

**Committee Name: Guild Officer Group**

**Date & Time: 26.2.25**

**Present:**

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Syed Sadath – Guild President (Chair) Hope Aquilina - Welfare and Community Officer Ritakshi Maheshwari - Postgraduate Officer Lara Parker - Sports Officer Devansh Jhamnani – A&E Officer Alex Keen – Education Officer Ravikiran Rajashekar - International Officer  Abby Kenrick - Disabled Students; Officer Mimia Islam - Women's Officer Mariyah Ali - Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Max Williams - Sustainability Officer  Also in attendance: James Lindsay, Director of Community & Representation Jane Baston, Voice and Representation Manager and GOG Secretary	Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer	

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SS welcomed everyone to the meeting</li> </ul>	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AOB – Language on concern about redundancies.</li> <li>JB to get PA to action the Honorary Memberships.</li> <li>Minutes approved other than changes.</li> </ul>	
3	Officer Projects	Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MW has been working on Go Green Week. Most of the events are ready for the week now, along with comms prepared to promote them.</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MW has been working with Joe's Bar to offer a discount on plant-based options for GGW.</li> <li>○ SS asked if MW is working with any societies for GGW.</li> <li>○ MW has reached out to societies to see if anyone is interested. There hasn't been much uptake</li> <li>○ RR has been working on the food festival. This has been postponed till after Elections.</li> <li>○ RR is also planning an Easter event as well.</li> <li>○ MI is running an event for IWD on the 6<sup>th</sup> March called Brunch and BeHeard and then the International Women's day social.</li> <li>○ MI has reached out to societies and will be working with IFA.</li> <li>○ MA has the first Chaii, Chaat and Chill event tomorrow at the Guild.</li> <li>○ MA is also working on the UoB2 campaign as well which is on the agenda for the meeting.</li> <li>○ MA is working on running a book club on decolonial pamphlets.</li> <li>○ RM has been working on an event for Go Green Week event with MW.</li> <li>○ RM is working on a campaign on language barriers to education.</li> <li>○ HA is working with MI on the IWD event.</li> <li>○ HA has been working with Comms on updating the Officer profiles on the Guild website to provide more information.</li> <li>○ HA is still looking for cookbook submissions.</li> <li>○ HA is also working on updating the website on housing information, and with the City Council on a know your rights campaign.</li> <li>○ HA and AKeen are working on a housing focused event in April with Al Carns (Selly Oak MP).</li> <li>○ AKenrick has been working with the University to find a new chair for the Disabled Students' Contribution Group.</li> </ul>	
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4	UoB2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MA outlined the UoB2 campaign that is currently running on campus.</li> <li>MA noted that this campaign is focused on asking the University to drop the disciplinaries against two students in association with recent protests on campus.</li> <li>MA noted that she would like the Guild to support the campaign publicly and call for the disciplinaries to be dropped.</li> <li>HA asked for some clarification about what the practical support they would be looking for?</li> <li>MA noted that the Guild doesn't have any control over this situation. It's more about showing the support for the students as it's possible that they might not be able to get their degrees.</li> <li>AKeen has spoken to the Director of Registry and noted that these cases are being followed through the processes that the University have set out.</li> <li>MA noted that the campaign is saying that the disciplinaries should be dropped because the behaviour being cited wasn't threatening.</li> <li>SS asked where the expectation that the students' degrees might be taken away has come from?</li> <li>MA noted that the cases have been escalated into the part of the process where the students being removed from the University is a possibility.</li> <li>MA noted that students with an ongoing disciplinary case against them can't graduate.</li> <li>MW asked if it we would consider two statements, one on the right to protest and another on the UoB2 specifically.</li> <li>AKeen noted that the Guild doesn't write statements to support other students going through disciplinary.</li> </ul>	MA, AKeen, SS, HA to form a group and draft a statement on supporting student activism on campus.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ AKeen noted that peaceful protests are a right up, until they are no longer peaceful and have been viewed as intimidatory.</li> <li>○ SS noted that the University is approaching this from the behavioural angle and not about the right to protest on campus.</li> <li>○ HA noted that the point between something being a protest and becoming intimidatory might be at the wrong level within the process.</li> <li>○ SS asked if now is the right time to do a statement? Should it wait until the case has been decided and then make a statement if we think the outcome is unfair.</li> <li>○ AKeen noted that any cases like that would go to the OIA if the process was unfair. The decision within the University process is down to the academics on the case.</li> <li>○ SS noted that they would be supportive of a statement on supporting student activism on campus.</li> <li>○ HA noted that if we're going to support student activism on campus, what would this practically look like?</li> <li>○ MA noted that it would be good to talk more about how the Guild can be more involved in student activism.</li> <li>○ MW noted that student disciplinarys are confidential procedures and we might not have all the information at the moment.</li> <li>○ AKeen noted that we may be unduly influencing a process that should be kept confidential to ensure its integrity.</li> <li>○ SS noted that the Guild can help with investigating the processes and policies that the University has to ensure that they are free and fair.</li> <li>○ AKeen noted that a statement doesn't necessarily change anything on campus and the Guild could be more impactful in this space to influence University processes.</li> </ul>	
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5	AOB	<p>SANDAM Protest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AKenrick noted that the Officers should have received an email from SANDAM regarding their upcoming protest and open letter.</li> <li>▪ AKenrick asked if anyone had any questions or clarification on the letter.</li> <li>▪ AKeen noted that there have been some edits made to the letter based on discussions with Officers.</li> <li>▪ AKeen noted that there are a number of actions that he recommends everyone reads.</li> <li>▪ AKenrick noted that this letter follows on from previous work from SANDAM and acknowledging the work done by the Guild a number of years ago on this issue.</li> <li>▪ HA noted that the letter notes the work that the University has done and how this doesn't align with what SANDAM would expect.</li> <li>▪ HA noted that it's up to Officers if they want to sign the open letter.</li> <li>▪ AKenrick noted that the protest is happening next Wednesday.</li> <li>▪ AKenrick noted that the deadline for signing the letter is Friday.</li> <li>▪ JL noted that we can ask for a vote from GOG on if they would like to sign this as a group instead of individually.</li> <li>▪ SS left the room and nominated AKeen to chair.</li> <li>▪ JL noted that this would need a simple majority of GOG which is currently 7 Officers.</li> </ul>	<p>AKenrick to inform SANDAM that GOG have agreed to sign the open letter.</p> <p>JB to set-up a Teams Channel for GOG Agendas &amp; Minutes</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ AKeen noted that this vote could be taken in the room.</li> <li>▪ AKeen asked the group to vote on if they would like GOG to sign the open letter.</li> <li>▪ 9 voted for. 0 against. 0 abstained. GOG agreed to sign the open letter.</li> <li>▪ AKenrick to inform SANDAM that GOG have agreed to sign the open letter.</li> </ul> <p>GOG Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JB will be stepping back from this role this due to starting a new role in the department. Will be transferred to another member of the Voice &amp; Rep Team.</li> </ul> <p>Teams channel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ JB asked if it would be useful to set-up a Teams channel for documents from GOG.</li> <li>▪ Agreed that this should be set-up.</li> </ul>	
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**The Chair closed the meeting at: 15:06**  
**Date of next meeting: 25.3.25**