Disabled Students' Network Committee Meeting

St Andrews Students' Association

29th May 2020, 5pm BST

In Attendance:

Anna-Ruth Cockerham (ARC) - *SRC Member for Students with Disabilities*

Molly Paechter (MP) - *Deputy Convenor*

Kristina Kumpf (KK) - *Events Officer*

Maddy Shepherd (MS) - *Publicity Officer*

Emma MacAndrews (EM) - *Physical Disability Representative*

Jensen Lewis (JL) - *Chronic Illness Representative*

Natalya Stone (NS) - *Mental Health Representative*

Kiera Obi (KO) - *Neurodiversity Representative*

Jane Yarnell (JY) - Secretary

Apologies:

None

Minutes:

1. **Updates**
   1.1. **Instagram Takeover & Disabilities Webinars**
      1.1.1. (ARC) The disability team is looking for ways to get more participation in disability webinars, ARC has suggested an instagram takeover beginning a week or two before. Especially to reach out to students who didn't get disability support at school.
      1.1.2. (ARC) Dates suggested were the 6th-12th of July, to correspond with disability awareness week
      1.1.3. (ARC) Posts could be Q&A, or more 'this is my disability, this is how it affects my life'.
      1.1.4. KO asked what format this would take -- instagram story, posts, ect.
      1.1.5. ARC is having a meeting with Kate from the disability team sometime before the takeover

1.1.6.   JY suggested a 'day in the life' style post from herself

1.2. Resignation
    1.2.1.   ARC says we probably won't open the position until September, opening up the position to first years.
    1.2.2.   If JL chooses to stay in St. Andrews, she hasn't resigned the position yet

1.3. Disability Guide Website Updates
1.3.1. Add Committee Info?
    1.3.1.1.   ARC suggests updating the guide to be more screen reader friendly and some additional updates to reflect the change in some services
    1.3.1.2.   ARC suggests adding committee info to the guide
    1.3.1.3.   JY offers to look at the guide for missing/additional info
    1.3.1.4.   ARC suggests updates to the Other Links page especially
    1.3.1.5.   Website URL: https://annarcockerham.wixsite.com/disabilityguide
    1.3.1.6.   ARC requests that suggestions be sent to the group chat,

1.4. Disabled Students Network Email
    1.4.1.   ARC clarifies how to access the DSN network email for those with access
    1.4.2.   ARC: the email is disabledstunet@st-andrews.ac.uk

2. Disability Pride Week
2.1. Possible Dates
    2.1.1.   ARC: Ideas for which week to host it
    2.1.1.1.   ARC suggests doing it before week 7, the last week to register a disability with the University
    2.1.1.2.   KO says that the week before reading week is probably not a good week
    2.1.1.3.   ARC says week 1 is probably not an option
    2.1.1.4.   KO says week 3 or week 4 would be good, because people have settled in
    2.1.1.5.   MS agrees with week 3 or 4
    2.1.1.6.   ARC clarifies whether we are more attached to before week 7 or not week 5 or 6
    2.1.1.7.   KO and JY agree that before week 7 is more important
    2.1.1.8.   ARC requests thoughts about what events we could run, especially events that could work online
    2.1.1.9.   ARC highlights lecture-based events being especially suitable to online delivery
    2.1.1.10.   ARC suggests a disability support faire -- book the large rehearsal room, have peer support, student services, ect. in attendance
    2.1.1.11.   MS and JL agree with the idea of a faire

2.1.1.12.   ARC requests event ideas in the google doc

3.   Summer/Orientation Plans

3.1.   Accessibility Pledge & Guide for Events

3.1.1.   ARC wants to have the societies officer to poll societies about accessibility issues and their understanding of accessibility for their events

3.1.2.   ARC: Including unsolvable accessibility issues

3.1.3.   ARC also wants to try to get the information from subcommittees

3.1.4.   ARC: hopefully the guide could be completed over summer and distributed so next year's events are more accessible

