

Full-Time Officer Group (FTOG)

12:00 – 13:00, Online Meeting (Zoom).

## **Present**

George Christian, Sports Officer **(SO)** (Chair) Mikey Brown, President **(President)** Aaliyah Simms, Welfare & Community Officer **(WCO)** Josephine Conway, Activities and Employability Officer **(AEO)** Jules Singh, Education Officer **(EO)** Wei-Lun Chen, International Officer **(IO)** 

## Also in Attendance

Jo Thomas, Chief Executive (JT) Sam Jones, Executive Assistant (SJ) (note taker) Tom Snape, Campaigns & Policy Coordinator (TS) (Agenda Item 1-2 only)

## **Apologies**

Danielle Murinas, Postgraduate Officer (PGO)

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	Notes	ACTION
1	Minutes from 06.12.2021	The minutes from the 6th December 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	Approved
2	Priority Campaigns	<ul> <li>TS updated the Officer Team on progress with their 'Change in Mind' mental health campaign.</li> <li>TS noted that the Change in Mind forum held in the previous week had received a low turnout, however the quality of the conversations</li> </ul>	Noted
		had been very positive and several volunteers had given good feedback on some outreach sessions they had held on campus. TS updated the officer team for plans for outreach and training session in the new year, noting the possibility of a number of	Noted
		outreach sessions at the UoBE Festival in the w/c 24 <sup>th</sup> January 2022. The President noted the uncertainty around online assessments and the number of students expected on campus during the enrichment week, however the festival was a great opportunity to engage with students on campus.	Noted
		The President noted the Prime Minister's from the previous evening on the Omicron COVID-19 variant which was currently sweeping across the UK. The Officer Team discussed the format of outreach sessions for the campaign in relation to COVID-19 restrictions, and the willingness of students to speak to strangers face-to-face in light of the additional risks.	Noted
		The WCO noted that students may be more reluctant discuss in person, particularly for vulnerable students, however this would likely be dependent on COVID-19 control measures in the new year.	Noted

		SJ noted the Guild's planned activity for the UoBE Festival. The Officer Team discussed hosting stalls at the Guild's fairs, and across the Guild's outdoor activities over the week. The SO noted their concern about low foot-fall at the UoBE festival's events in person in light of COVID-19 case numbers. TS noted that festival's events should be seen as the beginning of a ramp-up of activity for the campaign over the course of Semester two. The Officer Team discussed an online survey to collect additional survey responses and supplement the campaigns data with additional quantitative information. TS left the meeting at 12:25.	Noted Noted Noted
3	COVID-19 Comms and University Position	The President noted the rapidly changing situation for students in terms of the Omicron variant of COVID-19, which was beginning to spread rapidly across the UK. The President noted the similarities with winter 2020 in terms of COVID-19 concerns. The President noted the need for clear and up-to-date comms to students on the University's position, and support services available from the Guild. The President noted the importance of encouraging students to get booster vaccinations. The President noted the uncertainty for students, particularly with some exams still expected to go ahead in person. The President suggested planning for communications over the Christmas break period if national measures were to change.	Noted
4	Remote Learning & Assessment	<ul> <li>The IO noted significant uncertainty for international students in terms of the expectation for them to return to the UK in the new year for in-person teaching and assessments. The IO updated the Officer team on their petition on remote learning. The IO note the University's current position that still required international students to return to the UK in time for the start of term.</li> <li>The WCO suggested pushing the University to pivot to supporting remote learning. The WCO noted numerous cases of students being advised to take a leave of absence from their courses if they were not able to attend teaching in person. The President suggested seeking optional remote learning for students, while retaining the benefits of in-person teaching for students happy and able to attend in person.</li> <li>The Officer Team discussed their position on remote learning and next steps with the University. The EO noted a policy mandating the Officer Team to seek remote learning provision for students unable to return to the UK. The President noted their understanding that remote learning provision would not be available for all students.</li> </ul>	Noted Noted
5	FTOG - 21st December	The Officer Team agreed to cancel their next FTOG meeting before Christmas (21 <sup>st</sup> December 2021)	Noted

4	Officer Key Meetings	<b>President –</b> GEMT, Registrar's meeting, GOG.	Noted
		<b>Sports</b> –. British Inspiration Trust meeting, Brit Challenge meeting, Commonwealth Games meeting, BUCS marketing meeting, Activities Committee.	Noted
		<b>IO –</b> International Committee, UoBE Festival WG.	Noted
		<b>Education –</b> Academic Support Week, PVC Education 1:1, Activities Committee.	Noted
		<b>PGO –</b> n/a.	Noted
		<b>WCO –</b> GOG, DROG, CRP Project meeting, meeting with West Midlands Police, Police Site walk, PAUSE management group.	Noted
		<b>AEO –</b> Associations meeting, Redbrick planning, Inclusivity training, Activities Committee, MDX.	Noted
5	Schools/ Colleges/ Dubai Update	No items noted.	Noted
10	Guild Communication s & Social Media	<ul> <li>The Officer team discussed their planned communications for the coming week. The Officer Team noted the following items for promotion:</li> <li>'Change in Mind' campaign.</li> <li>COVID-19 Updates to students.</li> </ul>	
		The President agreed to plan and deliver comms updates to students following the Prime minister's announcement in relation to COVID-19, encouraging students to get their booster vaccines and reassuring students of the Guild's support during this difficult time.	Noted
11	Part Time Officers	The SO noted that they would in future be invited to all University sustainability and environmental meetings.	Noted
12	AOB	The President noted the need to progress the Guild's Disabled Students Commission work. The Officer Team agreed to progress the project via a new regular meeting.	Noted
		The Officer Team discussed the sharing of 'lost and found' items on the Guild's Fab and Fresh Facebook group, via which often personal data from ID's and card details were shared inappropriately. The Officer Team discussed developing a set of guidelines on sharing lost and found info on the group, and to direct students to the University's lost and found office.	Noted
13	Meeting Reflection	No Items noted.	