**UEA Students’ Union**

**[BAME Liberation Association Meeting] MINUTES**

**[15/11/17]**

**[6pm, Queens 0.08]**

Attendees: 14 attended in total

**Minutes from last meeting:**

N/A

**Section A: Updates and Reports**

1. **Officer Update**

Discussions were had around what the BAME Officer does and what is meant by the term ‘BAME’. Amanie fed back about what she has done in regards to; Black History Month, Monday Night Project, the SU liberation restructure, variety of food on campus and collaboration with the International Students’ Officers were discusses.

1. **Feedback on SU Campus Events**

Food stalls discussion:

* Lack of food directed at Muslim community.
* Good feedback on new food stalls but needs significantly more promotion.

Society-led events discussion:

* Majority of attendees had not heard of Monday Night Project and therefore needs more promotion outside of the host society.
* Discussion of how the SU can promote cultural society events more (Such as the annual Chinese New Year event).

Part-time officers’ discussion:

* Was discussed how students can easily access what their full-time officers have been up to but no way to see what part-time officers are doing.

**Section B: Items for Discussion**

1. **Which areas do we want to campaign on?**

Diversifying the curriculum discussion:

* Singular weeks in modules focus on BAME rather than entire modules, students would like to see whole modules instead.
* Often the theme is focused on racial oppression but being BAME is so much more than that.
* Amanie brought up the importance of using course reps to create change on your course.
* A student mentioned how guest speakers could be brought in to fill the gaps that modules are not covering in regards to the BAME experience.

Employability discussion:

* Better access/opportunities to internships and volunteering.
* More support for BAME students to get ahead when competing for jobs.

Recorded Lectures discussion:

* Very important for those who do not speak English as their first language and may struggle when catching up using only the PowerPoint/lecturer’s notes.

Islamic prayer space discussion:

* A student asked for an update
* Amanie and Rhys provided a summary of their understanding of the situation; that it is being worked hard on by the student union as a significant priority and that considerable pressure is being placed on the university to work in the best interest for Muslim students on campus.

1. **Upcoming events of the year**

* 4th December Cultural Celebration (promotion coming soon).

1. **Refreshers Week**

The following were brought up as suggestions:

* ISS does games nights and students thought it sounded like a good idea but apparently the events are not well attended.
* Movie nights were brought up as an interesting idea, with polls and collaboration with cultural societies.

**AOB**

* Discussion was had around peer support, particularly in terms of personal wellbeing and having a safe space to share experiences of how frustrating it can be to be a BAME student.
* Discussion was had on how the appropriate channels to seek support have barriers for BAME students as those who are providing the support do not share those same experiences. Discussion on how a campaign around this issue could be developed to tackle these barriers.
* Students thought it was best to focus on one campaign rather than several small ones due to time constraints of the academic year.
* Discussion was had on who is currently on the BAME committee and what positions were still unfilled.
* Discussion was had on how Union Council is unrepresentative of BAME students due to the disproportionately white membership.
* Consensus was that next meeting should be earlier, at 5pm for instance and in a more central location.

If you have any ideas, questions, or concerns then please contact either of the following:

Wai Ho – Chair of BAME Liberation Association (wai.ho@uea.ac.uk)

Amanie Mathurin – BAME Officer (a.mathurin@uea.ac.uk)