**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK**

**LGBT+ STAFF NETWORK**

Minutes of Committee Meeting

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| Date | 10th March 2021 |
| Time | 12noon |
| Venue | Microsoft Teams |

Attendance: Mary Byrne, Laurence Davis, Tim H. Fass, Barra Ó Donnabháin, Mary O’Rourke

Guest: Julie Butters

Apologies: Fiachra Ó Súilleabháin

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|  | **Agenda Item** | **Discussion** | **Actions** |
| 1.1 | Welcome to Julie Butters | The committee welcomed Julie Butters, who it is hoped will take up the position of network PRO following the AGM. |  |
| 2.1 | Update on Equality Week | The Network is contributing two events to this year’s Equality Week which takes place next week:   * Senator Fintan Warfield will give a talk on conversion therapy, preceded by Oscar-nominated short film “A White Horse” and followed by Q&A. * A screening of “And Then We Danced” LGBT-themed film, and post-film discussion. |  |
| 2.2 | Update on Lesbian Lives conference | This conference will be hosted in UCC on March 4th-6th 2022, and will hopefully be linked with UCC’s Equality Week. Issues under discussion include setting up a conference website, registration and abstract submission portals, creche facilities, and emphasising the inclusive nature of the conference. |  |
| 3.1 | LGBTI National Think Tank | A number of committee members have registered to attend this Think Tank hosted by UCD on 11th March. The following recommendations from the 2019 Think Tank report will be discussed:   1. Establish an All-Ireland Staff-Student LGBTI Network linking all staff networks  (formal and informal) with all student LGBTI societies and groups in partnership  with the Union of Students of Ireland; 2. Staff to consider LGBTI perspectives in curriculum review and design; Students should offer constructive feedback regarding how to incorporate LGBTI perspectives into curriculum review and design through their institutes  evaluation system.   Laurence noted there have been several prior attempts to form an all-Ireland network. He also highlighted previous discussions within the UCC network about the relationship between staff LGBT+ networks and student LGBT+ societies. Barra suggested interpreting the report as 2 distinct networks that sometimes come together. An all-island group was favoured.  It was agreed to support the second recommendation, as mainstreaming LGBTI perspectives in the curriculum is critical. Laurence suggested a national LGBT mini-curriculum that could be tailored for easy inclusion in a range of programmes – similar to sample resources for social justice provided by UCC’s DISCs project.  There was a related discussion about making LGBTI awareness training mandatory for all staff, although experience suggests this is neither possible nor advisable. |  |
| 4.1 | Trans Visibility Day | Tim suggested flying the trans flag over the quad and lighting up the quad buildings. He also provided a link to a [YouTube video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3ZzpTxjgRw) explaining trans awareness which could be shared on the Tyndall Blackboard. A talk or other event would also be good - it was agreed to think further about this and communicate by email. | ALL: Consider ideas |
| 5.1 | Student Society Correspondence | The UCC LGBT student society have invited us to be involved in their annual conference in April. We have agreed to meet them next week to discuss possibilities. | MOR: Arrange meeting |
| 6.1 | Update on Finances | Our finances are healthy, including a grant of €1,200 from the Staff Sports & Social Club. |  |
| 7.1 | AGM Planning | The AGM will take place as soon as possible – a date will be agreed by email shortly after the meeting.  It was also suggested that a schedule of committee meetings and coffee mornings would be agreed in advance at the start of each year, as well as a clear description of each role on the committee. | MOR and BOD to choose a date |
| 8.1 | AOB | A non-UCC email address recently joined the LGBT staff email list. While they appear to have been removed, it raises a bigger issue of who has access to and who is responsible for monitoring the list. This will form part of the exercise in clearly defining the roles of committee members (see 7.1 above) – it may be part of the PRO role. |  |