

All Student Meeting 1

Date & Time: Wednesday 2nd December 2020, 12:00pm-1:30pm

Present	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent Without Apologies
Rayphia Gibbons (Chair of All Student Meeting, RG) Tobiloba Adeyemi (TA, President) Rob Hegarty (RH, Sports Officer (SO)) Wei-Lun Chen (WLC, International Students Officer (ISO)) Amie Raphael (AR, Activities & Employability Officer (AEO)) Jules Singh (JS, Education Officer (EO)) Rebecca Cutler (RC, Postgraduate Officer (PO)) Charlotte Minter (CM, Welfare & Community Officer (WCO)) Imogen Mann (IM, Disabled Students Officer (DSO)) Israel Kiggundu-Tamale (IKT, Ethnic Minority Students Officer (EMSO)) Yu Xu (YX, Campaigns Officer (CO)) Matthew Griffin (MG, Ethical and Environmental Officer (EEO)) Sorcha Hughes (SH, LGBTQ+ Officer) Jamie Tomkinson (Scrutiny Panel Member, JT) Eleanor Thomas (Scrutiny Panel Member, ET) Jessica Burton (Scrutiny Panel Member, JB) Osione Oseni-Elamah (Scrutiny Panel Member, OO) Olivia Platten (OP, Scrutiny Panel Member) JaT (Campaigns Committee Member, Idea Submitter, JaT)	Rozena Nadeem (Democracy Coordinator/Minute taker) Tom Snape (Policy & Campaigns Coordinator, Tech) Lucy Gill (Student Voice & Representation Manager) Amy Stebbings (Senior Representation Coordinator, AS) Houmaa Chaudhry (Representation Coordinator, HC) Sarah Wright (Director of Support & Representation, SW) Jo Thomas (CEO, JT)	Alex Heighton (AH, Trans and Non-Binary Students Officer (TNBSO))	Alice Morley (AM, Womens' Officer (WO)) Em Andress (EA, Trans and Non-Binary Students Officer (TNBSO))

No	Time	Item for discussion	Notes
1	12pm-12:05pm	Welcome & Introductions	RG opened the meeting, introduced herself as the Chair of All Student Meeting, and explained the format of the meeting.

			RG also explained that as the meeting was not quorate, voting would not take place for any agenda items - voting will take place online via the All Student Vote.
Updates			
2	12:05pm-12:20pm	Officer Updates (Ideas & Policies)	<p>TA provided the attendees with an update from the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers didn't expect this year to be as it is with COVID-19 • Officers had to re-prioritize their work, campaigns and projects • TA is very proud of the team • There are recurring themes with student ideas - sustainability, student engagement, student support, training for staff on inclusivity and diversity <p>TA highlighted some of the key projects that Officers have been working on, including the Black Voices Campaign (Guild priority campaign), ideas/policies from last year, making the Guild website more accessible for disabled students, career and educational events, and History Months.</p> <p>TA also highlighted that there are more ideas, policies, projects and campaigns that Officers are working on, but they couldn't talk about all of them due to time.</p> <p>RG thanked TA for the update.</p>
3	12:20pm-12:30pm	Referendum on the Guild's Stance on Potential UCU Industrial Action	<p>RA introduced the next item.</p> <p>JS presented this proposal that was brought to the meeting by Officers, and explained that Officers support Option 2, in order to ensure that students will have the best possible education.</p> <p>A student expressed concerns that the proposal was not in line with the Guild's current Beliefs & Commitments (which state that the Guild should support industrial action), and also does not support an idea that they submitted and voted on by students to be taken forward the previous year. The idea submitted the previous year proposed for the Guild to support the UCU strikes during March 2020.</p> <p>It was agreed by students at the meeting that this proposal would be taken to an online Referendum.</p>
4	12:30pm-12:40pm	Scrutiny Panel Report	<p>JB introduced the Scrutiny Panel and how it works.</p> <p>OO explained the feedback that the Panel has for the Officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciate the Officer's reprioritizing • Summary of things that Officers have been working on: inclusivity and diversity, work for education (e.g. access to study spaces, issues with UoB App). <p>ET: Officers have overall done a great job - the breadth and depth of work is good. Our job is also to scrutinize and challenge the Officers, so we would like to offer some suggestions for ways forward. A full report will go out to students, but overall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers can work on collaborating with each other, as they are working on lots of great stuff • For engagement, how to tackle exhaustion online • Tackle challenge of reaching groups that don't usually engage online - try non-online forms of communication • Hope that Officers will have time to work on their other points that have been COVID-damaged <p>ET explained that the Scrutiny Panel had another meeting next week with the Officers, and that the Panel will have more to ask them then.</p>

