



Disabled Students' Network Committee Meeting

St Andrews Students' Association

8th October 2020, 5pm

In Attendance:

Anna-Ruth Cockerham - *SRC Disability Officer (Chair)*

Natalya Stone – *Mental Health Representative*

Emma Walsh – *Director of Wellbeing*

Molly Paechter – *Deputy Convenor*

Kiera Obi – *Neurodiversity Representative*

Emma MacAndrews – *Physical Disability Representative*

Jane Yarnell – *Secretary*

Maddy Shephard - *Publicity and Campaigns Officer*

Catherine Essex - *Treasurer*

Apologies:

Kirsty MacDonald – *Chronic Illness Representative*

Maja Juszczakiewicz Lewis – *Accessibility Officer*

Kristina Kumpf – *Events Officer*

Minutes:

Welcome to New Committee Members

Wellbeing posts

MP: Should we wait for Maddy?

ARC: You (MP) can post things

NS: Its just for today, Friday, and Saturday

MP: Is this a post that we're doing?

ARC: Do you want to explain it more generally?

NS: Its a campaign about resources available for mental health, so today was about how to book a student services appointment, and who is who. Tomorrow its going to be about what services are available. Saturday will be about external resources.

MP: Are you just wanting them posted to facebook and instagram at a set time?

NS: Yep, I can email them to you.

Can-do event

ARC: I don't know what Emma thinks about the urgency of planning an event, but if everyone is ok with it we can go ahead with this one

ARC: Kristina had the idea of a stim toy event with crafts to make stim toys, we can submit that idea if everyone is ok with it?

MP: That sounds good!

COVID Safety campaign

ARC: wellbeing is doing a campaign about COVID safety, so I said I would contribute some info about mask exemptions. So when we have graphics about mask exemptions, I can send them on.

ARC: Annie was wondering about doing an event about mask exemptions, but I said that we probably wouldn't get much of a turnout. We're looking at alternative event ideas, including a forum more generally about disability.

MP: I wrote some text about mask exemptions, has that been used?

ARC: I sent that text to Annie for the posts.

MP: In terms of an event, could we do a video? Even if it was the same info as the graphic, it might get more uptake than an event.

ARC: I should clarify that there will already be a takeover of the uni instagram, so there will already be video-like-things. We probably don't have time to produce a video, that would be a pretty time intensive task. We also don't have a lot of info about mask exemptions from the Uni, so anything in a video might be inaccurate later. Annie wanted an event so people had things they could go to, but we could do anything disability related.

MP: Is that for this weekend?

ARC: I can double-check the date.

[Annie is on wellbeing committee].

MP: I think if we were doing an event, a forum like event would be the best, but I would rather wait until we have clear guidance from the University.

JY: I think we should wait until we have more info?

MP: Does everyone agree?

[Agreement]

Nightline Awareness

ARC: One of the nightline awareness week days has a theme of hidden, so I think we could do an event? I think we should try do something fun, to make it different from the other events we might run around them. I was thinking about a sunflower themed event?

[MP and JY agree]

JY: I think a sunflower themed event might be great outreach for people who are less involved in the disability community.

ARC: I think we could try to sort this out soon, so if people have ideas for next week, that would be great.

Meeting Structure

ARC: I think there's a lack of engagement during these meetings, people aren't adding things to the agenda. Its causing a bit of an issue with event ideas, and not knowing what other people are up to. I have a couple ideas for formatting the meetings a bit differently.

ARC: One idea is that everyone submits reports in advance, so everyone knows what everyone else was doing.

JY: I'm going to start making the agenda after each meeting for the next weeks meeting, so that people can add things more easily.

ARC: Ok, it seems like the conclusion is that we should post the agenda in teams, directly after the meeting.

MP: I think it would be nice to have some social events for just the committee, so we all get a chance to meet each other?

KO: I think it would be a great idea if it wasn't too often

EM: Have we posted about the new people and their roles?

ARC: Not yet, because we just finished the EGM last night.

ARC: In terms of meeting structure, would something like reports work for people?

KO: I was thinking that we could use the agenda in more detail

JY: I was thinking about adding an odds and ends section to the agenda, so people can share small things they've been thinking

EM: I also want everyone to feel comfortable with the amount of stuff that we've each done, so no one feels bad about what they have or haven't done in a week.

ARC: When I was talking about reports, I meant something more like a bullet point what have I done this week if I've done anything. Not everyone submits a report every week, and we could do it verbally to start.

Union Help Hub

MP: The union help hub website is being redone, so I wanted to talk about it and get perspectives from people.

ARC: I have that guide thing I did before, that I had been running independently. I wanted to transfer a lot of the disability and healthcare specific info over to the union website, because people asked about that a lot.

EM: I think the issue might also be the fact that no one knows it is there. Advertising its existence might also be helpful.

MP: I think that was what Elise will do after she revamps it.

ARC: I agree that a lot of people don't know about it, but it was also unhelpful.

Any Other Business

CE: I talked to Yoga Soc about crossover event

ARC: Could it be accessible?

CE: I'll ask in a meeting tomorrow.

MP: If it worked, it would be very cool.

EM: I think we also might want to be careful about making it about mental health, because Student Services can be a bit excessive about recommending yoga.

ARC: If we can't find a way to make it accessible, you might want to collab with Wellbeing instead.