

Guidance

- There are four sections to this report – (1) Roles and Responsibilities, (2) Written Statement (Manifesto) Action Plan, (3) Student Ideas & Policy and (4) Other Student Issues, Meetings or Projects to Note.
- You should write in all four sections, but it is up to you to decide how much you would like to write for each section.
- Your report should be submitted one week before your session. Completed reports should be emailed to Student Voice (studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk)
- If you are unable to submit your report on time, please let Jane and Scott know ASAP
- You will have two minutes at the beginning of your meeting slot to provide any further updates verbally

Officer:	Amira Campbell – President
Date of Panel:	07/03/24

Role and Responsibilities

This section is for you to write about any projects you have been working on or meetings you have been to that you think are of particular importance to your remit.

Please feel free to add extra rows if you need to.

Meeting / Project	Outcome For Students
Council (SPRC/Investment Sub-Committee)	Successfully pushed back the proposed car parking policy to UEB, to ensure a policy curated to students was proposed. This was then followed in a meeting called Joined up conversations – and then a wider commuter students working group has been formed with the WCO and university stakeholders. However, I am not optimistic for improved results around the parking policy at present.
UEB	Not yet had another UEB since the last meeting. I am still due to deliver the “students at work” presentation.
Trustee Board (Finance Committee, EDI committee)	We have approved an EDI action plan in EDI committee.

	<p>Trustee board (and University Council) also approved the newly approved by-laws in line with the new democratic system.</p> <p>A new Governance Group has been formed – I had wanted us to meet in February, but due to schedules it will likely be march, we will be looking at the memorandum of understanding and the articles of association. In relation to the conversation regarding this in the President Question Time I am hoping for a better deal between the university and the Guild.</p>
<p>VC (Vice Chancellor) 1:1s</p>	<p>We have discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The principals around medical students being paid on placement/treating it as work and cost of living (this is addressed elsewhere later in this paper) - The University and Guild’s response to Israel/Palestine. I have expressed disappointment with the approach of his team in certain cases. - The confirmed VC Question Time, the VC dropped out of last minute. He remains to still not have provided a reason why, and his team have been difficult about organising a follow up event. - Harm Reduction in relation to the current zero-tolerance around drugs - People and Planet and the universities investments – developed below.
	<p>In my manifesto I said:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finance a student-led investigation team to look into the universities’ climate policies, including their investment portfolio. <p>For the last scrutiny panel around this I stated:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">I sit on the University’s investment sub-committee meeting and as they restructure their approach, it is clear that ESG governance is a core concern.</p> <p>Update:</p> <p>This has become of great concern to me. The University claim to not invest in arms trade, yet their investment policy states that their investors are only required to give considerations to the exclusion criteria. This criteria that they must “consider” includes:</p> <p><i>“companies manufacturing whole weapon systems weapons, cluster munitions and anti-personnel landmines.”</i></p> <p><i>“companies where revenues exceed 10% of revenues with activities connected to weapons systems, including components and services</i></p>

	<p><i>designed for weapons use products or services designed for weapons use;</i>".</p> <p>Upon my query of this at both Investment Sub-committee and then the meeting that oversees it (SPRC) I was dismissed and when I challenged the university to be transparent about this I was told to be reasonable.</p>
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Written Statement (Manifesto) Action Plan

This section is for you to track your progress on your written statement priorities, as outlined in your action plan. The "context" section of the document can remain the same for each Panel.

Please feel free to add extra boxes if you need to.

In my initial Manifesto there were items that were better suited to other roles within the officer team to address or items by which an alternative approach may be ideal.

Written Statement Aim #1	
Action Plan: Provide students with the tools to fight for their workers' rights, and ensure students can afford to be students.	
Context:	The Guild and the University employ a notable number of student staff, however many are not unionised or know their rights.
Progress:	<p>I need to release the students at work data – I can only apologise for my major delays getting around to it.</p> <p>The work getting students paid within reasonable time frames at the university is unlikely to see any progress. My goal is to find out when the contract with core systems is until so that the university can adopt a new approach. I also have concerns about the working conditions of Guild student staff that I am looking into.</p>

Written Statement Aim #2	
Action Plan: Improve Engagement and Participation by building relationship with student stakeholders:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A fortnightly drop in session for society committee members to express concerns and issues. (manifesto) 2. Attend society events and get to know our stakeholder students 	
Context:	n/a
Progress:	For reasons of literal workload and time that me and the AEO are both free we did not re-attempt to run the drop-in. However I have reached out (through the student coordinators) to encourage societies to invite us to their events.

