

**Trigger Warnings: Strikes****Present**

*Committee members:* Vanessa Chigairo (VC, Education Officer, Chair), Ben Lockley (BL, Postgraduate Officer), Alice Liu (AL, International Officer) (from 3:30pm), Matthew Widdop (MW, Student Member), Michelle Ezigbo (ME, College Rep, MDS), Beckye Williams (BW, Student Member), Ionut-Alexandru Stanescu (I-AS, College Rep, LES), Shaikat Sarkar (SS, College Rep, CoSS), Rahul Raj (RR, Student Member), Nidhi Priyadarshini (NP, College Rep, EPS)

*Guild Staff:* Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator, Minute Taker), Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator)

**Apologies**

*Committee members:* Goodnews Agare (Commuter Students Rep)

**Absence Without Apologies**

*Committee members:* Jayner Wang (College Rep, CoSS), Shankar Arumugam (College Rep, LES)

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Actions
1	<b>Welcome</b>	<p>VC introduced herself via Zoom and asked attendees to reintroduce themselves. VC noted a small change in agenda as AL unable to make the first half hour of the meeting, so Officer Updates has been moved to later.</p> <p>HC noted from the committee invite email that the meeting would be recorded via Zoom for the purpose of minute-taking. No members objected.</p>	

2	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Leadership Development and Community Organising</b></p>	<p>HC explained student leadership and community organising. HC noted that Education Committee members have positional power and can strengthen their relational power to create change and encouraged committee members to consider why they joined the committee and what actions they could take between meetings to campaign for a shared goal.</p> <p>VC asked committee members why they joined Education Committee and what they'd like to see.</p> <p>BW noted they joined to ensure accessibility to education for commuters, distance learners, disabled students etc. BW noted particular concern around implementation of student Reasonable Adjustment Plans (RAPs). Would like Education Committee to be able to help more with this.</p> <p>VC noted Officers' shock at what students are facing in meetings. Officer team are keen to ensure that all students have equal access to education by working with Student Services.</p>	<p>Reps team to add agenda item for next Education Committee about Officer tracker and updates on conversations with University.</p>
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		<p>VC asked BL if they could bring an update on conversations with Student Services to next Education Committee.</p> <p>BL noted Officers have an action tracker on all Guild-related issues but President and Welfare &amp; Community Officer work with Student Services on University-facing issues.</p> <p>VC asked HC to add item to next agenda that Officers can update on tracker and policies they've been working with the University on.</p> <p>MW added that they particularly care about accountability. MW noted there are a lot of instances where staff communicate they will do something which doesn't happen. For example, EDI reports were forgotten about at a College committee. MW noted that there is a 15 working day marking deadline, but staff often don't communicate when this isn't going to be met.</p> <p>BW stressed that the job of Colleges should be accountable. BW noted that when trying to register for course, got passed around lots of different staff members. VC noted that they are working with Registry on streamlining these</p>	
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		<p>conversations, particularly around RAPs or finance.</p> <p>VC asked if committee would like more conversations like this at next Education Committee. Committee agreed.</p>	
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3	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Officer Elections</b></p>	<p>VC introduced the item, noting that Officer Elections are upcoming. VC noted that Officer positions allow committee members to make those changes previously discussed. Officers are considered committee members alongside staff members at University.</p> <p>VC asked BL and AL to speak about their Postgraduate and International Officer roles respectively.</p> <p>BL stated their role is to provide PG perspective on social, welfare and education policies</p> <p>AL stated they represent all international students, including those on a Year Abroad and those on Dubai campus.</p> <p>VC introduced Education Officer role. They sit on a lot of committees, such as employability, Access and Participation, Registry and the Rep System. EO makes changes to the University that are significant in the long-term such as feedback and timetabling.</p> <p>VC noted that anyone interested in the role and what it entails can come and speak to them. VC encouraged everyone to run if they have</p>	
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		considered it at all and they have found it rewarding as they have lots of useful chairing experience.	
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4	<p><b>Update on UCU Industrial Action</b></p>	<p>BL gave summary update. 18 days of further industrial action over Feb/March. Also going to rebalot over whether to do marking and assessment boycott. Last time was targeted in a few Schools (particularly CoSS and CAL) who had a lot of impact. Officer team will be releasing statement.</p> <p>BL shared image of statement with EdComm. Statement summary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The University has told us that their priority is to ensure that students who submit work on time, and that meets the requirements of their course, will graduate or progress to the next stage of their study.</li> <li>2. The vast majority of students will not be affected in any way by strike action.</li> <li>3. The Guild will campaign for reimbursement for students impacted by strikes.</li> <li>4. We will update students on exact strike days as soon as details are announced.</li> </ol>	<p>VC and BL to reconsider wording of Officer statement</p>
