

**Present**

Mikey Brown, President (**President**) (Chair)  
 Danielle Murinas, Postgraduate Officer (**PGO**)  
 Jules Singh, Education Officer (**EO**) (arrived at 13:50)  
 Josephine Conway, Activities and Employability Officer (**AEO**) (**online**)  
 Aaliyah Simms, Welfare & Community Officer (**WCO**) (**online**)  
 George Christian, Sports Officer (**SO**)  
 Acacia Matthews, President -Elect (**AM**)  
 Benjamin Lockley, Postgraduate Officer -Elect (**BL**)  
 Vanessa Chigariro, Education Officer -Elect (**VC**)  
 Florence Craddock, Sports Officer –Elect (**FC**)  
 Tinajie (Alice) Liu, International Officer -Elect (**TL**)  
 Reeve Isaacs-Smith, Welfare & Community Officer -Elect (**RIS**)  
 Isobel Lawson, Activities & Employability Officer -Elect (**IL**)  
 Jo Thomas, Chief Executive (**JT**)

**Also in Attendance**

Sam Jones, Executive Assistant (**SJ**) (note taker)

**Apologies**

Wei-Lun Chen, International Officer (**IO**)

No	Item for Discussion	Notes	Action
1	<b>Minutes from 05.07.2022</b>	The Officer Team approved the previous minutes of the last meeting, dated the 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting. SJ to amend one minor change.	<b>Approved SJ</b>
2	<b>Extenuating Circumstances Certification</b>	<p>The following agenda items were taken out of order, with Item 2 discussed last.</p> <p>The EO noted that at a recent University Education Committee meeting, the University had proposed and approved the removal of Extenuating Circumstances self-certification processes for students. The EO noted that following this, further discussions with the University had taken place on the changes, and the possible requirements for 'evidence' for an extension.</p> <p>The Officer Team discussed an approach to challenge the University's action to remove self-certification extensions. The PGO noted that the number of extensions of was very high in some schools, but the reasons of these was unclear. The EO noted the bunching up of submission deadlines as a possible cause.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
3	<b>Democracy Review</b>	The President delivered a presentation on possible changes to the Guild's democratic structures, following discussions at the recent	

		<p>Trustee Board meeting. The President noted that the outgoing team were supportive of a wide-ranging democratic review in the coming year.</p> <p>The President noted the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee meetings were often not quorate, and the current structures were not serving the outcomes that the Guild wanted to see.</li> <li>• The Guild should have its campaigning and democracy work at the front and centre of its work.</li> <li>• The Guild should consider standing down its existing Members Democratic Process, replace its part-time office roles with 'community organisers', and refresh the structure of its liberation associations as new student networks.</li> <li>• By freeing up resources from supporting the committee structure, the Guild would be able to better support its student campaigners and changemakers.</li> <li>• Campaigns Pot funding requests should be discussed and approved by FTOG.</li> <li>• The Guild should change its stance of what the outcome of a democratic decision is, from a policy change or mandate, to concrete action.</li> <li>• A range of possible mechanisms to collect student feedback could be used, including referenda, officer question time events or 'town hall' events.</li> <li>• The new 'Community Organiser' roles would be paid, elected positions with their own mandate and a budget to run events, but outside any formal committee structures, and with dedicated staff support.</li> </ul> <p>The SO noted the risk of abolishing the existing democratic committee structures with respect to Officer workload. The SO suggested that the changes could be brought in over time.</p> <p>The SO asked about the transfer of campaigns pot approvals to the Full-Time Officer Team from the Guild Officer Group. The President noted their preference that the Guild accept the risk of disruption and transition to a new democratic model quickly.</p> <p>The EO joined the meeting at 13:50.</p> <p>The Officer team discussed the proposals. The PGO noted difficulties with PG engagement over the last academic year. The PGO noted a risk for keeping part-time community organiser roles as elected positions in oversight of a new student network. The President noted the benefit of the new part-time roles having their own mandate.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
4	<b>FTO Elections Working Group</b>	<p>BL suggested forming a Full-Time Officer working group on the Guild's Elections, following a large amount of feedback from the summer elections period. The PGO noted that review work was ongoing in student voice on possible changes to the election's regulations.</p>	<p><b>Noted</b></p>

		The PGO noted a possible conflict of interest for the Full-Time Officers in reviewing elections processes, in the case that they were planning to re-stand in future. JT noted that there was an established staff election working group reviewing the feedback and the Student Voice team would be happy to share the feedback collated so far. BL to discuss with JT and SD.	<b>BL/JT/SD</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>PG Officer Welcome Events</b>	BL suggested the establishment of a specific budget to support welcome activities for PG and International students for Welcome Week 2022. JT noted that there was funding available to support PG and International activities for Welcome Events. BL noted their plan to finalise events and printed materials by the end of August.  The PGO suggested BL and a member of staff to meet with the University's Graduate School to discuss possible events. JT noted the value of having significant events and activities planned for the coming academic year.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Graduations</b>	The Officer Team discussed their attendance at the graduation processions for the coming two weeks. SJ updated the Officer Team on arrangements for their attendance at graduations.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>PGR Open Letter</b>	The PGO noted an ongoing petition seeking additional government support for PG students affected by the cost of living crisis. The PGO noted that the value of HR stipends was not keeping pace with inflation, and was not adequate to support living costs. The PGO proposed signing the letter on behalf of the Guild Officer Team and promote on social media.  The President noted the importance of the Guild supporting PG students to improve PG engagement. The President noted the cost of living crisis faced by students.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Community Pantry</b>	The PGO noted discussions at the last meeting on the possibility of using the remaining funds from the Guild's campaigns pot to fund stock for the University's new community pantry. The PGO noted that the Finance Team had suggested purchasing supermarket vouchers, which could then be used by Guild Advice in their hardship support for students.  The Officer Team discussed additional hardship support for students faced by the cost of living crisis, including additional University support and the provision of sanitary products.  The SO asked about the establishment of space for the community pantry. JT noted that there would be space for the project in the University's chaplaincy.  The Officer Team agreed to support the project from their remaining campaigns pot budget.	<b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Noted</b>  <b>Agreed</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Officer Key Meetings</b>	Not discussed.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Schools/Colleges/ Dubai Update</b>	Not discussed.	<b>Noted</b>

<b>11</b>	<b>Guild Communications &amp; Social Media</b>	Not discussed.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Part Time Officers</b>	Not discussed.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>AOB (Any Other Business)</b>	The President thanked SJ and JT for their support for the Officer Team over the last 12 months. The outgoing Officers Team wished the new team all the best for their coming term in office.	<b>Noted</b>