Ideas/Policies			
5	12:40-1:05pm	Questions From Students	<p>AS left the meeting.</p> <p>Some questions were taken from students.</p> <p>A student asked how the Guild will engage students with the All Student Meeting in future, as this meeting was not quorate.</p> <p>TA clarified that as it's the very first time that this meeting has been held, we need to learn from this meeting, and from the first cycle of the new democratic process. TA also clarified that the Officer Team and Guild welcome suggestions on how to engage students.</p>
6	1:05pm-1:30pm	"Students Deserve Better" Campaign	<p>TA presented this idea, due to the idea submitter not having attended the meeting.</p> <p>Students and Officers were grouped in breakout rooms for 10 minutes, and discussed their thoughts on the proposal in their breakout rooms.</p> <p>TS asked the spokesperson from each group to raise their hand.</p> <p><u>Group 1</u> WLC: We had a discussion about accommodation and tuition fees. We can campaign for partial reduction of accommodation fees. We'd like to suggest to look at specific cases, and ask for a reduction in tuition fees for specific cases. We also felt that it might be difficult to ask the University to ask for a full refund on tuition fees.</p> <p><u>Group 2</u> JS: It would be to ask the University, agreed that students have been detrimental this year, we don't know how realistic it is to ask the University to give a refund or reduction. Students have been affected differently this year - there could be more face-to-face teaching, more opportunities for feedback, but it's difficult to provide a blanket refund. Overall, we felt that we need more time to discuss it.</p> <p>RG clarified that both groups stated that it's not a simple task to ask the University to give a blanket refund to students.</p> <p><u>Group 3</u> AM: We talked about quality of teaching - there are lots of professors who have worked to move lessons online, and provided online teaching. A reduction of fees might threaten their salary - it may be unfair for them as they deserve their pay. It's also important to clarify that students aren't alone in this, it is affecting the entire nation. We have to think about the knock-on effects, as we're not separate from the rest of the country - other universities may follow us, and it could affect the economy.</p> <p>Discussion took place about the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation - some students renting through agency - refunds on accommodation more difficult for these students • Student are all aware of the pandemic, some have chosen to study at this time - if they've chosen this option, this is their choice <p>TA: We will communicate issues of students to the university. The university should focus on the quality of teaching. It may be too difficult for students to get a refund from the university. Refunds for tuition fees may affect funding for student jobs and staff salaries. Also, international students pay double the amount of UK students, and the University should look into increased support for International students. I think that it would be beneficial to have more time to talk about this idea.</p>

		<p>JS: There's a key point that I forgot to mention in my feedback: a refund would not go into the back pocket of home students as it is a Government loan.</p> <p>Students were asked to vote on whether they felt more time was needed to discuss the idea. Students voted either "yes" (more time to discuss) or "no" (enough discussion has taken place).</p> <p>As the majority of students voted to have more time to discuss the idea, students and Officers were placed into breakout rooms again.</p> <p>JaT entered the meeting.</p> <p>TS and RG provided an update to JaT about the meeting.</p> <p>Students and Officers were brought back into the meeting, and TS asked the spokesperson from each group to raise their hand and feedback what their group discussed.</p> <p><u>Group 1</u></p> <p>IKT: There are complexities and difficulties with refunding tuition, and how difficult it would be to allocate that. It might take several steps to seeing that becoming a reality in future, but it's definitely something that we can push for and fight for, and we can see what can be done.</p> <p><u>Group 2</u></p> <p>RC: We talked about the financial impact that the pandemic is having on students, it may impact all students differently, is there a way of finding out how students will be impacted? How are you being impacted financially? Do we need to go out and find the financial impact, then lobby for that e.g. lost part time job, accommodation etc. It might not apply to some students. Do we need more time to find out about the financial Impacts?</p> <p><u>Group 3</u></p> <p>TA: We came to a consensus - this cannot be done as a general approach.</p> <p>TA suggested that the second point is a fair one, and that that should definitely be taken forward, but should be condensed with specific points underneath.</p> <p><u>Group 4</u></p> <p>CM: We felt that there was not enough information from the student, and suggested more surveys (collecting data on year groups, which courses, which accommodation etc). We also highlighted that there are only 30 students in the meeting, and there were probably lots of students that didn't know that this was being discussed. We didn't really reach a consensus decision. Half of the group were mostly for and half were mostly against.</p> <p>A student asked a question in the meeting chat: "Have students not always had a right to defer? Is this a university policy?"</p> <p>TA replied with the following: "We're willing to conduct a survey on student finances?"</p> <p>Another student responded with the following: "I think that's excellent - may be do a survey with students who have less than assumed parent contribution, and/or students now without part-time job and are struggling."</p>
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7	1:30pm-1:35pm	AOB	<p>No AOBs were noted.</p> <p>RG and the Officer Team thanked students for their attendance and participation, and RG closed the meeting.</p>