

Meeting:	Diversity and Support Exec	
Location:	1 East Meeting Room, 3.20	
Date & Time:	Friday 17th February, 12:15 – 13:05	
Present:		
Fartun Ali (Chair of Diversity and Support Exec)		
Charlotte Foster (Campaigns and Activism Liaison)		
Jemima Wickenden (Chair of Student Minds)		
Andre Jek (Nightline External Coordinator)		
Jasmine Wadsworth (Internal Co-Chair of LGBT Society)		
Amber Snary (Chair of Disability Action Group)		
In attendance:		
Melissa Oram	Student Voice Coordinator	
Blake Walker	Community Officer	
Ming Lee	Voice Student Administrative Staff	
Item		
1.	<p>Apologies and Introduction from Chair</p> <p>Exec Chair apologised for not being very involved in the last semester and summarised that today’s meeting is about how to change this semester to increase action.</p>	
2.	<p>Updates from each D&S Group</p> <p>Student Minds:</p> <p>Last semester, the group focused on keeping the momentum of previous year’s committee specifically on maintaining the Mention It campaign which addresses male students’ mental health and to destigmatise male mental health. The group also supported international students’ mental health. The group is currently exploring projects tackling perfectionism. This project is still in its early days as the group is looking for funding for student-led workshops on this topic.</p> <p>There has been an increased interest in volunteering opportunities with Student Minds, however, it is difficult to include volunteering opportunities at the moment in comparison to Nightline which is volunteer-heavy. They are open to advice on this matter.</p> <p>Nightline:</p> <p>Exec Member reported that the group is trying to maintain its service but has recently faced a decrease in volunteer engagement resulting in difficulties with filling shifts. The Exec Member was unsure of the reason for this. To tackle this, the group has been organising small-scale socials</p>	

	<p>to get volunteers to know each other so that volunteers are comfortable with staying together in a room. They reflected that emailing volunteers is surprisingly a good way to get volunteer feedback. At the moment, the group will be training a new batch of volunteers and hopes that this will minimise the number of closed shifts. The group is also looking to engage with other societies for more collaborations.</p> <p>LGBTQ Society: The group has been focused on organising socials. Last semester, they organised weekly socials. They also had regular meetings for transgender and non-binary students as well as postgraduate students within the society. This semester they are looking to increase fundraising activities and committee elections.</p> <p>Disability Action Group: The Exec Member reported that last semester, they successfully held several casual socials to create a safe space for students to drop in and hang out. This semester, they are looking to host more active social activities like yoga. There have also been talks on creating a sensory space in the Library and Lime Tree.</p>
3.	<p>Update from Community Officer around D&S issues</p> <p>There are now free menstrual products available across campus in different buildings. These are mostly placed in accessible toilets so that people who need them can get them rather than just in women's toilets. For LGBTQ History Month, there are several events planned, including talks and social media activities to help increase visibility. The Community Officer is also looking into how to facilitate better promotions of certain celebratory days like New Years.</p>
4.	<p>Visibility of Exec</p> <p>The Exec Chair brought up the issue of visibility of the Exec and how to improve it. She feels that currently the Exec is not getting enough attention and proposed creating a collective Instagram. The floor was opened for Exec Members to opine.</p> <p>One suggestion was to have a collective account where existing groups can tag the account to demonstrate what each group has done on one page.</p> <p>Currently, the Exec is only visible on the SU website where only the names and pictures of the Exec Members are showcased. Email addresses will be added with consent from Exec Members.</p> <p>Discussion on what the account will be named and what content will be shared with the collective account:</p>

	<p>An Exec Member suggested that not all content should be reposted to the collective account, perhaps the account can be used to repost activities that require more reach. An Exec Member provided the example that this reposting can be useful for collaborations.</p> <p>The Community Officer questioned about the target audience for this new account because if the target audience is already within the D&S sphere then engagement might be easier however if it is the wider student body, it can be difficult.</p> <p>To complement the collective Instagram account, it was proposed that the Exec should host in person stands on the Parade. Nightline found that this was a good way to increase awareness on Nightline and perhaps it can be a good way to raise awareness on the D&S Exec. Another suggestion was for D&S groups to share content on the SU social media channels as they have a higher number of followers.</p> <p>An Exec Member brought up the idea of having something similar to the emails Careers Services put up weekly. For example, having a 'What's coming up' email. The Community Officer clarified that this would have to be taken to the Head of Marketing to check what abilities the Exec has on sending out emails.</p> <p>ACTION: Community Officer to discuss with Head of Marketing</p> <p>The Student Voice Coordinator offered that a good way to increase visibility that the SU has seen in the past is to do Instagram takeovers, for example a meet your D&S Exec or hosting forums.</p> <p>There has been talks of having specific Instagram accounts in several other Execs, but they did not come to fruition because of difficulties in maintaining the accounts and getting reach. The Community Officer offered that the D&S Exec Instagram page may be tricky to set up unless there is a good case to support it.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Discussion about Execs</p> <p>This item is in consideration of future Exec Members as elections are coming up.</p> <p>Several Exec Members highlighted that there wasn't much structure when they got the position on the Exec. They feel that support such as training would be appreciated because Exec Members will have more guidance. Consequently, the Exec can then create more impact.</p> <p>Another Exec Member highlighted that having more direction can be helpful and a job description/ list of expectations may help with that.</p>

	<p>One Exec Member also said that they did not know what the Exec was for when they started the role and if they missed a meeting, what they would be missing. As such, they suggested that having an induction process for chairs would be good as this provides more clarity.</p> <p>One Exec Member highlighted that the D&S Exec is useful because it provides their group with strong support whereby it is nice to hear what other groups are doing and can implement useful strategies in their own group. The Exec Meetings also provide a fresh perspective on any issues they have. However, they agreed that more direction on the purpose of the Exec can be beneficial as well. With purpose, the Exec can then hold the University and SU more accountable on D&S measures.</p> <p>Another issue was raised about the support given to D&S Exec was that members had to trawl through the SU website for rules on organising socials but found that a lot of the guidance was not updated. The Exec Member feels that it would be helpful if there was a note saying whether these rules are still in place or have been changed. The Community Officer offered that there is a discrepancy between what the webhost of the website shows and what has been selected to be hidden by the SU such that outdated pages can still be visible despite already hiding them.</p> <p>If any Exec Members have any more feedback to raise, they can email suliberation@bath.ac.uk</p>
6.	<p>Frequency of Meetings</p> <p>The Exec Chair felt that having only 2 meetings in semester 1 was not enough and proposed that the Exec should meet 3 times this semester. That is, having a meeting each month. With 3 meetings, it may be more effective for issue raising.</p> <p>The Exec agreed that having a meeting each month was a good idea.</p>
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>As an extension of item 4, one Exec Member proposed having a Sensory Friendly Ball to increase visibility of Exec and this event can be less daunting for students. They wondered if there was enough time to host it this year. In line with ideas for events, other Exec Members proposed a silent disco and hosting pub quiz in pyjamas. Tickets for these events can then be prioritised for D&S groups.</p> <p>The Student Voice Coordinator suggested that the Exec should have separate meetings for larger events so that the discussion can be more targeted. Exec Members were happy for another meeting to be held to discuss this.</p>

	<p>ACTION: Student Voice Coordinator to schedule a meeting specific for discussion on event planning.</p> <p>Student Voice Coordinator also reminded Exec Members that the deadline to run for SU Officer roles is on Monday and encouraged Members to signup if they were interested.</p>
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The meeting ended at 13:05.

Item number	Action
4.	Community Officer to discuss with Head of Marketing
7.	Student Voice Coordinator to schedule a meeting specific for discussion on event planning.