

## Guild Officer Group Minutes

**Voting Members Present:** **Reece Roberts** (President) [RR], **Adam Goldstone** (Education Officer) [AG], **Simon Price** (Sports Officer) [SP], **Izzy Bygrave** (Welfare and Community Officer) [IB], **Jo Park** (International Officer) [JP], **Jess Small** (Postgraduate Officer) [JS], **Josie Hyde** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JH], **Jess Rutland** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JR], **Shamima Akhtar** (Co-Disabled Student's Officer) [SA], **Alif Trevathan** (Co-Women's Officer) [AT], **Holly Battrick** (Co-Women's Officer) [HB], **Janiece Jackson** (Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer) [JJ], **Damilola Oyeleke** (Ethnic Minorities Officers) [DO], **Jules Singh** (Commuter Students Officer) [JSI], **Finn Humphris** (Trans Student's Officer) [FH].

**Also In attendance:** **Sam Jones** (Campaigns Coordinator, Note Taker) [SJ], **Lucy Gill** (Student Voice Manager) [LG]

**Absent with Apologies:** **Jay Martin** (Co-Disabled Students' Officer) [JM] **Robyn Macpherson** (Activities and Employability Officer) [RM]

**The meeting commenced at 17:30**

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<p>RR opened the meeting, welcomed all present and read out apologies.</p> <p>RR introduced the role of GOG in the Guild's democratic structures and the purposes of the committee: leading Guild campaigns, interpreting policy and discussing relevant topical issues.</p> <p>RR explained that if necessary, as chair he was able to call an extraordinary meeting of GOG, and that if any members felt this was needed, they could let him know.</p>	<b>Noted</b>
2	<b>Elections to GPDG</b>	<p>RR explained the election of members of GOG to Guild Policy Development Group (GPDG), and how being a member of GPDG last year had been a rewarding and interesting experience. GPDG is a great opportunity to discuss a huge range of issues such as Antifeminism and Feminism, and shape Guild policy in these areas.</p> <p>RR asked for candidates in the election of 3 GOG places on GPDG.</p> <p>AT suggested that the election be postponed until later to allow HB to stand (who had not yet arrived).</p> <p>RR agreed to push the election down the agenda.</p>	<b>Noted</b>

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Elections to Appointments Panel</b></p>	<p>RR introduced Appointments Panel, and it's responsibility for appointing external and student members to the Guild's trustee board. The committee meets several times a year on an ad hoc basis, as and when new places open up on the Trustee Board.</p> <p>RR asked for candidates (PTO's only) for the GOG places on the appointments panel.</p> <p>Lauren Kennedy, Jess Rutland, Alif Trevathan &amp; Shamima Akhtar put themselves forward as candidates and were given 1 minute to make a speech.</p> <p>LK spoke about their background in recruitment before starting on their course, and how this would be beneficial In appointing external trustees.</p> <p>JR spoke about the need they felt for promoting Intersectionality on the trustee board, and how they would like to help the Guild strive for a more balanced trustee board.</p> <p>AT spoke about their background in activism and how they would like to include this perspective on the appointments panel, and would also like the board to become more diverse in it's membership.</p> <p>SK spoke about their membership of NUS disabled students committee, and would like to promote more balance on the trustee board.</p> <p>Each voting officer present was given a ballot paper, which was run as a secret ballot using Single Transferable Vote.</p> <p>RR thanked all the candidates for putting themselves forwards.</p> <p>In a later count, Lauren Kennedy, Jess Rutland and Alif Trevathan were elected as members of the Guild's Appointments panel.</p>	<p><b>Elected</b></p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>GPDG Election (Continued)</b></p>	<p>HB arrived</p> <p>RR suggested that they return to the election to GPDG.</p> <p>RR reiterated the importance of GPDG and its ability to have a positive influence on the Guild.</p> <p>RR asked for candidates for the 3 GOG places on GPDG.</p> <p>Adam Goldstone, Jess Small, Izzy Bygrave, Holly Battrick, Shamima Akhtar &amp; Josie Hyde put themselves forward as candidates.</p> <p>RR offered each candidate a 1 minute speech.</p> <p>AG spoke about having been on GPDG before and having a good knowledge of Guild policy, and having worked a lot on the new Beliefs &amp; Commitments Document currently making's its way through Your Ideas.</p>	<p><b>Elected</b></p>

