

Present

Dean Turner, Welfare & Community Officer (**WCO**) (Chair)
 Amira Campbell, Guild President (**President**)
 Joseph Hill, Education Officer (**EO**)
 Tinajie (Alice) Liu, International Officer (**IO**)
 Benjamin Lockley, Postgraduate Officer (**PGO**)

Also in Attendance

Adam Sheridan, Director of Engagement (AS) (Arrived at 12:15).
 Sam Jones, Executive Assistant (**SJ**) (Note taker)

Apologies

Harry Brooks, Activities & Employability Officer (**AEO**)
 Catherine Hardiman, Sports Officer (**SO**)

The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting started at 12:00

No	Item for Discussion	Notes	Action
1	Minutes 02.10.23	<p>The Chair presented the minutes of two previous meeting, dated Monday 2nd October 2023, for the Officer Team's approval.</p> <p>The Officer Team approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Approved</p>
2	Israel / Palestine Conflict	<p>Note: This item was taken out of order, between Agenda Items 4 & 5.</p> <p>The Officer Team discussed the recent escalation of conflict in Israel / Palestine and in the Gaza strip, which had seen casualties on both sides. AS updated the Officer Team on the Guild's previous experience in responding to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including an escalation in May 2021. AS provided a briefing on the historical context of the conflict, and the Guild's legal role in protecting free speech on campus and supporting groups on both sides to operate safely. AS noted ongoing discussions with the University on a draft joint statement, from the Guild and the University, addressing the escalation.</p> <p>The Officer Team discussed the importance of supporting students affected on both sides of the conflict. AS noted that the University of Birmingham Jewish Society (J-SOC) had made a statement asking students to report any incidents of antisemitism. The Officer Team discussed the next steps for supporting all students affected by the conflict and fulfilling the Guild's obligations of protecting free speech. AS updated the Officer Team on ongoing work internally with the staff team to prepare for the provision of additional support to affected students and groups, and to manage expected</p>	<p>Noted</p>

		<p>discussion on the conflict on the Guild's social media pages. AS noted that the Guild did not currently have a stance on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in it's Beliefs & Commitments document, which it did have previously.</p> <p>AS noted that detailed work with Staff and Officers was ongoing to address the situation at pace, with ongoing discussions with the University.</p> <p>JL offered to provide a briefing to Officers on some of the historical Israeli – Palestinian Conflict. SJ to diarise a briefing with AS, JL and the Officer Team.</p> <p>The Officer Team discussed drafting a statement on the situation, to be published on the Guild Website. AS to circulate previous examples of published statements related to the issue. The Officer Team agreed to discuss outside the meeting.</p> <p>The Officer Team discussed the Guild's existing and previous policy stances on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. AS noted that a previous position which had been part of the Guild's Beliefs & Commitments was not currently active. SJ noted that the Guild's current Zero-Tolerance Policy included the IHRA definition of antisemitism.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>AS</p> <p>All</p> <p>Noted</p>
3	Citizens UK Training	<p>JL updated the Officer Team on planned training at the Guild from Citizens UK, which were delivering training in the Guild for some members of staff on the 25th & 26th October, focusing on student engagement, political participation and community organising principles. JL noted that there was one additional space available for an Officer to attend the two-day training programme. The Officer Team discussed their availability to attend. JL noted plans for some of the Guild's purchased capacity from Citizens UK to be used for the new Community Organiser posts in the spring.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
4	Post-Welcome Events	<p>The IO updated the Officer Team on the University's planned events for new post-Welcome events on campus focused at International Students who had arrived after the formal Welcome period. The IO shared the University's possible names for the event, to be hosted by the University in the Great Hall. The Officer Team agreed to discuss online.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
5	Officer Diaries	<p>The Officer Team discussed some key meetings in their diaries for the week ahead:</p> <p>IO – International Student Experience Meeting, University Council meeting, UOB Head of Security meeting, Exchange/ Year Abroad team meeting, PVC International Meeting, Tour of Pritchatts Park.</p> <p>President – Public Engagement Meeting, University Council, Appointments Panel Interviews, Community Organising Catch-Up, NHS Bursary meeting, Tour of Pritchatts Park.</p> <p>PGO – Appointments Panel Interviews, Registry Catch-up, Tour of Pritchatts Park.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>EO – 1:2 Director of Student Engagement, EPS Education Committee, Head of Registry meeting, Academic Calendar meeting, Audit & Risk Committee, Tour of Pritchatts Park.</p> <p>WCO – Housing Working Group, Spiking Pages website updates, Student Services Catch-Up, Tour of Pritchatts Park.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
6	Officer Projects	<p>The IO updated the Officer Team on plans for another International Mixer event later in October, following a very successful event in Welcome Week. The IO noted plans to move the next Language Café event to the Guild, provisionally in Mermaid Bar.</p> <p>The President updated the Officer Team on an Open Mic event planned for Black History month.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
7	Schools/Colleges/ Dubai Update	<p>The IO noted that at the most recent COSS CQAAC meeting, the National Student Survey results had been discussed and the Guild’s Student Rep Improvement Plan had been shared.</p> <p>The IO noted that the Dubai Student Leaders elections were to open for voting on Thursday 12th October. The IO noted plans to invite the successful candidates to attend a future GOG meeting.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
8	Part-Time Officers	The President noted an action from Guild Officer Group for all of the Full-Time Officers to meet with the PTO buddies	Noted
9	AOB	No Items Noted.	Noted

The meeting finished at 13:05.