

Officer Question Time Minutes

Present: Reece Patrick Roberts (President), Adam Goldstone (Education Officer), Robyn Macpherson (Activities and Employability Officer), Jess Small (Postgraduate Officer), Izzy Bygrave (Welfare and Community Officer) Jo Park (International Officer), Simon Price (Sports Officer), Jay Martin (Disabled Students' Officer); Shamima Akhtar (Disabled Students' Officer), Holly Battrick (Women's Officer), Alif Trevathan (Women's Officer), Lauren Kennedy (Mature Students' Officer), Jess Rutland (LGBTQ Students' Officer)

In attendance: Oli Killeen (Democracy Co-ordinator), Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager), Adam Tomes (Communications Coordinator)

Apologies: Janiece Jackson (Anti-Racism ; Anti-Fascism Officer), Finn Humphris (Trans Students' Officer), Jules Singh (Commuter Students' Officer)

The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 18.10

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	Welcome to Officer Question Time	<p>The President welcomed everyone to the first meeting of Officer Question Time of the year. It was noted that the Chair of Officer Question Time would be elected in the Autumn Term Elections.</p> <p>Officer Question Time is an open meeting that students can attend to ask questions of their Officers and hold them to account for the work they do.</p>	Noted
2	President Update	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings with University staff about Safety issues in Selly Oak, following recent incident – the Night bus due for launch on October 29th is being brought forward to Monday 15th • Accountability Review – the Guild Policy Development Group's remit is being expanded with additional Postgraduate, International and Open places • Work is also underway to improve Officer election candidate diversity • Surveying students on back door course fees • Attended the Guild-led mental health conference with university staff • Working with the WCO on mandatory respect/consent classes to first year students • Visited the Dubai campus and will be reporting on how students there will be supported. This may include expanding mandatory consent/respect classes to the Dubai campus 	Noted
3	Activities and	A verbal update was provided.	Noted

	Employability Officer Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is going on to change the room booking system, working to allow students to book University rooms • Working on the room bookings policy – simplifying the annual request process • Putting in place workshops to support students • Discussions on going about holding a sponsorship fair as an additional income stream for Student Groups. • Recognition and Reward for Societies – Brumsurf are awarded Society of the Month. Spotlight on was given to the Business Society • Additional wall in Groups area to focus on group achievements • Mermaid Bar and Kitchen will now be an additional venue on Societies Night • Fortnightly Office hours will be taking place in Groups areas – anyone with any issues can come and speak to me. 	
4	Education Officer Update	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In regular contact with library services about study space – a live study space app is going live shortly – please get in touch if you are interested in testing it • A timetabling review is underway • Work is underway with the University to review the Personal Tutor Code of Practice • I am working with the academic societies to find out what they want from the Guild or additional support that could be provided • Article 26 Scholarship – additional funding has been secured – work on communicating availability • Updates on Brexit are continuing <p>I am really interested to receive feedback on any of the above – online or in person</p>	Noted
5	Postgraduate Officer Update	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work done of Postgraduate specific welcome week events (20+ events) • Postgraduate volunteers were recruited to support this work • There is also a new Postgraduate specific community on Facebook • Library opening hours – new close time of 10pm to support postgraduates • Introduction of Office hours • Will be working on a project on Postgraduate Mental Health • Looking to lobby for a Parents and Carers Part-Time Officer 	Noted
6	Welfare and Community Officer	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I ran a Mental Health Conference – attended by University staff, to work on a cross-campus approach to mental health support • Working with the President on the Guild's response to issues in Selly Oak following recent incidents • Working on a process to help student tenants to provide 	Noted

