

Notes of a Meeting of the Chaplaincy User Forum
Wednesday 9th February 2017

In attendance: Representatives from faith societies (Buddhist; Catholic; Christian Focus; Christian Union; Hindu; Islamic; Jewish Israeli; Sikh)

Chaplains: Anglican (Kate)

Catholic (Harry)

Chaplaincy Coordinator (Angela)

Sophie Hobbs from Christian Union (Chair)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of the Forum introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

It was noted that Stuart Jennings, Fishel Cohen and the representative from SU had sent their apologies. It was requested that a member of the Forum volunteer to Chair the meeting, and was agreed that Sophie from CU would Chair.

3. Purpose of the User Forum

The User Forum read through the agreed terms of reference for its work. A copy can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/chaplaincy/about/userforum/>

4. Summary and update of actions from last meeting

Noted that the £10 Marks and Spencer gift voucher from the Diversity Calendar competition needed to be spent. Forum suggested a new clock for the main space.

Actions: Angela to follow up.

5. Update from the Chaplaincy

Angela mentioned the movable doors which are no longer in use as they are broken. Acknowledging the need for them we have asked that they can be replaced before the start of term 3, but are waiting for confirmation of when work can begin.

Angela mentioned the completed work in the IPH. The drainage in the sisters' ablutions has been fixed, and no other problems have been reported. Also hooks have been provided for the tables. A noticeboard has been purchased for the Jewish meeting room, and we are awaiting Estates to confirm when they will fix it to the wall.

Angela introduced the idea of the theme of Wellbeing for term 3, when the Chaplaincy can aim to promote Wellbeing and support students through the exam period. A calm environment can be created by providing fruit and flowers in the main space. On display would be information from the Wellbeing Services regarding services/workshops available.

Actions: ISoc to confirm whether they would like this to be replicated in the IPH.

All societies to contact Angela if they have any other ideas that may support or enhance this.

Kate mentioned the Race Charter Mark, as she is part of a working group. The group wishes to set up a task force to monitor the ongoing work, and members of the Forum were asked to report back to their societies to see if anyone would be interested in joining the task force. Information on the work done so far can be found at <http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/services/equalops/rcm>

Actions: SFS to place their nominations for the task force at the next User Forum

6. Update from Student Union

No update available. Issues with funding were discussed, as the regulations surrounding funding faith societies are not altogether clear.

Action: Angela to contact SU to discuss the possibility of a meeting with SU and the treasurers of the SFS

7. Discussion and review of work during Interfaith week

It was reflected that the event felt larger than in previous years. The use of the joint Facebook group and page was mentioned, although its impact was not clear. The group discussed what the purpose of the Interfaith Week should be. It was suggested that its purpose should be to increase dialogue and interaction between faith groups, and to increase awareness of the Chaplaincy and the SFS. The following suggestions were made for next year:

- Reps from each society could meet to plan the next Interfaith Week in term 3.
- Invite the SU to be involved, as this would send out a strong message.
- Each event should be jointly organised by a minimum of two societies
- That all SFS should be involved in some capacity

Action: Reps from each society to meet after the Execs Lunch on 3rd May in order to plan Inter Faith Week.

8. Other opportunities for SFS to work together

The User Forum was invited to reflect upon opportunities SFS have had to work together. CathSoc had recently invited SikhSoc to give a talk about faith. It was agreed that there could be more opportunities for societies working together. One topic suggested for future discussion was how different faiths support Mental Health Awareness. It was mentioned that the SU was considering a motion whereby all societies would have a trained welfare officer, although this may not be possible for smaller societies.

Kate mentioned that the Chaplaincy will have a stand on Mental Health Day (02/03/17 11:00 – 3:00) and society execs are welcome to join in or provide materials for the table.

Kate extended an invitation for all to attend the Scriptural Reasoning Group which meets at 4:00 and is open to all faiths. At these meetings, everyone selects a text and gives a short introduction to the text and what it means to you personally. As the 8th March is International Women's Day, the theme of the next meeting will be Women.

Action: Kate to consider how to enable a meeting about Mental Health Awareness for faith Societies.

If anyone is available to join the Chaplains at their stand on Mental Health Day, 02/03/17, they are welcome

Next meeting of the Scriptural Reasoning Group is 8th March at 4pm

9. Chaplaincy Booking System – Feedback

Angela invited the SFS to provide comments about the booking system to help inform her training and understanding of the system. Suggestions and points included:

- Warning societies when an event has been booked to start immediately after another event
- The possibility of some societies changing their slot, or agreeing to swap on occasions. Kate mentioned that the Chaplaincy would protect regular booked slots in the interests of being fair and impartial.
- The possibility of having a weekly timetable on view so that SFS could see when the space is available. Kate mentioned that the purpose of the Chaplaincy goes beyond being a bookable space, and that it is sometimes appropriate that the space should not have any bookings.
- Is it ok to book the space at very short notice? Angela advised that it would always be better to organise events well in advance, as it gives time to promote the event to maximise attendance. Angela stressed the importance of :
 - a) having one nominated member to liaise with the chaplaincy regarding bookings, to avoid confusion
 - b) Completing the External Speaker form, even if the speaker is to visit in one of the pre-booked regular slots.

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday of Week 4: Wednesday 17th May at 12.30pm in the Central space (lunch will be provided).