

Report of Richard Brinck-Johnsen, LGBTQ+ Members' Officer – April 2016

Over the last term I have continued to try and work closely with the rest of the active members of the officer team as an executive member and senior trustee, and have continued to represent the Union regularly at various College meetings. I would like at this point offer particular thanks to my colleagues David and Hana, and the sterling work of our Acting General Manager Jo. Some difficult family circumstances combined with the academic pressures I have faced as a final year degree student with two jobs, have meant that I haven't always been able to be as present on campus as I would have liked in recent weeks. Thanks to my colleagues, I have been able to keep abreast of developments and stay involved. I am pleased to say now that with just a couple of weeks remaining of my degree studies I will be able to devote the rest of this term to focusing on ensuring that whoever is elected as my successor and the rest of next year's sabbatical team will inherit a union which is hopefully a lot more fit for purpose than it was when we started last August.

There is an ongoing issue over some new students being unable to access our website due to ongoing data issues. I am sorry that I've not been in a position to push for this to be dealt with sooner and whilst this has occurred due to circumstances largely beyond mine and most of my colleagues' control I will try and ensure that that the situation is rectified as soon as possible as I am ashamed to say that some students feel they are being excluded from union activities as a result.

On a more positive note, I was pleased to be able to host two film screening events to mark LGBT History Month in February here at Birkbeck. Although I gather there was some confusion over the venue location which resulted in some students turning up at the Gordon Square cinema rather than the spacious basement lecture theatre which we were lucky enough to obtain for

both events. As there seemed to be quite a bit of interest, I am intending to organise a final film screening event for the year at a date to be announced shortly but likely to be in June once most exams are finished which will almost certainly be a women's LGBT film as all the previous films shown so far this year have tended to be largely dominated by male characters. Once my successor has been elected I will also be organising an AGM for the LGBTQ+ campaign to try and ensure that there is more of an active committee in place ready to make exciting plans for next year as I start the process of handing over my role. I look forward to updating further on all of this at the final council meeting of the year in June.