

Attendance

28 students in total signed up for the meeting on the Guild of Students website

9 students in total (including 1 Scrutiny Panel member) were in the waiting room at the start of the meeting

Present:

Officers: Danielle Murinas (DM, Postgraduate Officer), Jules Singh (JS, Education Officer), Adam Dorey (AD, Campaigns Officer), Aaliyah Simms (AS, Welfare & Community Officer), Mikey Brown (MB, Guild President), Robin Hayward (RH, Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer), Josephine Conway (JC, Activities & Employability Officer)

Scrutiny Panel Members: Shaun Keen (SK)

In Attendance:

Guild Core Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute-Taker), Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator, Tech), Jo Thomas (Guild CEO), Amelia McLoughlan (AM, Representation Coordinator), Adam Sheridan (ASh, Director of Engagement), Jane Baston (JB, Policy & Campaigns Coordinator), Solomon Gibson (SG, Representation Coordinator)

Apologies:

Officers: Imogen Mann (IM, Disabled Students' Officer), Manisha Kaur (MK, Ethnic Minority Students Officer)

Scrutiny Panel Members: Eloise Watkin (EW), Jingke Lin (JL), Lucy Shapley (LS), Jack Bowen (JB)

Absent Without Apologies:

Officers: Rachel Boucher (RB, Ethical & Environmental Officer), Eleanor Thomas (ET, LGBTQ+ Students Officer), Louisa Martin (LM, Womens' Officer), George Christian (GC, Sports Officer)

Trigger Warnings

Pro-life, pro-choice, pro-life, abortion, UCU strikes, industrial action

Further Information

You can find full details of the items discussed in this meeting here:

<https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/allstudentmeeting/>

The full slides used during the meeting can be found here (please copy and paste the link):

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1V_NFeKDMqjsNqcL61jr8cW_1hbXsBNTApiL0GZdD8jk/edit?usp=sharing

