

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 25th January 2024, 12-2pm
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
<p>Amira Campbell – Guild President (Chair) Dean Turner - Welfare and Community Officer Ben Lockley - Postgraduate Officer Cat Hardiman - Sports Officer Joe Hill – Education Officer Tianjie Liu (Alice) - International Officer Harry Brooks – A&E Officer</p> <p>Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Aoife O'Driscoll-Paton - Disabled Students; Officer Semmer Preet Singh- Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer</p> <p>Also in attendance: Kutaiba Osman, President Mustafa Khalaf Hamoud, Activities Leader Sude Coskun, Welfare Leader Srinivas Garg, Education Leader Abdullah Alhashemi, Events and Communications Leader Rajeswari Sathyavageeswaran, Postgraduate Leader Selma Cengic, Student Experience Manager Natalie Manning, Head of Student Services</p> <p>Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager James Lindsay, Director of Community and Representation</p>	<p>Ismael Rodriguez Foronda - Ethical and Environmental Officer</p> <p>Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Officer</p>	

Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
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1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC welcomed everyone to the meeting. ▪ AC noted that we would be joined by the Dubai Student Leaders and therefore the agenda is in a slightly different order today. ▪ AC noted the change in the number of GOG members doesn't impact the quorum of the meetings. 	
2	Dubai Students' Association Introduction and Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC asked all Officers and Student Leaders to introduced themselves and their roles. ▪ AC introduced herself as the Guild President. ▪ DT introduced himself and the remit of the Welfare and Community Officer role. ▪ CH introduced herself and the Sports Officer role and responsibilities. ▪ JH introduced himself and his role as Education Officer supporting the Student Rep System. ▪ TL noted that they will have met the Student Leaders previous and introduced herself. ▪ BL introduced himself and his role as Postgraduate Officer. ▪ AOD introduced herself and her role as Disabled Students' Officer. ▪ RH introduced themselves and their role as Trans and Non-Binary Students' Officer. ▪ TB introduced themselves and their role as LGBTQ+ Students' Officers. ▪ Natalie and Selma introduced themselves and their roles. ▪ NH introduced herself as Head of Student Experience and wellbeing moving to Deputy Director of Campus at the Dubai campus. ▪ NH mentioned that the Dubai Students Association is not a separate org and is part of the University. ▪ SCe introduced her role as Student Experience Manager as directly supporting the student leaders. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ KO introduced himself as President and mentioned that they were still at the start of their role.▪ MKH introduced himself as Activities Leader supporting clubs and activities.▪ SCo introduced herself as Welfare Leader.▪ SG introduced himself as Education Leader and noted that it was lovely to meet everyone and to see equivalent roles in the Edgbaston campus.▪ AA introduced himself as the Events and Communications Leader▪ SS arrived and introduced himself as Ethnic Minority Officer on the Edgbaston campus.▪ RS introduced herself as Postgraduate Leader.▪ AC mentioned IRF and HB as Officers on the Edgbaston campus who are not in attendance today.▪ AC asked if the Dubai Student Leaders wanted to start with any questions for the Edgbaston Officers.▪ KO asked about the difference of being a Full-Time Officer and working full-time. How do you find the role?▪ AC noted that some of the Edgbaston Officers are Part-Time. The Full-Time Officer roles are like taking a placement year or taking a year out of studies.▪ AC mentioned that it's essentially a full-time job can be quite varied in what you're doing each day.▪ TL has spoken to the Dubai Leaders about this in previous conversations. It can be fun and can have different responsibilities. Being a second year Officer can help with confidence.▪ AC noted that it's been a while since we've had a Part-Time Officer become a Full-Time Officer. Several Full-Time Officers used to be student staff.	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DT noted that he was a Community Warden which is a part-time role before becoming an Officer. ▪ KO noted that this can obviously help with progression and getting involved. ▪ CH mentioned that she worked with UBSport and that helped to know how things worked. There's lots of different ways to move through the roles. ▪ JH worked as a Student Groups Assistant in a different remit and helped to give insight into the Guild and how it works. ▪ AC asked how the Dubai student leaders got involved. ▪ KO noted that they were involved in the football team and were active on campus. Have also been a Student Ambassador on campus. ▪ SG talked through the campaigning process they had. He was involved in the Student Reps in the previous year and then decide to run as a Student Leader. ▪ SG noted that they've just started getting involved. Their roles are voluntary unlikely in Edgbaston. ▪ AA is responsible for student media. AA asked if there was any advice that Edgbaston could provide in growing an Instagram account. Can we reach out to those students? ▪ AC noted that the Edgbaston Campus has a staff team that runs the communications, and it isn't run by the Officers. They have Instagram accounts that they run as well. ▪ AC mentioned that talking to students and using word of mouth can be good for growing it. ▪ AC noted that they can help to promote the Dubai Student Leaders accounts. ▪ AA noted that they're considering starting a TikTok account as well and they really want to promote their activities more. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AC asked how effective the Dubai Leaders feel in the changes they want to make and being able to make them.▪ KO mentioned that the SA activity previously has been somewhat minimal in the last few years. The SA is very integrated into the student body and has different representatives.▪ KO noted that they celebrated their first national day as well which was very successful. They're planning to expand a lot of their teams to help build a community that can build the campus.▪ KO mentioned that they also want to work with the careers department to provide more careers support.▪ KO noted that the Dubai Team also want to work on bridging the gap between staff and students. Particularly around events being run by students.▪ AC asked if there were any other questions.▪ SG asked about how different it can feel with a large leadership team and a bigger campus?▪ AC noted that teamwork is really important. There is also a large staff team that helps with supporting the students on campus.▪ AC mentioned that they're often working on resolving issues, so they spend a lot of time working with the university.▪ AC noted that there seems to be a difference in the Edgbaston Officers working less directly with students and societies.▪ RH noted that for PTOs they tend to focus more on events and engagement, while also doing less of the University engagement.▪ NH asked what about the aims of the Edgbaston Officer Team.▪ KO echoed this question.▪ AC noted that the Officer Team don't have a priority campaign this year.	
