

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 29th May 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 Joe Hill – Education Officer Aoife O’Driscoll-Paton - Disabled Students; Office Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer Also in attendance: Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Officer (or nominee) Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary	Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students’ Officer	Semmer Preet Singh- Ethnic Minority Students’ Officer Ismael Rodriguez Foronda - Ethical and Environmental Officer

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> JH welcomed everyone to the meeting. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved All action being address in the agenda. 	

3	Officer Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HB has been looking at other rooms that student groups can use outside of the building. We often have all rooms booked in the Guild so trying to expand capacity. ▪ HB has also been working on Grad Ball promotion and supporting that. ▪ HB did have on his manifesto to have an Old Joe Pint. This isn't possible but there will be an Old Joe Cocktail on the menu. ▪ BL has been working on the PG and International Party next week. ▪ BL has continued working with students via the Grad Board to push the University of Access. Planning to create a UEC sub-group to look in to the issues around GTAs and address those. ▪ BL has also been working on the postgraduate access scholarships. £250,000 was allocated. At least 2 scholarships per college have been allocated. ▪ TL has been working on the Language Picnic. We're still investigating possible locations at the moment. It's next Thursday afternoon. ▪ TL has just posted the final episode of Alice's Top Tips. ▪ TL has also been working on various policy work. The graduate route has been saved. ▪ JH has been doing planning on Rep Awards. Lots of nominees and around 100 attendees. ▪ JH has been leading on the Guild's statement on the University APP plans. ▪ JH has also been looking at getting the University's SSP updated with better protection for distance and online students. ▪ RH has been primarily focused on their exams. They're planning to hold the Trans Swim towards the end of UoBExtra. Looking at providing a social aspect as well as the swim. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RH is also looking at wrapping up various projects and resources that they've not been able to share yet. ▪ RH is also looking at booking some handover time with their successors. ▪ RH noted that the Gender-Neutral Toilets action group is ongoing. Another meeting needs to be rearranged to check on progress with this. ▪ AOD has been planning some information sharing on RAPs. Mainly based around what students' rights are and how the process works. 	
4	Comms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nothing specific to note. ▪ TL asked if fellow Officers could promote Language Picnic. We'll be updating attendees on the location once we've got one secured. 	
5	General Election	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SD doing notes – discussed provisional plan by Guild Staff to share core information regarding general election this week, with a full website being created next week. • Discussed next steps regarding. • Manifesto Launch HB attended and felt it was worthwhile and it covered most student-led concerns. Maybe we should build on that. • JH echoed the above, it mostly focuses on financial support and funding. JH any other points? • RH what about voter ID, told not allowed to use pass ID at a polling station for local elections, even though they did apologise as the polling station realised, they were not sure. Citizen Card and being clear what we are telling students and helping to clarify that information. 	AC to ensure PTOs are updated on the general election work going forward.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed society information and support provided to these groups (HB). • Red Brick could be asking questions to MPs on student issues. Could the Guild lead on this? AC – ask if they are doing any coverage or questions around the General Election? AC happy to reach out on this matter. • Society benefits in attendance at events where possible as well etc... • JH is there a plan to ask VC about hosting a Q&A event as well? AC noted she will ask the VC next week. • Re-visited conversation on Russell Group Manifesto and including this on the website. • Discussed differing opinions around Maintenance loans. And the expectations on financial support to students during their time of studies. • JH at a minimum the manifesto highlights the general issue facing students for candidates standing in the local area. • AC to ensure PTOs are updated on the general election work going forward. 	
6	Policies from democratic system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AC Noting Arms Trade and Palestinian Solidarity Items going through the next stage of the democratic process. • AC outlined the call for an action group for these items to be taken forward, and alternative options around direct inclusion toward the All Student Vote. • AC noted that the Arms Trade policy has already had various consultation with students. • AC mentioned that the Palestine Solidarity motion has some legalities around it that the Guild needs to look in to 	

