

In Attendance:

*Mikey Brown, Guild President
Evie West, Committee Member
Emily Raymond, Committee member
Siyi Wang, Committee member
Harshitha Naidu, Committee member
Rachel Boucher, Ethical and Environment Officer
Adam Dorey, Campaigns Officer*

Also in attendance:

*Tom Snape, Policy and Campaigns Coordinator and Secretary
Lucy Gill, Voice and Representation Manager*

Absent without apologies:

Vaseem Ali, Committee member

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Actions
Start			
1	Welcome & Introductions		
2	Minutes of Previous Meeting	TS noted the amended wording on the beliefs and commitment relating to funding that was circulated with the papers. The committee were happy with the amended wording and it was approved.	Approved

3	<p>Rainbow Laces Funding Proposals</p>	<p>Committee considered the proposal – noting that it would be funding would be funded by the officer manifesto pot. It is approved. HN asked for clarity relating to which sporting groups would be given the laces. It was clarified that this is primarily for competitive sports clubs.</p>	<p>Approved</p>
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4	<p>Killer Robots Campaign</p>	<p>ER updated on progress. AD got in touch with Amnesty and intended to go to a meeting with them.</p> <p>MB notes that the Amnesty group are still running this campaign so it is important that The Guild re-engage as best as possible.</p> <p>AD has established a relationship with the Amnesty group. They're more focused on other campaigning activity around consent – which could also be supported. A fuller meeting will be held soon.</p> <p>MB noted that this lines up well with the Guild's priorities for lobbying the University, and the Not On Campaign.</p>	
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5	CEE Bill	<p>MB has note had chance to update fully – but that there is a wider meeting tomorrow (the 10th of December) to set the direction of The Guild’s wider sustainability campaigning.</p> <p>RB noted that she has been contacted by the proposer but has not heard any updates.</p> <p>MB asked if she had any thoughts about how The Guild should proceed here, noting that she is the lead for this area.</p> <p>RB stated that there is a prepared statement, that is yet to be circulated – but that she is happy with the statement’s content.</p> <p>MB said in which case the statement can be approved and circulated – and that it may be worth discussing this at the meeting tomorrow.</p> <p>EW stated a preference for getting the statement out soon.</p>	
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<p>6</p>	<p>Campaigns Masterplan</p>	<p>TS gave an updated on the Change In Mind campaign. 30 volunteers have been trained and recruited. The initial listening campaign has taken longer to get started than was originally planned – so the deadline for 1000 conversations has been moved to the end of January.</p> <p>MB updated on some of the work the officer team have been doing in this area. And asked the Committee about their thoughts regarding how to further this listening effort.</p> <p>AD asked about UoBe festival and the campaign plans there.</p> <p>ER asked about whether sports teams could be more heavily incorporated. EW noted that other student groups could be engaged directly too.</p> <p>AD noted that it would be good to talk to ISoc who have a quite engaged membership.</p>	
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		<p>MB noted that some student groups have been a good source of volunteers, but others may be a good audience – even where they might not want to volunteer.</p> <p>MB talked through the Vocal and Visible section of the Masterplan. MB talked through recent events at Durham University – and the backlash the Students’ Union received. He asked whether the committee thought engagement with so called ‘culture wars’ issues was valuable and worthwhile – in light of the potential backlash.</p> <p>AD noted that there may be some value in thinking more about how The Guild could turn their values into action.</p> <p>ER agreed with AD, noting that it’s hard for The Guild to take meaningful action based on their organisational values.</p>	
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		<p>MB stated that there is still plenty that can be done within the law – such as asserting the right to protest, and the freedom to not listen to people who have been given a platform. He also noted that those engaged in activism are often some of the most marginalised in other spaces.</p> <p>EW noted that as a white climate activist it's not something that is often on her mind, but that discussions with anti-racism, and pro-lgbtq+ rights campaign groups bring these issues up.</p> <p>MB noted that he views the committee as being an important part of tackling these issues.</p> <p>AD asked if EW has contacts in trans activism. She stated she did but that they are not currently organised. EW is actioned to use contacts to ask if there is appetite for some more structured campaigning.</p>	<p>EW</p>
