



Disabled Students' Network Committee Meeting

St Andrews Students' Association

22nd July 2020, 7pm BST

In Attendance:

Anna-Ruth Cockerham - *SRC Member for Students with Disabilities*

Molly Paechter - *Deputy Convenor (left early)*

Kristina Kumpf - *Events Officer*

Jane Yarnell - *Secretary (left early)*

Kiera Obi - *Neurodiversity Representative*

Natalya Stone - *Mental Health Representative*

Emma Walsh - *Director of Wellbeing (left early)*

Apologies:

Emma MacAndrews - *Physical Disability Representative (Apologies)*

Maddy Shephard - *Publicity Officer (Apologies)*

Minutes:

1. Updates

1.1. Instagram Takeover - good feedback

ARC says the instagram takeover got good feedback and thanks everyone for taking part.

1.2. Videos

ARC reminds everyone to submit clips for the Orientation video.

2. Meeting Format

MP suggests there are issues with the meeting formats so we should discuss which one works best. ARC suggests that in-person meetings will be hard next semester, video meetings are difficult due to a lack of live-captioning being available, and text-based meetings can be hard to keep track of although they are good because they allow people to go back and look at what is said. ARC mentions that the CUSU DSC uses live minuting where people not in attendance can submit things in the minutes. ARC asks everyone to work out their favourite option and what platform they think would be best and send it to the chat so we can determine what works.

3. Accessibility Guide & Pledge

ARC says she will compose a list of sections to include in the Accessibility Guide and then we can get a first draft by August 10 to allow time for formatting and prep before the semester starts. People should message in the guide chat which section they want to do. ARC says once we have the first draft we can work out what points to include in the Accessibility Pledge to discuss with the Societies Committee.

4. Disability Awareness Training

MP suggests doing disability awareness training next semester. MP suggests we develop our own and include sections for each of the representative positions (chronic illness, neurodiversity, physical disability, mental health). ARC likes the idea of training but suggests that this might leave some issues out. ARC asks what the goal of the training is and who it is for. MP suggests that it would be aimed at people on councils, union staff, societies, etc. to tackle issues like the difficulties disabled students face in Union bars. ARC suggests that it might be better to go more general and focus on issues like bias, support, and the difficulties disabled people face. ARC will collect a group of people to start working on the training and send some examples from other universities and we can also work from the class rep training. MP will work on it with people from there.

5. Orientation/Freshers Events

Countdown to St Andrews is happening during the two week quarantine period. EW says it is to provide fun events for people to do. The committee agreed on doing a film screening of Crip Camp during that time. ARC will message the chat to set a date.

MP suggested doing an accessibility tour of St Andrews. KO suggested this might be quite hard to run in person but that we could film stuff and put it online.

ARC also suggested doing another Freshers event like a picnic if possible. It was decided to table this till later when we have a clearer idea of COVID guidelines.

6. Disability Pride Week Events

ARC suggested working out a tentative list of events to run in Disability Pride Week so that people can start organising. KK is going to head up coordinating the week. It was decided to try and invite a disability activist to do an Q&A. Kristina will organise. It was suggested to let them chose the day, and reorganise other events throughout the week around an external speaker if we can get one.

Debates wants to hold a Disabled Students' Panel on Tuesday that week - we just need to get together a few people to speak and Debates knows how to run it.

It was decided to do the Special Interests Presentation on Wednesday (or as early in the week as possible depending on other events). ARC will see if Jane and Georgia want to organise.

A lecture on Disability History was suggested for Thursday. ARC will speak to someone about this and KK will help organise.

ARC mentioned that at an event for disabled staff last year with the UCU, they had mentioned an interest in doing a Disability Pride Week. ARC suggested we should try to organise another discussion event with staff if they are interested and that this would work well on Friday. ARC will look into this.

KO is going to organise the Neurodiversity talks for Saturday. It was suggested that given it would take a few hours that it should be at the weekend. KO will reach out to Psychology and Neuroscience Society to see if they are interested in collaborating. MS had suggested an event with disabled musicians. ARC suggested we could organise some pre-recorded clips to post. KO will try to organise this with MS. It was suggested that we could do a disability themed poster competition throughout the week, where people make them themselves and post them online.

7. Other Semester 1 Events

ARC suggested organising a disability and sex panel for SHAG week in week three. ARC will reach out to Wellbeing and Sexpression to see if they are interested. MP and ARC are going to try and organise a STAR show themed around disability. NS will look into organising a disability and politics event, either for Disability Pride Week or another time. ARC will try to organise a disability and careers event with MyPlus.

8. Any Other Business

No new business.