3.1.5.   KO and JY volunteer to help with the guide

3.2.   Disability Training

3.2.1.   ARC says this is mainly Molly's area, it would be cool to do and offer.

3.2.2.   ARC says Molly is probably look for volunteers to help produce the training

3.3.   Summer events?

3.3.1.   ARC: Some people have requested summer events -- possibly social

3.3.2.   JY recommends another netflix party

3.3.3.   ARC mentions a quiz

3.3.3.1.   JL reminds us that quizzes have accessibility issues

3.3.3.2.   ARC states that one of the accessibility issues is a quiz would require transcription, which would be expensive

3.3.3.3.   ARC: a quiz could also be text-based

3.3.3.4.   ARC: with regards to platforms, something needs to be accessible

3.3.3.5.   JL points out that zoom may hang up after a 40 minute call

3.3.3.6.   ARC suggests some solutions to that

3.3.3.7.   ARC suggests a poll about accessible formats/types of events

3.3.3.8.   KO suggests running many different types of events

3.3.3.9.   ARC suggests brainstorming events

3.3.3.10.   ARC suggests non-live events

3.4 Orientation Week

3.3.3.11.   ARC: Assuming there is a freshers week, which events could we run?

3.3.3.12.   KO suggests DIY stim toys/fidget toys

3.3.3.12.1.   KO and ARC suggests it might be better later in the year

3.3.3.12.2.   ARC brings up a suggestion from previously, to have a quiet coloring, ect session in halls

3.3.3.12.2.1.   JY agrees to running things in halls

        3.3.3.12.2.2. NS says an event outside halls would also be good (for those who don't live in halls)

  3.3.4. ARC points out that some people may be remote, and some people may be in person.

  3.3.5. ARC: a talk or a netflix party can involve both groups

  3.3.6. JY suggests a Kahoot or similar

  3.3.7. ARC suggests something like Jackbox

  3.3.8. KO suggests a taster BSL session

  3.3.9. JY suggests some form of collaborative project that a group can work on together

  3.3.10. ARC asks about information we may want to hand out

    3.3.10.1. KO says that leaflets may not be the most effective method

    3.3.10.2. JY asks if we could clarify how to go up the chain of faculty with disability questions, especially for American students

    3.3.10.3. JY suggests a flow chart

      3.3.10.3.1. ARC says that it may not be possible to create one that works for every school/class

  3.3.11. ARC asks about a mailing list

  3.3.12. ARC wants to set up a disability rep for every school for next year

4. Online Learning

  4.1. ARC says a few people have raised access issues with online learning

    4.1.1. ARC says that some people have very different needs with online learning than physical learning

    4.1.2. ARC has tried to create a survey but ran into difficulties

    4.1.3. JY says that online tutorials have challenges because a lot of the in-person body language, ect cues are different

      4.1.3.1. the teams "raise hand" feature would be useful

    4.1.4 KO: there is much more to keep in mind and remember with online learning, which can be difficult for those with ADHD

    4.1.5 ARC: Could something be set up with CAPOD to teach extra organizational skills?

      4.1.5.1. KO: An online calendering system would be very helpful

    4.1.6 ARC recommends we ask them about disability-specific training

    4.1.7 JY says that some students have been having difficulties with note buddies

    4.1.8 NS notes that there can be greater pressure to attend online classes, even if you still aren't always able to

    4.1.9 ARC points out that additional information about DSA could be useful right now, and that could be advertised with the instagram takeover

4.1.10 JY asks about Student Services mental health support for those not necessarily having privacy for a video chat appointment

        4.1.10.1 ARC says that they offer appointments in microsoft teams chat, and that peer support is offering chat services

4.1.11 ARC asks about extensions

        4.1.11.1 KO and NS say that they asked for and received them easily

        4.1.11.2 JL says that they also got an extension easily

5. Any Other Business

5.1 ARC asks about addition concerns, none are raised