

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 31st November 2024, 1-2pm
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 Abby Kenrick - Disabled Students; Officer Armaan Hussain - Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Max Williams - Sustainability Officer Abi Pain - Trans and Non Binary Officer Also in attendance: James Lindsay, Director of Community and Representation (CEO Nominee) Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager	Mimia Islam - Women's Officer Jo Thomas, Chief Executive 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 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes were approved Ongoing items are on the agenda 	
3	Officer Projects	Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DJ is working on a business case for the PhD Portal Project. Planning regular 	JB to add Officers to the calendar invite for the Vigil.

		<p>meetings and then pitching to the University.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DJ is also working on a podcast about wellbeing and how this related to employability. ▪ DJ is also looking at a networking event with the careers network where students can access questions. ▪ RR is working on three projects. Planning events for December to support international students. ▪ RR is working with the careers network on an employability event. ▪ RR is working with various societies on a cultural festival for the new year. ▪ DJ has meeting with Jon Elsmore and he suggested moving it to UoBExtra which would mean they could provide funding and support for it. ▪ SS mentioned that RR could speak to the University Campus Services about doing this as part of their events. ▪ RR isn't necessarily looking for funding for it. He's working with societies to bring in cultural vendors in and working with the marketing team to make sure they go through the right process. ▪ MW has had the sustainability champions student section approved by E&E Committee. This gives a space for students to discuss and raise sustainability issues. ▪ MW visited Southampton SU to find out more about their sustainability work and has shared a report with E&E Committee. ▪ MW spoke on a panel event for the WMCA and built some connection with them. He's also looking at supporting Plant-Based UoB campaign in various University and Guild meetings. ▪ JL asked to see the report from the SUSU visit and suggested that the Sustainability Champions can feed in to the democratic system. 	<p>MW to share the report on the SUSU visit with JL. LP to set-up a Guild Team for Movember.</p>
--	--	---	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MW to share the report on the SUSU visit with JL. ▪ AP updated that they've been working on the TDoR vigil. ▪ AH asked when the vigil is. ▪ JB to add Officers to the calendar invite for the Vigil. ▪ LP asked how long the event will run. ▪ AP updated that it should finish by 6 with additional space afterwards. ▪ TB has run various social events, with some more planned. Ran an Autumn Crafts social yesterday which was well attended. ▪ TB is also looking at running a fundraiser in November for World Aids Day and looking at having pins that students can pick up in Reception. ▪ TB has been talking with the Careers Network about specific opportunities to LGBTQ students that they provided. ▪ DJ mentioned that he can help with any connections with the careers network if needed. ▪ AKenrick has been looking at maximising feedback around the RAPs process and bringing students into that feedback space. ▪ AKenrick has also been looking at preparation for Disability History Month and working with HA on some events. ▪ RM is working on some events for postgraduate students. Also working with Careers Network on expanding job opportunities for postgraduate students. ▪ RM and HA are working on a wellbeing event for PG students. ▪ AH has been involved in the Palestine Solidarity Action Group and looking at developing the policy towards an ASV. ▪ AKeen has been working on a research showcase which has short-talk style talks at the end of UoBExtra. Mainly as a space for students to understand more about the research that they University 	
--	--	--	--

