

Guild Officer Group Minutes

Voting Members Present: **Reece Roberts** (President) [RR], **Adam Goldstone** (Education Officer) [AG], **Simon Price** (Sports Officer) [SP], , **Jo Park** (International Officer) [JP], **Jess Rutland** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JR], , **Alif Trevathan** (Co-Women's Officer) [AT], **Holly Battrick** (Co-Women's Officer) [HB], **Robyn Macpherson** (Activities and Employability Officer) [RM], **Jules Singh** (Commuter Students Officer) [JSI], **Kate Chard** (Ethical & Environmental Officer) [KC], **Jess Small** (Postgraduate Officer) [JS], **Finn Humphris** (Trans Student's Officer) [FH], **Izzy Bygrave** (Welfare and Community Officer) [IB], **Josie Hyde** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JH], **Damilola Oyeleke** (Ethnic Minorities Officers) [DO].

Also In attendance: **Sam Jones** (Campaigns Coordinator, GOG Secretary) [SJ], **Adam Sheridan** (Director of Engagement)

Absent with Apologies: **Janiece Jackson** (Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer) [JJ].

Absent without Apologies: **Lauren Kennedy** (Mature & Part-Time Students Officer) [LK].

The meeting commenced at 18:05

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	Welcome and Introductions	RR opened the meeting, welcomed all present and read out apologies.	Noted
2	Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	No matters arising, minutes of the last meeting approved.	Approved
3	Liberation Officers and Sustainability	<p>SP gave an introduction to the Guild's on-going sustainability work, which he is overseeing this year. Previously liberation officers had been very involved in sustainability work and run events in Go Green week etc. So far this hadn't been the case this year, so suggested GOG discuss ways we could link liberation activity and the associations with sustainability work for term 2/3.</p> <p>HB suggested looking at moon cups, possibly a giveaway or discount to encourage less waste and tackle period poverty at the same time.</p> <p>FH suggested running a trans-friendly period event with eco-friendly products.</p> <p>JSI said the commuters student association could look at running a clothes swap event in term 3.</p> <p>SJ added that PTO's should get in touch with Student Voice if they</p>	

		<p>wanted staff help/ to apply for funding for the events.</p> <p>SP thanked everyone for their ideas, and offered to help implement them also.</p>	
4	Vice-Chancellors Question Time	<p>RR gave an update on the upcoming Vice-Chancellor's Question Time event. This year there would be a panel of university senior staff rather than the VC alone, at the request of the university.</p> <p>RR said that organising the event had been difficult and taken a lot of back and forth with the university. The chair will be Ellis Palmer, a BBC journalist and former Guild Officer.</p> <p>RR encouraged PTO's to ask questions, and to keep them general so that it would be accessible to the audience and the panel would be able to answer them in the room.</p> <p>JR asked how many attendees they were expecting.</p> <p>RR replied 100, but Deb Hall had capacity for around 400.</p>	Noted
5	Pro-Life Group Statement	<p>RR ran through the timeline so far on the pro-life society at the Guild, which was approved at the last meeting of SGX. Currently the Guild are working with the society to get a detailed wording of their activities in their constitution.</p> <p>RR said that he was hoping to write up a statement on the new group for publication, and wanted the officer team to all sign off on it.</p> <p>JR asked if the Guild was still in line with its policy on a pro-choice stance in the Beliefs and Commitments.</p> <p>RM replied that the statement would reflect the policy, and clarify the Guild's processes as they had been misrepresented by some commentators.</p> <p>FH said that as a liberation officer, they felt that the Guild needed to make it clear that it would not tolerate harassment and abuse of pregnant students.</p> <p>RR replied that the Guild would make that clear in all decisions/information published, and that the Guild had gone out for legal advice on this issues which should come back soon.</p> <p>AS added that the Guild had asked for legal advice on the issues which should be coming back in two weeks. The purpose of the legal advice was for the Guild to better understand its obligations on freedom of speech/expression, and implement that correctly in relation to this new group.</p> <p>HB asked what the point of the Guild's pro-choice policy was if it didn't bind the Guild to that stance in terms of groups.</p> <p>AS replied that the wording which had passed stated a policy against pro-life protests, not groups.</p>	

