

**Committee Name: Guild Officer Group**
**Date & Time: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 11:00-12:30**
**Present:**

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Amira Campbell – Guild President (Chair) Dean Turner - Welfare and Community Officer Cat Hardiman - Sports Officer Harry Brooks – A&E Officer  Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer Aoife O’Driscoll-Paton - Disabled Students; Officer  Also in attendance: Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Officer (or nominee) Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager	Ben Lockley - Postgraduate Officer  Joe Hill – Education Officer  Tianjie Liu (Alice) - International Officer  Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students’ Officer	Semmer Preet Singh-Ethnic Minority Students’ Officer Ismael Rodriguez Foronda - Ethical and Environmental Officer

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	AC welcomed everyone to the meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC noted that we are not currently quorate.</li> </ul>	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	JB explained that the minutes from the last meeting are not currently able to be circulated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AC noted that the main actions were around the Military Partnerships items.</li> <li>AC noted that the University has not intention to divest from Military investment. They currently allow investment in companies that make up to 10% of their revenue from the arms trade.</li> <li>AC noted that she would like the Guild to pressure the Uni on this.</li> <li>AC &amp; JH meet with the Head of EPS to discuss this. EPS highlighted that there is</li> </ul>	AC & DT to write a motion and circulate it to GOG to consider.  AC to contact JH to discuss involving Reps in Military Partnerships policy.

