

LGBTSoc Committee Meetings

Date

Present

New Committee: Hannah Smith, Annis Stead, Beth Evans, David Simons, Katie Colliver, James Butler, Jess Pumphrey, Rachel Clement

Outgoing Committee: Hereward Mills, Andrew Miles

Apologies

Stephen Greatley, Cassi Perry

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Sorting things out

- Annis and Katie will look after this starting with sending out an e-mail to the society.

Freshers Fair

- Bring a “home-made,” not professionally printed term card as otherwise we cannot bring a commercially sponsored term card
- Bring a hand-printed compilation for freshers, e.g. the first two weeks worth of events, important contact details etc.
- Term card needs to be sorted
- Speak with other LGBTQ groups in Oxford and try and liaise

Events Early Next Term

Fresher’s Brunch

- St. John’s worked well last term but needs to be better signposted.
- Ask Jasper to book?

First Week Drinks

- Union is good, but too expensive [£30 last year, now £600 + corkage]
- Big rooms @ Town Hall — £100/hour. Too expensive? (probably)
- The problem is selling our own drinks.
- Maximise the comfort? Then they may be better in a college.
- University Hub – maybe not big enough and too segregated. Hard to find for freshers?
- Could try private venues?
 - We couldn’t sell our own drinks but that would allow committee to concentrate on meeting and greeting
- Copa (limited selection at bar) but rent it out for free?
- What about Wadham – we could do the training and Rachel will be on committee next year?

Events for Next Term

- Soho event with Brookes
 - Free entry to Amy Lane – Ducky’s. But that might be a bit... off-putting. (Andrew can forward event)
- Pizza Nights
 - for Bi events?
 - carry these on – definitely.
 - Pizza & Wine
 - Other takeaways?
 - One non-drinking event
- Informal Coffee meets
 - better for those who are a bit anxious of coming out
- Rent out picture palace/magdalen auditorium on a slow night
 - Sing-a-long Sound of Music/Rocky Horror?
- Fireworks event
- Speaker Event

- James will be running
- Something for Black History month (October)
 - Speaker event?
 - Very important due to lack of representation among society/committee
- Interfaith?
- Brunches
- Grad Events
 - Lots of informal things which we're loathe to formalise.
 - Prevailing grad culture means there are people who just will not socialise with LGBT Grads – intimidating and threatening.
- Single-sex events
 - element of exclusion?
 - some women would be more comfortable in single sex environments?
 - would have to be for self-defining women

Refocusing Society

Political Stance

- Letting LGBTQ Campaigns have a speech?
- Projector with slides of what they've been doing (depends on room?)
- Will that be removing members' rights to be apolitical?
- Table with leaflets in 1st week.
- Start of a slippery slope? – If we let LGBTQ campaigns then do we give other groups?
- It's not specifically banned in the constitution so it'd be fine.
- There's always going to controversy. The danger with taking a political stance is that we may offend
 - But this could be a *good* danger
 - There's a difference between facilitating speakers and organising a campaign
- Something within the constitution that says that if the society is going to take a political stance then it has to be taken with a referendum.
 - *Very* strong support by committee.
 - Problem of turnout?
- Liaising officer?
 - James Butler would be happy to take on this role within LGBTQ Campaigns and Queer Studies Circle
- Could be intimidating for those who have not had a history of political activism
 - This could be *very* scary for those who need welfare the most.

Drinks Events

At the pubs?

- Pub owners would like us to go there more often
- Lacks the caring and collegiate aspect?
- Keen to support pubs? – Maybe at pre-coven drinks? Not *in place* of drinks.
- Original reason of going to pubs was to give committee a break? As long as we have other things in colleges, maybe?
- Meet before going to pub, especially for people who were less confident

- Ask James Methven @ Oriel (open English fellow) for Oriel room

Tuesday/Wednesday

- Crush not running any more this term
- Running against Park End – biggest student club night
 - Is this encouraging segregation? (even if it does, is that a bad thing?)
- Student discount? – they do make a lot of money anyway so they may be loathe.
- Drinks events on Fridays?
 - Coven has a bad drugs reputation (apparently)?

Reps

- Quality is varying between colleges. e.g. budgets, number of people and actual commitments
- Make a better dialogue.
- Us/OUSU could encourage good practises (e.g. LGBT e-mail accounts.)

Membership

Paying Membership?

- About 1/3 of our surplus came from membership and the rest from drinks.
- There is a real source of contention with paying for membership
- Problem with “list of gays” or having a card which essentially says “I’m gay.”
- Very worth discussing this with all the information.
- Committee will not be able to have empathy with a lot of the issues
 - e.g. we’re out
 - e.g. the problems faced by people in other countries/societies
- This *will* be a major talking point in the near future, once we have all the information we need to talk about it properly.