		<p>so we can ensure that the motion is able to be passed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• AC has spoken to Officers at Manchester who had a similar motion. Their Union came to a corporate conclusion but were limited in being able to implement BDS at the Union.• AC noted that there are differences with the motion that we've had proposed to the one at Manchester.• JT noted that as an organisation we can support and lobby on issues that impact students as students. With issues that don't directly impact students we need to be more considered.• JT noted that the Charity Commission does take an interest when Students' Unions pass motions on these types of topics.• JT mentioned that we've had some advice from the lawyers and are looking to progress this later today.• JT noted that a corporate conclusion allows the Guild to put something forward as the views of the students but not put resource behind campaigning on it.• AC asked for thoughts from GOG on pushing these two ideas through to ASV.• BL agreed that this is a good idea.• JT asked if we've considered questions from students around why we haven't held an action group.• SD noted that we can say that the action group was just the relevant Officer who decided to progress it to ASV.• BL noted that we should be giving students the option to vote on this.• SD mentioned that the SDI is not binding. It is simply to gather if students are interested in us investigating this motion.• AC noted that the SDI is mainly focused on if we should have a motion not necessarily the specific text.• RH noted that we can't necessarily tell if the up-votes are directly supportive of the	
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		<p>entire motion. More likely they were up-voting based on the title.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB asked if we could split the motion down into various sections so people can vote on them separately. • AC noted that we've not done this with any other motion, and it would likely impact the substance of the motion. • JH noted that there is quite a lot of blurb attached to the motion itself. We could consider if we change that part of the motion. • RH asked if where we can't contact the idea proposer to get more insight into what they would see as acceptable changes then the next best option would be put to it to the ASV. • AC asked what the next steps would be and how do we clarify this to students. • JT noted that we would have to add a clarifying note to the motion about what the Guild is allowed to do in line with charity law. • AC clarified that we wouldn't be changing the motion. • BL noted that students should be able to submit things that aren't possible. • JT noted that as it's anonymous and GOG has discussed this, we can show that we've had discussion on this. 	
7	Encampment Verbal Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT noted that on the 9th May the encampment started. The University issued notices to quit to the encampment. This gave the University the ability to remove them. • DT noted that UoB Friends of Palestine did have a meeting arranged with the VC which was cancelled at late notice. • DT and AC noted that the VC has refused to meet UoB FoP and the encampment. • DT and AC arranged a meeting between the encampment and the Registrar. Due to various reasons the meeting didn't end up taking place. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DT noted that the encampment said they wanted to meet with the VC and didn't feel that they would have the space to discuss their demands. • DT mentioned that he met with the University last week. He also visited the encampment, but the encampment prefers to contact the Guild via email. • AC noted that they are delivering a letter every day to the VC. The encampment has also expanded into Chancellors Court. • DT mentioned that the encampment was protesting outside one of the Finance and Investment Committee meetings. • AC noted that she has been talking with ISoc. Many members of their community have been impacted. ISoc have had a meeting with the University and didn't get any substantial commitment from them. • AC mentioned the ISoc are now publicly supporting the encampment. • AC noted that ISoc have been offered a meeting to discuss the University investments. • TL noted that there may be impacts with UoBExtra next week. • DT mentioned that the University is still planning on running UoBExtra with event being moved to different locations. • AC noted that there are ongoing conversations around what will happen with Grad Ball next week. • JT noted that alternatives are being investigated. 	
8	Next GOG Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB mentioned that the next GOG meeting is a handover meeting. The new FTOs and PTOs will be in attendance. • JB will put out a call for agenda items closer to the time. 	
9	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ HB mentioned that FTOG discussed having a HBSC speaker at a Committee Training event. There had been a discussion on asking Careers Network to 	

		<p>find another speaker and they haven't been able.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ HB noted that this event is a collaboration with UBSport. We could pull out of the event and it would still go ahead.▪ AC mentioned that we could make it non-compulsory so that people don't have to attend if they don't want to.▪ Agreement to investigate if it can be made non-compulsory.▪ TL noted that the Dubai Students Association President is visiting next week and has various activity planned.▪ AC thanked all of the PTOs for their work throughout this year and their engagement with GOG.	
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:19

Date of next meeting: 27th June 1-2pm