		<p>does and aligns with their strategy for research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ AKeen has been working with registry to get exam timetables to come out early for the May exam timetables.▪ AKeen is giving a presentation to the Education Innovation Group about areas to improve interdisciplinary education.▪ AKeen has also been working with the University on developing the student charter. It would be good to have the input from GOG on this as it develops.▪ AH asked what the idea behind interdisciplinary education is.▪ AKeen noted that when he was studying, he noticed that students tend to be siloed into their discipline and it would be good to get students to have access to more academics.▪ AKenrick asked if early timetables would put pressure on students having access to reasonable adjustments.▪ AKeen noted that this should have any impact as the time for RA is built in.▪ HA noted that they get a lot of student queries, and a lot of her focus is on responding to this.▪ HA noted that they've been working with the Community Safety Team on safe walking routes and making those accessible to students.▪ HA is looking at running a drop-ins with Community Safety where students can talk to the team and find out more about what they do.▪ HA is working on a campaign for housing that should launch in January and bringing students together on this topic.▪ LP noted that the Sports Access Fund closes on Monday.▪ LP has been working wiht UBSport on setting up a Club Exec Group to bring together various clubs and providing feedback to UBSport.	
--	--	---	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LP noted that they did a sponsored Sports Night with CoppaFeel and are looking at another one for Movember. ▪ LP noted that they've been working with UBSport to set-up a group to look at disability access in to sport. ▪ MW asked if they needed to sign-up on the website for Movember or if it's done through the Guild. ▪ LP noted that they could set-up a Guild Team if wanted. ▪ JL noted that Movember has usually come through Officers as there isn't a student group for this. ▪ LP to set-up a Guild Team for Movember. ▪ SS has been working on Coffee with the President Podcast which is with the UEB Executive. ▪ SS has also been working on workshops on self-motivation. Would be good to work with AKenrick and HA on this. ▪ SS and AKeen are working on a conference for West Midlands Officers to bring them together. ▪ SS noted that they have been working with AH and HA to foster dialogue with FoP. ▪ AKeen and HA have a meeting with Al Carns (Selly Oak MP) tomorrow morning. The agenda is mainly on housing and they can provide an update on this. 	
4	Comms	<p>Standing Item for communication updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LP noted that they're working with MW on a Sports Night swap shop on November. ▪ SS noted that it would be good to have Coffee with the President promoted as well. ▪ AH asked when it will be published. ▪ SS noted that they've got to meet with the Head of Marketing and then set-up the recording for the podcast. 	
5	Democracy Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JB updated on the democratic system. ▪ SD noted that the Arms Trade policy is still being checked for legalities. 	JB/SD to make sure ASVs are promote to

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SD mentioned that the Pro-Choice policy expires in December and we are suggesting that it goes to ASV3 though there is a possibility it could go to ASV2. ▪ AKeen noted that a number of the ASVs haven't been quorate. ▪ JB noted that we're looking at how we can promote those votes and get students engaged. We know that the votes that get the most engagement are ones where the ideas have come from students. ▪ JL noted that we want to look at how we're talking about what has come through the system and what we've done about the ideas. ▪ AH asked if we could promote the ASV to student societies and encourage them to vote. ▪ JL agreed that we can do this. ▪ LP noted that the ideas platform can be a bit confusing. It isn't clear that this is where you can upvote an idea as well. ▪ JB and SD to pick this up and look at changing the website copy. ▪ MW noted that the current policies can be found at the top of the webpage, and it would be good for Officers to look at these. MW noted that Officers uphold these views. ▪ JB to email the link for the policy tracker to everyone. ▪ MW highlighted that there is an activism policy which relates to recent discussions surrounding protests. This policy notes that the Guild supports non-violent protests. ▪ JL clarified that the policy does note that the Guild doesn't have to condone any non-violent protest. ▪ AH asked what the difference is between not condoning and distancing. ▪ JB clarified that the different is mainly to do with what the Guild says on protests. 	<p>student societies.</p> <p>JB and SD to pick this up and look at changing the website copy on the Ideas page.</p>
--	--	--	---

6	NUS Campaigns Exchange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JB noted that AKeen and RM both expressed an interest in being involved in NUS work. ▪ JB mentioned that there is an opportunity for anyone to be involved with NUS Campaigns Exchange if they're interested in doing so. ▪ All to email JB if they're interested in attending the Campaigns Exchange. 	All to email JB if they want to attend Campaigns Exchange.
8	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JB noted that there has been a paper shared with Officers about Honorary and Life memberships at the Guild. ▪ JL noted that this has come from a previous conversation about different types of memberships. The Guild can grant Officers or students lifetime membership of the Guild. This has previous been approved by the All Student Meeting which is now not part of the system. ▪ JL noted that we need volunteers to be involved in this process. ▪ MW asked why someone would want this membership. ▪ JL noted that is about recognition of work that students have done throughout their time here. ▪ JL noted that there was a discussion about Officer Buddies at the last meeting. No one has mentioned that they're keen for Officer Buddies. ▪ LP noted that there isn't a sense of keenness from Officer for this. ▪ AH noted that it's useful to be able to go to any of the FTOs depending on what the topics is. ▪ Agreement that buddies are not necessary, and this conversation doesn't need revisiting. ▪ AH noted that they will likely be leaving their role. ▪ AH noted thanks to the Group for their support and their work. ▪ GOG thanked AH for this work since July. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ JL mentioned that the Guild has signed up for the SOS-UK Drug and Alcohol Framework. JL will forward the Welcome Meeting invited to Officers.	
--	--	---	--

The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:58

Date of next meeting: 28th November, 2-3pm