

## Officer Question Time Minutes

**Present:** Ellie Keiller (President), Brandon Hattiloney (Representation and Resources Officer), Chris Wilkinson (Education Officer), Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Students' Officer), Izzie Nicholds (Housing and Community Officer), Natalie Cox (Activities and Development Officer), Georgie Freeman (Sports Officer), Ross Strong (Welfare Officer), Alex Binnie (Women's Officer), Fran Nash (LGBTQ Students' Officer) Nicky Woods (Ethical and Environmental Officer), Rik Sowden (Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer)

**In attendance:** Oli Killeen (Democracy Coordinator, Note taker), Adam Sheridan (Director of Engagement), Jo Thomas (Chief Executive Officer), Lucy Gill (Communications Coordinator)

**The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 17:40**

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	<b>Opening Remarks from the Chair</b>	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to Officer Question Time.</p> <p>In what is my last Officer Question Time as Chair, I think events like this are really important to get involved in so you can hold your Officer Team to account – so would really encourage all students to come to Officer Question Time and use the Your Ideas platform to influence real change.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
2	<b>Honorary Life Membership Awards</b>	<p>Honorary Life Memberships were open between 20<sup>th</sup> March and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p> <p>This was an opportunity for students to recognise those who had made a significant contribution to the Guild and or improved the lives of students at the University of Birmingham. In all, 15 nominations were received.</p> <p>Following a meeting of the Nominations Committee, the Guild awards Honorary Life Membership to the following individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Anna Griffiths</b> – For passion and dedication to the Women in Politics society, and for service to student media as Editor-in-chief of Redbrick</li> <li>• <b>Jeevan Jones</b> – For service and dedication in the role of a Student Trustee</li> <li>• <b>Matt Keith</b> – For service and dedication to Carnival RAG Society, having served as Chair this year</li> <li>• <b>Cerys Way</b> – For dedication to the Women's Association, in particular work undertaking on engaging new members</li> <li>• <b>Ben Whale</b> – For services to the LGBTQ Association and as a Student Rep for the College of Social Sciences</li> </ul> <p>The Nominations Committee were impressed by the quality of all</p>	<b>Noted</b>

		nominations this year; it is great to see that students really do care about improving the lives of others at University.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Officer Life Membership</b>	<p>Officer Life Memberships are awarded to all Officers, Full-Time and Part-Time upon completion of their term of office.</p> <p>Officer Life Membership is awarded to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex Binnie – Women's Officer</li> <li>• Natalie Cox – Activities and Development Officer</li> <li>• Maurycy Cytarzynski – Community Action Officer</li> <li>• Idil Dhabahaye – Ethnic Minority Students' Officer</li> <li>• Rachel Fisch – Anti-Racism; Anti-Fascism Officer</li> <li>• Georgie Freeman – Sports Officer</li> <li>• Kiki Hassen – Disabled Students' Officer</li> <li>• Brandon Hattiloney – Representation and Resources Officer</li> <li>• Asif Mohammed – Home Students' Officer</li> <li>• Awati Mohammed – International Students' Officer</li> <li>• Fran Nash – LGBTQ Students' Officer</li> <li>• Izzie Nicholds – Housing and Community Officer</li> <li>• Rik Sowden – Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer</li> <li>• Ross Strong – Welfare Officer</li> <li>• Chris Wilkinson – Education Officer</li> <li>• Nicky Woods – Ethical and Environmental Officer</li> </ul> <p>Thanks go to all of our Officers this year for working so hard to improve the lives of students at the University of Birmingham. We wish them all the success in the future.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>RRO Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>Some of my major achievements this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free the Tea – A successful student led campaign to allow the consumption of food and drink in the new library</li> <li>• The signing of an Ethical Investment Policy by the University</li> <li>• Meal Plan at the Guild</li> <li>• The opening of Street Kitchen</li> </ul> <p>As someone who had not been involved in the Guild before, I have always been of the view that the Guild has the power to improve people's lives – I hoped to leave a legacy and hope that my changes and vision will be in place long after I have gone.</p> <p>I would like to give some personal thanks to the following people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Voice staff in particular, the Democracy Coordinator and Student Voice Manager for their support and hard work to make these democratic participation events happen</li> <li>• The Global Buddies Scheme Coordinator for working to make that scheme a success</li> <li>• The Communications and Marketing Team for having the vision to go with my ideas</li> <li>• Members of the Senior Management Team of the Guild; and</li> <li>• The rest of the Officer Team for your support this year.</li> </ul> <p>I would like to wish the best of luck to my successor Jess Levy, I am</p>	<b>Noted</b>

