

Present

Committee Members: Reeve Issacs-Smith (RIS, Welfare and Community Officer, Chair), Robin Haywood (RH, Trans and Non-Binary Students' Officer), Jo Birch (JB, Student Member)

Guild Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator), Scott Dawson (SD, Student Voice and Representation Manager)

Apologies

Committee Members: Chinaza Nwankwo (CN, Ethnic Minority Students' Officer)

Absence Without Apologies

Committee Members: Aleiah Johnson (AJ, Student Member), Hannah Wilson (HW, Disabled Students' Officer), Madupavitra Palani (MP, Women's' Officer), Nandini Sharma (NS, Postgraduate Rep), Chirag Sejjal (CS, LGBTQ+ Students' Officer) Lauren Spooner (LS, Student Member), Anastasis Mauriac (AS, International Rep)

Trigger Warnings: cost of living, antisemitism

Discussions on: liberation associations, sugar drinks, bus ticket prices

Item No.	Item Title	Brief Summary of Agenda Item	Time
1	Welcome & Introductions	Attendees introduced themselves.	3:10pm-3:12pm

2	<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Updates</p>	<p>RH provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans & Non-Binary event delivered • Re-elected as Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer again <p>RIS congratulated RH on their re-election on behalf of the committee.</p> <p>RIS provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on Cost of Living campaign, which involved handing out free period products and period pants, having a supply of condoms from Umbrella available for students to take, and free STI testing for students • Delivered Not-On Sessions for Sports Teams, which involved content on consent • Main consent course will be available from September <p>JB: Question: Are the period pants for Trans and Non-Binary students too?</p> <p>RIS: RIS noted that they are being advertised as being for anyone. The particular brand has been chosen as they have a range of products and supporting period poverty is one of their values.</p> <p>JB: Question: Will the consent course be inclusive too?</p> <p>RIS: RIS noted that the course does not target a specific group.</p>	3:12pm-3:20pm
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3	<p>Minutes & Actions from the Previous Meeting</p>	<p>Updates on actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p>RIS provided the following updates on actions from the previous meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The poster campaign with Black Voices has not yet been actioned • Minutes from the last meeting have been approved by the committee via email • RIS talked to the Activities & Employability Officer about the Reclaim the Night Fab event – noted that it might not happen this year but it will definitely be taken forward. RIS asked RH to discuss this with the new Activities & Employability Officer - ACTION • RIS talked to the Director of Student Services, University Chaplaincy Service and other relevant University services about the Community Pantry • JB has not yet drafted a statement for their idea submission regarding the UK government’s blocking of trans legislation – JB to action this - ACTION <p>The actions were approved by meeting attendees.</p>	3:20pm-3:25pm
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4	<p>Idea Submission – The Guild Should Not Get Rid of Full Sugar Drinks</p>	<p>RIS noted that this idea submission was asking for the University to not get rid of full sugar drinks, to accommodate diabetic students who often rely on sugary/glucose drinks for low blood sugars.</p> <p>JB and RH noted that they agreed with the idea submission.</p> <p>RH commented that the availability of sugary drinks can be helpful for any student e.g. if a student would like some quick energy.</p> <p>RIS noted that the title of the idea refers to the Guild, but the idea content itself referred to the University.</p> <p>RIS noted that they have not heard from the University that they are getting rid of full sugar drinks, but that there are a lot of cafes on campus that may be getting rid of them that RIS is not aware of.</p> <p>RIS also noted that they can talk to the Director of Food & Beverage as an action - ACTION</p> <p>RH noted that clarification could be received from the idea submitter.</p> <p>RIS and JB agreed.</p>	3:25pm-3:40pm
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5	<p style="text-align: center;">Idea Submission – The Guild Should Change the Bus Services</p>	<p>RIS noted that this idea submission was asking for the Guild to talk to National Express, about “The Hop” service, for which there are issues with contactless payments and students being overcharged.</p> <p>RIS noted that there are other pricing options for groups of students.</p> <p>RH noted that students used to be able to buy one or two tickets at a time, and issues with contactless payments have been a complaint for a long time.</p> <p>RH commented that the idea may not fall within the remit of the Committee or the Officer Team.</p> <p>RIS talked about the One City Campaign that the Officer Team worked with other Birmingham Student Unions on earlier in the year. RIS noted that this campaign involved elements of activism and community organising, and the idea that the campaign should benefit students from all of the Universities that were involved.</p> <p>RIS noted that the National Express only allows £1 payment to students from specific Birmingham Universities – University of Birmingham, Aston University and one other University. RIS further noted that as part of One City, the Officers wanted to push for the National Express to reach all of the Universities.</p> <p>JB: Question: Is there a possibility of reaching out to local MPs and councillors?</p> <p>RIS noted that University College Birmingham (UCB) has links with Birmingham’s Mayor.</p> <p>A question was asked about actions for this idea moving forwards.</p> <p>SD suggested to reach out to the student for further clarification and/or writing to National Express. SD further noted that this issue is too personalised to allocate to the All Student Meeting.</p> <p>RN asked whether this idea and the previous idea, “The Guild Should Not Get Rid of Full Sugar Drinks” should be allocated to the All Student Meeting as this meeting</p>	3:40pm - 3:53pm
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		<p>was not quorate and decisions technically could not be made by the committee.</p> <p>Attendees agreed that further clarification should be sought from the idea submitter – ACTION.</p>	
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6	<p>Campaign Submissions</p>	<p>RIS and RN noted that these submissions were funding submissions, and were originally circulated via email.</p> <p>RIS provided an overview for each proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the proposal, “Reclaim Campus Vigil for Victims of Gender-Based Violence”, impact on the student experience is noted. The student is asking for £100 from the Womens Campaign Pot, and there is £1000 currently in the pot with nothing having yet been spent. • The “Blackout Radio” proposal is about restarting a Black students radio channel with Burn FM, featuring Black artists and musicians. The proposal is asking for £10. The £10 will come from the BAME Campaign Pot. <p>RH and JB agreed that these were great campaign ideas and approved.</p> <p>RIS noted that the submissions will need to be circulated via email again to the committee members to obtain quorum for the approval decision - ACTION</p>	3:53pm-4:00pm
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7	<p>NUS Liberation Conference Update</p>	<p>RN noted that the remaining Black Students Place was elected in Officer Elections, and the Trans Students Place unfortunately remained unfilled. Five Delegates therefore attended the Conference.</p> <p>RN also noted that one of the Delegates collated some comms content during the Conference. RN also noted that the Delegate will be writing a blog about the Conference, and the differences between this Conference and NUS National Conference. RN noted that the blog and comms will be published in the next week, and will be used as part of comms during the 2023 Autumn Elections.</p> <p>RN agreed to collate further updates from the Delegates to share with the committee - ACTION</p> <p>RH noted that some feedback was raised about accessibility of the Conference.</p> <p>RN noted that she was happy to talk to RH/the Delegates about this - ACTION</p>	4:00pm-4:06pm
8	<p>Guild Democracy Updates</p>	<p>RN provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Student Meeting will take place on 17th April, 12pm-2pm, and all students are invited • There is only one agenda item so far, which will be about the Guild's Democracy Review, its progress and the changes that will be implemented next academic year • There is a possibility that the All Student Vote will not happen, but if it does, it will take place on 19th May – 26th May. 	4:06pm – 4:12pm
9	<p>Officer Elections By-Election Update</p>	<p>RIS noted that voting for the Officer Elections 2023 By-Election was open and was to close the next day at 4pm. The positions being elected were Sports Officer and Disabled Students Officer.</p> <p>RIS encouraged RH and JB to vote if they had not yet voted.</p>	4:12pm-4:16pm