Meeting Notes

ASM = All Student Meeting

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Time
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1	<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome From the Chair of ASM</p>	<p>AM opened the meeting and introduced herself:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hi everyone, my name is Acacia and I am the Guild's elected Chair of All Student Meetings. • I will be chairing this meeting. • My role is to be impartial and to ensure that all thoughts, opinions and views are discussed and taken into consideration when making decisions. <p>AM provided an overview of the Guild of Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you're unfamiliar with the Guild - the Guild of Students is here to represent all UoB students, and help you get the best experience possible during your time here. • There is lots that we offer for students, from making change, to volunteering, student staff jobs, student groups and societies, to reps, campaigns, elections, student and advice. <p>AM provided an overview of All Student Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The All Student Meeting is part of the Guild's idea decision-making system - which should be representative and inclusive of all students. • Some decisions are made by students with a specific interest or experience in the issues – these decisions are made at decision-making committees (Education, Activities, Welfare & Liberation and Campaigns). 	12:05pm- 12:10pm
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some decisions should be made by all students, and/or have more student input – these decisions should be made at All Student Meeting • Each committee will discuss and make decisions on ideas and policy proposals that have been sent to them • The committees also provide support to Officers completing their manifestos and be consulted on projects and decisions. • Any ideas or policy that the committees cannot decide on will be discussed at the ASM - and decisions on these ideas or policy will be made here, given that the meeting is quorate • Policy that supports the Guild’s values and aims as a charity may also be discussed and developed at this meeting • ASMs will take place at least 3 times a year • Any UoB student can attend ASMs – you can submit questions beforehand if unable to attend • Chaired by Chair of All Students’ Meeting • Decisions are made using consensus decision-making - instead of just having a yes/no vote, we will make decisions by consensus (which means we will take all of the issues, ideas associated with the idea into 	
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		<p>account, and coming to an agreement on these). Consensus decision-making means a more rounded discussion is had, more diverse perspectives are heard, and better quality decisions are made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If students at the All Student Meeting cannot make a decision or is not “quorate”, the ideas and policies will go to an ALL STUDENT VOTE (we need 340 students at the ASM for it to be quorate). <p>If the meeting is quorate, voting will take place at ASM.</p> <p>If not quorate, discussions can still take place, ideas allocated to ASV.</p> <p>AM noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meeting is not quorate, therefore an ASV will take place on Thursday 24th March, 10am - Monday 28th March, 4pm. • Results for the vote will be published during w/c 28th March. • Please note that everybody is automatically muted in this meeting. If you would like to speak, and/or have a question, please use the raise hand function, and the host will unmute you. There is dedicated time for questions towards the end of the meeting, but you’re welcome to ask questions throughout the meeting too. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you post anything inappropriate in the chat, you will be removed from the meeting.• If you are upset by anything discussed in this meeting, you can contact Guild Advice - <u>guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk</u>• We'd like to provide the following trigger warnings for the meeting: pro-choice, pro-life, UCU strikes, industrial action <p>The above last two bullet points were posted in the meeting chat.</p>	
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2	Officer Introductions & Updates	<p>AM introduced this item, and handed over to MB.</p> <p>Please note the following trigger warnings before reading the below: rent, landlords, consent, mental health, disabled student experience, Ukraine crisis, trans and non-binary student experience.</p> <p>MB noted that he launched the Renter’s Union, and is currently working on fighting landlords who are trying to increase rents.</p> <p>AS noted that she is catching up after not being well, but has been working on some consent models with other Officers, and preparing for an Officer away day.</p> <p>DM introduced herself, and noted that she is working on mental health and wellbeing support, particularly for PG students, and will be attending meetings for these. She noted that she is also going to be training case workers for UB Heard, and working with other Officers on the Disabled Students Commission (DSC). Finally, she noted that more info for the DSC can be found on the Guild website.</p> <p>JS introduced himself, and noted that he is working with campus services, helping with Black Voices events for Go Green Week, and Rep Awards.</p> <p>WLC introduced himself, and noted that he is working on supporting Ukrainian students due to the current crisis in Ukraine, and working with Chinese students who still can’t be in the UK due to local restrictions.</p>	12:10pm- 12:20pm
