



## **Disabled Students' Network Committee Meeting**

St Andrews Students' Association

19<sup>th</sup> November 2020, 5pm

### **In Attendance:**

Anna-Ruth Cockerham - SRC Disability Officer

Molly Paechter – *Deputy Convenor (Chair)*

Kiera Obi – *Neurodiversity Representative*

Jane Yarnell – *Secretary*

Catherine Essex – *Treasurer*

Natalya Stone – *Mental Health Representative*

Kristina Kumpf – *Events Officer*

Kirsty MacDonald – *Chronic Illness Representative*

Maddy Shephard - *Publicity and Campaigns Officer*

Emma Walsh – *Director of Wellbeing*

### **Apologies:**

Maja Juszczakiewicz Lewis – *Accessibility Officer*

### **Minutes:**

## **Disability History Month**

### History Posts

JY: FDR write up – do we want to switch out for someone else who was more open about being disabled?

CE: Beethoven as well

MP: I think it would be good to acknowledge that anyway! Because we don't want to give the impression that everyone has always been proud of their disability.

EW: I think that it is important to talk about that he was a widely respected president, but felt the need to hide his disability.

KK: We should also acknowledge that he presided over Japanese internment.

ARC: I think that its pretty short, so we shouldn't need to go in depth about it.

CE: Similarly with Steven Hawking, he is also controversial because he signed something about assisted suicide – is this something we should include?

MP: I think that wasn't all that controversial, it was more he was on one side of a pretty even debate, so I don't think you need to mention it.

ARC: Can we aim to have the posts done by Monday?

[General Agreement]

### Events

ARC: We are collaborating with a bunch of student unions, so all the events are open to anyone, so make sure to share those events and share that its happening.

### **Disabled Students' Survey**

ARC: This will open on Friday this week, so please share it around and respond yourselves if you would like. It will close on the Friday of week 13, so it should be long enough.

### **Charities Campaign Christmas Countdown**

ARC: There will be an Xmas countdown, and since 3rd Dec is international disabled persons day, would we like to participate? It would involve writing a post/thing for a newsletter, and picking a charitable cause to highlight. We could also run an event if we wanted. I like the idea of Lead Scotland, which is a disabled student's rights org.

### **Art soc/RAG week event**

MP: Art soc are keen to do a life drawing event in week 4 of S2, and have also asked us to come up with an online event for RAG week.

### **Student Services Complaints**

*Due to the sensitive nature of this discussion, this section of the minutes has been summarised without attribution.*

There was issues raised with Student Services, with specific reference to the way students with long-term mental health conditions are treated alongside the long

waiting lists for NHS Care. There was discussion about what the committee could do to address these issues and collect further feedback, and the following actions were decided:

- Information would be collected in the Disabled Students' Survey and a specific effort would be made to reach out to students with mental health conditions who may not identify as disabled.
- The feedback from this meeting and the survey would be taken to Student Services, as well as looked into by the committee, the SRC Disability Officer, and the Director of Wellbeing.