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		<p>TS gave an updated on the Disabled Students' Commission and DHM. While there is no campaign infrastructure in Disabled Students', the intention is that The Guild champions these issues at the University.</p> <p>TS noted the difference between the commission and Change In Mind – in that Change In Mind was constructed with a pivot to campaigning in mind, and the DSC was initially conceived as a research project.</p> <p>On refugee scholarships, MB noted that there has been a commitment to grow the number of refugee scholarships, but the numbers and details of the new approach is yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>TS actioned to circulate the Masterplan with every set of papers.</p>	<p>TS</p>
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		<p>MB updated on the Renters Union. The launch is being pushed back to February, due to the volume of other things that also need to be communicated. The structures for the Union are already in place, in that information is being tracked more deliberately. MB noted that some of the early targets of the Union are already beginning to emerge from the data.</p> <p>EW stated that they thought students would be interested in being involved in the Renters Union – and that they personally would like to be involved.</p> <p>RB left the meeting to attend a lecture.</p> <p>MB stated that he wants the Renters Union have the space and focus it needs to do it justice.</p>	
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7	President and Campaigns Officers' Manifestos	<p>AD updated on his manifesto relating to Change In Mind, and the Activist Network. Intends to use the Christmas break to revisit and re-prioritise.</p> <p>AD gave an overview of the Activist Network so far. EW noted that the timing of the second meeting meant many of the climate groups couldn't attend.</p> <p>MB noted the COP26 Cabaret was successful and may potentially may inspire other successful things.</p> <p>EW stated that the strongest value proportion from the Activist Network is the 'networking' element – the potential to find groups to collaborate with for example.</p> <p>ER stated that even if the skills are wanted, people might not want to hang around on campus until quite late after a day of lectures.</p>	
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		<p>MB thanked the committee for their feedback. He reflected that he thought more of a bottom up approach would be more valuable – to facilitate the network being more in line with what would be more valuable.</p> <p>EW said there might be some value in an event around the Policing Bill may be valuable – as it impacts the right to protest. AD and MB agreed.</p> <p>AD also said that there should be food all the time. MB noted that funding is an issue but took the point.</p> <p>MB noted that the Policing Bill should be able to engage student activists – potentially in UoBe week.</p> <p>The committee discussed using ‘citizens assembly’ style methods to discuss this as a group.</p> <p>AD and TS discussed mapping out the relationships and using that as a</p>	<p>MB , AD</p>
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		<p>network to support with promotion and growing the network.</p> <p>TS to follow up to ensure branding is updated on the Policing Bill event.</p> <p>MB noted the range of student campaigning ongoing relating to COVID and online learning.</p> <p>MB gave a summary of their remaining manifesto points.</p> <p>On building relationships with other Sus, good links have been established with BCSU and Aston SU. MB is keen to hold some 'summits' for students across the city with local decision makers.</p> <p>On climate activism – MB noted that the new VC is likely to be more amenable to taking substantive steps. The University of Birmingham did not get a passing grade in the People and Planet league tables.</p>	<p>TS</p>
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		<p>AD stated that he thinks there would be value in the committee growing their operational capacity, by establishing an operational team.</p> <p>TS and AD discussed whether this would be focused on operational delivery – or along more of an organising/supporting model.</p> <p>MB agreed that the general idea is good – but requires further thought to nail down.</p> <p>EW stated that they already have a lot of commitments so probably could not take part in anything additional in this area – but that this could be brought to the committee.</p> <p>AD to think about this further and potentially bring it back to the committee.</p>	<p>AD</p>
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Date & Time of next meeting: Next meeting will be between the 24th of January and the 4th of February. A poll will be taken closer to the time.