

Minutes



Meeting:	BME Caucus
Date:	Thursday, 14 th April
Paper:	02
Author:	Bhavna Raghuvanshi
Purpose:	Record of Decision Making

Union of UEA Students Purpose:

“To enrich the life of every UEA student”

Minutes of the BME Caucus

14th April 2016

Chair:

Aliyah Rawat (Film and American studies)

In attendance:

Hussam Hussein (DEV), Tarun Sridhar (LAW), Asia Patel (PHA), Sharmin Hoque (IR and Modern History), Rhys Purtill (International Relations), Simbi Anzaya (LAW), Khyatee Tewari (LAW), Bhavna Raghuvanshi (LAW), Lorraine Dongo (Dev PGR), Marciy (PSL Theory), Annette Tony Fadipe (Dev), Julian Canlas (LDC), Damie Lemomu (LDC), Emmanuel Agu (CHE)

1. Statements from the Chair

Aliyah commenced the meeting stating that it was to be the last BME caucus for this academic year. Toby was supposed to give a talk on music themes in the LCR but unfortunately could not make it for the meeting. Aliyah then handed over to Hussam to discuss the

Motion concerning inclusive LCR club nights.

2. " For a more inclusive LCR club nights"

- Asia suggests that this shouldn't be a motion, no need for permission to start something which majority students expressed.
- Should not be limited to just October.
- Hussam suggests October as a start.
- Mandating SU to consult the officer.
- Asia thinks the Council is long enough but Hussam suggests a motion gives a stronger voice.
- Emmanuel suggests that Black History month and LCR motion should be clubbed together.
- One motion including Club night in October.
- Clubbing the motions will give it better standing in priority in the council meeting.

3. Black History Month motion

- No policy on Black History, motion to mandate relevant officers that there be a Black History Month every October.
- Aliyah to speak in council on behalf of motion.
- The type of events and number should be included.
- Black History month to be put in the resolves section.
- Suggestions on Union believes: that all students should be fairly represented.
- Ideas for Black History month :
- More external speakers? Sharmin suggests a discussion panel in October
- Collaboration with Sainsbury centre for Black History month
- Good to talk to different faculty members from different schools to incorporate race into their subjects.
- Black Feminist literature event panel. Contacts from Asia.

4. Introduction for new BME Officer :

- Continuing movie nights.
- Suggestions bowl
- TED talk in collaboration with TED society
- Street food in Black History month
- Campus Kitchen should be involved with Black History Month
- Sell Unio black history month cups to Campus Kitchen?

5. Inclusive union elections motion :

- Zero full time officers selected were BME, generally low participation.

- Some of the candidates who were BME's did not submit manifesto and were disqualified due to communication errors.
- Elections were generally poorly run since some of the candidates were ill informed.
- Submit BME elections mandate along with other elections motions (if there are other elections motions for council).
- Needs to be said that we are underrepresented in elections.
- Emmanuel seconds the motion and will be speaking on it.

6. NUS Summer Black Students' conference:

- Last weekend of May.
- Elections on motions to be submitted.
- Issue of only one delegate but now 3 observers and 1 delegate(the officer)
- Elections for 3 observers, run elections through SU

7. 'Why is my curriculum white?' campaign

- Post in caucus group to be emailed to everyone.
- Notes from NUS campaign meeting.
- Include more activists of the movement in the curriculum.
- Asia suggests whiteboard campaign to get students opinion, as well as get academics to talk.
- Has anyone contacted the library committee about certain texts being unavailable?
- How much flexibility does the library have in bringing books? Rhys states that there is a shortage of space in the library. Overabundance of books that tackle the same issues so they should perhaps consider bringing more minority authored books instead?
- For PhD students you can ask library to procure the required book from a different library or request them to buy it- Can they do that for undergrads?
- Suggestion to have a pdf hub for these books.
- Publicise better access to pdfs and journal papers.
- Discuss incorporation of black academics in modules. Issue of module convenor possibly saying that he/she has more experience therefore has discretion of whom to include in reading.
- Yearlong issue with self-identification.
- The choice of the lecturer to teach a certain way. Most lecturers westernised and adopting a British perspective suggests Julian.
- Lots of white middle class lecturers therefore views and reading not diverse.
- Helpful to start with tokens in department making the decisions regarding reading.

- Lot of negative views regarding coloured people, especially concerning London riots.
- Issue of supervisors thinking issues are 'too political'.
- No training for academic advisors concerning how to talk to BME students.
- Julian suggests wider liberation perspective- beyond able bodied white men.
- Race related matters not included in curriculum and finding an advisor to supervise the dissertation difficult.

8. Possible Social event next month?

- Funding for food, check with Josh at SU
- Asia suggested a social at the pub –ease of students getting there.
- Suggestions for social in bookable rooms or congregation hall.
- Decided that a social will be held in the congregation hall with drinks the week after.

9. Any other issues?

- Issue of ethnic minorities with Labour BME Robbie discriminating against a coloured candidate.
- Most BME students do not agree with his views.
- Suggestion of formal complaint against him by labour BME students.
- Rhys suggests meeting up, conversation between 4 diff liberation caucuses regarding promotion, awareness and fighting for causes together-collective voices. Good to have it before next year.
- Conferences at the end of the month –links posted on FB. Last week of April, Black Women's conference. 27th April QITpoc.
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