

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 3.10.24, 12:30-13:30pm
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 Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Armaan Hussain- Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Max Williams - Sustainability Officer Abi Pain - Trans and Non Binary Officer Also in attendance: Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Officer (or nominee) Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager James Lindsay, Director of Community and Representation	Abby Kenrick - Disabled Students' Officer	Mimia Islam - Women's Officer

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS welcomed everyone to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves to the meeting. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of minutes from the last meeting. 	
3	Officer Projects	Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LP updated that she is working on getting the Sports access fund rolled out. There is a meeting tomorrow. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP has a meeting today about Girls Night In, a women’s safe space in sports. • AP is starting to work on the TDoR vigil and looking at events throughout the semester. • AH has been reaching out to cultural societies throughout Welcome Week. Also hosted an event during Welcome Week for students. • AH is looking to bring together societies who represent cultural societies together. • AH meet with various University members and FoP today. • HA has been working on relaunching the housing hub and updating it with housing FAQs. • HA is continuing with the cost of living initiatives from last year – Community Pantry and Breakfast. Looking at bringing various services in to that space. • HA has also started work on the Community Cookbook • LP to put HA in touch with Food Fellows who have offered to help with the cookbook. • HA noted that some staff would like a staff spotlight section which she’ll be considering. • TB ran an LGBTQ picnic last week which went really well. There are plans to run coffee socials and a speed-friending event next week. • TB is also planning a fundraising event for trans visibility week as well. • DJ is working on looking at how students can share their research projects and having these more visible. • DJ is also working with careers to have a chat features for the careers network. • DJ is also working on bring Desi FAB nights and other events. • DJ has also been working on networking events with the careers team to support students. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RM asked how the careers networking is going to work? It's on various Officers manifestos. Will it include different companies and alumni. • DJ is planning to network with the students, and not focused on bringing companies in but on building knowledge about the job market. • AK is working on a research showcase with the PVC for Research. There will be three short-talks like events to get students more involved and engaged with the research themes. • AK is also looking in to developing a continuous training programme for Reps throughout the year and developing their skills. Should be aligned to the Graduate Attributes to support them with developing their skills. • RR is working on Language Cafe which is next week. Also planning some cultural events with societies throughout the Semester. • RR has meet with the Business Careers Network and discussing increasing skills workshops and internships for students. • SS suggested RR and AH to work together on bringing together cultural societies and supporting their events. • MW has been bringing together different sustainability related societies and sharing updates from those. • MW is working with the Director of Sustainability Education on Sustainability Champions scheme and how the Guild can work with the scheme. • MW has started working with Facilities on how the Guild can reduce its energy emissions. • MW is also working on a conference event alongside a wider University schedule around COP29 and COP 30. • MW ran a Sustainability Stall last week with Divestment campaign being the most 	
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		<p>important to students. Also hoping to obtain some survey results from the University related to the ethical investment policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS asked about the student conference and whether it was something from MW. • MW clarified that the afternoon is being run by the Guild with a panel event. • RM is hosting speed-friending event tomorrow looking to provide spaces for PGs to socialise together. • RM is also looking at how scholarships can be expanded to more students. • RM is also looking at how PGT and PGR wellbeing can be supported. • RM is working with RR on Language Cafe and looking at providing themes throughout the events. • AH pointed out that it might be useful to bring together various Officers who are working on cultural related events and projects. • SS is looking at developing cultural workshops for students. Discussing with the University about how food prices can be reduced across campus. • SS is also working on bringing together Officers from across the West Midlands and lobby together. • SS is starting a podcast to put questions to the University staff to create transparency with the University. • SS has been talking with the University about ethical investment policy and arms trade policy. SS noted that we already have an ethical investment policy, but he'd like to see it go further. • SS is involved in discussions on the University's 125th Anniversary and how we can bring societies into that. • AH asked if the 125th Anniversary date could be moved to make it more accessible for societies. 	
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4	Comms	<p>Standing Item for communication updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AK noted that the University is very keen to push You Said We Did. If anyone had any wins keep a note of them. • LP mentioned that everyone should have a Comms buddy. Comms will be looking to get Officer wins in October for them to be published. • JB suggested that PTOs discuss with their staff support about what they'd like to put on there. • JL clarified that they would be going out around Christmas time and can be looking ahead a bit. 	
5	Appointment Panel – Appointing 3 PTOs to sit on Appointment Panel (Paper attached)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL introduced Appointment Panel and that it appoints Trustees. The ToR has been shared with everyone. • JL clarified that the Panel needs three members of GOG who are not already Trustees to sit on the Panel. They will get training and support in doing this. • MW asked about the time commitment needed. • JB clarified that there is 2 hours of training scheduled and then a panel meeting in November. • AM, TB, AP all expressed interested and were appointed by Guild Officer Group to the Panel. • JB to let the People and Admin Team know. 	JB to let People and Admin know who was appointed to Appointments Panel
6	Democracy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA shared a document with everyone and updated on what is currently happening within the Democratic System and the Autumn Elections. 	JB to check if PTOs have the democratic

