

Summary Notes of the Tuesday the 13th of October 2026 meeting Held in the Old Broadcasting House Boardroom and via Teams

- The committee acknowledged the tragic death of Prof Jason Arday and the impact of the associated media coverage of the events.
- The committee acknowledged continuing global events including the enduring conflict in the Middle East and the potential for peace, which continues to affect our communities. Sources of support have been reiterated to our colleague and student communities (Support Report Respect, Student Services).
- The committee received updates on a range of initiatives supporting student inclusion, wellbeing and success. Discussions covered student-led campaigns addressing issues such as the cost of living, campus accessibility and support for liberation and equality communities. The committee also heard about enhancements to financial hardship support, progress on inclusive education initiatives, improvements to disability support informed by a recent audit, and the appointment of a Multi-Faith Coordinator following a review of faith and belief provision.
- Updates on the University's Access and Participation Plan highlighted strong early progress in widening participation, strengthening student belonging and wellbeing, and embedding inclusive practice across the student experience. The committee recognised the ongoing impact of cost-of-living pressures on students and reaffirmed the importance of a coordinated, university-wide approach to inclusion and student success.
- The committee received an update on resources to support academic colleagues to manage discussions in the teaching and learning environment. The purpose of this project is to support academics to uphold Freedom of Speech whilst promoting an inclusive learning environment, in accordance with the University's Freedom of Speech policy.
- The committee endorsed a proposed approach to inclusive language and institutional terminology used in the University's Anti-Racism Statement.
- The committee heard that preparations are being made for the university's institutional Athena Swan (Bronze Award) renewal in the Spring of 2027. A new Self-Assessment Team has been established to facilitate this process.

Date of next meeting: The next meeting of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee will be held on **Tuesday 9th February 2027.**