		<p>JS spoke about being the only postgraduate in the room, and how she would like to make the PG voice heard on GPDG. Her previous roles as women's officer and welfare officer had given her good experience of policy. A room full of undergraduate students would not fully understand Postgraduate issues.</p> <p>IB spoke about her good knowledge of university structures and having a good relationship with university staff which would her GPDG come up with realistic policies.</p> <p>HB spoke about her views as a radical feminist, and how she would like to bring more feminist policies to the Guild.</p> <p>SA mentioned that there were lots of issues that she'd like to raise on behalf of disabled students. The Guild could do better to engagement with and represent disabled students, and her experience on DAMSA committee for 2 years would be useful also.</p> <p>JH spoke about experience on LGBTQ committee and being one of the only STEM students in GOG, and had lots of ideas for Guild policy.</p> <p>RR thanked everyone for putting themselves forwards and speaking from the heart was very brave.</p> <p>GOG members were issued with ballot papers and an election was carried out using a secret ballot and STV. In a later count, Adam Goldstone, Jess Small and Holly Battrick were elected.</p>	
4	<b>Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising</b>	No matters arising, minutes of the last meeting approved.	<b>Approved</b>
5	<b>Buddy Meeting Updates</b>	<p>RR explained the monthly meeting system, with PTO's and their FTO buddies having a meeting once a month, two week before and two weeks after each GOG meeting to give part -time officers on-going support between GOG meetings.</p> <p>PTO's were reminded who their FTO buddies were.</p> <p>FTO's were actioned to contact their buddies to arrange a meeting in two weeks' time.</p>	<b>Actioned</b>
6	<b>"Your Ideas" /Mandate Updates</b>	RR gave a brief overview of the 'Your Ideas' system, and explained that while there was currently no policy through your ideas this time, at future GOG meetings the ideas which passed online would come to the meeting for officer to review and implement.	<b>Noted</b>
7	<b>Officer Accountability/ OQT</b>	RR explained the role of Officer Question Time in allowing students to hold officers to account, and the importance for officers to attend. RR reminded officers that it was compulsory for them to attend, and asked them to invite their constituents and friends to OQT.	<b>Noted</b>
8	<b>Campaigns Pot</b>	SJ gave an introduction to the campaigns pot, the amount of funding available this year and the criteria previously used by FTOG to administer the pot. The campaigns pot is the political budget of	<b>Approved</b>

the Guild and is controlled by the officer team. Of a total £11,000 budget for the year 2018/19, the pot is broken down into 6 budgets:

- £4,000 for the Full-Time Officer team to complete manifesto commitments.
- £3,000 for general student campaigns, including applications from PTO's, societies and individual students.
- 4x £1,000 budgets from each of the liberation history months.

This meeting the officer team discussed 3 applications:

- 1 application from Jules Singh, Commuter Students Officer for Commuter Students Engagement for £790
- 1 application for Headucate's event for World Mental Health Day for £120.
- 1 application for Black History Month from BEMA for £1,000

SJ explained that earlier in the summer, the Full-time officer team had already signed off £639.98 for WANBA for Black History Month, meaning that only £360.02 was left in the BME liberation budget to cover BEMA's application.

JSI explained their application, including a subsidised trip to Alton Towers to help kick-start membership of the commuter student's association, subsidise taxis to Guild events such as Fab and Fresh and Societies Night to allow commuters students to attend, and refreshments and food at association socials.

JS ask how the £300 for taxi subsidies had been calculated.

JSI replied that he had looked at the average uber fares for the local area and asked commuter students in an association group chat to mention which locations they would usually be travelling back to (Sutton, Dudley etc)].

AG suggested that for such a large amount of money, could the officer team sign off a smaller amount of money as a trial in the first instance and monitor uptake?

JSI agreed that a smaller amount could be done as a trial for the taxi subsidies.

RR mentioned that the Guild had a good relationship with TOA taxi's and that if JSI got in touch directly with them and mentioned that it was a Guild run project, they might offer a discount.

JR asked how JSI planned to administer and process the taxi claims

JSI said that the plan was to promote via the association and Guild central communications, and for students to claim back for taxis using Guild personal claim forms through Student Voice.