		sure she will do an amazing job in this role.	
5	<b>Sports Officer Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>Some of my major achievements this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the provision of free sports classes</li> <li>• Working with the Welfare Officer to increase Mental Health Awareness in Sports Clubs</li> <li>• The This Brum Girl Can campaign to increase female participation in sporting activities</li> <li>• Working with UBSport staff to ensure the new Sports Centre opened</li> </ul> <p>I stood for this role because I am passionate about sport, and about getting people involved in sport. As someone who had little involvement with the Guild before taking up this role, I assumed that the Guild was all about Fab, free pizza and Joe's. But there is so much more. I have learned a lot about how great the Guild is, and how much it does for students here.</p> <p>I would like to pay personal thanks to my other Officer colleagues, Guild staff and staff at UBSport who have supported me in this role.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
6	<b>Welfare Officer Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>Some of my major achievements have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of Mental Health First Aid training to Officers and staff</li> <li>• Working with the University on welfare tutors and peer support provision across the University</li> <li>• Working with the Sports Officer to increase mental health awareness in sports teams</li> </ul> <p>Last year Guild Council was abolished. I feel this was a great achievement as it means that more students have been able to make and influence change; credit must go to the previous Officer Team for working to make that happen.</p> <p>I would like to thank members of Guild and University staff for making all of this possible. Finally I would also like to pay tribute to my successor, Henny Green, who I am sure will do an amazing job.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
7	<b>HCO Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>Some of my major achievements this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign on licencing of Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)</li> <li>• Work on the RA system – and its potential changes</li> </ul> <p>This year has given me skills and opportunities that I will take with me for the rest of my life. It has put me in situations I never thought I would be in, and it has now made me feel like I want to work harder. I have surprised myself.</p> <p>I would like to thank all of the RAs I have worked with this year, I am looking forward to a bigger and better scheme next year. I would also like to thank the Officer Team for all of their hard work and support.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
8	<b>ADO Achievements</b>	Some of my major achievements this year have been:	<b>Noted</b>

	<b>and Leaving Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of a new room booking system</li> <li>• The introduction of Societies Night</li> <li>• Additional locker space for groups</li> </ul> <p>It was my aim this year to make lasting change. I am more aware now than when I started that Groups are at the heart of the Guild, and it's great to see so many students are involved. I am also aware that the Guild does a lot for students, so would encourage all students to use it. The Guild staff and the Officer Team work tirelessly to ensure that students get the best out of their time here.</p> <p>This year has been a time of immense personal growth for me, and I thank you for everyone that voted for me for giving me this opportunity.</p>	
9	<b>Education Officer Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>CW presented a video presentation of his achievements. Some of my major achievements this year have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing a Panopto Code of Practise – that sets out how lecturers should use Panopto for the benefit of students</li> <li>• Developing a University-wide Digital Strategy for the next 10 years</li> <li>• A University-wide Timetabling Group – to reduce lecture clashes</li> <li>• Work on the U21 Research Intensive Teaching Strategy</li> </ul> <p>The job of Education Officer is not an easy one to do. I believe that University is a place to learn and grow as a person – every student should believe in their own ability.</p> <p>I would personally like to thank members of the University staff that have supported me in this role. I would also like to thank the Student Voice team, other members of the Officer Team and all of the students that have voted for me.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
10	<b>Postgraduate Officer Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>Some of my major personal achievements have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked to create a national network of Postgraduate Officers</li> <li>• Worked with the university on where Postgraduate Taught students will sit in the university structure</li> <li>• Work on the first Postgraduate Ball</li> <li>• Work to engage Parents and Carers</li> </ul> <p>I would like to offer my personal thanks to CW for putting up with me, sharing an office with me this year. I would also like to thank the Communications and Marketing Team for working with my ideas. I now feel that the Guild is a better place to support postgraduates, and I am grateful for that – especially as I didn't know what was happening with this role at the start.</p> <p>I am looking forward to another year of supporting students.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
11	<b>President Achievements and Leaving Remarks</b>	<p>This year has been one of the best years of my life. I am very lucky to have been in this position, so thank you everyone who voted for me.</p>	<b>Noted</b>

		<p>The Officer Team have been very dedicated and I am thankful for all of their support.</p> <p>I am looking forward to another year of working to improve students' lives.</p>	
<b>12</b>	<b>Introduction to the 2017/18 Officer Team</b>	<p>Members of the Full-Time Officer Team present were invited to introduce themselves. The Full-Time Officer Team for 2017/18 will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ellie Keiller – President</li> <li>• Shannon Farmer – Activities and Development Officer</li> <li>• Adam Goldstone – Education Officer</li> <li>• Kris Ali – Housing and Community Officer</li> <li>• Rose Bennett – Postgraduate Officer</li> <li>• Jess Levy – Representation and Resources Officer</li> <li>• Helena Bailey – Sports Officer</li> <li>• Henny Green – Welfare Officer</li> </ul> <p>The new Officer Team will be in place from mid-July 2017. Details of the full team can be found on the Guild of Students website.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	<p>This was the final Officer Question Time this academic year, the next meeting will take place in term 1 of 2017, the date of which is still to be decided.</p>	<b>Noted</b>

**The Chair closed the meeting at 18:50**

**Date of Next Meeting –**