

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 Rutland** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JR], , **Alif Trevathan** (Co-Women's Officer) [AT], **Holly Battrick** (Co-Women's Officer) [HB], **Janiece Jackson** (Anti-Racism & Anti-Fascism Officer) [JJ], **Robyn Macpherson** (Activities and Employability Officer) [RM], **Jules Singh** (Commuter Students Officer) [JSI], **Josie Hyde** (Co-LGBTQ Officer) [JH].

Also In attendance: **Sam Jones** (Campaigns Coordinator, GOG Secretary) [SJ], **Jo Thomas** (Chief Executive) [JT].

Absent with Apologies: **Kate Chard** (Ethical & Environmental Officer) [KC]. **Shamima Akhtar** (Co-Disabled Student's Officer) [SA] **Jess Small** (Postgraduate Officer) [JS]. **Lauren Kennedy** (Mature & Part-Time Students Officer) [LK].

Absent without Apologies: **Damilola Oyeleke** (Ethnic Minorities Officers) [DO], **Finn Humphris** (Trans Student's Officer) [FH]. **Jay Martin** (Co-Disabled Students' Officer) [JM].

The meeting commenced at 17:35

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	Welcome and Introductions	RR opened the meeting, welcomed all present and read out apologies.	Noted
2	Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	No matters arising, minutes of the last meeting approved.	Approved
3	Buddy Meeting Updates	No Officers had updates on their buddy meetings. FTO's were actioned to contact their buddies to arrange a meeting in two weeks' time.	Actioned
4	"Your Ideas" /Mandate Updates	SP gave an update on implementing ear plugs for club nights in Joes. RM gave an update on the implementation of improved web mail. Having spoken to the Guild operations team, they are currently working to integrate logins with university servers and update the system. JR asked suggested that Office 365 would be useful for student groups. AG gave an update about the library hoping to introduce	Noted Noted.

		adjustable desks.	
5	Officer Accountability/ OQT	RR reminded officers that the next OQT was now in March, at the end of term 2.	Noted
6	Campaigns Pot	<p>SJ gave an update on the remaining funding in the campaigns pot.</p> <p>1) Application for £65 for Disabled History Month poetry night for WANBA</p> <p>KH explained that the application was to cover the costs of Pizza at a WANBA event that had happened the previous evening, and had been well attended.</p> <p>The group unanimously approved £65 for WANBA committee.</p> <p>2) Application for £75 from Jules Singh for incentives for students attending focus groups and completing surveys for a research project into the lived experiences of commuter students.</p> <p>JSI explained that £50 of the £75 would be funding redirected from an earlier campaigns pot application, so this would only be £25 of additional funding from the general campaigns pot.</p> <p>The group unanimously approved an additional £25 for Jules Singh.</p> <p>3) Application from Simon Price for £11.91 to run a trial of giving out ear plugs at the bar on club nights in the Guild, as per a Your Ideas mandate.</p> <p>SP explained how, as a trial, ear plugs would be able to students who asked for the behind the bar.</p> <p>RR congratulated SP for implementing the mandate so quickly.</p> <p>JR Asked if it might make sense for have reusable ear plugs for Joes Bar staff also, as it would be more cost effective.</p> <p>SP agreed that if the trial went well, he would look into expanding it.</p> <p>JR suggested that an ear plug giveaway would be useful also for students in Selly Oak when faced with noise at night.</p> <p>SP said that they had planned to give them away at the bar, so students don't pick them up on the door when they might not specifically need them.</p> <p>The group unanimously approved £11.91 for Simon Price for Ear Plugs.</p> <p>4) Application of £101.88 for stickers for Shag Week (retroactive).</p> <p>The group unanimously approved £101.88 for Jo Park for SHAG Week.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p>