		<p>a higher proportion of company with potential ethical concerns in grad schemes and placements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AC noted that students will also seek these out without the University advertising them. There is a question regarding whether the University should be advertising these.</li> <li>▪ AC mentioned that the College Rep is keen to move away from advertising these opportunities.</li> <li>▪ AC noted that there are concerns about reducing the opportunities available for students if the University isn't advertising these.</li> <li>▪ AC noted that we would struggle to get traction on the investment piece are unlikely to change their stance.</li> <li>▪ AC noted that the Guild can publicly say that they want to see more ethical investment from the University but it's unlikely to change anything.</li> <li>▪ AC noted that we're likely to be able to put more pressure on regarding the partnerships than investment.</li> <li>▪ AC would like to see the Guild make a statement on this but we need to make sure that we have the relevant facts.</li> <li>▪ AC also noted that we should also ensure that we talk to relevant student groups that might be impacted.</li> <li>▪ HB noted that he would like to see more information about the impact of the partnerships.</li> <li>▪ JB suggested that the Democratic System could help with this as it has the function to call a student forum.</li> <li>▪ SD noted that we can also encourage student reps to engage with this as they will likely have thoughts and views on this.</li> <li>▪ DT noted that the Democratic System hasn't had a huge amount of engagement so far. That may change if students are more interested in engaging on this topic.</li> </ul>	<p>JB to support in setting up meetings</p>
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3	Officer Projects	<p>Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DT has hired 2 student staff to support the Community Breakfasts. The student staff role will continue next year.</li> <li>▪ DT had also intended to take the Harm Reduction paper to UEB. The paper didn't end up being discussed and DT ended up presenting the information verbally. There wasn't strong agreement in the room so there's more work to be done on getting everyone on board.</li> <li>▪ AC noted that the next UEB is the handover meeting.</li> <li>▪ DT noted that we can still submit a paper to another meeting which will hopefully mean that it will be approved.</li> <li>▪ HB has been working on reviewing various policies around membership, room bookings, student groups, and disciplinary.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ HB has been working with Worklink to improve the handbook guidance.</li> <li>▪ HB was also involved in the planning for Guild Awards that happened on Monday.</li> <li>▪ AOD has been working on Neurodiversity celebration week with the University staff network.</li> <li>▪ AOD has also made an updated version of the Guild Accessibility Tracker. AOD will share this to GOG after the meeting.</li> <li>▪ AOD has also been involved in the creation of new guidance for staff on reasonable adjustments.</li> <li>▪ HB noted that SANDAM also won a Guild award.</li> <li>▪ RH has been involved in publishing the Guild Trans Solidarity statement. There have been a few questions about the strength of the statement which have been responded to and RH has been talking with concerned students about it.</li> <li>▪ RH has hosted the second trans and non-binary meet. It had less attendance but that's likely due to the timing.</li> <li>▪ RH is planning the next one which will likely be during UoBExtra.</li> <li>▪ RH is also having a meeting with LM and DT in a few weeks for the Guild Action Group on gender neutral toilets.</li> <li>▪ CH has been working on the creation of Inclusion Officers for Club Committees and on training for those roles. This is a change from Welfare Officer due to concerns about how those roles function.</li> <li>▪ CH noted that Round 2 of the Sports Access Fund has gone out and they're meeting tomorrow to discuss allocations.</li> <li>▪ CH has also supported some charity Sports Night which have gone really well.</li> <li>▪ CH was also involved with the Reclaim the Night March and spoke at the Rally.</li> <li>▪ AC has been working on the Mayoral Hustings. Tickets are going out today.</li> <li>▪ AC has also been working on the student manifesto for the Mayoral Elections.</li> </ul>	
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4	Comms	<p>Standing Item for communication updates HB noted that it would be useful to know where Marketing Requests are in the queue when they're submitted and that they've been received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AC noted that the Officer Team generally gets prioritised anyway with their requests.</li> <li>▪ AOD noted that they need to talk to Christine about the badges.</li> <li>▪ DT noted that they had been approached by an external organisation about promoting neurodiversity. They should be going out in May.</li> <li>▪ HB noted that it might be better to put a few badges at a time so that they don't all get taken at once.</li> </ul>	
5	Accessibility Tracker Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Update provided by AOD in Officer updates.</li> </ul>	
5	Elections Debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC noted that the Elections took place last week and elected the new Officer Team.</li> <li>• AC noted that it would be good for current Officers to reach out to the new Officers.</li> <li>• AC noted that the new President should be observing NUS National Conference.</li> <li>• AC is having a catch-up with the new President tomorrow.</li> <li>• AC noted that this election had more engagement from candidates that in previous years.</li> <li>• SD noted that we will be working on a summary paper for Engagement Committee on the elections, and then a wider paper for Trustee Board.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB noted that there was an increase in complaints around elections.</li> <li>• SD noted that we generally don't have a huge number of complaints. We ideally need to make the process clearer so that students know how to access that process.</li> <li>• SD noted that we do want to review the process as we think that will make it easier to access. If we increase the time period for complaint it extends when we might be able to announce the results.</li> <li>• AC asked about how many complaints we had in formal or informally.</li> <li>• JB explained that</li> <li>• AC noted that there have been candidates mentioning that they haven't had a response.</li> <li>• SD noted that we've responded to all the queries that we've had in.</li> <li>• HB asked if we could extend the deadline to closer to results night.</li> <li>• SD noted that we're planning on reviewing the process so we can consider that.</li> <li>• SD noted that we only disqualified people due to a lack of budget submission which is another process that we want to look at.</li> </ul>	
6	Handovers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC noted that we've briefly covered this already.</li> <li>• SD noted that there is a meeting next week to discuss how their contracts will work.</li> <li>• AC asked if the intention is to kick off training with the new PTOs at the same time as the FTOs, or will this happen in September.</li> <li>• SD noted that the PTOs are still likely to be away during this period but there is more of an incentive to get them involved in that training period.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC noted that PTOs might want to alert the new PTOs about when they might be expected to attend training.</li> </ul>	
7	Activist Network Conference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC noted that they need to meet with IRF to discuss this and the work needed to do.</li> </ul>	
8	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AC mentioned that the Guild has been approached by the English Collective of Prostitutes to discuss how the Guild supports students engaged with sex work.</li> <li>• AC has discussed this with the University and they're unlikely to get on board with this.</li> <li>• JB mentioned that this could tie in with AC's Students at Work project.</li> <li>• AC mentioned that students are also at risk of homelessness if they are engaging in sex work at their accommodation.</li> </ul>	

**The Chair closed the meeting at: 12:30**

**Date of next meeting: TBC**