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PA directed everyone towards to column with notes to see if they're mentioned. • PA noted that there are currently action groups for Palestine Solidarity and Arms Trade. • PA has shared information on Autumn Elections and asked if everyone could share the content on their social media. • RR asked if College, School, and Senate Reps are elected? • AK clarified that CoSS does their elections differently. • TB asked how the B&Cs needing to be renewed will be looked at? • PA clarified that they would go to action groups to start with. The action group will then decide if it should go to ASV or be directly renewed. • AH asked when the ASV items will be published and when students can vote? • SD clarified that the items should be published next Wednesday and then the vote will open on Monday. • JB to check if PTOs have the democratic dates in their calendars. • MW asked what should be done for ideas that we don't think are being actioned. • AH asked what the quorum is for an ASV. • JB clarified that quorum for this year will be 428 which is 1% of the student body. This will be published on the Guild website. • JL noted that for the Palestine Solidarity idea will be going to the All Student Vote as a Corporate Conclusion. This means that while the motion can be passed the Guild won't be able to action anything from it. • LP clarified that there is a section of the motion that calls for the Guild to do an education piece which we wouldn't be able to do if this passes as a corporate conclusion. 	<p>dates in their calendars.</p>
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7	NUS Reform Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB updated on the changes to NUS and the fact that NUS Conference no longer exists. • JB updated the NUS have asked SUs to have 2 people as their main contacts for NUS. SS is one of those people as it's part of the Presidents role. • AK and RM both expressed an interest in being involved with NUS work. 	AK, RM, and JB to discuss who will attend the NUS campaign days.
8	Officer Buddies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL noted that in previous years PTOs have been buddied up with a FTO. It has primarily been for • AH noted that it might not be particularly useful this year. PTOs can directly contact FTOs. • JL suggested picking this up at the next GOG meeting to see how the PTOs are feeling and if they'd like them. 	JB to add buddies check-in to the next agenda.
9	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB clarified that they will circulate a paper around on Honorary and Life Memberships. • AH noted that there was a temporary encampment created on campus last week. They were removed from the area at the time by campus security. • AH to circulate a report from the incident. The main issue was surrounding the level of forced used by campus security to remove the students. • AH asked if the Guild Officer Group would be willing to make a statement on this. He has a draft of this and will circulate this to the group. • SS noted that they're currently facilitating conversations between the University and the students. • AH noted that this should be focused on how campus security deals with student activist on campus and what the Guild's views on this. • LP asked how this would impact their roles as a trustee due to the encampment breaking the law when they returned. 	SS to discuss with AH how to approach conversations regarding the University's approach to the encampment.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JL noted that the statement could be worded to encourage the University to ensuring that they are meeting their duty of care towards students. • JL noted that Guild Officer Group can direct each other to take particular actions as the Officer Team around this issue. • SS mentioned that this issue has been raised with the Chief of Security and asked how this can be investigated. • HA noted that it might be better looking at a general statement of support around the anniversary of October 7th and continue working with the University on this. • SS to discuss with AH how this can be approached. • MW asked what the decision is on this. • LP suggested that the Officer Team agree to take this issue up with the relevant University staff and that they condemn the violence towards students. • LP also noted that this they are waiting for a response for the University after it was raised on the day. • Agreement to condemn the violence towards students and for relevant Officers to take up the issue to the University. 	
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:34
Date of next meeting: 31st October, 1-2pm