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3	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC asked of everyone was happy with the minutes. ▪ Minutes approved. ▪ PTO buddy scheme has been sorted. ▪ JH and AC don't currently have buddies. ▪ HB asked how regularly they're supposed to be having meetings. ▪ AC clarified that about once a month is the aim. ▪ TL and SS have meet twice. ▪ AC noted that doing one meeting between each GOG meeting would be ideally. ▪ TB has had a buddy meeting. ▪ AC has put BL in touch with Tim Garden. ▪ AC noted that we can talk about the democracy review under the agenda item. ▪ BL has just shared the Trans Solidarity statement. 	
4	Officer Projects	<p>Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC has been working with medical students and has had it confirmed that they won't be able to access the Chamberlain Award. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC is also working on a group union project with UNISON and UCU on environmental and accessibility issues. • AC mentioned the CLM which she has also been working on. • DT has had the Trustee Board pass the harm reduction paper. • DT clarified that this is about taking an educational approach to drugs and alcohol on campus and hopefully they will be able to get the University to approve a similar paper. • DT has continued running Community Breakfast. • CH has been working with HB on the mid-year societies and sports fair. It was well attended and value by the societies and clubs. • CH has been talking to UB Sport about inter-accommodation competitions. The first will be in Feb and likely to be dodgeball. • CH is also working with UB Sport on Guest passes for members at Tiverton Gym. • CH is going to be working on some student consultation on this. • JH has been working on student consultation sessions for the APP, which AOD was involved with. • JH has also seen EDI training launched to Reps at the start of the month. • JH also worked with the University on some academic quality issues at University Education Committee. • JH will also be presenting to the Parliamentary Education Select Committee on the impact of industrial action on students. • TL has had the first Language Café of the year which was well attended. • TL has also been collating new year activity and helped to promote them in newsletters. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TL has also been working on lobbying for an IST name change to reflect their responsibilities. • TL has also been working on ensuring the students get clear and current information about attendance. • BL has been working on Masters Widening Participations issues on funding and payment schemes. • BL and TL have been planning other joint events through the next semester. • BL has also been working on promoting Officer Elections. • SS has had several meetings with BIA and students in the BIA to introduce them to the University. • SS has also been working with several societies and raising issues from those groups with AC. • AOD has meet with AC about accelerating fire safety provision for disabled students in the Guild. Also met with the University about changing the STaRS process. • AOD has also meet with Disability Rights UK about collaborating with the Careers Network and the Guild. • RH has some events coming up in Feb and March. Also gathering some feedback from students about issues that they might want to raise. • RH is hoping to final get the Trans Swim happening before or just after Easter. • RH has also been working on the Trans Solidarity statement. • HB had over 700 attendees at mid-year societies fair. Also working on updating canvas training for committees. • HB has also been working with relevant societies to connect them with Venues on a Desi FAB night. • HB has also been planning Guild Awards and getting early bird tickets out. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB has also been helping promotion of the Alumni Fund for UoB Extra. • HB noted that Guild Staff can't apply for the funding, but University Staff and Officers can. • TB has been working with the LGBT association and running weekly events with them. • TB has also gathered a lot of feedback from students. • TB has also been working on LGBT history month communications for the Guild and the Association in addition to events throughout the month. 	
