

CRAE MEETING: MINUTES

Date: Monday 9th March 2009

Venue: OUSU Meeting Room

Issues Raised

- **Feedback from Rosanna on 'Lecher' incident**
 - Each year the departing Cherwell editorial team (or at least part thereof) put together a spoof publication for the incoming team, only circulated within those groups. This year it contained large amounts of extremely offensive content and was leaked. Apparently it was originally circulated in November 2008.
 - The editors have been forced to step down by the board and there was detailed coverage of the content and response to it in the recent edition of the Oxford Student (March). The proctors have apparently not been involved, primarily because the Cherwell is a private organisation (albeit that it's run by students).

- **Outline by Ayaaz of Sphere: background, objectives and progress**
 - Sphere started in Birmingham and Ayaaz and co-founders are looking to reproduce the successes it had there in the Oxford community. The primary emphasis is on promoting community cohesion and appreciation of different cultures and backgrounds through the arts and other social events (including talks, etc). Currently focused on planning event for the 24th of May. Some recent successes with funding from various sources.
 - There was a brief discussion about the issue of self-selection into events, which is also an important consideration for CRAE. One merit of the Sphere approach is that if a wide enough variety of performances are included, people will come for one thing but be exposed to others.
 - Agreement that CRAE and Sphere should look to cooperate wherever possible and keep in touch regarding our various initiatives.

- **Action plan for Trinity term**
 - A list of possible actions, and broad areas to which efforts could be directed, was read out (see below).
 - Decision was that publicity issues are key at this stage to keep CRAE's momentum going as various people leave, but also to get more capacity to address the many other issues on the list. In this vein, flyers as well as mass emails via Lewis about our meetings seem best. Where possible we should look to get equal opportunities and welfare reps to distribute these if they are willing and able.

LIST OF POSSIBLE ACTIONS

Events

- Talk (at the Union or elsewhere) with Trevor Phillips from the Commission for Equality and Human Rights. Possibly panel debate/discussion on 'the banter culture'.
- Informal social event where BME alumni meet with current students (grad or undergrad). An alternative or addition to this would be to have an event where undergrads can meet with grad students.
- Minority student feedback sessions. Recall that when last discussed the view was that these should be done by college, but preferably in clusters of colleges to ensure sufficient numbers.
- Film nights, in association with other societies (e.g. xACS, OXCIA, Sphere, BAR, etc.)

Website

- Post constitution, minutes, flyers, information, etc. online

Engagement with other groups

- Contacting National Union of Students, and possibly other universities, to get ideas and support for initiatives at Oxford
- Get in contact with relevant college student officers and get them involved with and/or keep them informed of CRAE intentions and initiatives

Formal structures

- Getting race-related issues incorporated into peer counselling programme
- Input into cultural awareness training programme being developed by International Office
- Continue with engagement on complaints register and standardisation of complaints procedures

Publicity

- Distribution of flyers, of two types: i) About CRAE, encouraging participation, ii) Issue based (e.g. What are: 'blackface', 'the pencil test', 'black peter', etc. and why are they offensive). In addition to college pidges, perhaps target particular events that seem appropriate.
- Op-eds and articles in student newspapers (possibly timed to coincide with an OUSU 'Issue of the Week').