

Guild Officer Group Minutes

Voting Members Present: **Ellie Keiller** (President) [EK], **Rose Bennett** (Postgraduate Students' Officer) [RB], **Adam Goldstone** (Education Officer) [AG], **Henny Green** (Welfare Officer) [HG], **Shannon Farmer** (Activities and Development Officer) [SF], **Kris Ali** (Housing and Community Officer) [KA] **Nat Crawley** (Ethical and Environmental Officer) [NC], **Holly Campbell** (Women's Officer) [HC], **Max Seidler** (Satellite Sites Officer) [MS], **Cameron Beavan-King** (Community Action Officer) [CBK], **Lucy Bleichroeder-Baker** (LGBTQ Students' Officer) [LBB]

Also In attendance: **Oli Killeen** (Democracy Coordinator) (Note Taker) [OK]

Absent with Apologies: **Jess Levy** (Representation & Resources Officer) [JL], **Shimon Kelly** (Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism Officer) [SK], **Hirah Haq** (Mature and Part-time Students' Officer) [HH]

Absent without Apologies: **Sheimona Jahan** (Black and Ethnic Minorities Officer) [SMJ], **Jana Skirnewskaja** (Commuter Students' Officer) [JS], **Helena Bailey** (Sports Officer) [HB]

The meeting commenced at 17:40

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	Welcome and Introductions	The chair opened the meeting and welcomed all present.	Noted
2	Approval Minutes and matters arising	The minutes of the meeting were accepted. AG requested to change the notes of the minutes of the last meeting relating to a question he had asked about attendance at Reclaim the Night. He asked to change the wording of the question to: 'Is the event open to all?' This was accepted and agreed.	Noted Noted
3	Nominations Committee Election	OK informed the group that the Nominations Committee is the group responsible for awarding Guild Honorary Life Memberships. Anyone can nominate any student who they think has made an exceptional contribution to the Guild whilst at University. Nominations are open now. The closing date is Monday 24 th April, 4pm. 3 Full-Time and 3 Part-Time Officers are needed for the Committee. The meeting is scheduled for 15 th May 2018 (3-5pm) in the Harvey Milk Room. Jess Levy (via EK), Adam Goldstone and Kris Ali, Nat Crawley, Lucy Bleichroeder-Baker and Cameron Beavan-King all put themselves	Noted

		forward. This was agreed.	
4	Monthly meeting Updates	No updates were recorded. Congratulations were given to those involved with the 'Reclaim the Night' Campaign, which won the Best Campaign Award at Guild Awards on 20 th March.	Noted
5	"Your Ideas" Mandate Updates	"Your Ideas" Cycle 4 is live and online for comment and voting until Friday 23 rd March at 4pm. Cycle 3 took place between 29 th January – 9 th February 2018 and the following ideas/policies passed successfully: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot water tap in the library – work on this is progressing well, an update will be provided shortly. • NUS Motion – National Postgraduate Representation – This is being presented at National Conference. • NUS Motion – Protection for students in rented accommodation – This is being presented at National Conference. • Amendment to the National Conferences Policy – Policy passed. • University Recruitment and Resources Policy – Policy passed. • Ethical Investment and Procurement Policy – Policy passed. 	Noted
6	OQT/Officer Accountability	The last meeting of Officer Question Time took place on Thursday 15 th March. It was noted that the attendance was low, conversations are ongoing as to how this can be improved	Noted
7	Training and Development	No updates were given.	Noted
8	Student Equality and Diversity Committee Update	HG provided an update to the group. The group has discussed the counselling process, and barriers to access. Amendments have also been made to the Zero Tolerance Policy. This is now under consideration by the Staff Equality and Diversity Committee, and will be sent to Guild Policy Development Group before being placed online for consideration under the "Your Ideas" process. The Group asked that an amended version be shared with GOG at the next meeting, this was agreed.	Noted HG
9	'I heart Me' Campaign	HG provided an update on the 'I heart Me' Campaign (19 th – 23 rd March) The aim of this week is to encourage students to look after their mental health and wellbeing. There was a smoothie bike at The Vale today (22 nd March) which proved very popular. Another aim of the week is to promote support and wellbeing services on the campus.	Noted

		All Officers were reminded to like and share events on social media.	
10	Voter Registration Week	<p>KA provided an update on the Voter Registration Week. The aim is to encourage people to register to vote for the local elections in May.</p> <p>All candidates in the Bournbrook/Selly Oak Wards were invited to a debate on Monday 19th March. This was a lively debate and was well attended by 40 people.</p> <p>It was noted that physical campaigning has been a challenge this week, but all Officers are encouraged to promote registration via social media.</p> <p>The deadline for registration is 3rd April.</p>	Noted
11	Officer Elections 2018 Feedback	<p>Officers present were invited to give their perspective on the recent Officer Elections period.</p> <p>It was noted that Officer role share was a welcome change, but that it should have been more widely communicated. There are also impacts on the Associations in particular that needed to be thought out.</p> <p>EK noted that work on this is still is being done at the moment, but the change was only approved by the University very shortly before the election got underway. This process will be being reviewed in the future.</p> <p>OK asked the Group their opinions on results night – is a good event? Should we keep doing it? LBB said she liked the event, but it was a difficult way to find out if you hadn't won.</p> <p>It was noted that it is theoretically possible to have the results earlier, but this might not happen on the basis that complaints may not be resolved.</p> <p>The Group were broadly in favour of the event.</p> <p>OK asked if there was additional support to guard against poor weather. It was noted that it's not possible to prevent bad weather, and even if the Guild told people to not campaign in bad weather some would do it anyway.</p>	Noted
10	Campaigns Pot	<p>Campaigns Pot requests have been recently approved for the following campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voter Registration Week • 'I heart me' Week • Beat 'Sock it' Week <p>There are no requests outstanding.</p>	Noted
11	FTOG/GPDG Update	<p>AG asked for a steer on exams and timetabling, as work on this is ongoing. Do students prefer bunching or spreading out of lectures across the week?</p> <p>Other important issues are proximity/table space in lectures.</p>	Noted

		<p>NC noted that spread out lectures were preferable. HC said that bunching was better. The group agreed that no consensus was likely.</p> <p>AG also noted that the Outstanding Teaching Award (OTA) nominations are open until 23rd March 5pm. Support for shortlisting is welcome – this taking place between 23rd – 27th April.</p> <p>AG also made the Group aware that the Beliefs and Commitments are currently in the process of being updated. These updates will be presented to the Guild Policy Development Group, and the full document will be placed online for comment and voting in the new academic year. All Officers are encouraged to be involved in the process.</p> <p>AG noted that he will shortly be chairing a student panel on Assessment and Feedback. Involvement from all Officers is welcome. LBB expressed an interest in being involved.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
12	AOB	<p>EK provided an update on UCU strike action.</p> <p>Currently UCU members at the University have not taken strike action as they did not reach the 50% threshold required for action. Although this was the case, we are aware that the result was unanimously in favour of action.</p> <p>The pension dispute has been overseen by ACAS, but it has not yet been resolved and Birmingham UCU has been instructed to ballot for action again. The outcome is not yet known, but the Guild and the Officer Team should be prepared for taking a position on support for the action. This will be discussed again as necessary.</p> <p>It was noted the next GOG meeting is due to take place on a day that is in the Easter Break. This will be amended; a new date will be communicated to all Officers.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

The Chair closed the meeting at 18:30

Date of Next Meeting: TBC