

Present: George Hughes (Chair), Jack Mably (President), Izzy Lenga (Education Officer), Roberto Sorrentino (Housing & Community Officer), Daisy Lindlar (Representation & Resources Officer), Ross Strong (Welfare Officer), Rémy Claustres (Sports Officer), Ben Chapman (Activities & Development Officer), Adam Elmi (Home Students' Officer), Alexandra Binnie (Women's Officer), Hayley Graham (Disabled Students' Officer), Eleanor Keiller, Lewis Addlington-Lee (Community Action Officer), Abdul Shittu (International Students' Officer), Katie Webb (Anti-Racism; Anti-Fascism Officer), Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Students' Officer), Zara Qadeer (Ethnic Minority Students' Officer)

Apologies: Chavonne Brown (LGBTQ Student's Officer), Sam Benson (Ethical & Environmental Officer)

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1. Welcome	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Daisy Lindlar (RRO) introduced the new, online democratic model 'Your Ideas'.</p>	Noted
2. President Vlog & Questions	<p>President's Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q - #CutTheCosts campaign – is there a plan for activity on the Westminster Lobby Day? A – In discussion with Aston, BCU and Newman to organise a joint coach/transport to London for the Westminster Lobby Day.</p> <p>Q – What is the current situation on the DSA consultation? A – Our consultation responses have been submitted and we are now waiting to hear back about the next steps in this process from the government.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
3. ADO Vlog & Questions	<p>Activities & Development Officer's Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q – Conflicts can and do occur within groups/association committees and to try to resolve these meetings have been taking place within Student Groups department in the Guild. However, these meetings are solving the issues so how can this be tackled in the future? A – ADO confirmed that currently meetings are arranged to try to resolve any issues within the committee. ADO will look into what can be done in the future if this is not resolving the issues.</p> <p>Q – What is available to societies in the way of sponsorship? A – Hands Up Fund where societies can pitch for money, this can be done in second term.</p> <p>Q – In some associations/committees it is stated that the chair shall be the relevant part-time officer. Part-time officers receive training and support on how to chair meetings, run a committee etc. However, where chairs are not part-time officers but students, the same support is not</p>	<p>ADO to look into future options for conflict resolution within committees</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>available. Can this sort of training and on-going support be offered to all chairs, including students running societies? A – ADO confirmed they were unaware of the difference in support levels and will look into this further with the part-time officers (particularly DSO).</p>	<p>ADO to look into future support for chairs</p>
<p>4. EO Vlog & Questions</p>	<p>Education Officer's Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q – What is the QAA? A – QAA stands for Quality Assurance Agency. The QAA are responsible for the audit of Universities/Institutions. UoB will be audited in February 2016 and part of this review requires the University to submit a Self-Evaluation Document (SED) and the Guild to submit a Student Written Submission (SWS). The Student Written Submission (SWS) is an important part of this review process and will be presented to the University as a recommendation on policy and for improvements to the student experience.</p> <p>Q – What is currently happening with the changes being made to EECE? A – There is a merger underway within College of Engineering & Physical Sciences and the Guild have been involved in the consultation process for this merger. Students should have now received an email from the University outlining the changes being made. The main change is to merge 3 schools. This will take effect from 1st January, with the full changes being implemented for 2016/17. The Guild met with PG students who may be affected by these changes to hear their concerns.</p> <p>Q – Is Chemical Engineering involved in these changes in EPS? A – No, Chem Eng is not involved in the merger of Schools.</p> <p>Q – Within the Student Voice Report, there was a recommendation regarding the BME attainment gap – can you expand on this? A – Student Voice Report is produced every year (from student data such as NSS, BSS, PTES & PRES) and is presented to the University as a series of recommendations for improvements. In 2015 we focused much more on long-term recommendations, one of which was around BME attainment gap. From this the Pro Vice Chancellor (Education) and the Guild have agreed an action plan for approaching these recommendations, one of which is to create a working group with student involvement to discuss BME attainment gap/issues. Another success is that the BME Ambassador Scheme which was initially set up for 3 years, has been funded for a further year.</p> <p>Q – The new library building work is causing issues for students, including reduced study space and access to books. Do you know what is/can be done to mitigate</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>against these issues? A – Student Space is an issue on campus. However, one positive is that the showcase area will be turned into study space. The new library will provide more computers, increasing from 268 to 382 PCs in the new library. Books are being stored in preparation for the move to the new library, however the University are only packing away books which are not used regularly at the moment.</p> <p>Q – Appreciate these comments, however for third years this disruption and lack of PC space and book access is a concern. A – EO will raise this issue with the University and is continuing to work with the University on study space.</p> <p>Q – There are currently no bins in the new Aston Webb study space, can this be looked into? A – yes, EO will raise this issue.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>EO to raise issue regarding third years accessing PCs and books</p> <p>EO to raise issue of no bins in new Aston Webb study space</p>
<p>5. HCO Vlog & Questions</p>	<p>Housing & Community Officer’s Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q – Can HCO update on the police situation in Selly Oak? A – There are cuts being proposed to West Midlands Police and as such this will have an impact on Selly Oak as there will be fewer PCSOs available and less patrols of the area. HCO will work with the Wardens and CAO on this and is looking to run a campaign to oppose the cuts. The next consultation on this is in 40 days and at this point we will be told the final decision on cuts.</p> <p>Q – What is the situation with Chamberlain and the building work taking place? A – The building work will be finished by January. HCO is working with HAS to ensure students are represented through this disruption.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>6. RRO Vlog & Questions</p>	<p>Representation & Resources Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q – In RRO’s original manifesto, they promise to get rid of cardboard in the Officer Team Elections – is this going to happen? A – RRO is working on this with the involvement of the Officer Team. Officer Team Elections schedule will be finalised and circulated before the end of term. Can confirm campaigning will be reduced to 5 days and there will be no cardboard.</p> <p>Q – What will replace the space in the Guild which Subway used to use?</p>	<p>Noted</p>

