

Notes from a meeting of the Chaplaincy User Forum

Wednesday 18th October 2017

In attendance:

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

Niall Johnson – Societies SU Sabbatical officer (Chair)

Ellen Holmes – Welfare SU Sabbatical officer

Liam Jackson Education SU Sabbatical officer

Chaplains: Anglican (Kate)

Anglican (Emma)

Catholic (Harry)

Chaplaincy Coordinator (Angela)

The chancellor, Cathy Ashton attended in part

1. Welcome and Introductions

Members of the Forum introduced themselves.

2. Apologies

It was noted that Fishel Cohen had sent his apologies.

3. Summary of actions from last meeting

All SFS links on Chaplaincy website are now date non-specific and contain links to the SU societies' page.

4. Discussion and agreement of work in Interfaith week – 13th to 20th November

The Forum split into small groups for discussion and then fed back. See Appendix A for summary.

Agreed – Interfaith Week to be a lighter touch and one of a series of events that would take place throughout the year.

- The Forum would look for new opportunities to carry out Interfaith work.

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5. Update from Student Union

Ellen reported on work for increased funding for the University's mental health services, introducing an 'Eat Well' campaign, a safe taxi scheme and continuing the success of last year's 'Are You OK?' days.

Liam reported on work within the SU, including campaign to improve the service of recording lectures, hidden course costs and also the campaign to improve the bus service.

Niall reported that he aimed to build on the Creative Warwick campaign.

6. Any questions or issues raised by SFS representatives to the Chair:

- *Can we have a brief section on freedom of speech, considering Balliol in Oxford? (CU)*

Chair confirmed that a similar situation would not happen here at Warwick, highlighting that the issue is not freedom of speech, but rather the abuse of freedom of speech.

- *Can we also consider the length of time it takes to get an event signed off? (CU)*

Noted that 4 weeks' notice is needed when planning an event, and larger events should have a term's notice. Advice shared for societies to work closely with Georgina Wood, the societies' coordinator. She is able to sign off certain events.

- *How can the SU help faith societies to express hospitality to non-members. This is often a struggle to get through the SU, yet it is so vital to many of our faiths (CU)*

Noted that this is something the SU needs to discuss further. Currently, society finances are for the benefit of the society members, but it is acknowledged that this can present a difficulty when the society ethos is to reach out to non-members, eg ISOC extends hospitality to the wider community, other societies reach out to other students who are not members.

Action: SU to discuss and Niall to feed back at a future User Forum meeting.

7. Update from Chaplaincy (Angela)

Noted that the movable wall panels had been fitted, but had subsequently been broken due to being closed incorrectly using unnecessary force. All student faith societies were reminded of the Chaplaincy ethos of "generous hospitality" and reminded of the need to look after the equipment and spaces by clearing up in a timely and thorough fashion. Societies were also reminded that booking requests for term 2 will be taken in week 7 of term 1.

Action: Forum representatives to go through the leaflet "A practical guide to events, meetings and gatherings in the Chaplaincy" with their execs and ensure they work towards the guidelines.

Items 8 and 9 were postponed, and would be addressed via email due to time restraints.

8. Reporting Hate Crime

9. SU training sessions

10. Summary of actions agreed and no AOB noted.

Thanks was given to Niall for chairing the User Forum.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

Wednesday 24th January 2018 12:30 in the Central space (Lunch will be provided)

Appendix A

Item 4: Discussion and agreement of work in Interfaith week (IFW) – 13th to 20th November

Interfaith work that is already going on:

Interfaith Week

Lunch for New Execs

User Forum

Scriptural Reasoning

Further Opportunities:

University of Sanctuary

Year-round activities

CCJ – student leaders for the Council of Christians and Jews

Possible structure of IFW:

Monday – Quiz night

Tuesday – Random act of Kindness

Wednesday – Faith-Space Open Afternoon/tea and cake?

Points for discussion and feedback:

1. *Please give comments, thoughts, ideas, on the proposed structure for IFW.*
 - Have a “light” IFW and run events through the year rather than everything in one week
 - IFW “old-fashioned”
 - Quiz night– a good idea, fun, general knowledge and aimed at increasing awareness, include more general games.
 - Open space: utilize main space as a fair” for all faith societies
 - Exec members to like FB pages of other faith societies/ Interfaith group on FB and make exec admin of that group
 - IT discussion topics, myth-busting
 - Random Acts of Kindness – balloons, food, sweets, goodie bags, compliments – theme around “golden rule”
 - Goodie bag: candle, teabag, golden rule postcard
 - Open afternoon: tea/cake drop in

2. *How might we engage with being a University of Sanctuary?*

More information is needed on this.

3. *What might year-round interfaith activities look like?*

- Speakers on certain topics (Malala Yousafzai suggested)
- Wider lunch invitation from Chaplaincy (eg to include members, not just exec)
- Football tournament – 5 a side

