

**Committee Name: Guild Officer Group**
**Date & Time: 8.10.21, 16:00**
**Present:**

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Mikey Brown – Guild President Josphine Conway – A&E Officer Jules Singh – Education Officer Danielle Murinas- Postgraduate Officer George Christian - Sports Officer Aaliyah Simms - Welfare and Community Officer Wei-Lun Chen - International Officer  Adam Dorey - Campaigns Officer Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer Imogen Mann - Disabled Students; Officer  Also in attendance: Tom Snape, Policy and Campaigns Coordinator and GOG Secretary Lucy Gill, Voice and Representation Manager		Rachel Boucher - Ethical and Environmental Officer Manisha Kaur - Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Eleanor Thomas - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Louisa Martin - Women's Officer

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB Opened Meeting</li> </ul>	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ N/A</li> </ul>	
3	The Role and Functioning of the Guild Officer Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ TS summarised the purposes of GOG as outlined in the bylaws</li> <li>▪ MB asked how often GOG would like to meet</li> <li>▪ AS suggested once a month</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB said he was minded to agree</li> <li>▪ RH agreed that regular meetings was a good idea and that once a month was fairly doable</li> <li>▪ AD agreed with monthly</li> <li>▪ DM agreed with monthly, and highlighted that there are also other ways of us touching base</li> <li>▪ Agreed that GOG would meet monthly</li> <li>▪ GC highlighted that he sees GOG as important to talk about Green Impact and sustainability work within The Guild. He asked if it could be a standing item.</li> <li>▪ DM suggested that discussing wins and updates may be valuable – even if this is just for a few minutes.</li> <li>▪ MB highlighted that 14 individual updates might be too much – but is keen that all officers are heard</li> <li>▪ AS suggested sharing goals for the month may be a good idea, alongside discussions on big issues that may need a while group discussion</li> <li>▪ MB suggested - PTO individual updates, and FTO collective updates – it was agreed and actioned.</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>TS</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TS</b></p>
4	All Student Meeting Procedure (For Discussion)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB clarified that the group are clear on the role of the All Student Meeting</li> <li>▪ RN provided a summary of the All Student Meeting procedure as it is currently drafted</li> <li>▪ MB clarified that the All Student Meeting has both student submissions or ‘officer business’</li> <li>▪ LG highlighted that the ‘process’ of the all student meeting isn’t what attracts students – what gets better engagement is having important issues of the agenda</li> <li>▪ JS clarified whether the All Student Meeting is in person or not.</li> <li>▪ LG stated that is up to GOG, but a quorate meeting can not fit into any Guild room. It being online means higher capacity and more student can potentially join.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DM agreed that it being online was better.</li> <li>▪ As did MB</li> <li>▪ RN confirmed the first meeting is scheduled for November</li> <li>▪ It was agreed the meeting would be held online at least for the first meeting.</li> <li>▪ MB expressed a view that the procedure is largely fit for purpose.</li> <li>▪ RN asked if officers are comfortable with a 'student friendly' version of the procedure being produced.</li> <li>▪ MB agreed.</li> <li>▪ RN asked officers to consider at least one discussion item, and potential idea submissions too.</li> <li>▪ MB asked that the next GOG be in early November and discuss this.</li> </ul>	<b>TS</b>
5	Idea Submission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RN discussed the ideas that had yet to be responded to as they were submitted in the summer.</li> <li>▪ DM discussed the submission relating to PG spaces and catering over summer.</li> <li>▪ JC stated she needs to follow up the idea submission related to employability.</li> <li>▪ MB clarified if this is in keeping with the procedure.</li> <li>▪ RN stated this is for the officers to direct.</li> </ul>	
6	Elections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LG gave a summary of the state of play in autumn elections, and asked officers to consider standing or suggest that people run.</li> <li>▪ She clarified that officers are bound by some rules relating to the election process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Full Time Officers can run for NUS delegate roles. They cannot endorse candidates as 'themselves' or as an officer.</li> <li>▪ Part Time Officers are bound by similar rules, but they are able to endorse candidates as 'themselves' (but still not in their official role capacity).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ RN talked about the support across elections.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB clarified that recommending people apply is well within the rules.</li> <li>▪ LG agreed and said this can help to secure candidates who are “good eggs”</li> </ul>	
