

Guild Officer Group Minutes

Present: Ross Strong (Welfare Officer), Rik Sowden (Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer), Nicky Woods (Ethical and Environmental Officer), Ellie Keiller (President), Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Students' Officer), Natalie Cox (Activities and Development Officer), Izzie Nicholds (Housing and Community Officer), Georgie Freeman (Sports Officer), Max Seidler (Satellite Sites Officer), Chris Wilkinson (Education Officer)

In attendance: Shelby Whitehead (Representation Coordinator) (Note Taker), Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (Student Voice Manager), Adam Sheridan (Director of Engagement)

Apologies: Fran Nash (LGBTQ Students' Officer), Alex Binnie (Women's Officer), Rachel Fisch (Anti-Racism ; Anti-Fascism Officer), Brandon Hattiloney (Representation and Resources Officer)

The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 17:30

| No | ITEM FOR DISCUSSION | MATTERS DISCUSSED | ACTION |
|----|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome from the President | The President welcomed everyone to the meeting. Rik Sowden was welcomed to the meeting as the newly elected Mature and Part-Time Students Officer following the Autumn Term election. Introductions were given by the Officers and Staff present. | Noted |
| 2 | Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising | Minutes of the Last Meeting The minutes of the last GOG meeting were presented and approved Matters Arising Officers should already be aware of Officer Question Time Meetings, for the avoidance of doubt these will be circulated again. Alex Binnie and Fran Nash have been confirmed as members of the Appointments Panel. | Noted Noted |
| 3 | Verbal Updates | Ellie Keiller (President) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NUS National Demo Working to improve services in the library including Wifi Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Students' Officer) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on a review of the university structures relating to postgraduate taught students Working on Postgraduate specific pre-arrival communication Postgraduate Students' Conference at Nottingham on Friday | Noted Noted |

