Literature department

VPWD stated that the Global café will be hosting a holy festival which all are welcome to

5. Stonewall achievement

PM provided a small update on the universities continuing recognition in regards to their dedication of support to LGBT students and staff.

6. Open discussion

GH raised concerns over the recognition of students who identify as 'non binary/non gender'

The institution won't acknowledge a name change or identify a student by their 'known (preferred) name. A lecturer has since apologised for this but it is a continuing issue – this makes students feel uncomfortable in a situation where they are forced to 'out' themselves in front of their peers.

MD stated that this is in current review as a part of the Transgender Policy research. Staff can be asked to use the 'known as' name as opposed to birth name.

VPE asked, as a Students' Union what can we do

GH requested a re-evaluation of the registration process and the request for Pro-nouns which doesn't accommodate; generally there has been an unpleasant experience

MD stated that assistance is available for all students.

FR requested the need for a campaign RE: Pro-nouns and raising awareness

VPWD stated this would be a part of the 'genderbread' campaign

FR asked if this could be an additional strand to training for Sports and Societies

JS stated it should be extended to lecturers.

VPE suggested the use of a Moodle module to emphasise the message

JS and FR felt that a change of support plans would be useful providing clear indicators for staff.

JS raised issues surrounding handouts and difficulties, particularly with students who have learning difficulties. It was asked if changes could be made to accommodate more facilities online for handouts.

VPE stated that there is fresh work being taken in regards to LSPs (Learning Support Plans)

JS asked if students could be involved in the process

Action: VPE and VPWD to review current university resources

MD stated that subject directors (SDs) have been tasked with creating inclusive LSPs for students; current results show that staff need to further communicate with their students. More awareness is required.

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 25th April 2017, 4pm, HG138

Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action:	Assigned to:
Minutes and matters arising	Action: VPWD to discuss other activities with CF in regards to inclusivity <i>(Page 2)</i>	VPWD
	Action: VPWD to look into this <i>(Page 2)</i>	VPWD
	Action: VPWD to liaise with Sports and Activities Manager <i>(Page 2)</i>	VPWD
	Action: Officers to ensure communication is circulated RE: opportunities for students <i>(Page 3)</i>	VPWD
Open discussion:	Action: VPE and VPWD to review current university resources <i>(Page 4)</i>	VPE/VPWD