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Written Statement Aim #3	
Action Plan: Clarity and Centralising of EDI efforts Relevant Manifesto points: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A breakdown of EDI roles and staff across the university, available to all students.2. The sharing of intersectional demographic data on the student and staff cohort at the university to a departmental level.3. A centralised cultural/event calendar that all students and staff across the guild and university can subscribe to.	
Context:	n/a
Progress:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. I met with Catherine Mangan (DPVC EDI) and Sammy Li (EDI), who clarified the EDI officers, leads, reps, ambassadors and SEOs that exist at multiple levels and slightly different within each college. I have since been invited to attend Catherine's regular meetings with the EDI college leads to build this picture.2. This item has seen little progress.3. The WCO, IO and myself have worked together with the Guild's comms consultant to address this, and meet every few months to map out which key dates need to be highlighted and supported, this system has run fairly successfully.

Written Statement Aim #4	
Action Plan: The Democratic Review part 2 Relevant Manifesto points: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The establishment and consistent support of liberation campaigns, with widely promoted manifestos, access to guild staff support, and recognition from the university as legitimate activist-led campaigns.- Support for the shift from part time officers to paid community organisers, who are fairly remunerated and recognised for their work.	
Context:	<p>The Democratic review was already in progress during my term as the Black Voices community organiser, and I was the first community organiser to be hired by the Guild of Students. Although I was never consulted during the period that the consultant was hired to do work on this, I was aware of the project, and wanted to see it progress effectively. The consultation was deemed not sufficient to make decision upon, and it was the decision of the Trustee board to extend the period of time that the survey was open to get sufficient responses.</p> <p>The surveys action group which I do not sit on remains to do the overlooking of the surveys progress.</p>
Progress:	<p>The democratic survey was released mid-September 2023, and is due to have closed by the date of Scrutiny Panel. Working groups are due to take place this month, and the paper submitted in mid-December to our trustee board outlining the results.</p>

Written Statement Aim #5	
Relevant Manifesto point: A regular student artists night, where poets, singers, musicians etc., can showcase their talent in Joe's.	
Context:	n/a
Progress:	<p>I ran the first of this event on the 25th October, in the Mermaid bar (not Joe's!). There were approx. 15 at the workshop, and circa 20 on observation for the open mic. Although low in numbers existence and resistance was not low in impact, and the discourse and creativity in the space was a unique offer to the Guild. I worked with the Barber institute to curate the event.</p> <p>Going forward it is clear, I do not have the capacity to run this even fortnightly, but will seek to run it 2-3 times in the next semester.</p>

Written Statement Aim #6	
Relevant Manifesto point: Access to a detailed organisation chart of the guild to all employees, student reps, and society committee members of the guild.	
Context:	n/a
Progress:	<p>Progress has not been seen on this item.</p> <p>Although there remains a page on the guild website, https://www.guildofstudents.com/contact-us/, that has the emails of the senior management team, it would be ideal to put faces to those names, and then get the company chart also on the website.</p>

Student Ideas and Policy

This section is for you to report on progress made on student ideas and policy that you have been allocated from the Guild's decision-making (democratic) process.

You only need to provide updates on your actions.

You can also add ideas or policy as they are submitted throughout the year.

Please feel free to add extra rows to the table if you need to.

You can find a copy of all submitted ideas and policy, including information on who they were allocated to [here](#).

Idea / Policy	Action Taken Since Last Panel
Idea / policy title	

Other Student Issues, Meetings or Projects to Note:

Issue/Meeting/Project	Context/Updates
Cost of Living: Medical Students	<p>The Dean of the Medical School is working with NHS England to transition placement payment to a top slice structure.</p> <p>I have not yet seen success getting the policy of the chamberlain award altered.</p>
Black Student Experience, Facilities: Hairdressers and catering on campus	<p>We have secured support from the Careers Network financially and with business advice. It has also been put through our democratic system, idea proposed by myself.</p>
Cost of living: West Midlands SABs	<p>The West Midlands SABs have had two meetings and approved a manifesto for the mayoral election in relationship to travel (costs and inequalities between universities) and housing (guarantors and conditions).</p>