

Discussions: Marking Boycott, Strikes

Present

Committee members: Vanessa Chigariro, (VC, Education Officer, Chair), Ben Lockley (BL, Postgraduate Officer), Alice Liu (AL, International Officer), Matthew Widdop (MW, Student member), Michelle Ezigbo (ME, College Rep, MDS), Rahul Raj (RR, Student Member), Goodnews Agare (GA, Commuter Students Rep)

Guild Staff: Christian Black (CB, Senior Representation Coordinator), Dayna Hopkins (International and Postgraduate Coordinator, Minute taker), Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator)

Apologies

Beckye Williams (BW, Student member), Nidhi Priyadarshini (NP, College Rep, EPS), Yihan Si, (YS, Student member)

Absence without apologies

Ionut-Alexandru Stanescu (I-AS, College Rep, LES), Shaikat Sarkar (SS, College Rep, CoSS), Jayner Wang (JW, College Rep, CoSS), Shankar Arumugam (SA, College Rep, LES)

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Actions
Start			
1	Welcome & Introductions	VC invited everyone in the meeting to introduce themselves. VC noted that there would be a change in the agenda as a member of University staff would be attending the meeting to discuss an item, so University calendar change was moved to later in the meeting.	

<p>2</p>	<p>Officer Updates</p>	<p>VC introduces Item 2.</p> <p>VC invites BL to discuss their updates.</p> <p>BL has been working with PGTA's on the UCU PGR manifesto, BL hosted a forum in the guild to hear experiences from the PGTA's at UOB and has joined the University's anti casualisation group to discuss this.</p> <p>AL introduces themselves and discusses the working hour visas campaign by offering a survey and drop in sessions on the working hour limit for International Students. AL also discuss the next language café with a picnic that will be happening June. AL also talks about visa compliance and check ins for International Students that the University has just sent to those students.</p> <p>VC updates on their main project they are working on: Feeling free to be you at UOB. It is regarding people from certain characteristics on how they feel at UOB. The survey is on the website for people</p>	
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		<p>to complete along with drops in for people to talk in more depth about their experiences. VC is also working on UOB and beyond, a project with the Guild and careers network about supporting students to help students build their skills, CV and interview skills. Also working with the Senior representation Coordinator about the Rep system improvement which will come up later in the meeting.</p> <p>MW asks about a survey that was sent to the reps and asked if it was only for reps to complete or if they could share it round? VC confirmed it can be shared to course mates to also complete to share experiences.</p>	
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3	<p>UCU Updates on Industrial Action.</p>	<p>VC introduces the item.</p> <p>A survey was sent out to the reps about the industrial action, certain courses and colleges may be affected by the marking boycott and strikes more than others but VC opened up the floor to the committee to share their current experiences.</p> <p>ME said MDS was not very much affected by the strikes. MW mention at the EPS CQUAC meeting, members said there was procedures in place but did not go into detail of what those procedures were. VC said they would speak to EPS college to let the students know what those procedures were. MW also said if there could be more information on the marking boycott as people aren't sure if they will graduate in the summer. VC said the University has put out a statement on this but will ask to have it advertised more for the students.</p>	
		Access break for 10 minutes	

<p>4</p>	<p>Rep Fund Requests</p>	<p>VC introduces the item. Th paper had been circulated to the committee beforehand. 18 rep funds have been submitted since the last Education committee and £870 has been approved for spend with £3,000 being requested with pending and querying approvals. VC asks GA and ME that no requests have been made from MDS and if they could have a think about why that may be, VC points out that the most rep fund requests has come from EPS. VC goes through the paper with the committee about what rep funds have been approved and where the money has gone too, if any are pending and why that may be. VC brings up the new request for £450 and reads out the request that has been put through. VC asks the committee if they have any questions about the request. BL asks how much is left in the fund.</p>	
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		<p>VC does not know the exact amount, but confirms there would be enough for this request.</p> <p>MW brings up that the request feels similar to a previous request that has come up. CB explains that they have spoken to the people who brought up the request and explains why it may feel similar to the previous request.</p> <p>ME asks how many people are expected to come to the event, VC shares that they are expecting the entire cohort to come.</p> <p>BL suggests they would be happy to approve it with some changes.</p> <p>VC offers this option to the committee and they agree with this.</p> <p>VC asks if the committee are happy to approve with more details of the events on where the money will be going and more accurate representation of how much people are coming and removal of the vouchers that were originally on offer?</p> <p>6 committee members approve this.</p>	
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		<p>MW asks about the remaining rep fund for the year, where the remaining money will go?</p> <p>CB explains that the money will go into planning for next year's budget for the rep fund.</p> <p>VC also asks the committee that now that this is the last education committee she wanted to asks if the committee if she can still approve up to £150 in rep funds.</p> <p>MW asks what will be happening with rep fund requests throughout the summer.</p> <p>VC, we wouldn't expect any rep fund requests outside the academic calendar year.</p> <p>VC also asked if the committee want to keep VC approvals only at £150 or if they would be happy to increase the amount, they suggest £300 or £500.</p> <p>The committee approval increasing VC's rep fund approval rate to £500. Anything over £500 will need to be a</p>	
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		subcommittee of 2 officers and 1 rep.	
6	Student Rep Awards	VC discusses the Rep awards that are taking place on Tuesday 16 th May to celebrate all the hard work that the reps have been doing this past year. Also celebrating the students on the Dubai campus by livestreaming the event.	

7	<p>Rep System Update</p>	<p>VC introduces item.</p> <p>Paper was circulated before the meeting. There are 6 key themes that were identified to help plan the Rep system improvement, these are Recruit, Train, Support, Recognition, Partnership, Enablers. CB goes through the document with the committee. VC asks the committee do these themes match what they would want to change about the rep system. There is to be a training plan developed that will support rep training over the year.</p> <p>ME brings that they feel that all year training will help support MDS students.</p> <p>VC agrees that it could help support during the rep's time at University.</p>	
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<p>8</p>	<p>Graduate Attributes</p>	<p>VC notes a change in the agenda as a Member of staff from the University would be attending to talk about one of the agenda Items.</p> <p>VC introduces the item.</p> <p>The paper was circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>VC talks through the document that was shared and talks about the 4 main attributes that the University propose all students will have once they leave. VC asks the committee how do they feel about the terms used and how they can relate to being a rep.</p> <p>ME thinks it is helpful as it gives them a word to be able to describe their skills and be able to vocalise it, I think its great.</p>	
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9	AOB	<p>VC introduces other areas of business.</p> <p>VC discusses community organising and tells the committee if they would like to get involved with any community organising that they can get in touch with the Democracy Coordinator or the Policy and campaigns Coordinator in the Student Voice Team.</p> <p>All Student Meeting and All Student Vote are coming up. All Student Meeting is being held on Tuesday 17th May from 12pm to 2pm. All Student Vote will be held from Friday 19th May until Friday 26th May.</p> <p>VC reminds students there is a current by election on, which close at 4pm on Friday 5th May. VC mentions the summer elections, CB confirms they are currently in planning summer elections and the reps will be kept updated.</p> <p>VC provides an access break as we are waiting for the member of the University to attend the meeting.</p>	
	Access Break (10 minutes)		

10	University Academic Calendar Changes	<p>VC introduces the item as we wait for the Pro Vice Chancellor of Education to come to the meeting. Unfortunately, they were unable to attend the meeting, VC apologies to the committee and says they will send a follow up email in hopes that they will be bale to discuss changes coming to the calendar.</p> <p>VC thanks the committee for the last education committee of the year and that they are always available via email.</p> <p>The committee says their goodbyes and the meeting ends.</p>	
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