

SU MANIFESTO FORM 2020/21

Position: Disability & Dyslexia Officer

Name: Daniella Faircloth

Course: BA DATE

Year: YEAR 1

Email: daniella.faircloth@cssd.ac.uk



If selected as SU Disability & Dyslexia Officer I will:

- Approach the ethics of our classroom settings surrounding feedback and comfortability in our year groups for those with visible and invisible disabilities.**
I recognise that it is not always easy to share to a cohort of people if you require a seat or need the opportunity and freedom to walk around during a lecture. In this sense I hope to reduce anxiety around those with invisible and visible disabilities, creating a system that allows opportunity to check in with your lecturer as a part of every classroom setting at any given time.
- Integrate Access all areas Performance Making Diploma students further into the university, pushing for Central to communicate across ALL degrees with equity.**
Having worked on the diploma course for a year, I have become increasingly aware that these Central students are neglected regarding political decisions that concern them. I will push for Central to communicate across ALL degrees with equity, as well as ensure that resources that are open to the university are open to them. As an example, invitations to attend the diploma students shows, or for them to attend other degree shows. Having reached out to the students on the course, This cohort of students has brought to my attention that they are currently unable to vote for student union - this has to change.
- Challenge the university accessibility decisions or approaches and how this reflects on student and visitor experience as a whole.**
Our accessible entrance sitting at the side of the building enforces a divide between normal and 'accessible' experience. "People with impairments are disabled by their environments; or, to put it differently, impairments aren't disabling, social and architectural barriers are." (Alison Kafer). If I was auditioning for the institution and I could not enter the building the way other auditionees were, I know I would experience more anxiety than necessary, on what is an already stressful experience. While it may not be entirely possible to change the design of the current 'main' entrance, if we can spend money on steps, we can spend money on designing an accessible entrance that is reflective of the 'experience' The Royal Central School Of Speech and Drama wish for there students and visitors to feel upon entering the institution.

This is a role, I am incredibly passionate and excited about as I am Dyslexic. Less than 6 months ago I was diagnosed, and it was a life changing, eye opening experience as well as a new challenge with my mental health. Small habits that I would once have beaten myself up over, I now have an understanding for, and I am beginning to find ways to be kinder to myself - there is power in this.

When I was diagnosed it came to light that over **25% of Central students are dyslexic.**

Whether you identify as disabled or neuro divergent, it is a brand new diagnosis that you are coming to terms with, or you have had it all of your life. I acknowledge the need for student to student support is just as important as staff to students - especially when bringing yourself into a new institutional setting. I have lots of experience in working in collaboration with neuro diverse and disabled artists, in and outside of Central, and have developed a deep rooted passion to fight for a setting of equity to the best of my ability. I believe in this sense that I would lead by the needs of others, and so for this reason, my manifesto will continuously be adapting and responding to those around me. "In the end, the best way to find out what terms might be appropriate to a particular scene is to listen to the people you wish to describe." (Petra Kupperts) With this I conclude that if elected, I will make sure I am not speaking FOR people with Dyslexia and Disability at central, but WITH people with Disability & Dyslexia at Central.

Thank you for reading my manifesto and feel free to contact me with any questions about my ideas at daniella.faircloth@cssd.ac.uk.