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

WSU Women’s Officer Report – 23/09/14

By Chantal Vinyard

**Priorities**

**Zero Tolerance to Sexual Harassment on Campus**

I have researched the University of Worcester’s Harassment Policy (as written by the Equality & Diversity Committee) and procedures, and currently it does not include online harassment. To my knowledge Worcester Students’ Union has no specific harassment policy of its own. I have compared this to other Universities leading the way with zero tolerance policies, and have found that significant improvements can be made to UoW’s policy and by WSU passing a charter and policy stating its zero tolerance.

I have been in contact with a number of Women’s Officers at other institutions, this has proved very informative. Manchester’s Women’s Officer has been particularly helpful (MSU’s ‘We Get It’ zero tolerance campaign came runner up at the NUS Campaign of the Year 2014) supplying an information pack etc.

I plan to put forward a motion to the Council for a zero tolerance charter that can be followed on and off campus, and help inform the adoption of a zero tolerance policy.

Work also needs to be done in order to make reporting an incident of harassment easier and the process more transparent.

**Inclusion, representation and welfare**

I have spoken at length with potential women candidates for the part-time officer roles, and feel that there will be several strong candidates. I have also been able to support women students in the formation of new societies.

Having spoken with fellow women students who have identified as being parents and careers, I am happy to see a new society being formed to create a support network for these students and will make myself fully available to them.

**Training and events**

During Worcester Week 2 I am organising some I Heart Consent events and workshops. I Heart Consent aims to educate people about ‘enthusiastic’ consent. NUS women's campaign and Sexpression UK have come together to create a consent educational programme which aims to facilitate positive, informed and inclusive conversations and campaigns about consent in universities and colleges across the UK. I have applied to the NUS to become one of twenty Universities that are being chosen to undertake the I Heart Consent pilot scheme which will be supported by a Sexpression UK ambassador in order to launch the campaign on campuses.

I am also looking in to running Women in Leadership events later in the year, possibly Worcester Week 3.

**Student engagement**

I have taken over the Admin for the Women’s Network Facebook page. I am actively recruiting women to join the page, the group currently has over ninety members. I have spoken at ten WSU induction talks to Freshers.

In order to improve on this year I feel that it would be worthwhile having a Women’s Stall at next year’s Freshers Fair, as well as including printed information in a welcome pack for women students and leaving information sheets in the halls/accommodation. Hopefully there will be a more established Women’s Team who will help to promote and run events (see below).

**Plans before next meeting**

I would like to form a working committee to involve relevant stakeholders in evolving the WSU’s Zero Tolerance Policy and look at conducting research on the issues.

I intend to firm up plans for women’s activities during the three Worcester Weeks.

I aim to continue building the Women’s Network, and start recruiting a team who may be able to help deliver events and promote campaigns.

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.