

**EDC16D008**

**Title:** UEASU – Feedback from UEA SU Liberation Caucuses  
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### **Issue**

To inform the Committee of feedback from Caucuses held by UEASU looking at Women's+, LGBT+ and BME issues.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee is asked to note content for information

### **Resource Implications**

To be discussed.

### **Risk Implications**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The focus of this initiative is to consider further support measures for the groups mentioned.

### **Timing of decisions**

n/a

### **Further Information**

n/a

### **Background**

UEASU has elected officers who have initiated groups to consider student concerns through the prism of specific protected characteristics.

<b>Subject:</b>	Feedback from UEA SU Liberation Caucuses
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017

### The background

In the last few months, UEA SU has been gathering feedback and views from its 'Liberation Caucuses' in order to feed into the UEA-wide discussion over University improvements and policy changes. The Caucuses are essentially forums/group meetings where students who identify into a certain group (such as Women+, LGBT+, BME, students with disabilities) can meet and talk about the issues that affect them, as well as drive SU policy on their particular liberation group.

### How people were surveyed

At recent meetings, Caucus attendees were asked what sort of changes they would like to see take place at UEA. Responses were minuted by a self-identifying member of UEA SU staff.

11 BME students attended the BME Caucus; 10 LGBT+ students attended the LGBT+ Caucus; and 7 women/non-binary people attended the Women's+ Caucus. As the students with disabilities has not met recently, we do not have information about this group.

### Summary of findings

Some key proposals raised by each Liberation group were:

#### **Women's+**

- A better service for reporting sexual violence;
- Better access to childcare;
- Better mental health services.

#### **LGBT+**

- More LGBT+ representation on the curriculum;
- Provide free sanitary products for women;
- Look into behaviour of lecturers and making seminars more accessible for LGBT+ students.

#### **BME**

- Need for more diversity within the curriculum.

The full feedback, broken down by Liberation Group, can be found overleaf.

## **APPENDIX: All suggestions from Caucuses**

### **Women's+ Caucus**

- Better trained advisors (such as on mental health);
- Sanitary bins in all cubicles on campus;
- More female lecturers;
- A better service for reporting sexual violence which supports rather than blames survivors;
- Tackling lad culture;
- Better access to childcare;
- Better mental health services;
- A Never OK campaign for everyday life (lectures, sports etc.);
- Help for women struggling with finances;
- More women+ only spaces at University (including guest speakers around feminism, sexism and other subjects);
- Free sanitary products;
- Helping women to speak more in seminars.

### **LGBT+ Caucus**

- Providing free sanitary products for women;
- Issue a guide for trans and non-binary students transitioning at UEA;
- Fly the rainbow flag for the whole of LGBT+ History Month;
- Looking into behaviour of lecturers and making seminars more accessible;
- More LGBT+ representation on the curriculum;
- Making condoms more accessible.

### **BME Caucus**

- The need for more diversity within the curriculum;
- Ensure BME projects at both the university and the SU get given more attention and priority.