Since my last report, I have been trying to raise awareness on issues relating to Black and minority ethnic students in the sector, and at Northampton, through in-class discussions and through meetings with academics.

Rather than going bottom-up, I’m trying top-down. Whilst the talking to students in their classes is useful, meeting with programme leaders (Criminology, Events and International Business) within the Faculty of Business and the Dean, helped to iron-out a potential root to decolonisation for the next academic year, choosing three courses with academics open to the idea of inclusive curricula.These academics are also members of the FBL Book Club where we read texts about race. Using a top-down method to influence students is the first step.

Additionally, this month, I went to speak to third-year BA Childhood & Youth on race, as well as second-year History on decolonising the curriculum. Presently, the culture towards race I’ve found is what academic Sara Ahmed called “chipping away” and I have had some success in those in-class discussions with students and one-to-ones with academics.

Meeting with the BAME Staff Network as well, we have begun to talk about their future relationship with the Students’ Union, especially in connection to their prospects with student engagement, ethnicity award gap, decolonising the curriculum and Black History Month 2020. With no sabbatical officer representing students from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds next year, it is of benefit to the Union to allocate efforts into the above.

Key Talking Points

* In-class discussions with students
* FBL Book Club
* BAME Staff Network
* Decolonising the Curriculum
* Black History Month 2020

Other Activities

N/A

Declarations

N/A