	<p>LG confirmed that Student Voice could help with this.</p> <p>JSI mentioned also pushing information using Commuter student's mailing lists through the Guild.</p> <p>RR Suggested reducing the amount for taxis to £100 as a trial.</p> <p>AG mentioned that he was still concerned about the amount, and that the general student campaigns pot of £3,000 would run out quickly if the team weren't careful. AG asked how much of the general campaigns pot was left this year.</p> <p>SJ confirmed that the whole £3,000 pot was still to be allocated.</p> <p>AG spoke about how the idea is great, but could the team reduce the amount down further for a trial, possibly to half to be signed off now and half later.</p> <p>JH Asked if JSI could ask for £1 on the door to help cover association refreshment costs.</p> <p>JSI said they would look into this.</p> <p>RR suggested £50 for taxis, £50 for refreshments and £290 for the Drayton Manor trip, a total of £390.</p> <p>AG suggested that they reduce the amount further, and that the pot would go quickly if the team signed off too much early on in the year.</p> <p>The team agreed to sign off £390 for JSI.</p> <p>SJ introduced Headucate's application for World Mental Health Day for £120</p> <p>JH mentioned that the application had very little information, and that there is already lots of on-going work on the promotion of awareness of mental health, possibly there is over capacity in this area.</p> <p>FH spoke about how mental health awareness had been a priority for many groups for a long time, and that the officer teams priorities for mental health should be focused more at lobbying for improved services and access to professional help.</p> <p>JR agreed that lots of Guild societies are already working on mental health awareness, that associations are working on this issue also and that the funds could be better used elsewhere.</p> <p>SA said that since Headucate will be getting funding from their memberships, they should use those funds first for any outreach activity.</p> <p>JP said that the application seemed vague and lacked specific</p>	<p><b>Approved</b></p>
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		<p>GOG or FTOG the authority to approve Your Ideas submissions. In light of this, and the fact that some ideas had been flagged as high risk, that GOG should agree to defer these ideas to the first meeting of the newly elected GPDG in November.</p> <p>AG asked if this would mean that submitted ideas would miss the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of Your Ideas.</p> <p>LG confirmed that it would, and that only the revised Beliefs &amp; Commitments policies would be in the first cycle as these had already been signed off at the last GPDG meeting of last year.</p> <p>AG asked what the plan was for the idea submitted which, if passed, would ban the creation of societies which took an overtly pro-life in relation to abortion.</p> <p>LG answered that there were possible legal conflicts between the Guild's legal responsibilities with respect to the charity commission, and the idea that had been submitted, and that the Guild planned to seek legal advice before proceeding.</p> <p>RR moved to defer the approval of this cycle of Your Ideas submissions to the first GPDG of the year.</p> <p>GOG agreed.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p> <p><b>Deferred</b></p>
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>FTOG/GPDG Update</b></p>	<p>RR gave an update on the work of FTOG over the summer, including their plans for priority campaigns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hidden Course Fees</li> <li>• Sexual Health</li> <li>• Drugs Safety</li> </ul> <p>RR ran through which officer had proposed each campaign, and the motivations behind them.</p> <p>LK commented that the sexual health services provided by Umbrella only continued to age 25, which would exclude her and other mature students.</p> <p>SA that the same policy was in place at the Brook sexual health centre in the city.</p> <p>RR agreed to look into this, and encouraged the team to challenge anything in the FTO's priority campaigns if they felt that it was necessary.</p>	<p><b>Action</b></p>
<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>AOB</b></p>	<p>SA read out a note from Jay Martin (JM), asking GOG's support for an open letter to NUS, asking them to prioritise the need of disabled students to have access to medications in their discussions with the government on brexit. Many disabled students rely on medications with short shelf lives, and these could be severely affected in a no deal brexit.</p> <p>RR said he supported the idea, and agreed to sign it once it was written.</p>	

		<p>JR said she would help draft the letter if they needed help.</p> <p>SJ mentioned that Student Voice could give PTO's advice and support on campaigns and would be more than happy to help with the open letter.</p> <p>LG gave an update on the Autumn term elections, and asked PTO's to promote to their associations/groups.</p> <p>JSI asked if PTO's would receive free fab and fresh tickets.</p> <p>RR agreed that there was a need to give some thank you to PTO's for their work, and that he would look into this if that kind of benefit would interest people.</p> <p>RR closed the meeting at 19:10</p>	
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**The chair closed the meeting at 19:10**  
**Date of Next Meeting: TBC**