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		<p>BL keen to take questions from committee for accountability.</p> <p>MW way of point 2. Wording almost guarantees/promises that students will be unaffected and is a very strong statement. BL noted that in many Schools, there are only a few UCU members. 300 staff members went on strike last time. Union membership is quite concentrated. Guild is estimating that there will be fewer academics taking full strike action and will be a small number of students impacted, but they will be impacted quite severely. MW noted that those affected would feel disenfranchised by statement 2.</p> <p>BW assumed that most students affected would be CoSS students. As a CoSS student, read point 2 and noted that they would be upset about strikes and would be frustrated by statement.</p> <p>VC added that University has blanket statement that is going to be sent out to everyone. CoSS students will have an additional statement from University. Guild is also doing blanket statement. VC noted they will speak with BL after meeting to discuss statement 2.</p>	
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		<p>BW noted that the statement is true but doesn't make students feel great. ME noted that statement 3 counters statement 2 emotions because it notes what Guild will do for students that are affected.</p> <p>BW suggested connecting the statements, either by bullet point indentation. MW would be cautious as chance of reimbursement is low.</p> <p>BL noted that the University loses very little due to strike action. Staff lose a lot of money and students lose a lot of contact time and quality teaching. BL also noted that the University doesn't want the Guild to campaign for reimbursement.</p> <p>VC asked if there were any concerns or feedback. MW noted they had heard that the Guild should be campaigning more that they are in favour of the strikes.</p> <p>BL noted that Guild is supporting UCU on strike days with hot drinks and shelter.</p> <p>I-OS noted that they have not heard anything from LES students about strikes</p> <p>.</p>	
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		<p>BW has heard 2 different sides of the coin. Have heard those who are completely pro-strikes because they have been or know the struggle of PGTAs. The other end of the scale (particularly UGs and PGTs) feel they are losing out and that STEM subjects are unaffected. Contact hours are lost and are not made up in the same way.</p> <p>Alternative provision or make-up sessions are not having the lecture content they were due to have. Then feel frustrated that Guild should be for students and seems to be supporting strikes that are impacting students negatively.</p> <p>AL noted that last year as a PGT student, they were very confused about strikes. One lecturer only gave 4 lectures in the whole Semester and felt it wasn't value for money. Officer team understand strikes will impact students academically, but the actual strike action is about academic staff and the University. Guild will be providing support for affected students.</p> <p>VC asked if there were any other comments and noted the Guild will do additional informative comms but also noted that not all comms will be focused on strike action.</p>	
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		<p>BW suggested for comms that a week should be dedicated to UCU strikes and should have a webpage about strikes and why staff are striking and what the conditions are.</p> <p>BL showed EdComm the industrial strike action hub.</p> <p>MW and BL noted that the website was difficult to navigate and that titling of pages is not helpful.</p> <p>BL and BW noted that infographics might be better.</p> <p>SS noted that there should be more awareness about the Guild and what it does as many students aren't aware.</p> <p>VC noted that the Guild was undergoing a change in website to make it easier to navigate.</p>	
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<p>6</p>	<p><b>Officers Update</b></p>	<p>Since last EC, AL has held several language cafes and there is one tomorrow. Have also hosted lunar new year celebration in Bramall. Going to have One World Fair tomorrow.</p> <p>Have been in conversation with IST about international student check in sessions. According to Registry, some students who went home and haven't been able to get back are going to receive a letter in relation to their VISA.</p> <p>AL working with IST to ensure students don't panic about it. Going to have a safety event for international students in early February. Done some induction sessions with study abroad and exchange team.</p> <p>BL hosted a Rep social with VC with good feedback. Also been working on strike statement and PVC for Research and Knowledge transfer – sat on the interview panel. Important that candidates have student focus and involve students in research process, particularly in involving one year PGRs.</p> <p>Continuing to rebuild postgraduate society, both for social and representative focus, particularly for mature students.</p>	
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		<p>Launching UoB parents and carers network with University. Representative and social space, whether childcare or caring for a relative. Going to bring back in an official format with longevity.</p> <p>VC and BL working on project around hidden course costs. Spoke to 15 different Reps across different courses to find out about their experiences, particularly costs of placements. Big disparities across the University. Barrier to entry for some disadvantaged students. Looking for DARO and alumni funding to plug costs for poorer students.</p> <p>VC thanked AL and BL. Rep social was really good and is planning another Rep social this year. Working on employability, UoB and Beyond. Want to ensure students are taught how to relay skills back and have a graduate scheme timeline for final years.</p> <p>Creating Rep reward and recognition plans and proposals, such as creating t-shirts for Reps. Been student contact for TEF. Handed in TEF submission today. VC shared brief outline of TEF submission to show what student submission looks like. Working on academic</p>	
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		<p>support, such as giving free hot chocolate at Med School, Library, Muirhead and under the clock tower.</p> <p>Also given out positive affirmations. Aiming to do that again in Summer assessment period. There are also lots of other things happening.</p> <p>VC asked if there were any questions or comments. ME thanked the Officers for their work and wanted to vocalise this.</p>	
7	<b>Rep Fund Update</b>	<p>VC shared paper of what they have approved since last Education Committee. VC went through each application summary and reasons for making decision.</p> <p>VC asked if the committee had any questions. No questions from the committee.</p> <p>VC asked if the committee was happy for VC to approve another £750 (less than £150 per application) between this EC and next one. Committee approved.</p>	

