**University of Worcester Students’ Union Students’ Council**

WSU Women’s Officer Report – 02/02/15

By Chantal Vinyard

**Priorities**

**Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment on Campus**

This working party has been formed and has started the drafting process, although progress has been slower than I would have liked, I hope to have final policy ready as soon as possible. If anyone else would like to be involved please let me know.

I have been in touch with local campaigner Maisie Jenkinson, who is focused on tackling lad culture particularly in the student community. She part of the Fixers movement which is a national charity which supports 16 – 25 year olds to become Fixers - young people using their past to fix the future. Fixers are motivated by personal experience to make positive change for themselves and those around them, and use a range of media including film and print to promote their campaign. Maisie is being featured in a short News segment which will be shown on ITV Local News in March. I have helped to organise a small focus group to discuss the issues, which will be filmed for the News, as well as facilitate the filming of the discussion at the Pear Tree. I hope that collaborating with this campaign will help to highlight its importance.

**Inclusion, representation and welfare**

Julian Bancroft-Martin, senior project manager for corporate policies has drafted a final version of the University’s Harassment and Bullying policy that included the suggestions proposed by myself and others. I was asked to review it, and in my opining it is massively improved from the original, the final policy will be made available after approval by the Discrimination and Equality Committee (DEC).

I and the other liberation officers were invited to attend the DEC away day at the arena on the 12th January. This event focused on several key issues for the DEC with group discussions on topics including; how do we ensure inclusivity and equal opportunity is understood across the university, review of the DEC terms of reference and membership, and review of the University of Worcester’s Equality Framework in light of the discussions. This was a valuable opportunity to put forward the student perspective around the issues of discrimination and equality, and our ideas and comments were sought and accepted. I hope the University continue to make use of the liberation officers in this way.

The 8th March is Women’s Day and marks the start of ‘International Women’s Week’.

**Training and events**

Minority Ethnic Students' Officer - Christina Harris, LGBT Officer - Jess Cashin and Myself attended the NUS Women in Leadership conference on 5th Dec. I found it incredibly informative and inspirational. I bought back lots of ideas and I am planning on running our own Women in Leadership this semester which will include workshops and guest speakers.

The I Heart Consent pilot scheme was due to take during the third Worcester Week, unfortunately due to the lack of local Sexpression UK ambassador, this had to be postponed. I have spoken with Susuana Antubam, NUS Women’s Officer, and she has agreed to support the pilot scheme by coming to the University herself to help deliver the events, I am waiting to hear back from her regarding her availability. I am still looking to recruit people to help with the organisation, promotion and running of the events. If you are interested in getting involved please let me know as soon as possible.

Dr Holly Taylor has informed me that the NCSPVA’s Intervention Initiative is now been approved by the University but is still in the early stages of planning. I will keep you informed of any further progress.

**Student engagement**

I am starting to recruit a Women’s Campaign Team who will support, promote and help deliver campaign activities and events. If you or anyone you know is interested please get in touch.

**Plans before next meeting**

I would like to have a draft policy from the working party for the Zero Tolerance Policy.

I intend to confirm plans for I Heart Consent activities.

I will continue to keep abreast of the latest developments within the national women’s campaign and bring best practice to WSU.

I continue to will make links with appropriate organisations, locally and nationally.