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		<p>JC introduced herself and noted that she is working on Guild Awards, which happened on Monday, and also working on Grad Ball.</p> <p>RH introduced themselves, and noted that they're working on pronoun badges, worked on the Trans Forum with MB, and organising a social for trans and non-binary students.</p> <p>MB noted that the Guild has secured multi-million pound funding from the university, in a time when universities are cutting funding for Student Unions. I'm confident that it will have great impact.</p> <p>AS posted the following in the meeting chat: "If you'd like to reach the Full Time Officer Group you can do so at fto@guild.bham.ac.uk , please email us and get in touch!"</p>	
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3	<p style="text-align: center;">Scrutiny Panel Report</p>	<p>AM introduced this agenda item, and handed over to the Scrutiny Panel members to present.</p> <p>SK explained the purpose of Scrutiny Panel and how it works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Panel scrutinizes Guild Officers on their work and progress, in the form of questions, and positive and constructive feedback • This feedback is provided at Scrutiny Panel meetings • The Panel write up a feedback report at after each meeting • The Scrutiny Panel provide a summary of this report at All Student Meetings <p>SK provided a summary of Officer's progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officers generally do an amazing job, their reports are very detailed, and I'd like to give a special shout-out to the Part-Time Officers, who do their roles part-time, but are very proactive. • President – work on 1000 conversations and Renter's Union is great • AEO – The Give it a Go Fair was great, we were however concerned with lack of events • Education Officer – doing a fantastic job as always 	12:20pm-12:30pm
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Students Officer – doing a great job ensuring that international students are integrating into university life, and doing great work with Guild Advice • Postgraduate Officer – lots of great work, we’re looking forward to seeing how events for PG students become more diversified • Sports Officer – lots of great work around disability in sport • Welfare & Community Officer – lots of great work generally, drink spiking is a difficulty • Trans & Non-Binary Officer <p>AM thanked SK and asked students and Officers if they had any questions.</p> <p>No questions were asked.</p> <p>AM thanked SK and closed this item.</p> <p>ACTION: Officer Team to work on feedback provided from the Scrutiny Panel, ahead of the next Scrutiny Panel meeting in May</p>	
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4	<p style="text-align: center;">Belief & Commitment - The Guild Should Be a Pro-Choice Institution</p>	<p>AM introduced trigger warnings for this idea, and clarified that students are welcome to leave the meeting/not listen to this section of the meeting, if it's triggering.</p> <p>AM introduced the idea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This item is a Belief & Commitment (policy) that requires renewal. • The Guild has a set of Beliefs & Commitments, which are policies and/or stances that students believe the Guild should adopt • Every three years, the Beliefs & Commitments require renewal • The Campaigns Committee have discussed this policy, and legal advice has been sought. • Following this, amends have been made to the original policy. • Paperwork with further details is available on the Guild website: https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/allstudentmeeting/ • Attendees at the ASM need to vote on the amended policy if the ASM is quorate, or if not, open discussion can still take place, but any voting will take place during the All Student Vote. 	12:30pm-12:40pm
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The discussion is open to every UoB student, and you can provide any thoughts that you might have on the policy - for or against • There will be no breakout rooms for this discussion. • The full amended policy can be seen on the slide. • The full proposal, with the original Belief & Commitment can be found on the Guild website - the link is in the chat. • Please note that only one person should talk at a time. If you would like to speak, please raise your hand and the host will unmute you. <p>Acacia handed over to MB to talk about this item further.</p> <p>There were 16 students in the meeting at this point.</p> <p>MB talked further about the legal advice sought for this item, and the reasons for the amends.</p> <p>MB noted that this specific policy being presented is still in line with the original Belief & Commitment, and is also in line with the legal advice sought.</p> <p>AM noted that a student posted the following question in the meeting chat: “Surely the decision to terminate or not affects a student in a very direct way in relation to their studies? Pregnancy could (but not necessarily) massively affect their studies?”</p>	
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		<p>MB answered this question.</p> <p>The student noted that they understood.</p> <p>AS noted that the Guild have to seek legal advice for some Beliefs & Commitments, to ensure that they are in line with Charity Law, and in line with the Guild's charitable objectives.</p> <p>MB raised his hand to show his support for the policy.</p> <p>No attendees expressed that they were against the policy.</p> <p>AM asked if anybody else had questions and/or concerns about the policy.</p> <p>No other attendees had questions or comments.</p> <p>AM closed this item.</p> <p>ACTION: Belief & Commitment to be allocated to the All Student Vote, voting for which will open tomorrow.</p>	
5	(Access) BREAK	<p>All attendees could take a five-minute break.</p> <p>There were 15 students in the meeting at this point.</p>	12:40pm- 12:45pm

