

EDI Committee Meeting 9 February 2-4 pm

Present: Francesco Caselli (FC, Chair), Gilat Levy (GL), Nava Ashraf (NA), Maitreesh Ghatak (MG), Dimitra Petropoulou (DP), Lorna Severn (LS)

In Attendance: Andy Wilson (AW), Harriet Ogborn (HO for item 1), Myung Jin (MJ for item 1)

Apologies: Rachael Meager

1. Centre for Economic Performance (CEP) Presentation

FC invited HO and MJ to give a presentation on the EDI work in CEP. MJ covered this topic with her slides, explaining the centre's framework and initiatives. This year, CEP is concentrating on two projects related to gender inequality in economics. Their aims are to create a network of women across LSE who have a significant impact and influence in the field and can advise those who have concerns about their career development, EDI issues or who are less experienced.

Another CEP project is to create a video with leading female economists talking about their expertise in the field of economics and their perspectives on economics as a subject from a broader perspective. MJ also mentioned CEP's association with other institutions that tackle EDI issues, including the Royal Economic Society (RES) and Bristol university.

HO informed the EDI Committee about CEP's Code of Conduct. It serves as guidance for organising various events and publications at the centre. HO spoke about an EDI survey conducted among seminar speakers, invited by the centre, which she considered unsatisfactory as only a few responses had been received. HO also asked LSE HR to provide EDI data about CEP employees. The information received was patchy and difficult to analyse. HO very much welcomed the Department's involvement in CEP's EDI initiatives.

2. Rachael's resignation

FC informed the committee that Rachael has tendered her resignation from the LSE, and hence from the Committee. It was thought best to appoint a replacement at the beginning of the next academic year.

3. LSE's announcement about the non-renewal of its membership with Stonewall

LS expressed concern for LSE colleagues affected by the recent LSE announcement that it would end its contract with the consultancy Stonewall. Members of the LSE LGBTQ+ community as well as members of SPECTRUM experienced a heightened sense of insecurity and uncertainty as a result of this decision. She asked the EDI Committee to express its support for the LGBTQ+ community and reassure all community members that the Department stands for inclusivity, diversity and non-tolerance of any signs of discrimination. FC reported on the discussion of this matter at Academic Board. Colleagues expressed the view that the reasons for the decision to disaffiliate from Stonewall had not been communicated clearly and transparently, and there had been insufficient consultation with the relevant groups. It was decided that FC would prepare a draft statement confirming the Department's strong commitment to inclusivity and diversity, and its support for trans colleagues. FC would circulate the draft to the rest of the committee and, once approved by all, the message would be sent to the department.

4. MREs/PhD Admissions

GL reported on admission statistics this year: 27% of applications were received from women; the number is lower than last year's. The MREs/PhD Economics Selection Committee made 35 funded offers (50/50 split between men and women) and are currently preparing a list of waitlisted offers.

5. Data on pre-doc candidates

FC said that two of the research centres decided not to share data on their pre-doc candidates. Committee members undertook to seek these data informally. There was feedback from Centre of Macroeconomics (CFM), according to which a disproportionate number of women failed a screening coding test. The committee agreed to discuss ways in which the Department could provide support for up-skilling underrepresented candidates so research centres would be more comfortable offering them pre-docs.

6. Discover Economics Career Counsellors Event

DP reported a low intake of invitations from secondary schools, possibly as a result of the strike. This low take up called into question the viability of the event.

7. Teaching the course on diversity

FC had identified a potential candidate for teaching this course, who had already done some teaching of this subject. The format of the course is still to be decided. Another provisional title was suggested, *Economics of EDI* or *Economics of EDIB* ('b' stands for belonging).