7	Campaigns Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB explained what the activist network is.</li> <li>▪ AD asked about the priority campaign for the year.</li> <li>▪ MB explained the broad ideas of the ‘vocal and visible’ (TS to circulate) and the mental health priority campaign.</li> </ul>	
8	Student Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JS discussed the changes to jurisdiction of university regulations – which is a major win for The Guild.</li> <li>▪ LG clarified that the Not On Coordinator will be starting soon – and that ‘Not On November’ is coming.</li> <li>▪ DM clarified that The Guild was not yet in a position to provide the mandatory consent training, but good progress is being made.</li> <li>▪ JC talked about the work ongoing related to tackling drink spiking.</li> <li>▪ AS is working on bringing in drinks covers and other kit to support work on drink spiking in The Guild.</li> <li>▪ DS discussed some students expressing concerns about the police presence on campus.</li> <li>▪ AS discussed the work ongoing to build supportive relationships with the PCSOs on campus – who are compassionately trained. She stated that they would likely be open to having open and public discussions with students on this.</li> <li>▪ MB agreed, and flagged the difference between the perception of the specific local PCSOs and the Police and an institution.</li> <li>▪ DM stated there would likely be some utility in them having a stronger outreach presence.</li> <li>▪ IM asked if any of the PCSOs have disability awareness training.</li> <li>▪ AS said she would ask and get back to Imogen.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IM expressed frustration at being asked if she is drunk</li> <li>▪ DM and RH asked if there PCSOs have general diversity training. RH stated that many Trans students have negative experiences of being misgendered.</li> <li>▪ WC talked about the importance of PCSOs reaching out to International Students.</li> </ul>	
9	Funding Request: Activist Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ MB clarified that while the decision making committees were out of action.</li> <li>▪ MB was asking for £230 for some pizza and staff time to launch the activist network.</li> <li>▪ It is approved.</li> </ul>	
10	Potential Industrial Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LG provided an outline of the current UCU dispute.</li> <li>▪ MB clarified that the stance of FTOG is that this dispute is a 'new dispute' as a new letter of dispute has been issued.</li> <li>▪ This means that The Guild are required to adopt the associated stance in the beliefs and commitment, unless directed to do otherwise in a referendum.</li> <li>▪ AD and RH stated they were generally supportive but think The Guild should monitor student opinion.</li> <li>▪ AS discussed the experience of being in a college with significant numbers of lecturers striking. She stated that some students felt they were left unsupported.</li> <li>▪ DM stated that PGRs could be on strike, while PGTs could be against it – putting her in a difficult position. For PGTs, two months out of 12 missing in a peak teaching time could have a huge impact.</li> <li>▪ MB summarised his position on the strikes. He was the person who proposed the current guild policy. He stated he was not sure if now was a good time to call a strike, both for student goodwill and reaching quorum on the ballot. He had discussed this with other RG SUs, and stated he did not want The Guild to</li> </ul>	

		<p>become a political tool or bargaining chip of the Trade Union or University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ LG stated that the University are under a lot of pressure from the OfS to provide a good experience, so are likely to be quite involved in trying to shape the narrative if a strike happened. COVID and previous strikes mean that many students have not had much face to face time with lecturers, so may not feel strong links with their academics.</li> <li>▪ AS asked if it was possible for The Guild to call another vote – as our primary goal is to represent students, rather than any other goals.</li> <li>▪ MB said he was minded to agree with this – as circumstances are materially different.</li> <li>▪ DM clarified that PGRs are staff and our members.</li> </ul>	
8	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AS raised the issue ongoing on Fab n Fresh relating to the ‘Students For Life’ Student Group.</li> <li>▪ MB stated that this will be on the agenda of FTOG. He also raised the issue of the context The Guild was operating in, especially with the Government’s view on Students’ Unions.</li> <li>▪ GC explained the Green Impact framework, and that some things will be raised in future meetings.</li> <li>▪ MB talked about having a GOG social in future.</li> </ul>	

**The Chair closed the meeting at: 17:05**

**Date of next meeting: Early November**