6	UCU Strikes	<p>JT entered the meeting.</p> <p>AM introduced this item, along with the relevant trigger warnings, and handed over to DM to present.</p> <p>DM presented this item:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strikes are taking place this week until this Friday • Myself and JS meet with the Pro Vice Chancellor for Education regularly • We're also ensuring that university work, assignments and extensions of students aren't effected by the strikes e.g. any content that is missed should be made up in some way, support can be provided during Assessment Support Week (otherwise students should not be assessed on the relevant content) • Strikes will be effecting certain colleges more e.g. parts of LES are effected, EPS and MDS are least effected • Factual info about the strikes can be found on the Guild website and Guild social media • I'm working with PGR Reps to support PGR students • There is an existing plan in place by the University for situations such as strikes <p>DM noted that she was happy to take questions.</p>	12:45pm-1:00pm
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		<p>AM noted that students can put forward their thoughts about the strikes, even if they disagree with the Guild's stance.</p> <p>A student noted that they support the strikes, and noted that it hasn't really effected their School.</p> <p>AM noted that this was helpful feedback.</p> <p>AM asked attendees if they had any more questions.</p> <p>MB noted that Officers will continue to monitor the strikes situation, and continue to discuss strikes/the impact of strike action on students, in meetings with the VC.</p> <p>A student noted the impact of strikes on commuter students e.g. very little seminars and lectures have taken place that they feel that they haven't been on campus for a long time.</p> <p>JS posted the following link in the chat: https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/registry/exams/assessment-frameworks-202122.aspx</p> <p>MB noted this feedback.</p> <p>A student posted the following in the chat: "I wasn't aware of the guild status as a neutral place - that's good – thanks".</p> <p>Another student posted the following in the chat: "I definitely still support the strikes and it's great to hear what the Guild Officers are doing to have those discussions with the university regarding mitigation! My only concern is how many students still don't seem to know what the dispute is about generally in the university - what steps is the Guild taking to</p>	
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		<p>keep students aware of why their education is being disrupted?”</p> <p>MB noted that students have different levels of awareness of the strikes, and background information, for example, some students may have a parent who is in a union, so they may know more about trade unions than students who don't have a parent who is part of a union.</p> <p>MB noted that there is information about the strikes on the Guild website, and this includes a jargon buster, to help students to become familiar with the relevant language that is used.</p> <p>AM noted that the discussion taking place is great discussion.</p> <p>JS noted in the chat that he can share the page that we have but it needs updating.</p> <p>Student: I agree totally – there is a lack of awareness of the nature of striking. I'm a member of another TUC affiliated Union and have been careful not to cross a picket line myself.</p> <p>JS posted the below link in the chat (the link leads to the relevant page on the Guild website), and noted that he will contact the Comms & Marketing Team to update it: https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/industrialaction/</p> <p>AM asked attendees if they had any more questions about this item.</p> <p>No attendees had any questions.</p>	
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		<p>AM closed this item.</p> <p>ACTION: Officer Team to note feedback received from students.</p>	
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7	Questions	<p>AM asked attendees if they had any questions for the Officers.</p> <p>RH explained that they and AD had an item to present.</p> <p>RH and AD presented their item between them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The item is an idea submission, submitted last Semester, asking for the Guild to release a statement against an academic staff member from University of Sussex (who made comments about trans students, which were interpreted as “transphobic”) and the new VC at UoB (who was the VC at University of Sussex at the time that the comments were made, and also condemned student activism). • We would also like the Guild to include solidarity with trans and non-binary students in this statement. • We were informed that legal advice needed to be sought for the idea, the process for which was delayed for several months. • Due to this, this idea has been delayed being discussed at an ASM, twice. • We would like this idea submission to go to the ASV. <p>MB noted that the Guild did obtain legal advice to ensure that we were meeting our charitable objectives, and that he informed Guild staff what advice was needed. He also noted that the previous</p>	1:00pm-1:30pm
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		<p>Student Voice & Representation Manager, who was helping to seek legal advice, left the Guild.</p> <p>MB apologised, and noted that he was not accountable for what had happened. He also noted that he didn't follow up on the progress of legal advice being sought, and that he was apologetic for this.</p> <p>MB noted that he or the Guild are not against a statement.</p> <p>MB: I'd like to know why the Guild has not taken the Advice?</p> <p>MB explained further about some of the legal advice sought e.g. some of the content in the idea submission can be interpreted as defamatory comments, and are therefore a risk to the Guild.</p> <p>AS explained that Guild Officers are entitled to their own opinions, and that Guild Officers support trans students.</p> <p>AS also explained that the Student Voice & Representation Manager has left, and due to low capacity in the Student Voice Team, there has been low support in general for Officers.</p> <p>AM asked RH and AD if they have any comments.</p> <p>A student posted the following in the chat: "As a trans student it is disappointing that the Guild have taken so long to respond to and put out a statement, especially as legal advice was able to be obtained for the commitment on being pro-choice. From a student's perspective, a staff member in a</p>	
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		<p>position of significant power who has previously harmed trans people started at the university, without comment from the Guild who have a responsibility in my eyes to uplift and protect its trans and non-binary students. I recognise the difficulties faced by individuals within the Guild, but would still like to express my (and others) disappointment.”</p> <p>AD thanked MB and AS for their support, and noted that they’re not blaming the Officer Team, as it was a member of Guild staff who was responsible for seeking legal advice.</p> <p>AM noted the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffing matters can’t be discussed in the democratic process, especially if a specific staff member’s name is being mentioned. • AM also noted that as the item wasn’t on the ASM agenda, which has to be published 5 working days in advance, the idea can’t be allocated to the ASV. • AM noted that the above two points are noted in the Guild Byelaws. <p>AM asked if RH and AD had anything to add.</p> <p>RH noted that they had nothing to add at this point.</p> <p>AD expressed general frustration, and noted that they felt it was a mistake on the Guild’s part rather than theirs.</p> <p>MB expressed solidarity, but noted that the rules have to be followed.</p>	
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		<p>A question was posted by a student on the Q&A function: “Is this likely to be resolved by trans day of visibility?”</p> <p>AS extended their support and solidarity, and emphasised again that as an Officer Team, they support trans & non-binary students.</p> <p>AM asked attendees if they had any more questions or concerns.</p> <p>Nobody else raised any questions or concerns.</p> <p>AM closed this item.</p> <p>ACTION: MB to meet with RH and AD to discuss their idea and any legal advice further.</p>	
8	AOB	<p>AM asked attendees if they had any more questions or concerns.</p> <p>AS: Thank-you for the valuable feedback, especially as some of them were also dedicated to women and non-binary students.</p> <p>Nobody else raised any questions or concerns.</p> <p>AM thanked attendees for attending the meeting and for keeping discussions positive.</p> <p>AM closed the meeting.</p>	1:30pm-1:35pm