

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 4.9.23 2-3pm
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Amira Campbell – Guild President (Chair) Dean Turner - Welfare and Community Officer Cat Hardiman - Sports Officer Joe Hill – Education Officer Tianjie Liu (Alice) - International Officer Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Aoife O'Driscoll-Paton - Disabled Students; Officer Safina Amira - Women's Officer Ismael Rodriguez Foronda - Ethical and Environmental Officer Robin Hayward - Trans and Non Binary Officer Also in attendance: Jo Thomas, Chief Executive Officer Jane Baston, Senior Voice Coordinator and GOG Secretary Scott Dawson, Voice and Representation Manager	Ben Lockley - Postgraduate Officer Harry Brooks – A&E Officer	Chetna Rajendra Khandare - Campaigns Officer Semmer Preet Singh- Ethnic Minority Students' Officer

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	AC: Welcome everyone to the meeting. Officers introduced themselves and their roles.	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	Minutes of the last meeting were noted	
3	Democracy Review & Semester 1	SD: Introduced themselves as the Student Voice and Representation Manager. SD: We undertook an initial phase of a Democracy Review over the last academic year. You can find the information on our democracy pages on a website. There's a new democratic	

	<p>system. There are no more ASM. Ideas will be escalated to Action Groups to be progressed.</p> <p>SD: Ideas will either go to the ASV or be directly implemented. More information can be found on the Democracy Hub on the Guild website.</p> <p>SD: Our democratic system has been on hold throughout the summer while we work on the new system. We are aiming for a launch next week, with the system being up and running for Welcome.</p> <p>SD: This is phase 1 of the Review. Across last year we did a series of workshops with students to help design the new system which was run by an external consultancy. Alongside this we did specific engagement with FTOs, PTOs, staff and students.</p> <p>SD: Second part of happening soon. There were some parts that we wanted further student input in. Primarily around representation and liberation associations and PTOs. Potentially looking at moving these to paid Community Organiser roles but we had a lot of outstanding questions that we didn't feel were resolved.</p> <p>SD: This week we're launching a Guild survey to all students to ask their thoughts on democracy and specifically around student leaders and the associations. We'd encourage you to complete this and share it with the groups you're involved with.</p> <p>SD: Any substantial changes need to be made by November due to the requirements for Officer Elections 2024.</p> <p>AC: We are also looking at creating some working groups after the survey has closed. Looking at what this could look like in practice from the results of the survey.</p> <p>AC: We want to make sure that we're putting that student feedback at the core of that decision making.</p> <p>SD: There hasn't been a final decision made on the PTO roles yet. We want to use the consultation to inform that. The current PTO</p>	
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		<p>roles don't change and will finish out their terms as expected.</p> <p>AC: Please get involved in the process and share the survey and consultation. The decisions made could have a really big impact and your voice matters in it.</p> <p>TL: From experience it can be difficult to know what the associations are. Encouraging students to learn about what they are and get involved with them. We don't want to assume what students think about this.</p> <p>SD: If anyone has any questions please reach out and ask as we're happy to chat more on the specifics.</p> <p>AC: There are some really interesting questions to be answered about the potential Community Organiser roles.</p> <p>TL: We'll also need to think about the international students and their working hours for those Community Organiser Roles.</p>	
4	Appointments Panel	<p>JB: As discussed earlier in the training for PTOs we need to appoint three PTOs to sit on the Appointments Panel for the Guild.</p> <p>JT: RH was part of the Panel last year so can probably share their experience.</p> <p>RH: Experience of sitting on appointments panel was similar to interview panels. You get to look at interview processes and how those decisions are made. It's great experience.</p> <p>JT: JH also has experience on the panel.</p> <p>JH: I was a student member last year. It's not a huge time commitment and can be really interesting being on that side of the process.</p> <p>JT: It can give a really interesting insight into the HR side. We're currently recruiting for a Chair of Trustees. You won't be part of that but you'll be part of shortlisting for two student trustees and 1 external trustee.</p>	Action: JB to go to other PTO via email and see if they would be interested.

		<p>JT: You'll be able to help appoint Trustees and help to direct the organisation.</p> <p>SA: I'd be interested but would I be able to based on my situation of graduating in Dec?</p> <p>SD: Yes, you'd just have to finish the role once you've graduated.</p> <p>RH: Happy to continue on with the role.</p> <p>Agreement to appoint SA and RH.</p>	
5	<p>Discussion on how you'd like to use Guild Officer Group this year.</p> <p>Meeting dates are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd October 11-12 • 10th November 11-12 • 7th December 2-3 	<p>AC: GOG includes all PTOs and FTOS.</p> <p>AC talked through the responsibilities of GOG as outlined in the Bye-Laws.</p> <p>AC: We need to make sure that we're quorate we need 8 members to be present. We also have the power to call a referendum as agreed by 11 members.</p> <p>IR: There might be more to do on the Cost of Living Crisis as this is continuing which is concerning.</p> <p>AC: Talking about the Cost of Living, we have a number of services that we can provide. What do we want to do as GOG on this?</p> <p>TL: We may want to focus the work or change it a little bit more.</p> <p>DT: Is there anything in the PTO manifestos that could link? Does AC want to talk about the West Midlands work?</p> <p>AC: We've been working on the West Midlands Sabbs Network from Birmingham, Coventry, Wolverhampton. Two priorities are travel and housing. Travel is focused on lobbying for free travel for students across the West Midlands. There's a lot of inequality in this area at the moment where we have UniHop but other Universities don't.</p> <p>AC: We're looking at how we can use the WMCA election on this. We're also looking at housing too. If anyone is interested we can link you up.</p> <p>IR: Interested in being involved with that work.</p>	<p>Action: AC To invite PTOs to the West Midlands group chat.</p> <p>Action: JB to add Officer Projects as a standing item.</p> <p>Action: JB to add Comms as standing item.</p>