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| | | <p>Natalie Cox (Activities and Development Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced Transcripts • Changes to the Guild opening times. The Guild will now close at 10pm, not 8pm as previously – this will be helpful for student groups • Working on Give it a Go Fair promotional activity <p>Izzie Nicholds (Housing and Community Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for Snow Ball on Friday 2nd December • Christmas on Campus is on Monday 5th December • Working with Guild staff to resolve issues in Selly Oak • Housing Fairs • Mixing Events • RA Elections <p>Georgie Freeman (Sports Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “This Girl Can” campaign is ongoing • UB Sports contract with Kukri, the sports kit provider has ended, so a search is ongoing for a new provider • Meetings ongoing about the new sports centre • Meeting with the Disabled Students Officer about improving participation in sport for students with disabilities <p>Max Seidler (Satellite Sites Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met recently with Guild staff to discuss transport between Satellite Sites and the University • NHS Bursaries for Dental Hygiene and how students will be affected by cuts <p>EK mentioned she would be keen to work with MS on this issue, and how this affects hospital patients</p> <p>Nicky Woods (Ethical and Environmental Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended NUS National Demo • Working on a report on the expansion of vegan options and why it's a good idea • Looking to start a “Meat Free Mondays” campaign next term • Been working with BH on the menu development for the new street kitchen <p>Rik Sowden (Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Settling into new role • Starting working with RB on Parent and Carers experience • Attended Action Plan session <p>Ross Strong (Welfare Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health First Aid Training in the Guild • Free Condoms stand in Guild Advice • December 1st is World Aids Day • Working on Support pages on the website – to include information on eating disorders • E&D Representatives are up and running • Training with Guild Advice on sexual health awareness | <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> |
|--|--|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | <p>Chris Wilkinson (Education Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on increased use of Panopto and Panopto Working Group Majority of Student Reps Training is completed <p>EK provided and update from BH in his absence. He is working on planning for Officer Elections and the Library Free the tea campaign.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> |
| 4 | “Your Ideas” and Mandate Updates | <p>EK presented the latest round of mandate updates and invited all Officers to get involved with their completion.</p> <p>Cheaper alternative to Spar – A blog post is going out soon inviting consultation on what can be done about Spar</p> <p>Make elections more accessible – Subject to approval, materials will be purchased by the Guild to assist in this</p> <p>Full-Time International Student Officer – This is going to be incorporated into the Officer review at the end of this academic year.</p> <p>More Live Music at the Guild – More events are going to be included in term 2. BH and NC are working to set dates.</p> <p>Water Fountains – This can be considered completed, they are all over campus</p> <p>Nap Rooms – This idea will be incorporated into Destresstival</p> <p>Hot drinks in the Library – This is being looked into following the #Freethetea campaign</p> | <p>Noted</p> |
| 5 | Officer Question Time | <p>The next meeting of Officer Question Time is taking place on Thursday 1st December at 6pm in Amos.</p> <p>Officers present were asked to prepare a short update on work done and if they had any questions in advance for the Full-Time Officer team let them know.</p> <p>Tom Squires has also been elected the chair of OQT.</p> <p>It was noted there are interesting items on the agenda including new library feedback and the Guild's relationship with student staff. Any student staff who wanted to speak on this topic have been invited to attend</p> <p>GF asked when the agenda would be going out? This will be sent tomorrow.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |
| 6 | NUS Updates | <p>Students recently attended the NUS National Demo in London. The NUS would probably say it wasn't as full as they would have liked it to be. The NUS wanted 15,000 to attend, but that was probably only 5,000.</p> <p>RB had feedback from Amnesty members that it was actually very good.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| | | <p>The NUS Higher Education Bill also took place last Saturday, and it went to Parliament on Monday, it is clear that it didn't have much impact on the decisions there. EK will send a message to Lord Billamoria.</p> <p>RB asked if the NUS have said what they will do next? – It's currently in the House of Lords, so we are awaiting the outcome of that.</p> | |
| 7 | Officer Elections 2017 – Declaration of Candidacy | <p>The Officer Elections are taking place next term. EK presented the Officer Declaration of Candidacy Procedure.</p> <p>If anyone wants to run, they should follow this process and let the Student Voice Office know in advance so that they are aware and can plan accordingly.</p> <p>GF asked what should people do if they want to do this? – Nominations open on the 10th – 30th January and then voting will take place in February.</p> <p>EK noted that in the past the Officer Team have done targeted blogs – in respect of Liberation groups. All Officers were asked if they wanted to contribute to this - writing something on why someone should run. This will go online and be used in promotion.</p> <p>RB noted that a blog was done targeting women last year and the representation there was good. Possibly one could be targeted at BME and international students.</p> <p>AS suggested that anyone who wanted to write about why their roles are so important could do so.</p> <p>MS, RSo and NW agreed to produce a blog.</p> <p>EK stated she would ask again when more Part-Time Officers were present.</p> | <p>Noted</p> <p>Officers to produce blog posts</p> |
| 8 | Officer Elections 2017 – Hustings Discussion | <p>The majority of hustings event last year were held in Guild Council Chambers. There was little space for debate and the majority of people in the room were on campaign teams. BH has put it on the agenda to look at ideas.</p> <p>NW raised the idea of Online hustings. RB agreed with this. EK noted that they were periscoped last year.</p> <p>CW said there was a time difference between roles, the President's was 2 hours all of the others were 1 hour long.</p> <p>GF noted that the Sports one was valuable, as it got people in the room.</p> <p>CW asked what the group wanted the hustings to be – are they just a performance or are they to establish who the best candidate is.</p> <p>AS noted that this is under discussion this year, whether it is likely to change votes and if not, there may be better ways for the</p> | Noted |

