



## **OFFICER REPORTS – STUDENT COUNCIL**

**Vice President BME Officer Report**

**October 2019 Student Council**

**Tré Ventour**

### **Summary**

**I am a newly elected officer, so have never submitted a report council.**

Since 4<sup>th</sup> June 2019, I have been making links with community figures and organisations but also staff within the university to deliver a campaign for Black History Month this year.

### **Organisations / people include:**

- Royal & Derngate
- Morcea Walker (Community Figure)
- Northamptonshire Black History Association
- Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council
- Northampton College
- Local councillors (across parties)
- Northampton Borough Council (Diverse Communities Forum)
- Spectacularts (Bedfordshire)
- Power In Discussion (Bedfordshire)
- Local press
- Changemaker Hub
- Northampton Academy

In total I have organised twenty-seven events across thirty-two days, including: lectures, panels, discussion groups (on race), film nights, and poetry and storytelling evenings (all open to the public).

As of the 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, I have engaged over 50 students, staff and members of the public in my Black History activities, from lectures to film nights, with international students being a demographic that have shown great interest in what I've been doing.

Additionally, I've made links with other universities to see what sorts of things they're doing (not only with BHM) and how we might be able to collaborate with future events, or even adapt best practice for Northampton.

**Universities are:**

- University of Buckingham
- Aston University
- DeMontfort University
- Birmingham City University
- University College London
- University of Leicester
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Birmingham

Whilst Black History Month is October, things of the same calibre need to be happening all year-round to keep students engaged and for October to not be tokenistic.

For November, I've organised a series of talks – from the Windrush Scandal to colourism and Black and brown soldiers during World War One – most of these talks are from current students.

**Key Talking Points:**

1. *Black History Speaks* (lectures)
2. *Fat Film Fridays* (weekly SU film nights)

3. Community Outreach
4. Post-Black History Month

### **Manifesto Pledges**

1. **Introduce a support group where students can talk (without judgement) about being of colour and British in the 21st century – Complete.**
2. **Liase with local organisations to deliver events. Such organisations can include: NREC, NBHA, Changemaker Hub and Lemon Pop Workshops – Complete.**
3. **Introduce a monthly bookclub, reading BME authors while discussing BME topics based on what's being read – Started.**
4. **Introduce a monthly film night where films will be watched and discussed, in collaboration with Northampton Filmhouse. It's about seeing yourself reflected – Complete (Doing our own film nights without the Filmhouse).**
5. **Take students on trips to events. e.g. a panel with Nikesh Shukla, or The Black Verse – a poetry night in London made by Black poets to promote Black poets (Incomplete)**

### **Other Activities**

1. Co-opted to the board of Northamptonshire Rights & Equality Council
2. Given platforms for students to deliver lectures on things relating to identity – including race, belonging and personhood.

### **Declarations**

N/A

## **Conclusion**

As of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019, I have completed three out of five of my manifesto pledges. Like with any event, engagement will only increase if we keep the momentum. However, from organising #BlackHistoryUoN, it's shown me that everything we do has to be public, promoting inclusion.