

## Present

Mikey Brown, President (**President**) (**Chair**)  
Josephine Conway, Activities and Employability Officer (**AEO**)  
Danielle Murinas, Postgraduate Officer (**PGO**)  
Jules Singh, Education Officer (**EO**)  
Aaliyah Simms, Welfare & Community Officer (**WCO**)  
Wei-Lun Chen, International Officer (**IO**)

## Also in Attendance

Jo Thomas, CEO (**SJ**)  
Thomas Snape, Campaigns & Policy Coordinator (**TS**)  
Sam Jones, Executive Assistant (**SJ**) (note taker)

## Apologies

George Christian, Sports Officer (**SO**)

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:00

| No | Item for Discussion                | Notes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Actions                                                                             |
|----|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | <b>Previous Minutes (06.09.21)</b> | The minutes from Monday 6th September 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Approved</b>                                                                     |
| 2  | <b>Free Speech</b>                 | <p>The EO presented a letter from the University of Worcester SU officer team, expressing concerns about the government's proposed changes to Free Speech law in the UK. TS noted the additional range of obligations places upon University's and Student's unions on Free Speech, many of which were similar to current practice but allowed individuals to take University's and SU's to court over freedom of speech disputes.</p> <p>TS noted significant concerns from the sector over the current wording of the legislation, including the regulatory uncertainty of the current bill and the possible legal fees of any legal action.</p> <p>The EO suggested reaching out to local MP's to express concerns. The President agreed to draft a letter to MP's expressing their concerns about the bill. JT suggested contacting the chancellor of the University, who also sat in the house of lords.</p> <p>TS asked about the University's perspective on the bill. The President noted similar concerns expressed by senior members of University staff, particularly around possible legal action and the rights of minority students to express themselves. TS noted possible joint liability for the Guild and University if a speaker request was refused.</p> | <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>President</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> |

|          |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                             |
|----------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                                 | <p>The Officer team discussed the Guild's current speaker process. JT noted that the Guild had refused zero speaker requests in the last 10 years. JT noted that the reality on the ground on campuses was significantly different from the political rhetoric from the government and the press. JT noted that the Guild regularly placed mitigations in place to ensure controversial speaker events were able to go ahead, such as event security or the event being hosted by an independent chair.</p> <p>The Officer team agreed to discuss the issue further outside the meeting.</p>             | <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>                                                                                                       |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Pride</b>                    | <p>The Officer team discussed their attendance with the University at the Birmingham pride march on the 25<sup>th</sup> September. The WCO noted that the PTO's had also been invited and offered free tickets.</p> <p>The WCO suggested also sign-posting students to LGBTQ+ support services and materials who may be affected by issues raised at the pride march and may not be 'out' as LGBTQ+. The WCO agreed to discuss with Guild Comms to promote.</p> <p>The President also noted the upcoming Bi-visibility day.</p>                                                                          | <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>WCO</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>                                                                                   |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Diaries</b>                  | <p><b>President</b> – UCU Branch meeting, University's resist borders event.</p> <p><b>AEO</b> – E&amp;E Committee, Groups inclusivity training, DARO catch-up.</p> <p><b>WCO</b> – Welcome week preparations, wellbeing fair during welcome week.</p> <p><b>PGO</b> – UQAC, Graduate Research Board, SRSAB, UCU Branch Meeting, PG Welfare meeting, PG careers meeting.</p> <p><b>EO</b> – Student Academic Experience Intern Interviews.</p> <p><b>SO</b> – BUCS conference, WM BUCS meeting, EPS CQAC meeting, CWG meeting.</p> <p><b>IO</b> – E&amp;D Committee, Welcome Planning for next week.</p> | <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Any Other Business (AOB)</b> | <p>The PGO asked about the University's Academic Experience Interns role in PGO. The EO noted that there was no specific PG role in the group.</p> <p>The SO noted significant disruption to Gym and Fitness memberships due to a problem with the University's servers. The SO noted that UB Sport were working quickly to resolve, however the same problem happened every year.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>                                                                                                     |

|  |  |                                                                                      |              |
|--|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
|  |  | The EO asked about a tour of the building ahead of welcome week, and H&S training.   | <b>Noted</b> |
|  |  | The PGO noted for plans for a weekly PG event moving forwards in the Guild building. | <b>Noted</b> |

The meeting closed at 12:35.

**Signed** .....

**Date** .....

DRAFT