

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 26th June 2024 13:00-14:00
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 Harry Brooks – A&E Officer Tianjie Liu (Alice) - International Officer</p> <p>Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Robin Hayward - Trans and Non-Binary Officer</p> <p>Incoming Officer Team in attendance: Syed Khader Sadath – incoming President Devansh Jhamnani – Incoming A&E Officer Ravikiran Rajashekar – Incoming International Officer Ritakshi Maheshwari – Incoming Postgraduate Officer Lara Parker – Incoming Sports Officer Hope Aquilina – Incoming Welfare & Community Officer Abby Kenrick – Incoming Disabled Students Officer Armaan Hussain – Incoming Ethnic Minority Students Officer Mimia Islam – Incoming Women's Officer</p> <p>Also in attendance: Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager James Lindsay (SMT nominee and Director of Community and Representation) Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary</p>	<p>Joe Hill – Education Officer</p>	<p>Semmer Preet Singh- Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Ismael Rodriguez Foronda - Ethical and Environmental Officer Aoife O'Driscoll-Paton - Disabled Students; Office</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 the meeting was quorate. ▪ AC welcomed the incoming Officer Team to the meeting. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes approved. ▪ AC noted that the only action remaining was regarding the general election. ▪ AC mentioned that there has been content on the general election that has already gone out online regarding registering to vote. 	
3	Officer Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DT updated on is work on harm reduction. There was a positive response from the University with a steering group happening this week. ▪ DT noted they're handing this over to HA. ▪ CH has been working on the changes to the Tiverton Gym. Also working on getting pay as you go implemented which is likely to be picked up by LP. ▪ TL has run 15 language cafes during the last year. The last one was the Language Picnic which was very well attended. ▪ TL noted that there has been lots of repeat attendees at the Language Cafes. ▪ TL has also been working on the working cap and getting the University to increase the cap on the number of hours they offer to students. ▪ TL noted that the Guild has removed that cap of 15 hours for the next academic year. Due to changes in the Worklink leadership it's been slower to get the University to take this up. ▪ HB has been looking in to if we can extend room bookings beyond 10pm in the building. The evenings are very popular for student groups. ▪ HB is investigating whether the societies would need to absorb this cost or whether the Guild can. ▪ HB has been highlighting and promoting the new and saved societies. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HB has also done a lot of work on Grad Ball, getting the after party starting earlier. ▪ TB has run an LGBTQ pizza party and a pottery social. ▪ TB noted that alongside various other LGBTQ related societies they decided to not attend Birmingham Pride. ▪ TB has starting to think about planning for next year. ▪ RH has mostly been focused on wrapping up their work and handing over to AP. ▪ RH noted that there has been an action group meeting on gender neutral toilets, with some plans that have been proposed. ▪ RH noted that there will be an interim signage change which will take place soon. ▪ BL has been working on PG WP scholarships, with 40-50 scholarships awarded for students who are progressing from UG to PG. ▪ BL noted that they have also run another PG and International social with TL that was very successful. ▪ TL asked if the scholarships were available to international students. ▪ BL noted that they weren't. ▪ AC noted that they've been working with AOD and AK on the Accessibility Oversight Group to improve accessibility. ▪ AC mentioned that she has also been meeting with ISoc and the Chaplaincy to discuss how we investigate the experiences of students of faith on campus. ▪ AC noted that the University is commencing a chaplaincy review next year which she's been working with the chaplaincy as well. 	
4	Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC noted that this agenda item is here in case anyone wants to flagged comms items that they're working on. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC noted that AOD has worked on a piece of comms work around ECs that we don't think she had support from the Guild on. ▪ HB noted that on reflection the Fab'N'Fresh Facebook group could be better utilised as a comms channel. 	
5	Democracy End of Year Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD outlined the work that has been done on the democratic system this year. • SD noted that we are pausing the democratic system for the summer. Students can still submit ideas but we won't be progressing them throughout the summer. • SD noted that there is a full paper going to Trustee Board which outlined where all the Ideas and Policies are. SD to share this with the PTOs. • BL asked if we've cleared all the Belief and Commitments that needed renewing. • SD explained the context around the need to renew these and a lack of approval mechanisms. There are 2 the haven't yet been renewed but 16 have been put through the new system. • SD noted that the 2 remaining are Consultation and Student Movement. • BL asked if we're considering lowering the up-vote threshold? There have been several ideas that haven't met the threshold. • SD explained the context on the Student Demonstration of Interest. We have already extended the time period these ideas are up for. We are looking to refresh various parts of the system over the summer. • JL noted that this would be a bye-law change. • JB mentioned that we would like to be able to report democratic ideas into Guild Officer Group more regularly so that Officers can pick up ideas if they think they're relevant or worthwhile. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB noted that this is a helpful summary to see where ideas have been allocated. Could we get the dates where ideas have been submitted so that we know how they're progressed. • SD noted that we've not been able to follow-up on this as much as we would like throughout this year. • AC noted that if we lower the threshold for the SDI we could consider shortening the period of time that they're up for. • SD noted that a lot of the ideas where they've had a lot of engagement is because there have been active campaigners tomorrow. • AC noted that we could organise action groups quicker if we shorten the SDI time period. • BL mentioned that if we know that there is a particular issue that we know students want to engage in and then we should be engaging with them and supporting their campaigns. • AC noted that this will be passed over to SSK to pick up in the new year. • AC thanked SD & JB for their work on the democratic system. 	
6	Palestine Solidarity & Arms Trade Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that when these ideas passed the Student Demonstration of Interest the Officer Team wanted to put these straight to the ASV. • AC noted that the legal advice indicated that this should go to an action group first. • AC noted that Manchester has had a similar motion to their democratic system which resulted in a Corporate Conclusion. • AC mentioned that they will be meeting with SD and SSK later this week to discuss initial next steps. • AC noted that this means the ideas are likely to go to the first ASV of the new year. • AC noted that this means there will be a number of items going to the next ASV. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AH asked what we are doing in the meantime until October. • AC asked if the room thinks if students would be more engaging now or in October. • AH noted that we're likely to have a smaller group of more engaged students now as it's something they are actively campaigning on, and the encampment is active at the moment. • AC noted that we could get an action group together in the next few weeks depending on conversations today. • AC mentioned that there is a conversation to be had about who to invite to the action group. • AC noted that these ideas have been allocated to the President so will be transferred over to SSK when he takes over. • SD noted that there are logistical and practical reasons that mean we might not be able to support an action group immediately. There are also various conversations that need to be had about how we can ensure that the Guild is able to action and support this. 	
7	Gender Neutral Toilets Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RH noted that they've mostly covered this in their update. • DT noted that this has been an ongoing discussion within the Guild. • DT that this has been mostly with the Facilities Manager who has three options for gender neutral toilets. • DT noted that the action group expressed a preference for removing the urinals from the toilets with individual cubicles with a Gender-Neutral Toilets sign on the door. • DT noted that the plan was to then convert these toilets over the summer so that they can be opened for Welcome Week 2024. • RH noted that the change in signage is a stepping stone and not the final solution. 	

