

Guild Officer Group Minutes

Voting Members Present: Ellie Keiller (President)[EK], Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Students' Officer)[RB], Helena Bailey (Sports Officer)[HB], Kris Ali (Housing & Community Officer)[KA], Adam Goldstone (Education Officer)[AG], Henny Green (Welfare Officer)[HG], Shannon Farmer (Activities and Development Officer) [SF], Cameron Beavan-King (Community Action Officer)[CBK], Lucy Bleichroeder-Baker (LGBTQ Officer)[LBB], Nat Crawley (Ethical and Environmental Officer)[NC], Mirabel Chu (International Students' Officer)[MC], Sheimona Jahan (Black and Ethnic Minorities Officer) [SMJ], Holly Campbell (Womens Officer) [HC], Hirah Haq (Mature and Part-time Students Officer) [HH], Jana Skirnewskaja (Commuter Students Officer),

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

Absent with Apologies: Jess Levy (Representation & Resources Officer) [JL], [JS] Shimon Kelly (Anti-Racism Anti-Fascism Officer) [SK].

Absent without Apologies: Max Seidler (Satellite Sites Officer) [MS]

The meeting commenced at 17:40

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	MATTERS DISCUSSED	ACTION
1	Welcome/Intro ductions	EK welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for coming. EK introduced the newly elected HH and JS and asked the other officers present to introduce themselves and their role.	Noted
2	Minutes from the previous meeting and Matters Arising	Actions from the previous minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>JL to look at making the election for trans place on GPDG easier to use.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ EK updated that the website team were looking at simpler options for future elections which would be easier to use but still secure. The Minutes were approved.	Approved
3	Monthly Meeting Updates	EK asked for feedback from each of the PTO's on their most recent monthly meetings: HC updated that they had been working on reclaim the night, which has been rearranged for February to coincide with Sexual Assault Awareness week, but that all other aspects of the project were going	Noted

		<p>well, including possible speakers to invite. Also been helping out COSS with some mental health events they were planning.</p> <p>BL reported that they had not had a monthly meeting recently due ill health.</p> <p>JS had not yet met with RB, but was planning to do so soon.</p> <p>SMJ updated that they had attended a meeting with the university welfare team and HG to look at possible events next term, and also been researching new materials from NUS.</p> <p>MC spoke about their possible cultural showcase in the summer term that they were looking to arrange with SF.</p> <p>LBB spoke about working with HG on training welfare tutors about LGBT+ sensitivity and pronouns. Also working on having 'MX' as an official prefix on university ID cards with Aston Webb, and has attended a Dubai meeting about LGBT+ students on the new campus.</p> <p>CBK working on more community outreach events in Selly Oak, and attended several internal guild meetings.</p> <p>NC spoke about attending NUS sustainability conference to find out more about Fossil Free, and contacting C&M for the design of a logo, as well as continuing to work on Go Green Week and Green Impact.</p> <p>JS reported that they had not yet met their buddy, but were planning do so soon.</p> <p>EK read out an absent statement from SK, on how they had meeting a university security staff member about hate crime reporting on campus, and was producing a leaflet to be distributed.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>“Your Ideas” and Mandate Updates</p>	<p>AG introduced and explained Your Ideas to the new officers and gave examples of what had recently passed and quorum requirements.</p> <p>EK ran through the current ideas that were live for voting.</p> <p>EK briefly explained the rational behind GPDG and how the new committee worked.</p> <p>HC asked about how the new veto system worked, and the confusion of it a veto should be an 'up vote' or a 'down vote' on the website.</p> <p>RB and AG agreed that the current system is counterintuitive, and should be looked at again.</p> <p>KA arrived late.</p>	

		<p>RB suggested that there could be a 'I don't agree' button on each idea, rather than an up or down vote.</p> <p>EK agreed to look at the system again and send around more info about GPDG.</p>	
5	Officer Accountability / Officer Question Time	<p>EK explained the role of OQT to the new officers and updated on the times of the next few meetings.</p> <p>HG invited officers to mental health training session, open to all students.</p> <p>EK spoke about the election of a new chair to OQT, Curtis Collins.</p> <p>JS asked how much PTO's needed to prepare for OQT.</p> <p>EK said to get in touch with their buddy, who could explain it in more detail.</p> <p>RB asked SJ to send info about NUS PG conference delegate to them.</p> <p>SJ agreed to.</p> <p>RB asked if there was a commuter students conference held by NUS.</p> <p>SJ reported that there currently was not.</p>	
6	Training and Development	EK spoke about the options PTO's had in terms of funding for training, and agreed to send around more information.	Action.
7	Student Equality and Diversity Committee Report	HG reported that a meeting was planned soon for this, focusing on the zero tolerance policy and was meeting regularly with Guild staff to discuss improvements to the building in terms of accessibility.	Noted
8	NUS Motions	<p>HC left.</p> <p>SJ explained the role of motions to NUS conferences, and the deadlines for passing any NUS motions through Your Ideas.</p>	Noted
9	Reclaim the Night Update	<p>SJ gave a brief update about the re-arrangement of Reclaim the Night to February and changes to the route.</p> <p>BL asked about accessibility on the march, identifying a difficult set of stairs by Aston Webb.</p> <p>SJ agreed to look into altering the route to avoid it.</p> <p>AG asked if the event was open to all.</p> <p>SJ reported that all genders were welcome, since the Not On scheme run by the Guild and the University in partnership was not gender specific.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Action</p>