10	<p>Leadership Development & Community Organising?</p>	<p>RN provided a brief overview of what community organising is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community organising is a tactic used for campaigning and collective democratic action, and involves building relationships (what we call relational power) through common interests and shared values (what we call self-interest). • Relationships (relational power) are built through having 121 meetings with others, and discussing and sharing common interests and shared values, using storytelling skills. • Other key aspects of community organising involve leadership development and building capacity. <p>RN noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As committee members may be aware, particularly from training for decision-making committees earlier in the year and updates in committee meetings, the Student Voice Team have been working on incorporating community organising principles into different areas of work, such as elections, decision-making, student-led campaigns and the Reps System. • Community organising has a lot of applicability to these different areas as it can, and has, helped with engagement, inclusion and capacity building. • One very good example of where it has worked well is the work of the Black Voices Campaign. <p>RN noted that the Student Voice Team are still continuing to incorporate community organising, in particular for decision-making and elections, and if members are interested in getting involved with this work, would like to find out more, and/or have any questions, to contact herself (r.nadeem@guild.bham.ac.uk) and Adam Dorey (a.dorey@guild.bham.ac.uk) and both would be happy to arrange a chat.</p> <p>RN noted that she will circulate contact details - ACTION</p>	4:16pm-4:22pm
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11	AOB	<p>RH raised a question regarding the Birmingham Activist Programme, UeB Festival and community organising in the Guild.</p> <p>RIS noted that they will be meeting with relevant University staff about these areas, and offered to invite RH.</p> <p>RH agreed.</p> <p>RIS to send meeting details to RH – ACTION</p> <p>RH also commented that they have some feedback about timetabling and issues around this.</p> <p>JB raised a question about trans inclusion on campus. JB also asked whether the Guild could deliver a campaign encouraging students not to join queues.</p> <p>RIS noted that she was happy to talk to JB about her questions. - ACTION</p> <p>The meeting closed.</p>	16:22pm-16:31pm
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