

Present

Mikey Brown, President (**President**) (Chair)
 Josephine Conway, Activities and Employability Officer (**AEO**)
 George Christian, Sports Officer (**SO**)
 Jules Singh, Education Officer (**EO**)
 Wei-Lun Chen, International Officer (**IO**)
 Danielle Murinas, Postgraduate Officer (**PGO**)

Also in Attendance

Jo Thomas, CEO (**JT**)
 Sam Jones, Executive Assistant (**SJ**)
 Adam Sheridan, Director of Engagement (**AS**) (Agenda Item 9 only)
 Emily Badger, Director of Operations (**EB**) (Agenda Item 9 only)
 Lucy Gill, Voice & Representation Manager (**LG**) (Agenda Item 9 only)
 Samantha Macbeth, Student Groups Manager (**SM**) (Agenda Item 9 only)

Apologies

Aaliyah Simms, Welfare & Community Officer (**WCO**)

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	Notes	ACTION
1	Minutes from 04.09.2021	The minutes from the 4 th October 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting. The	Approved
2	Cressida Dick Speech	<p>The President noted an upcoming lecture on campus which Cressida Dick, the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police was due to deliver. The President noted significant controversy surrounding the commissioner at the present time following the case of Sarah Everard's murder and wider issues with handling of complaints against police officers of sexual assault and harassment.</p> <p>The President noted that they had been contacted by concerned students about the attendance of the commissioner to speak at a university event in light of recent events. The Officer team discussed their stance on the attendance of the Commissioner in relation to freedom of speech. The President noted that the Guild should not wholly oppose their visit to campus on the ground of freedom of speech.</p> <p>The Officer team discussed their approach, noting a possible communications statement highlighting concerns around the handling of sexual assault allegations within the Metropolitan Police service and signposting students to support services for</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>these issues. The President noted that the event was planned as a lecture and significant audience input was not expected.</p> <p>JT suggested liaising with the University's communications team in relation to the Guild's position. The President suggested reaching out to the University to note the Officer teams concern about the event, while simultaneously preparing a public statement on the current issues with within the Police service.</p> <p>The President agreed to discuss the event with senior University colleagues and highlight the Officer team's concerns. The Officer team agreed to prepare a statement by email.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>President/All</p>
3	External Memberships	<p>SJ updated the Officer team on plans for the launch of digital applications for Guild external membership. SJ noted that a revised terms of conditions for external members had been drafted and were expected to go live shortly.</p> <p>The President noted an ongoing proposal from as student for the Guild to revert to the former version of the Bye-laws in relation to membership of the Guild, and to remove planned charges for external membership. The President noted that the idea had been passed to the democratic structures for discussion.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
4	Officers Away Day (05.11.21)	<p>SJ updated the Officer team on discussions relating to their planned upcoming away day. SJ noted a suggestion to split the two-day planned away day into two separate one day events on the 5th and 19th November. The Officer team agreed to the suggested dates.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
5	Diaries	<p>Not discussed.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
6	Priority Campaigns	<p>TS joined the meeting at 12:20.</p> <p>TS asked the Officer team about progress on their Priority Campaigns Actions.</p> <p>The PGO noted ongoing work on the comms elements of the mental health campaign, discussing with a number of students interested in participating in the campaign. The PGO suggested that they proceed with the mental health campaigns work in the absence of the WCO. The Officer team agreed to progress the WCO's actions in their absence.</p> <p>The President noted progress discussing the napping space with University staff and the incoming Vice-Chancellor, which had been very positive.</p> <p>The SO and IO noted that they had not yet met to progress their actions.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>TS noted that the Officer Team would next discuss their priority campaigns Monday 18th October.</p> <p>TS left the meeting at 12:30.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
7	Schools/ Colleges/ Dubai Update	Not discussed.	Noted
8	Part Time Officers	Not discussed.	Noted
9	Pro-Choice Union	<p>SM, LG, AS and EB joined the meeting at 12:30.</p> <p>The President noted significant ongoing discussion in the student body around Pro and Anti-choice student groups over the last few years since the approval of a pro-choice group at Exeter Guild of Students in 2019.</p> <p>The President updated the Officer team on the context of the Guild's current position on the issue, noting the Guild's existing Beliefs and Commitments policy as a pro-choice union. The President noted the issue of 'ultra vires', with abortion issues affecting students as members of the public and outside the context of the Guild as an educational charity to spend significant campaigning resources on either side of the debate.</p> <p>The President noted ongoing heated debate between students on social media on the issue of a pro-choice society.</p> <p>The President noted that the Guild had sought legal advice over its current pro-choice stance, noting that the Guild was able to communicate its stance as a pro-choice union publicly, but should not commit significant campaigning resources to the issue.</p> <p>LG noted that the Guild's current stance was up for renewal in November. LG noted that the current policy could be referred to Welfare & Liberation Committee for discussion and renewal, however they may take the view that the policy should be put to a vote of Full Members of the Guild for debate. LG noted the need for a clear and transparent process for the policy to progress through the Guild's member's democratic process.</p> <p>The PGO asked about the personal stances of individual Guild Officers in relation to abortion issues. JT noted that a neutral public stance was advisable as students may not see the distinction between Officer's personal and professional capacities.</p> <p>The EO noted that publishing a statement would be the best next step. The IO noted they agreed with the drafted statement.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>The AEO asked about the original process where the current policy had been approved. The President noted that the existing policy had been approved unanimously at the former Guild Policy Development Group (GPDG) in 2019. LG noted that to secure a stronger democratic mandate for the policy Welfare & Liberation committee should consider referring the policy for a vote of full members. The SO noted the importance of students having the opportunity to discuss both side of the argument.</p> <p>AS updated the Officer team on the Guild’s complaints process in relation to possible breaches of the existing policy and the Guild’s membership discipline procedure.</p> <p>The Officer team discussed the draft statement. The PGO noted the importance of using trans-inclusive language when referring to individuals who may choose to have an abortion. JT suggested seeking additional legal advice on the planned statement. EB to support.</p> <p>EB noted the need for full agreement from all Officers before the publication of the statement. EB noted the benefit of a statement which provided full context and detail on the issue for the sake of transparency. EB agreed to support with re-drafting.</p> <p>LG suggested seeking input from the Part-Time Officer team and providing advance notice to avoid any confusions with officer communications.</p> <p>The Officer team agreed to finalise the statement before the end of the day.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>EB</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>All</p>
10	AOB	No Items noted.	Noted