		<p>This should be handed over to the incoming Officers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD noted that the invite should have been sent to the relevant incoming Officers. • TB asked if they could be involved with that group. • AC asked if Finance Committee had been informed that they might need to have an emergency meeting to approve the spend. • AC noted that they can raise this with the relevant people. 	
8	Disabled Students Progress Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that there are a variety of accessibility issues that have been raised by SANDAM, AOD and other societies. • AC noted that a lot of the issues raised were also identified in the Guild's Disabled Students' Commission. • AC noted that the Accessibility Oversight Group was created this year but it is dominated by staff issues. • AC noted that DT had a meeting with Jon Elsmore which wasn't successful in getting the University to address issues facing disabled students. • AC noted that there has been a significant change this year with Natasha Abrahart case. • TL noted that many international students don't have the relevant documentation needed for the University to provide them with support. • AC noted that a lack of evidence is a huge barrier for many students. • JL noted that Wonkhe has some useful articles on this if anyone wants to do any further reading. • TB asked if anything had happened with the action tracker on accessibility issues in the Guild. • BL noted that the actions were sent to the relevant departments. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC noted that we will still have the document and can follow up with the actions with the Facilities Manager. • BL noted that this document was created after a protest that DAMSA/SANDAM ran and was collated to address the issues they raised. • AC to find and share the document. 	
9	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AC thanked all Guild Officer Group members for this work throughout this academic year. ▪ AC ended the meeting. 	

The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:04

Date of next meeting: TBC