		feedback on their landlords – through the Marks out of Tenancy app	
7	International Officer Update	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway to build the networks between the Guild and the University relating to international students – specifically the PVC International • Ran international student specific welcome events – with the help of volunteers • Support Week events – international film night – and other ways to increase engagement • Working on student safety workshops for international students – focussing on crime and scams that are targeted at international students • There is also a new International Facebook page • Regular Office hours are taking place (Between 2-4pm on Fridays) – this may change depending on demand • Working on the inclusion on the website of an International specific page to better target information • Will shortly be working on an international student review, focussing on support – assessment, English language, employability • Shortly working on how the Guild can celebrate international festivals 	Noted
8	Sports Officer Update	<p>A verbal update was provided.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular meetings taking place with UBSport to discuss Gym Membership numbers • Working on the Tiverton Gym project – hoping to cater for 3,000 additional memberships by April 2019 • Social sport drop-in sessions – football, netball and more • Working with the WCO to improve provision of mental health support within sports teams • Inter-hall sport tournaments are currently running – 5 of 6 have occurred • Working with the IO on increased participation and awareness of international sports • The Try a Sport programme is returning with an expanded range of options • Club Kit support – a forum will be taking place in Early November – we also now have a PlayerLayer Brand Ambassador, than can act as a link between the clubs and the provider and troubleshoot issues • Working with UBSport on a club Tier system that will better support funding allocations, with a view that all clubs should be at least Bronze level. 	Noted
9	Part-Time Officer Updates and Questions	<p>The Part-Time Officers present provided an update.</p> <p>Shamima Akhtar/Jay Martin (Disabled Students' Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Mental Health Conference to discuss support provision with University staff • Working with the NUS Disabled Students Campaign and the MP for Birmingham Edgbaston on the Forward Thinking Campaign 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on an accessibility review with the Estates Team – to look at potential renovations and accessibility of new buildings • Working on maps with accessible routes for the University buildings • Working with the University to improve the provision of counselling services on campus • Working with the other PTOs on college specific welfare provision • Working to support the DAMSA EGM next Monday (15th Oct.) <p>Holly Battrick/Alif Trevathan (Women’s Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working to bring back the Reclaim the Night Campaign – with a possibility of holding it in the City Centre in February/March • Working with other officers on consent/respect classes for Society Members • Working with the President on the safety and support of Women at the new Dubai campus • Putting together a calendar of office hours – coming soon <p>Lauren Kennedy (Mature Students’ Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Part-Time and Mature student mixer is taking place on 22nd October • Working to reboot the Parents and Carers Association • Looking at the how the Guild can better support the needs of students as parents and carers – including the possibility for provision of crèche facilities • Want to work also with employers on family-friendly Grad Schemes <p>Jess Rutland (LGBTQ Students’ Officer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the President on issues raised in Dubai campus visit and will be reporting on this shortly • Working to map the provision of gender neutral toilets across the campus • Working to put together a calendar of Office hours • Working with Welfare Tutors to improve the training on LGBTQ issues, supporting better signposting to support services 	
10	Pre-submitted Questions	<p>Q: The other day, I happened to glance up at a student rep banner and noticed a representative specifically for female issues on campus, but lacked a male equivalent position.</p> <p>Male specific issues are quickly overlooked and forgotten, unintentionally. The Guild should play an active role in working towards this perspective. The most pressing matter is the disproportionately high male depression and suicide. As a forward thinking institution it is imperative that male mental health is taken seriously to ensure that all students on campus have equal access to counselling and guidance. Simply the existence of such a role would encourage men to speak more openly about their mental health.</p>	Noted

		<p>A: (Given by Disabled Students' Officer) A Women's Officer exists to overcome the oppression faced by women in society that is not faced by men. The issues raised in the question about male mental health are ones that need to be tackled, but you might not need a 'male officer' to tackle this. DAMSA is the Disability and Mental Health Students Association and exists to work on issues like this. If you would like to work on these issues with us, please get in touch and we look forward to working with you.</p> <p>(Addition from the Welfare and Community Officer) Anyone wanting funding support to run a campaign to highlight male mental health can apply for funding from the Campaigns Pot, or you can also put forward an idea to the 'Your Ideas' platform if you want to change the Guild's policy on this issue.</p> <p>Q: With all the reports and horror stories shared online about personal safety whilst walking around Selly Oak, despite being a tight student community, how much potential is there for a Selly Oak night bus? Is progress being made or is it simply an idea that logistically won't work?</p> <p>(Given by the President) A: A new safety bus is being brought forward and will be starting on Monday. It will operate 8pm – 1am (Monday to Friday). Work is also underway to make the sexual harassment reporting tool more accessible.</p> <p>Q: How are you going to ensure students know about all the Mental Health and Well-being services available? What campaigns or events are you going to do that will reduce the stigma around it and encourage open-mindedness and acceptance around these difficult topics?</p> <p>(Given by Disabled Students' Officer) A: We are working with the College of Arts on Law on best practice relating to Equality and Diversity. Some colleges have introduced Disability Peer Ambassadors, and we are working with academics on a disability ally network.</p> <p>(Addition provided by LGBTQ Students' Officer) Each college has Wellbeing hubs, and once accessed the support offered is very good.</p>	
11	Open Questions	<p>Q: How will you work to increase Guild transparency? A: All student voices matter, so we will be holding student forums to get your views on a wide range of issues. The first one will be taking place this Wednesday (10th October) on Student Safety in Selly Oak. Work is also underway to improve the Guild's accountability framework – in the form of a Scrutiny Panel, which is being trialled this year, pending approval by the Trustee Board.</p> <p>You can always speak to us directly if there are points you want to raise. We will always make ourselves available.</p>	Noted

		<p>Q: There is a lack of wheelchair accessible parking space at the Guild, what can be done about this?</p> <p>A: This is an issue that we would need to raise with the Estates and Facilities Team, but we will be happy to have those conversations on your behalf and will be able to update you.</p> <p>Q: What can the Guild do to engage more with the local community?</p> <p>A: The Guild has a community strategy and runs events to engage the local community such as Christmas on Campus, Open Air Cinema, Vale Fireworks. We are working to look at ways this can be improved. We encourage students to make use of the Bournbrook Community Hub and attend these events so they can play an active part in the local community.</p> <p>Q: Will the Selly Oak Night bus be wheelchair accessible?</p> <p>A: We are unsure about this at the moment, as it is being brought forward following recent events, it will depend on the vehicle that we are provided with. Further updates will be available as soon as possible.</p>	
12	AOB	None was noted.	Noted

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:30

Date of next meeting: