

Guild Officer Group (GOG) Minutes

Voting Members Present: **Joshua Williams** (President) [JW], **Josh Dooler** (Sports Officer) [JD], **Cho Park** (International Officer) [CP], **Tobiloba Adeyemi** (Postgraduate Officer) [TA], **Ryan Ginger** (Activities and Employability Officer) [RG], **Amber Culley** (LGBTQ Students' Officer) [AC], **Shirley Ibegbulam** (Women's Officer) [SI], **Jules Singh** (Commuter Students' Officer) [JS], **Amanda Sefton** (Education Officer) [AS], **Em Andress** (Trans Students' Officer) [EA]

Also In attendance: **Lucy Gill** (Student Voice Manager), **Tom Snape** (Policy and Campaigns Coordinator and GOG Secretary) [TS]

Absent with Apologies: **Tukeer Hussain** (Ethnic Minority Students' Officer) [TH], **Manisha Dhaliwal** (Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer) [MD], **Millie Gibbins** (Welfare & Community Officer) [MG], **Alice Fowle** (Disabled Students' Officer) [AF], **Nicky Williams** (Ethical and Environmental Officer) [NW], **Alex J. Sinclair** (Mature Students' Officer) [AJS],

The meeting commenced at: 14:09

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	Welcome	JW opened meeting.	
2	Democracy Review	JW: Democracy review has passed to next stage. New roles elected in January. Committee structure will be reviewed too, it's important that it's got right. Extensive student consultation is planned. RG: Sub group is discussing a communications plan.	
3	Global and Inclusive	University have an arts initiative they would like to launch around the diversity of Birmingham and what Birmingham means to them. Would be displayed in Aston Webb corridor. AS – It would be a good idea but it's important that a range of demographics are represented. RG – Could be a good way of showcasing students who got involved in the guild and highlighting how it becomes a big part of student experience for some. JW – Risk that it could be seen as tokenistic. EM – If done respectfully it could avoid tokenism.	

		AS – Perhaps we could have a public nominations process with GOG choosing from the nominations. This is agreed.	Action
4	One City	It's coming soon – please attend. NUS President is attending and will then be coming to the Guild and PTOs will be able to meet her.	
6	Guild Elections	LG updated on guild elections and thanked GOG for help with voter turnout. Highest ever autumn elections turnout. We are starting to plan the main elections. NUS Liberation conference is new this year – 6 places available. Would welcome input on candidate outreach programmes and how to build an inclusive process. Information will be circulated at the end of term. TA keen to do something postgraduate specific. JW bought up the issue of hustings and how they should be handled. Possibility of an informal style event in a space like mermaid bar is raised and generally agreed. Importance of having an International Students' Officer Q&A agreed alongside the importance of accessibility of venues for all events.	Action
6	Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters arising	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and no issues arising identified.	Approved
7	Buddy Meeting Updates	AS – Commuter students social is planned – to be discussed in campaigns pot. JW – University doesn't currently have any Trans specific policies which has caused some problems. EA has produced some notes already outlining his concerns with the processes as it operates currently. AS – Reps guidance is being distributed on RAPs.	
8	Campaigns Pot	Menstrual Cups Proposal would involve buying menstrual cups. Idea is to encourage students to buy them with freebies. Also the potential to get a University wide discount code. (take from general pot) Drag Night EM knows the people organising it and they have organised drag nights before. It is also highlighted how valuable the intersectionality of the event	Approved Approved

		<p>is.</p> <p>Panel Aims are strong but request more information is needed.</p> <p>Campaign Request more information – rejection until more information is provided.</p> <p>Commuter Winter Social Discussion held about whether it should a bespoke event or encouraging people to come to Xmas on campus – decided that it should be bespoke. It was highlighted how positive it was that the proposed event wasn't focused on Christianity and Christmas but a broader winter celebration.</p> <p>Rainbow laces In connection with Stonewall programme. Working with LGBTQ+ committee to ensure it's not tokenistic. Also planning for a themed night out but handling it in a sensitive way. Plan is to use the laces for teams and coaches on the day. Potential to use the laces as an incentive.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>
11	FTOG/GPDG Update	<p>JW provided update from FTOG.</p> <p>RG plugged Societies Night. GPDG deadline is 4pm on Monday. Discussion of an idea being submitted around the need for lockers.</p>	
12	AOB	<p>AS raised a campaign by UJS for Holocaust Memorial Day.</p> <p>RG bought forward a proposed statement regarding the general election asking for tolerance and flagging the Guild's role as a hate crime reporting centre.</p> <p>JW talked about Dubai trip and the purpose of it – to do right by the members of the Guild living there and a way that's respectful.</p> <p>JW talked about UCU strikes and the difficulties faced by the Guild and student body more generally. Already have agreement that the strike fund pot will be spent in consultation with the Guild. The impact traveling long distances then not being taught for commuters was raised. Any other thoughts to be submitted to JW by end of week.</p> <p>JW talked about making study space in the guild that wouldn't be crossing a picket line.</p> <p>JW talked about the need to ensure that students who do and don't support the strikes feels welcome.</p> <p>UNISON strikes also occurring over the exact same time period.</p> <p>JW - are we happy to provide a room for the UCU to use during the strikes? Agreement that room can be used if needed for</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

		negotiations. JW highlighted the importance of maintaining unity as an officer team. AS has been contact by the NUS regarding FAQs.	
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The chair closed the meeting at 15:40

Date of Next Meeting: