

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 25th April 2024 12:00-13:30
Present:

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

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC welcomed everyone to the meeting. ▪ AC noted that the meeting was quorate. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes approved. ▪ Most actions completed. ▪ RH is not in attendance to report on if they’ve provided feedback. ▪ DT and JL have raised issues with Drew Linforth at their recent meeting. ▪ AC noted that there has been work on going with the Accessibility Action Tracker. ▪ AOD has updated the action tracker with instances that have been raised. ▪ JB updated that the idea has been allocated as a simple idea, to be picked 	

		up by DT and HR via EDI Committee. We've not fully actioned this yet but we're going to progress it soon.	
3	Officer Projects	<p>Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DT has been working on hosting Community Breakfast in Med School next week which is very exciting. ▪ AOD has been working on the accessibility tracker. Also been working with Pause to do a regular board games event and set up a board games library. ▪ AOD has also been working with Jon Elsmore on the code of practice on reasonable adjustments. ▪ HB has been working on clearer room booking guidance, primarily on overnight bookings and clashes with club night. ▪ HB has also been looking at updating canvas training. ▪ HB has secured £150 for each society that attends a June Open Day. ▪ TL has continued to work on renaming the IST, evidence has been submitted to relevant University members. Awaiting a response from the Academic Registrar. ▪ TL is hosting the next language cafe next Monday with a final Language Picnic in June. ▪ TL has also been working with the University in getting societies engaged with UoBExtra. ▪ BL has been working on the PG & International Summer Party. ▪ BL also has a meeting planned to allocate the £250,000 funding for the WP fund. We have had a lot of applications which is good. Might go out for more applications to make sure they meet the criteria of the funding. ▪ TL asked if the funding is being allocated to current or new students, and what is the criteria for allocation. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BL clarified that it's allocated to new students and only offered to those with an offer for UoB. Applicants also have to show that they are part of a widening participation background. ▪ HB asked why it was being allocated so early? ▪ BL noted that it would favour people who have got their offers before the end of Feb. It's not perfect but it's a good start with widening participation for PGTs. ▪ AC has been working on some work with RGSU on the manifesto for the general election. ▪ AC has been elected as the next President of the NUS. ▪ AC has been working with the Med School with various funding and support pieces around travel. ▪ AC is still working on the Prostitutes Statement. ▪ CH has been working on the Sports Access fund. The final remained of the fund has been allocated and 2 more years of funding has been secured. ▪ CH has been working with UBSport on distress activity for exam period. ▪ CH is also working with UBSport and the University to ensure that clubs can have more control over their finances. 	
4	Comms	<p>Standing Item for communication updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JB updated the next round of ideas are on the website for Student Demonstration of Interest. They'll be up for 4 weeks so please promote it so that we can get engagement with it. ▪ JB also noted that the next All Student Vote will go up on Monday with 2 items. ▪ BL noted that the Marks out of 10 tenancy competition is now live. Students can submit reviews of their accommodation and submit it to Community Welfare they could win an Aldi voucher. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HB noted that the University has asked if we can promote UoBExtra. ▪ TL noted that the University has asked for links for the PG & International Summer Party. 	
5	NUS Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that the results are not out from Conference yet so we don't know if it's passed. • AC updated that some Officers attended NUS Conferences last week. • AC noted that RH was very engaged with the Trans Solidarity policy at Conference. • BL mentioned that the policy feels sensible and focuses on a number of key issues for trans students. • AC noted that National Conference discussed NUS Reform. Current NUS Articles give a lot of power to National Conference to change the Articles so there are a lot of changes that have to go through National Conference instead of Liberation Conference. • AC mentioned that some of the parts of NUS Reform were controversial. NUS England wasn't fully supported which reflected the view from GOG a few months ago. • BL noted that a lot of the opposition was against NUS England. • AC noted that the Nations (Wales, Scotland and NI) were more in favour of having an NUS England due to them getting out number by English delegates and being part of conversations that don't apply to them due to different funding structures. • JB noted that a number of SUs didn't feel properly consulted. If you don't have someone who picks up those consultations, then you might not be involved in the consultations. • AC noted that there are also changes to the NUS Rep role and trying to make it more of a yearlong role. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that the results haven't come out yet and we're expecting them probably tomorrow. • JB mentioned that part of the NUS England reforms are also looking at creation more regional structures and groupings across NUS England. • TL asked what the discussion was around the International Students Officer. • AC mentioned that there's a voluntary network for International Students and one of the FTOs supporting that. • AC noted that there has been some discontent in how international students have been supported by NUS throughout the last 2 years. • AC mentioned that the International Student policy is essentially the same as in previous years. • AC noted that there were five policies. Our delegates were quite active on the Food, Funding and Shelter policy to get amendments around plant-based food. • AC noted that there were amendments made to the Palestine Solidarity motion though not all of them were put through to the final policy – amendment on BDS wasn't included. • AC noted that there were a number of instances of antisemitism at Conference. NUS have issued a statement responding to this. 	
6	Arms Trade Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC has submitted the Arms Trade Policy to the democratic system and it's on the website. • AC also spoke to EPS college reps and various other Officers before writing the policy. 	
7	Mayoral Elections debrief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that the Mayoral Hustings at Aston were cancelled. This is due to a missed invite to one of the candidates. • AC noted that we could have continued with the event on the basis of polling numbers of the missed candidates. 	

8	Handover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB noted that the handover period will start on the 24th June, with the hope that the PTOs will be included for the first 3 days. 	
9	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC mentioned that she and TL wrote to Steve McCabe and Preet Gill asking them to condemn the government's 5 point plan. ▪ AC noted that Steve McCabe agreed and Preet Gill didn't and raised some concerns about immigration and said she believed that a points-based immigration system was necessary. ▪ BL mentioned that there's a lot of pressure on Labour drop the scrapping of dependants from University. 	

The Chair closed the meeting at: 14:20

Date of next meeting: 29th May 12:00-13:30