

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 18.03.2026 12:00-13:00
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
<p>In Attendance:</p> <p>Emeline Brown – Activities & Employability Officer Aliasgar Gandhi – Postgraduate Officer Simrah Inamdar – International Officer Abhijeet Patel – Sports Officer (left at 12:33) Abby Kenrick – Welfare & Community Officer (Interim Chair) Max Williams – Sustainability Officer Ronak – Ethnic Minority Students’ Officer Sakshi Palve – LGBTQ+ Students’ Officer Lucy McCabe – Women’s Officer</p> <p>Also in attendance: Molly Purcell, Senior Voice Coordinator (Secretary) Jane Baston, Voice and Representation Manager Jo Thomas – CEO James Lindsay – Director of Community & Representation</p>	<p>Antonia Listrat – Guild President (Chair)</p> <p>Jacob Dyke – Education Officer</p>	<p>Olivia Bonner – Disabled Students’ Officer</p>

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	AK will be chairing in AL’s absence.	AK
2	Minutes from the last meeting	Happy to approve February’s minutes.	AK
3	Officer Projects	<p>AG: Working on UB Extra. Will be from 8th June.</p> <p>MW: Green Week this week. Good level of engagement across different events, collaborating with officers & University. Has good content from all of it.</p>	All

	<p>EB: Caught up with Head of Worklink. In a much better position than originally. Food & beverages is their focus point – students are replacing agencies. Speaking to IT services to only employ students. Careers Network are going to get students to fill admin roles. Feedback from JE that EB has been spreading the positive word.</p> <p>RR: Panellist at physics society event. Chai, Chaat and Sustain event yesterday with 36 attendees. Bollywood movie screening event next week which is next week. Will be training for Appointments Panel soon.</p> <p>AK: Working on CoL 2.0 project and will be lobbying for more funds. Working on disabled student contribution group. Follow ups from SHaG Week: looking to get more NHS pop-ups. Campaign planning for harm reduction with a rep from SOS-UK, 'Pace Yourself' posters for guidance for students. Poster campaigns for We Love Consent project. Working on ambassador recruitment as well.</p> <p>MW commended 'Pace Yourself' posters.</p> <p>LM: IWW at the start of this month. Very successful: sold-out period workshop, Vigil that other Officers helped cover. Event today in collab with EDI team at the University: 5-6 alumni coming. Collaborating with other Birmingham unis: 'Women's Walk'. Attending Sexual Misconduct Working Group.</p> <p>AK noted a VAWG walk that might be worth LM reaching out to.</p> <p>SP: Looking at Pride parade for June. Has meeting later on to discuss this with Student Voice. Appointments Panel at the end of March. Had first LGBTQ+ social in February which went well. Looking at study sessions for next term. Helping RR with Bollywood evening.</p>	
--	---	--

		<p>AK: asked whether the parade would be on Campus. SP said it would be and separate to Birmingham Pride.</p> <p>JL recommended support for Birmingham Pride should be discussed by GOG.</p> <p>AK mentioned that sponsors have improved for this year and that officers would now like to attend/support. Has been liaising with Uni on this.</p> <p>JL recommended to prepare some comms/positioning on GOG support for this year.</p> <p>SI: Eco Iftar was yesterday, 260 students attended, was well-attended. Society enjoyed it and food was great. Working on International Student Hub for website. Meeting with JE on International Student Orientation Programme. Working with AG on Careers Network.</p> <p>AG: Working on international support for translation. PG society on track to become biggest society. Attending PG working groups. PGR focus: looking to better support reps through better training & research portal. Ongoing work with PG&I forum.</p>	
4	<p><u>NUS Student Loans System News Article</u> - Petition for Student Loan Reform</p>	<p>JB: media conversations around student loans. Treasury committee has called an inquiry into student loans. Covers all loans and the impact on that. Enquiry that can be responded to. Ask to GOG on how the Guild should respond.</p> <p>AK: Based on Qs asked by Uni on CoL, they are keen for Guild to have an opinion which they agree with.</p> <p>MW: fully agrees the Guild should have a position considering the VC also has a view.</p>	JB

		<p>AK: GOG agrees that the Guild should have a position and this should be an active comms piece as an active campaign.</p> <p>JB: asked whether they would like to respond to the enquiry or respond to questionnaire.</p> <p>AK: asked for clarification on what this means.</p> <p>JL: said the questions are quite technical but is in our wheelhouse. One to consider is the government being able to change contracts. Current students may not see the impact but there is value in submitting something.</p> <p>AK: clarified GOG would be doing a response and asking students to respond.</p> <p>JT has notified comms team.</p> <p>JB/MP to set up meeting to discuss with AK.</p>	
5	Referendum Update	<p>JT: previous referendum date was postponed, which was a decision of the Chair of Trustees following concerns from Guild President. Next Board meeting is in May. Will come back to GOG to choose another date. Looking at w/c 8th or w/c 15th June.</p> <p>JB: flagged that final ASV is scheduled for w/c 8th June. We would want to align the referendum with this.</p> <p>MW: asked whether this could be moved to next AY.</p> <p>JT: the students who raised the petition are students now so would be best to do this AY. Potential we would have to do another petition if moved.</p> <p>AK: asked whether student groups can make a position in relation to engagement concern.</p>	JL

		<p>JT: would be under review in the referendum regulations. Recognises this is not ideal.</p> <p>AK: raised concerns about budget and asked whether campaigns pot could contribute.</p> <p>JL: We will need to make every effort into promoting the referendum and potentially reallocate funds to the referendum.</p> <p>JT: will keep everyone updated on this.</p> <p>AK: GOG is happy with the 8 June date.</p>	
8	AOB	<p>MW: asked whether Sabrina has stepped down.</p> <p>MP responded saying she has, last month.</p> <p>MW commended Voice team for elections efforts.</p> <p>JB: mentioned that the Officers now have successors and now we are looking at Training & Development programme. Only ask at this stage for handover is that we avoid handing anything over at this stage, recommended to speak to MP/JB/JL/JT. This isn't expected to start until May-time.</p> <p>JL: recommended to remind the Officer-elects that they still have assessments/dissertations to do. We will be in touch with them for VISA/PG requirements. Officers to forward these to HR team.</p> <p>AK: mentioned meningitis cases in Kent; one person has passed away. Government has provided information and the University will be putting out comms this week. Conscious we don't want to add to fear-mongering so will follow guidance from the University.</p>	

		EB noted scabies outbreak in Selly Oak.	
--	--	---	--

The Chair closed the meeting at: 12:51
Date of next meeting: 29.04.2026