7	Priority Campaign: Drugs	<p>AG gave an update on the progress in the drug's safety campaign.</p> <p>RR ran through the campaigns proposed priorities; to tackle the taboo for the Guild and university to talk openly about drugs and safe drug taking, to introduce drug testing kits in Guild advice and possibly in bars in Selly Oak and Digbeth. Officers have already spoken to the council and the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.</p> <p>AG suggested that if Part-time officers were interested in the campaign, they should get in touch soon in the new year.</p> <p>JR said she was happy to get involved, and could also look at abuse of prescription drugs and the educating students about the risk of this.</p> <p>HB said she was also happy to be involved, and suggested that officers get in touch with Preet Gill MP, as this could tie in well with her mental health strategy.</p>	Action
8	Holocaust Memorial Day	<p>JJ explained her plans for Holocaust Memorial Day on the 27th of January. Is working closely with J-Soc and the associations, and would welcome liberation officers and other officers to be part of the event. JJ asked all officers to help promoting the event when it was finalised.</p> <p>RR actioned that all officers would work to support the event.</p>	Action
9	Student Hubs Review	<p>IB updated the team on a review of the student hubs that was happening over the next few weeks. She and JT had been invited to be on the review panel, and officers were welcome to raise concerns and suggestions.</p> <p>Several PTO's made suggestions of issues to raise in relation to the Student Hubs.</p> <p>IB agreed to send around the notes and briefing for officers to look at</p>	Action
10	FTOG/GPDG Update	No questions about FTOG minutes.	Approved
11	AOB	<p>JR asked about a recent proposed change in GPDG, to alter the Guild policy on supporting trade unions to remove a commitment to give a room in the Guild for trade union staff. The new wording would remove this commitment, and some staff had been in touch with her about it. Why was this change proposed?</p> <p>AG replied that there was not a specific reason that the change had been suggested, but since space in the Guild is a premium, students groups should come first and an automatic mandate to give a room tied the Guild's hands in the instance of a strike. AG said that he was happy for JR to suggest a new change if she wanted to.</p> <p>JR said that she would consider it, and also in relation to staff concerns about trade union activity, or lack of, in Dubai, and how</p>	Action

		<p>the Guild might be able to support this.</p> <p>JT replied that the old wording had been implemented at a time when more staff protests and strikes were happening, and the change may have been suggested because this was now less likely.</p> <p>AG agreed that the decision was a complex one, but that JR was welcome to propose a new version.</p> <p>RR confirmed that there was no rush to re-write the policy, as the new wording was not scheduled to go to GPDG until April/May 2019, but he would welcome having the discussion at GPDG.</p> <p>JR also raised that she had heard suggestions that the Guild was planning to change its re-entry policy on club nights, and asked RM for clarification. There were concerns about students being let back into Fab nights who had already been removed due to inappropriate behaviour or harassment.</p> <p>RM replied that there was a review going on, but the proposed changes were only to try to avoid occasions where students who were in a potentially vulnerable condition had been removed from the venue, who then could not be let back in and helped because of the policy.</p> <p>RM raised that the Guild was currently holding a review of the society's structure, and proposing to introduce a tiered structure where groups can achieve Gold, Silver and Bronze levels of certification for fulfilling certain criteria. RM asked what officers thought should be the level of training for the Not On Scheme.</p> <p>HB asked if Not On training could be introduced as mandatory for new society committee members?</p> <p>RR replied that there currently was a concern around funding for Not On as they had lost central government funding and so having mandatory training for all committee members may be too many numbers for them to deliver next year.</p> <p>RM agreed that funding for Not On would be overstretched by having it a mandatory requirement.</p> <p>AT said that she was concerned that there was funding problems for Not On, when as women's officers they would like to see it expanded and stakeholders they had spoken to were also keen to see this.</p> <p>RR said that the issue was currently under review, and was happy to discuss it.</p> <p>RM suggested that No On Training start at Silver and/or Gold Tier next year.</p>	
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The chair closed the meeting at 18:25

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 16th January, 17:30 in Harvey Milk