		<p>AC: The next meeting should be some time in October and we're looking at what support we can get. We know it'll likely be a more long-term project.</p> <p>AC: We don't need to do priority campaigns but it might be more useful for us to feedback about what we're working on.</p> <p>RH: Agree that it would be useful to share what were all working on so that we can share knowledge and experience.</p> <p>DT: Can we make Officer Project updates a standing item?</p> <p>AC: Would it be useful to have Comms as a standing item as well as Comms are really keen to work with the Officers.</p> <p>IR: I'd like to talk about ethics of funding on campus and the Dubai campus and how we work with them.</p> <p>AC: Let's put them in AOB.</p>	
6	Discussion on UCU-UNISON Referendum	<p>AC: About 3 years ago the Guild held a referendum on UCU strike action. Student voted to support the strike action. This mandate is almost up this October. We need to think about whether we want to hold a referendum.</p> <p>AC: We have the power to call one. The strike action has changed since then. The MAB has changed the type of impact that we've seen.</p> <p>AC: UNISON have also recently undertaken strike action at UoB which hasn't happened in a while. UCU action tends to happen more regularly.</p> <p>AC: There are a couple of questions we might need to consider. Do we want to call a referendum? What do we want it to look like? Is it a combined set of questions or separated out? Do we want it to have a 3 year mandate like previously?</p> <p>AC: This is a discussion at the moment and not for a decision. We'll likely look to decide at the next GOG.</p>	

	<p>IR: Planning to be on the picket lines in the next round of strike action.</p> <p>SD: We also have a B&C that is supporting trade unions that was re-approved this year. SD read out the B&C. This B&C can only be superseded by either a referendum or by another B&C. It's a general policy on supporting Trade Unions.</p> <p>DT: We need to think about why were calling the referendum. Is it about gauging student interest or tying us to particular actions?</p> <p>JH: The B&C seems to direct us towards supporting. There's probably a specific question about the MAB and student support for it.</p> <p>IR: Do we think that students know about specific unions and their activity?</p> <p>JH: Agreed that there might be some education needed.</p> <p>RH: We had some discussion around this last year. Here was a lot of talk about the MAB as we didn't know that impact at the time. The landscape has changed now. People not being very impacted means that they're less aware.</p> <p>AC: The conversation is largely around the approach to the situation. The B&C still gives us some direction on supporting the strike action. JH: The other value of a referendum is that it gives us a mandate to take to the University to show our support for the unions.</p> <p>TL: UCU and UNISON strikes are different for me. UCU means that there's no teaching whereas UNISON has less of a direct impact. Supporting the UCU strikes is probably easier to explain to students as well. Students don't necessarily know what the function of the unions is.</p>	
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7	AOB	<p>IR: Ethics of funding in and across campus Guild voted against taking money from Fossil Fuels. 101 universities have divested from fossil fuel. UoB have been reducing this but not fully divested yet. Should we be extending this to other funding such as medical funding?</p> <p>IR: Things like medical giants. Tuberculosis could be eradicated but pharmaceutical companies essentially stop this from happening. Should we be campaigning for University researchers/staff to stop taking this money?</p>	<p>Action: JT/SD to bring back presentation on Dubai to the next GOG meeting</p> <p>Action: JB to look at arranging a GOG photo.</p>

	<p>AC: It would be useful to have a conversation about considering this. It's not likely to be something taken up by the University.</p> <p>JH: Agreed that we'd need more conversation on this. It's a range of different things so we might want to think about putting it through the new Democratic Process.</p> <p>JB: Talk to Ben.</p> <p>IR: Do we have any reach over policy and involvement with the Dubai campus?</p> <p>TL: I work with them. They have a Students Association. We have regular meetings with their student leaders. It can be a bit sensitive about how we work with them on particular topics as there are some things that are illegal in Dubai that are not illegal in the UK. We try our best to provide them and their Student Leaders with support.</p> <p>TL: We do have students from Dubai engaged with us. They can submit ideas through the Democratic System.</p> <p>JT: Suggested that we give GOG an overview of Dubai at the next meeting.</p> <p>SD: The Student Forums report into GOG. We could look to get them to the Dec GOG meeting.</p> <p>JH: Officer Buddies. We discussed this at FTOG and think it would be useful. Does anyone have any particular thoughts on it?</p> <p>TL: Language Cafe is continuing. 24th Sept 2-4pm so please do come along for the meeting.</p>	
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 14:00
Date of next meeting: 3rd October 11-12