5	Comms	<p>Standing Item for communication updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB asked about Officer Elections. • SD noted that we have approved graphics that Officers can use. • AC noted that the Guild Instagram has also posted about the paid PTO roles which can be shared. 	SD/JB to circulate the graphics that Officers can use.
6	Break	Break	
7	Company Law Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that the CLM is happening this evening. Most of the PTOs will be in attendance. • AC mentioned that the Chair of the Trustee Board will be in attendance so the PTOs can meet her. • AC noted that there will be a Presidents Question Time as the VCs is not able to attend. • JL mentioned that for anyone holding other people's proxies they need to attend otherwise those votes are lost and cannot be cast. 	
9	Democracy Review and Bye-Laws Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC moved this item above Item 8. • AC noted that there was a meeting this morning regarding various elements on the Bye-Law changes. • AC highlighted that the section on the Associations in the Bye-Laws has been 	AC to see if a name change for SANDAM can be included in the Bye-Laws

		<p>kept and not changed. There are some minor changes that might be able to be made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that there was a clarification the needs to be made around what was approved at Trustee Board. • AC noted that there is likely to be a longer consultation with the Associations on what they should look like. • AC asked if GOG would be supportive of her checking if a change to the SANDAM name could be made. • SD noted that once the Bye-Laws are approved the Democracy Review is technically finished. Anything further will likely be internal. • AC noted that a lot of the decisions around Associations are internal, and detailed so should be discussed with them. • BL asked if there has been a conversation with the PTOs about the issues with the consultation. • AC noted that they're currently focused on sorting the issues and then there will need to be a consideration of this. • RH mentioned that there has been feedback given to SD. • GOG agreed that they were happy with the progress on this. 	<p>going to Council.</p>
8	<p>Updates to the Guild's Accessibility Tracker from the DAMSA protest and Advance HE Disabled Students' Commitment – documents attached.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC passed chairing to DT. • DT asked AOD to introduce her item. • AOD mentioned the Sue Onens is working on accessibility on campus. They are working on getting the University to sign up to the Disabled Students Commitment. • AOD noted that statement 23 is the relevant part of the commitment and specifically talks about clubs, societies, and associations. • AOD noted that this also impacts the Reception Refresher project. 	<p>DT, JL and AOD to meet and update the Guild Accessibility Tracker</p> <p>JB to add Guild Accessibility Tracker Updates as part of the GOG agenda</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AOD also noted that there was a Guild Accessibility Tracker that needs updating. • AOD noted that there was work ongoing around the front door to the Guild. • DT mentioned that this has been mentioned at EDI committee. • AOD noted that a lot of it was relevant to Club Nights and events. • AC mentioned that access to floor 2 won't be possible. • HB noted that this could be brought to LM. • RH mentioned that they're waiting for an update from LM on the gender-neutral toilets from the Democracy Action Group. • DT noted that this is likely to be included in the Reception Refresh project. • AC mentioned that it depends on the scale of change needed to the current toilets. • RH mentioned that changing the signs often isn't enough without physical changes to the toilets and making them into cubicles. • HB noted that access to toilets on club nights is an issue overall. • AOD has worked with Activities about providing information about accessible rooms in the Guild. • AC requested that this is added as a regular update item for GOG. • HB suggested that LM would be the best person to know about where particular items are. • SD noted that there are actions on here that the staff team are not aware of. • JL asked if it has been to any committees in the Guild. • BL noted that it went to FTOG a few times. • JH asked if it would be useful to review it with a small group and assign actions. • AOD, JL, DT to form a group to review the actions and assign them to the relevant places. 	
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10	AOB	<p>Trans Solidarity Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BL has circulated the Trans Solidarity Statement and asked if anyone has any comments/feedback on it. • BL noted that there has been work happening on this for a while. • HB asked if the last section could be shortened. • JH suggested keeping it as students may want to reach out for support. • RH noted that Guild Advice should probably be mentioned as a they can provide support. We could also mention Switchboard, Mermaids or Gendered Intelligence as places for support. • JH asked what form it was going to be published in? It is quite long so how can we ensure that people get the key information and support. • JH suggested talking to comms about it and they may be able to provide some suggestions. • DT mentioned that the support services can be put in the caption as well. • RH noted that the start of the statement is a good summary. • HB noted that he cannot respond to complaints directly. • SD noted that we usually also include relevant University support services when we mention Guild Advice. • RH mentioned that they need to speak to UBHeard. • JL mentioned that they are in conversation with UBHeard about various bits of feedback so if any feedback can be shared that would be useful. 	<p>BL to add Guild Advice and other support services to the statement.</p> <p>RH to send UBHeard feedback to JL.</p>
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:50

Date of next meeting: 14th Feb, 11:30-1pm, Mandela