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|---|---------------------|
| | | <p>candidates to spend their time.</p> <p>GF asked if Part-Time Officers knew what the format was like. She gave an overview of how they worked to those in the room.</p> <p>ARE noted that previously held hustings altogether, but there was backlash from the candidates who said they didn't have space to build a platform.</p> <p>NW mentioned she didn't think they were very effective. EK said that would depend on the format – they could be if challenge was allowed, it would get people in the room.</p> <p>EK noted there were good pre-submitted questions for the presidential debate, but maybe not for the other roles. Having them within other meetings like Mega Forum or ResExec might not be a good idea either.</p> <p>RB asked what is the value of hustings? They have value to inform voters on the credibility of the candidate and inform them of manifestos</p> <p>CW asked if that was likely to favour current Officers? Not necessarily, this would depend on the person and the role.</p> <p>It was noted that the realistic manifestos idea could counteract that. It will be OK as long as someone isn't going in with something impossible.</p> <p>RB asked if there was a plan for Vote Fest this year? – There are plans underway to hold the event again. An explanation was given of what VoteFest was.</p> <p>GF noted again how good the Sports Hustings was – captive audiences (ResExec etc.) should be good as they are already involved.</p> <p>NW said they were good for her to make up her mind.</p> | |
| <p>9</p> | <p>NUS National Conference Information</p> | <p>EK reminded the Group that NUS National Conference Delegates will be elected in Term 2 alongside the Officer Team.</p> <p>In order to send Motions to Conference they need to be submitted to "Your Ideas" cycle 3 by Friday 13th January.</p> <p>These motions will be decided before the elections so there will be a good platform for candidates to run on.</p> <p>The Conference will be taking place between 25-27th April.</p> <p>A session on how to write motions and what they are is being held on Monday 5th December and is open to all students.</p> <p>ARE noted that the liberation conferences will have different deadlines so will go through different cycles.</p> | <p>Noted</p> |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|--|
| 10 | Disability Sport Campaign | <p>GF and KH are working collaboratively on a campaign to get more students with disabilities involved with sports. This will take place in term 2 and will hope to be as inclusive as possible, including a number of different sports, with the potential to create a badge similar to "Not On" to highlight the campaign.</p> <p>Work is already underway to look at Sports Clubs that already offer good provision, and to promote this more.</p> <p>The Group were asked for the feedback.</p> <p>Overall, it is a good idea. RB mentioned she was already looking at a similar campaign with Postgraduates so maybe this could link in nicely.</p> <p>EK asked if there would be mixed or separate groups? This is being looked into. RB noted that mixed would better to take account of non-binary people who also wanted to participate.</p> <p>Everyone agreed with this suggestion</p> | Noted. Updates to be provided when available |
| 11 | Officer Buddies Catch Up | <p>This was an item placed on the agenda to allow all of the FTOs and PTOs to catch up with each other, as not all the Officers attended, it was suggested all of the Officers catch up individually.</p> | Noted. |
| 12 | Student Equality and Diversity Committee | <p>It was noted that the Student E&D Committee had been a sub-committee of Guild Council and used to report its activities there. Now that Guild Council has been abolished, this needs to report into another democratic structure. It was proposed that the Committee will now report into GOG meetings. This was approved.</p> <p>RS gave an update on what the committee was. It was noted it discussed aspects such as the Zero Tolerance Policy, linked in with E&D representatives at the University and will develop a Guild-wide Equality and Diversity strategy.</p> <p>RS to circulate minutes to GOG and provide feedback on the meeting.</p> <p>RB and RSo to be added to the membership of the Committee. This was also approved.</p> | Noted RS to circulate minutes |
| 13 | Full-Time Officer Group Updates | <p>EK provided an update on the usual items on the agenda</p> <p>CW provided an update on what the TEF Working Group is working on at the moment</p> | Noted |
| 14 | AOB | <p>Campaigns Pot The Campaigns Pot process is being reviewed. Officers can submit an application; this will be presented to GOG or FTOG (whichever meets first). It will then be approved internally from a finance Point of view.</p> <p>Christmas on Campus RB provided an update</p> <p>Speak Week CW informed all present that 'Speak Week' will be taking place</p> | Noted Noted Noted |

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| | | between 5 th – 9 th December. All Officers should encourage students they come into contact with to provide feedback | |
|--|--|--|--|

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:00
Date of Next Meeting: 19th January 2017