	<p>A – In discussion about this currently, looking to have an outlet which the Guild runs in this space.</p> <p>Q – How can societies get involved in the 'Your Ideas' process? A – Societies can campaign for an idea – there are no rules/restrictions in place. Societies still can't endorse candidates in elections however we are currently reviewing the Election Regulations. The regulations will be confirmed at the start of next term.</p> <p>Q – When self-defining for voting etc. on the Guild's website, why do students have to 'self-define' as BME? You are or you aren't BME. A – Agreed this is also an issue for disabled students and women and non-binary students.</p> <p>Q – Women's Association asked for feedback on 'self-defining' (Women & non-binary) on the website, and how it can easily be manipulated. A – RRO will look into the further with regards to what data we receive from the University. Acknowledged that it is always a risk to ask people to self-define and some people may not be truthful in their responses.</p> <p>Q – Why do students have to self-define twice, once with the University and then again with the Guild? A - RRO will look into the further with regards to what data we receive from the University.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>RRO to look into what data we receive from the University and whether this data can supersede self-definitions on the website</p>
<p>7. SO Vlog & Questions</p>	<p>Sport's Officer's Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q - Are there any plans for more free fitness classes next year? A – Yes, as soon as room bookings are available in January SO will be organising more free fitness classes.</p> <p>Q – IMS – how many more people have you got involved? A – Large increase in participation. Looking to add a Dodgeball tournament as well as other sports/events.</p> <p>Q – Explosion games are always big and successful events – can we hold more campus games between UoB teams? A – We have inter-mural sport. Participation Manager role in UoBS has been vacant for a while but has now been recruited and the person starts in January. SO can pick this up with them in January.</p> <p>Q – When will the new Sports Centre be open? A – April 2016</p> <p>Q – Media societies are really happy with the interaction they have had with sports team this year. A – Really positive feedback.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