		<p>AT replied that this wasn't the wording they had put forward – had it been changed?</p> <p>SJ actioned to send around the wording of the Guild's policy on pro-choice stance.</p> <p>RM mentioned that the pro-life group were coming to SGX tomorrow for final sign off.</p> <p>RR said that he appreciated the sensitivity of the issue, and thanked everyone for their patience in resolving it.</p>	Action
6	Buddy Meeting Updates	<p>There were no updates on buddy meetings.</p> <p>RR actioned all FTO's to organise a buddy meeting in time for the next GOG meeting.</p>	
7	"Your Ideas" /Mandate Update	<p>RR ran through newly passed Your Ideas mandates and GPDG policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A proposal to reverse the changes to society tier structures had been unanimously rejected by GPDG. • A proposal to run a scheme on reducing litter in Selly Oak had been rejected because a scheme was already being set up by the community warden's team. 	Noted
8	Officer Accountability/ OQT	<p>RR asked for an end of term update on what each officer was working on:</p> <p>HB and AT had run Reclaim the Night to great success.</p> <p>FH was working on trans awareness posters in Guild and Uni toilets.</p> <p>-Action to have another toilet group meeting before the next GOG.</p> <p>AS updated GOG that he had spoken to the venues manager about the Guild's toilet policy and that in future decisions on removing people from toilets on club nights would be made on inappropriate behaviour rather than appearance.</p> <p>KC gave an update on Go Green Week and the high numbers of students which engaged with activity. The Fossil Free campaign open letter now had more than 1000 signatures. Also had held a meeting with university catering to talk about food waste in Uni venues, and arranging a meeting with Joes bar staff to look at ways to reduce plastic waste.</p> <p>JR and JH had been busy with dissertations this term, but had run a successful LGBT+ history month with university support.</p> <p>AG is finalising the black attainment gap report, responding to student concerns around the new plastic seating in the library and working with the University on its Responses to Brexit and Erasmus.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Action</p>

		<p>IB said she was working on the universities new mental health strategy and some focus groups with students.</p> <p>RM had been working on Guild Awards, which was a great success.</p> <p>DO was working with BEMA on running more safe space events.</p> <p>JH was looking at exam timetables, which had been very problematic this year for some students.</p> <p>AG asked JH to send over some info.</p> <p>SP was working on the varsity sports series, to hold more regular sporting events which more students could get into watching and supporting.</p> <p>JSI was planning the CSA trip to Drayton Manor.</p> <p>RR was working on finalising Scrutiny Panel, and would send officers more info about dates when they were finalised.</p> <p>JR asked if PTOs would be scrutinised, considering the amount of time they had compared to FTOs.</p> <p>SJ gave an update on the PTO role review.</p>	
9	Campaigns Pot	<p>SJ gave an update on the remaining funding in the campaigns pot.</p> <p>GOG approved £5.13 for refreshments for Simon Price.</p>	Approved
10	FTOG/GPDG Update	<p>RR gave an update on FTOG/GPDG minutes. Nothing was queried.</p>	Approved
11	AOB	<p>JR gave an update from NUS LGBT+ conference, that many delegates and the committee had concerns about liberation funding at NUS would be completely cut. The Guild should be opposing this.</p> <p>RR said that he was going to National Conference, and asked JR to send over info that the Guild to could pass onto the delegate team.</p> <p>FH highlighted concerns about NUS allowing exec teams at SUs to pick all delegates to future NUS events.</p> <p>AS said they were aware of this and that some smaller unions already did this for smaller conferences.</p> <p>The team had a discussion about the financial situation of NUS and the possible disaffiliations that could threaten NUS's survival.</p>	

The chair closed the meeting at 19:20

Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 30th April, 17:30 in Mandela.