



# Liberation Committee Meeting Agenda

Penryn Campus – Exchange Yellow:  
03/03/2017, 16.30pm

## 1. Welcome, Introductions, Apologies

Attendees:

- Alexa Webster - President, Community & Welfare
- Bella Frimpong - Chair
- Charity Aria - Widening participation
- Mackinley Ingham - Womens & Disabled
- Cam Harrington - Trans & nonbinary
- Megan Arthur - BAME Officer
- Olumide Adefolaju - LGBTQA+
- Isi Daley - Intersectionality
- George Perry - Secretary
- Isaac – ACS President
- Alex – Radio and Fencing
- Lizzie – Creative writing rep, FXSpectrum, society for people on the autistic spectrum
- Sajjad – ISoc President and Muslim Officer

Apologies:

## 2. Approve last meeting's minutes

Held on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017

## 3. Matters arising

Any issues based on the previous item

## 4. Group discussion on harmful language on campuses

Discuss the most commonly used inappropriate words

Why is this a problem?

How can we tackle it moving forward?

Alex - Raised issues around social media posts, mostly homophobia and transphobia (fitfinder)

Sajjad - Casual Islamophobia related to Middle Eastern countries and rape.

MI – We need to educate people so they don't perpetuate these fear based prejudices/ assumptions. We also need to support those who are affected.

CA – Issues with lecturers using racist language, clouding these issues by claiming it to be literature/ art.

MI – need to properly advertise the services on offer by student support, as these are not very well known amongst students.

CH – Regarding Tell Me promotion. There may be a need to rephrase the adverts, focusing on how the victim can be supported, not just focusing on reporting the hate crime/ issue.

CA – Trans 101 training was well received, maybe we could do different 101s

AW – Turning Trans 101 in to a document, to be available to all staff. This is much easier than having to staff the training. Will be conducting research in to the experience of trans students. NUS Trans representative conducting the sessions with trans/ non-binary students. Not just in person, online as well.

Alex – Some people are having difficulty with lecturers not using the correct pronoun, even after contacting their lecturers.

AW – Students need to contact me (Alexa) if they are experiencing this.

CA – Undertaking a project in to the experience of black students in white academic spaces. Would like to make this accessible to other students.

BF – In light of a lot of things that have been brought up by everyone in the committee, we need to have a discussion around the language used on campus.

MI – People using terminology out of context, terminology that could be offensive, including lecturers, stereotyping. Most people here have things to say so we will go round the room. In the library, went past a group of people and heard something unpleasant, heard it multiple times from the same group of students. They were discussing a fellow student who has learning difficulties, they used very inappropriate language including 'retard', 'thick', 'cripple', 'stupid', and other things. MI approached them and questioned their use of language, only after some time did they acknowledge that what they were saying was not appropriate. Long time since I have heard such a long conversation in a public space using that kind of language. How do we change this, whilst also supporting students who have been on the receiving end of this?  
Also had feedback from women who felt very uncomfortable during election period.

AW – I have changed my language to use harmful instead of offensive, because of the meaning that offensive has taken on. If you say harmful and follow it up with an explanation, then you are more likely to have an impact.

MA – A friend was sat in the library and overheard someone talking about how if you go to Morocco you would get raped. Stereotyping need to be addressed.

CA – Last year for International Womens’ Day people were planning on making masks of their most inspirational women, some people wanted to make masks of BAME women, problematic

BF – We all need to keep on working on cultural sensitivity. Incident reported of someone having ‘White power’ screamed at them, on campus in the Stannary.

CA + AW – American students have come forward who have been abused because of the Presidential vote

ID – How are hate crimes/ hate speech dealt with?

AW – Students must come forward and say they want there to be an investigation. Students can be removed from the university if there is proof a crime has been committed.

ID – What happens if someone was to call me the ‘n word’ and I reported them.

AW – I will properly research this, for both institutions.

**Action** – AW - Research and update on the formal processes

BF – We should write a motion to propose a better way of dealing with hate speech/ crime

AW – We could create designs that would show how to deal with the most frequent issues faced by students

**Action** – AW + GP - Develop information board/ handouts to show how students can report issues and receive help, in the form of flowcharts

ID – Your rights and what processes are available to you

CH – Need alternatives to going to the police

OA – Informal and formal complaints should be covered.

Isaac – What about prevention messages? Posters that show situations that happen regularly but are inappropriate with an explanation of why

BF - I think running a poster campaign now, and launching leaflets/ digital media flowcharts in September

OA – This is an ongoing issue, especially regarding use of the n word in song, etc

**Action** – BF – Set up google docs to discuss the poster content/ designs before having them designed by Beth

Alex – Due to a number of different issues relating to homophobia and transphobia heard around campuses, posters have been ordered to put up around campus to spread messages of tolerance and solidarity. ‘Some people are gay, get over it’ and ‘Some people are trans, get over it’ posters

MI – There is no magic answer, posters don’t change the world, they are a good start. We have so many society presidents here, we should use that potential more. Signposting people within the society to people who are in need. There is nothing more effective than a human being talking to another human being.

AW – We could do a pledge like the #neverok campaign run by the Guild. Students would make a pledge to be conscientious of these issues and not be racist/homophobic/transphobic, inclusivity pledge.

MI – Give the booklets out to each society/ club so they can distribute

BF – Maybe link accreditation to the inclusivity of your club

Alex – Talk to sports and societies about inclusivity of trans students in their activities.

**Action** – CA to work with CH and Alex, talk with Quidditch about the inclusivity of societies and clubs

ID – Training for societies and clubs could be more thorough

AW – FXU is going to deliver more training on inclusivity and welfare

**VOTE** – 8 in favour, 0 against, 0 abstentions

**Action** – Liberation Committee meetings to be made Open, first half hour closed, then opened to anyone.

Lizzie - People making triggered jokes, not appropriate. How can we make this issue known to lecturers?

MI – Lots of discourse surrounding these issues are perpetuated and fed in to by lecturers.

AW – The Liberation Committee should use Make a Change more, a motion to address how courses are structured and how lecturers behave, etc.

**Action** – Motion to deliver to Leadership Team meeting by BF

## 5. AOB Next meeting and Close

MI – International Women’s Day coming up. TED style talks delivered by Women, focusing on who they are now, not constantly being pushed towards improving. Event open to all, looking for women speakers

AW – Proposal to hold President Community and welfare to account

7 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions

**Action** - Proposal to hold President Community and welfare to account passed, AW to update

MI – issues around disabled bathroom use, there are not enough of them

28/03/2017 Daphne Du Maurier Seminar C, 6pm