<p>8</p>	<p><b>Rep Reward and Recognition</b></p>	<p>VC noted they were really keen on Rep recognition. For this academic year, doing Rep of the Month. Have 19 nominations for the first month without big push. Winners will be published in newsletter and will get automatic invitation to Rep Awards. VC explained Rep of the Month scoring process.</p> <p>VC explained Rep Bingo initiative, including employability tips for Reps. VC explained that Reps gain a lot of skills and don't always get to communicate them.</p> <p>VC explained a big push on Rep Awards including drinks and making it a special event to celebrate the work of Reps during the academic year. It will be in Deb Hall and nominees will be invited. Will be sending out survey to Reps about what they want for Rep Awards.</p> <p>VC asked if there were any questions or comments.</p> <p>W mentioned they loved the Bingo. For Rep of the Month, need to be cautious of how many people will win and should be 1 per month so it's not too easy to win and is still exciting for Reps.</p>	<p>VC review how many winners for Rep of the Month going forward</p>
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9	<p><b>NUS Conference Policies</b></p>	<p>VC noted that delegates not in attendance.</p>	

10	<b>AOB</b>	<p>VC opened the floor for AOB.</p> <p>MW asked when the next meeting will be as they would like to do a big Rep Fund request for an event in March. HC noted next meeting would be after April, but MW could submit and circulate via email to committee, or get paid for by School and then</p> <p>AL noted International Students Social is taking place at 7pm tonight at Joe's Bar.</p> <p>VC noted that Officers have to undertake 360 degree review as part of professional development. VC asked if they could send the survey to EC members for feedback about self:  <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VChigarir023">https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VChigarir023</a></p> <p>VC ended the meeting.</p>	VC to send 360 survey link via email to committee
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