

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 9/11/2021 13:00
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Mikey Brown – Guild President Josphine Conway – A&E Officer Danielle Murinas- Postgraduate Officer Wei-Lun Chen - International Officer Jules Singh – Education Officer George Christian - Sports Officer Adam Dorey - Campaigns Officer Imogen Mann - Disabled Students; Officer Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer Also in attendance: Tom Snape, Policy and Campaigns Coordinator and GOG Secretary Lucy Gill, Voice and Representation Manager Rozena Nadeem, Democracy Coordinator	Jules Singh – Education Officer	Aaliyah Simms - Welfare and Community Officer 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"> MB noted that the meeting was quorate and opened the meeting 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of last two meetings (including emergency meeting) are approved. 	
3	Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JC gave collective update on behalf of FTOs. FTOs and senior management have been spending a lot of time on the issue of drink spiking. A raft of new changes have been implemented to how security is handled. Open meeting was also held to gather student feedback – which was 	

		<p>useful. MB and JC met with 'Not On My Campus', to further discuss this. The measures seem to have been well received but The Guild does not intend to stop here – some of what is planned will take a little time to work through.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MB stated they are aware that some of the measure are not universally liked, and come with potential drawbacks which they hope are satisfactorily mitigated. ▪ MB gave initial summary of work of officer group. Discussed the other issues the officers have been working on, including the protests around a potential university speaker. ▪ MB also said he was aware the plan to share FTOG minutes hasn't been actioned yet. ▪ Gender Neutral toilets were approved by The Guild's Health and Safety Committee – will now be considered by 'Space Group'. ▪ RH gave an update on the Trans Day of Remembrance, and the planned Trans Swim Event. Social media content is also being worked through so support this. ▪ AD has been working on a proposal around a citizens' assembly, supporting the Change in Mind campaign, and other officer campaign priorities. ▪ IM is working on Disability History Month and the publication of the Disabled Students' Commission. 	MB
4	All Student Meeting Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ All Present approved the Procedure. 	Approved
5	All Student Meeting Idea Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discussion of what Officers may want to bring to All Student Meeting. ▪ RN noted that by the end of this week some clarity is needed on this. ▪ MB noted his inclination towards bringing the Change In Mind Campaign. ▪ RH raised concerns regarding the incoming Vice Chancellors' recent 	

		<p>positions on Trans Rights and student freedom to protest. They discussed their idea, in which The Guild would take a stance in favour of students having the right to protest, and against Transphobia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MB stated he agreed with the premise of the motion – he asked if that was most appropriate for it to be the ‘officer item’ or an ‘idea’ on the agenda. ▪ RN noted that as it has come in as an ‘idea’, it will go through that process – potentially via a committee. ▪ MB confirmed that the ‘officer item’ on the agenda does not lead to ‘policy’ or formal stance – but is for discussion. ▪ It was agreed that ‘Change In Mind’ and ‘Student Protest and Freedom of Speech’ ▪ WC noted the topic of the large number of international students who are concerned about having to come and study in person in the UK for the second semester. There has been significant online protest and petition. ▪ RN noted that the agenda is already quite long – so the meeting will be substantive. ▪ MB noted that if the discussion of international students came to the All Student Meeting – it may be quorate. ▪ It was agreed that the International Student distance learning motion would be taken to the All Student meeting too – with a vote on the stance. ▪ The timing will be reconsidered in light of international students. ▪ MB gave a short summary of the Pro-Choice policy proposal, which is being given consideration and legal advice sought. 	<p>RN</p> <p>RN</p> <p>RN</p>
6	Change In Mind Campaign	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TS gave a summary of the Change In Mind Campaign. ▪ AD asked about timelines for the campaign. ▪ MB talked about the need for comms to promo 	

7	Appointments Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was noted that only two PTOs are present, so TS will circulate this for consideration. 	TS
8	Disability History Month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ TS gave a summary of the plan for Disability History Month. ▪ DM stated she would be keen to think about how a PG focus can be given to the month. 	
9	Industrial Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MB gave a short summary of the current state of play: That the UCU @ UoB have voted in favour of strike action, but that this may not be totally confirmed until a national decision is made. It appears that the General Secretary of UCU nationally will be pushing for an arrogated re-ballot – but others in the union are calling for other plans. ▪ The UCU national committee pushed back their meeting from yesterday to Friday, so we do not know what their final call will be. ▪ So, it is not clear whether there will be a strike. ▪ GOG previously approved a referendum if the vote was quorate, but this may not be the right path. ▪ The UCU need to give 2 weeks notice for a strike, the Guild can run a referendum in 3 weeks – so we risk a strike occurring before the referendum concludes. ▪ The referendum quorum is 2,000 students – which requires a lot of work to secure turnout. ▪ The options put are that GOG empowers the President to call a referendum if the time is right, or that a referendum is called now – at risk of it not being required or being quorate. ▪ LG noted that getting a quorate referendum is a significant undertaking that would wipe out the comms channels for a week – so the decision to call one should not be taken lightly. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DM stated she was minded to wait, as students would not feel a sense of urgency if no strike is currently planned. ▪ JS agreed with DM. ▪ MB asked if anyone disagreed. ▪ WC asked what plans are in place for a referendum. ▪ LG confirmed that the Student Voice team have put together a timeline that is ready to go. ▪ MB said he would like a referendum question that works whenever it is required. ▪ MB asked how GOG wanted to make the decision. ▪ AD stated he was happy to empower the FTOs to make the final decision – as was RH. ▪ GOG delegated the responsibility to calling the approved referendum to FTOG. ▪ MB stated once the decision is made, the PTOs will be informed as a matter of priority. ▪ MB is tasked with monitoring the situation closely with a view to triggering the strike on a timely manner. ▪ MB gave a short summary of the Vice Chancellors response to The Guild’s potential support – which was to ask on what basis potential support would be given. MB stated that Universities are ‘digging in’ to try and prepare to break the strike. 	<p>FTOs</p> <p>MB</p>
10	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RN raised the submission taken through the ideas process regarding the Uyghurs Genocide – and asked where the Officers were minded to consider it. ▪ MB stated he was minded to it being considered by Campaigns Committee. ▪ RN noted that the idea had a number of provisions relating to welfare, that may be better reviewed elsewhere. ▪ LG noted that international conflict ideas have some legal considerations as they 	

		<p>relate to our charitable objects – but that this can be considered as part of the process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MB noted he was of the view that the allocations procedure may need to be updated, including guidance around what is and is not ‘unlawful’ for a charity to engage with. ▪ MB noted too that there is a difference between a stance, and corporate conclusion, and using charity resources to support it. ▪ DM noted that this guidance in general needs to be strengthened – there is a lack of clarity regarding the things the Guild can or cannot do on a range of issues. ▪ It was resolved that the motion should be allocated to a decision making committee for consideration. ▪ It was resolved that MB and Student Voice would revisit the issues around guidance around charitable law, allocations, and student expectations. 	<p>RN</p> <p>MB/RN/LG</p>
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 14:36
Date of next meeting: December