<p>8. WO Vlog & Questions</p>	<p>Welfare Officer's Vlog was played.</p> <p>Q – Feels like there has been a lack of attention paid to BME students. It is suggested that the Welfare Officer works with Education Officer on BME attainment gap (leave of absences, mental health issues, etc.).</p> <p>A – Yes, happy to collaborate on this. WO keen to work with new Ethnic Minority Students' Officer too. Currently there is research being done in BME issues e.g. it has been found that 40% BME students are more likely to experience depression. Currently working on this as part of the wider Welfare Survey due to take place at the start of next term. This survey will also hopefully break down in to demographics of respondents, so these issues can be further analyses.</p> <p>Q – There is also an issue around BME students feeling isolated which needs to be addressed.</p> <p>A – Trying to focus on hard to reach groups – the Guild now has a dedicated staff member to assist in this work. 4 of the Officer Team are also on the International Students Working Group and we are focusing on international student experience.</p> <p>Q – Is this new dedicated member of staff a new role?</p> <p>A – This engagement role within the Student Groups department was introduced in January 2015. They led the conversation corners during Welcome Week and the international students' day (One World Café).</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>9. EMO and PGO Introductions</p>	<p>Ethnic Minority Students' Officer and Postgraduate Students' Officer were introduced.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
<p>10. PTO Questions</p>	<p>Anti-Racism; Anti-Fascism Officer</p> <p>ARAFO provided an update on their work including starting to think about a strategy for an anti-fascism campaign, looking to work with Jsoc to organise a holocaust memorial ceremony and running a food for thought campaign using food to engage students of different faiths and cultures.</p> <p>Q – How can students help with the campaign against national action?</p> <p>A – An initial meeting will take place in 2 weeks' time. If students want to get involved then another meeting can be arranged. These meetings will focus on talking about changing behaviours on campus.</p> <p>Q – Can this be advertised to societies?</p> <p>A – When we arrange the details yes it can.</p> <p>Q – Can media groups be involved?</p> <p>A – Yes</p>	<p>ARAFO to arrange meetings re: opposing national action and invite societies/ groups & ask media groups for their involvement</p>

	<p>Q – What plans are there for the holocaust memorial day? A – A holocaust survivor will be coming in to talk to students.</p> <p>Community Action Officer CAO provided an update on their work including arranging transport to the Free Education Demo in London, Mental Health awareness/campaign, Working with JSV regarding external volunteering and West Midlands Volunteering Boot Camp.</p> <p>Q – How many people in total attended the National Demo – reports said different things from 1,300 people to 20,000 people? A – As an estimate around 6,000 – 10,000 people.</p> <p>Disabled Students' Officer DSO provided an update on their work including planning and running events for Disability History Month; this is the first time DAMSA has run events for this. Also been working with Welfare Officer and CAO to produce a mental health campaign that will provide support and education around mental health as well as challenging ableism and common misconceptions; recently formed a Mental Health Campaign group. Also working on how to improve accessibility and the experience of disabled students on campus.</p> <p>Q – It would be good to let key groups (including media groups) know about upcoming events so they can help publicise them. A – Great, currently working on promotional materials.</p> <p>Q – When is the first event for Disability History Month? A – This Sunday 6.30pm – 8.30pm film screening in Beorma Bar. The main launch of Disability History Month will be 4pm – 7pm on Monday 23rd November.</p> <p>Home Students' Officer HSO provided an update on their work including meeting with estates department about lockers for home students and car parking.</p> <p>Q – Can you expand on car parking? A – We would encourage the use of public transport where ever possible. However, this is not always appropriate. The car parking fees for a day are between £6 - £8 which is too costly, therefore trying to work on lowering these costs for home students who have to drive.</p> <p>Q – What is the 24 hour bus? A – The number 63 into Selly Oak.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
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	<p>International Students' Officer ISO provided an update on their work including meeting with first year international students regarding accommodation, website updates (new international students) and planning International students' festival.</p> <p>Q – All around the World Fest – where is it being held? A – It will be one week long, during Term 2, location will be on campus. Will work with societies so the location may depend on their needs.</p> <p>Q – Can ISO explain the solidarity walkout NUS organised? A – This was for solidarity with migrants and international students. It was an arranged walk out of lectures. There were some concerns raised within GOG about International students being asked to leave lecturers, especially as attendance can have an impact on visas.</p> <p>Q – Are any full-time Officers available to help on a campaign about international students and rent? A – This is something Jack Mably wanted to run last year. There is a call for students to come to the Guild if they experience issues with landlords.</p> <p>Q – Will there be a Guild response to the refugee crisis (BEMA would like to be involved)? A – Yes – Amnesty society would also like to be involved.</p> <p>Women's Officer WO provided an update on their work including abortion rights conference, Not On Campaign, NUS workshop, planning an evening event for women & non-binary students at the Guild and working with LGBTQO on inclusion of trans students.</p> <p>Q – What did you take away from your visit to Manchester recently? A – Their Zero Tolerance campaign – talking to students, using social media and using an online platform to report harassment.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>11. Further Questions</p>	<p>Q – What plans do the Officers have to increase engagement with the new democratic model and OQT? A – RRO responded that a review will take place after the first cycle of Your Ideas, with a plan then put in place to increase awareness and engagement.</p>	<p>Noted</p>