		<p>RB suggested having a Womens section separate to other genders in the march, to ensure that everyone is comfortable.</p> <p>EK noted the hard work and effort that HC had put into organising the march so far, and thanked everyone involved.</p>	Noted
10	Campaigns Pot Spending	<p>EK ran through the campaigns pot requests that had been approved since the last meeting.</p> <p>LLB reported that the LGBT+ events at xplosion had gone very well and was very effective.</p> <p>EK to include additional info on the campaigns pot in an update email.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Action</p>
11	FTOG Updates	<p>EK spoke about the discussion that FTOG had had about a complaint about students dressing as 'chavs' on sports night, and how the Guild had not intervened on the evening because not complaints were made at the time. Following mainstream media picking up the story, the guild were also supporting the students who had made the complaint in the first place.</p> <p>EK gave credit to HB for how she had handles the situation.</p>	Noted
12	AOB (Any Other Business)	<p>BL noted a recent problem of people on campus, pretending to collect money for a disabled charity, which had been proven to not be legitimate, and who are harassing students for money.</p> <p>KA reported that university security are aware of the issue, and that the police were investigating to remove.</p> <p>CBK advised that legitimate charity collectors would have charity cards, so the guild could advise that students ask to see id before donating.</p> <p>BL would like to raise awareness about this if possible. They reported that they were personally confronted recently by false charity collectors, and that they feel it gives a bad name to disabled charities and take advantage of peoples good will.</p> <p>BL stated that they would welcome the support of other officers in trying to tackle this problem.</p> <p>EK gave an update on the BUCU strike and guild involvement. BUCU have written a statement to all students about academic staff disciplinary's, claiming malpractice by university managers. EK has had a meeting with BUCU and AG on this issue.</p> <p>EK reported that FTOG's view was to support the university's code of practice and ensure that it was adhered to, but to find out more committing one way or another to strike action. AG and EK have arranged meeting with university provost next week to find out if BUCU's allegations are true, and to assert student's view that any staff disciplinary's should be done formally and in line with the</p>	Noted

		<p>academic staff protocol. EK agree that if student feedback was indeed being used in staff disciplinary's, the guild should take steps to make students aware of that.</p> <p>AG explained that the letter from BUCU to students asks them not to fill in MEQ (module evaluation questionnaires), which the officer team are in favour of as a scheme in the way that we understand it to be used, but that they didn't feel they had enough information at this stage to have a concrete stance.</p> <p>EK said that they were writing a statement to go out online to clarify what was happening to students and what info the Guild has.</p> <p>SHJ said that they had heard about problems staff were having with Panopto. Can other systems be used/ is the university using it to 'spy' on staff?</p> <p>AG responded that Panopto was opt in for staff, and that while the code of conduct recommends recording, there were other options available such as providing materials and summaries via canvas.</p> <p>AG said that In terms of software, they weren't aware of any others but there may well be better ones, but specifically Panopto is designed to be simple to use and automated to reduce staff workload. Uploads are automatic, but staff are able to pause it and can stop it, but not edit, so the power if with lecturers to choose to use it or not.</p> <p>EK confirmed that if staff preferred, they could use another system and manually upload the files to canvas.</p> <p>AG spoke about how he believed uploading was good practice to avoid students having a disadvantage from not being able to attend a lecture because of illness or a variety of other reasons. AG said that it was his feeling that some lecturers who objected to Panopto actually objected to being recorded at all, and would object to any system.</p> <p>EK reminded the team about the long-term policy commitment of the Guild to secure lecture recording.</p> <p>AG said his view was that feedback form students on Panopto was good, and that he felt his main responsibility was to the students, and that most students wanted this.</p> <p>BL said that since some lecture rooms, particularly in law, were inaccessible, lecture recording was very helpful to disabled students. While lecturer privacy was a concern, lecture recording can be a make or break for students with chronic illnesses and DAMSA committee was in favour.</p> <p>EK to circulate an update to the officer team following meeting with the Provost.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Action</p>
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