

Attendance:

Joe Hill (Education Officer, Chair) JH
 Tianjie Liu [Alice], (International Officer) AL
 Muskaan Singh (Commuter Students' Representative) MS
 Jacob Dyke (Student Member, Open Place) JD
 Ffion Williams (Student Member, Open Place) FW

Dylan Gibson (Observing Student) DG

Amelia McLoughlan (Representation Coordinator) AM
 Benjamin Smith (Representation Coordinator) BS
 Christian Black (Senior Reps Coordinator) CB
 James Lindsey (Director of Community & Representation) JL
 Jane Baston (Senior Voice Coordinator) JB

Apologies:

Elizabeth Mullenger (Student Member, Open Place)
 Rio Drinkwater (Student Member, Open Place)

Trigger Warnings:

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Actions
Start			
1	Welcome & Introductions	JH welcomed and introduced the committee, and attendees introduced themselves.	

2	Officer's Update	<p>JH gave an update on the work they have been doing over the past couple of months. This included attending the parliamentary Education Select Committee hearing focusing on the impact of strike action on students. JH highlighted the some of the impact of the strike action on students and mitigations put in place by the University. JH also raised the consistent support seen for lecturers undertaking strike action.</p> <p>JH also mentioned about the working they are doing with the University on the Access and Participation Plan as well as continued work on issues with timetabling and assessment.</p> <p>AL updated on work including working on a review of the international student experience. AL has also been working to improve the support for international students in particularly focusing on cost-of-living support for international students. AL noted the</p>	
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		<p>support they were giving towards cultural events including the Lunar New Year Celebration as well as working on a June Expo Event, showcasing cultural-based societies. AL has continued to run Language Cafes for students to attend.</p> <p>AL informed the committee of the work around mobility opportunities for students looking to go abroad including promoting the Turing Project. This includes looking into the Turing Funding and if this can be used to allow Birmingham-based Students to go to Dubai to study where the course is taught in both locations.</p>	
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3	Rep Team Update	<p>CB updated on the work being done by the Guild of Student Representation team. Recruitment for reps has now been completed with around 1100 reps recruited. CB also updated on the work ongoing regarding MSL and data storage that is nearing completion.</p> <p>CB updated on rep training and noted the recently added training modules on consent and EDI, and about the ongoing rep support offered by the team (including rep drop ins).</p> <p>CB advised that the AEF was now open, as was rep of the month with 10 winners so far this year, with nominations for the Rep Awards also now open.</p> <p>JD asked about what training was required and asked if the consent and EDI training should be made mandatory. CB clarified that it was only the core training that was mandatory. CB said he would be open to making the training mandatory but would have to be</p>	
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		<p>approved by SRSAB (Student Rep System Advisory board).</p> <p>JH advised as the EDI and consent was only released in January, it was felt it was best not to make the training mandatory for reps.</p>	
4	<p>Academic Engagement Fund (AEF)</p>	<p>A paper on the AEF was circulated prior to the meeting. JH advised that where the application have an educational focus, the Guild are trying to approve these requests so funding goes out to students to use.</p>	

5	Trustee Update	<p>JH advised on the changes to the bye-laws and how the committee fits into the new democratic structure, with decision-making committee being removed from the bye-laws and democratic structure.</p> <p><i>“The Guild of Students has conducted a Democracy Review over the past 14 months, which included the development of a new Democratic System and the introduction of paid Part-Time Officers. As part of this process, the Decision-Making Committees that were associated with the old democratic system have been stepped out of the byelaws. This means that Education Committee is no longer part of the Democratic System, however we plan to reimagine this within the Rep System and to continue with Education Committee in the future. We will be working over the coming months to embed this Committee into the Rep System and welcome any feedback on how that happens.”</i></p>	
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<p>6</p>	<p>Member Feedback</p>	<p>JD raised that the event on the 7th February is being investigated by the University and asked about the Guild's response to this. JH clarified that this was not a Guild or Guild society event. The Guild is working with societies on campus and supporting students in response to the event. The Guild is continuing to work with the University regarding this.</p> <p>JD raised concerns about the 3rd semester and what happens with students who do not have exams. JH advised that there will be more than exams in the third semester with sessions on academic progression. AL raised that the University has a timetable planned for the third semester with work skills and employability activities ongoing at the end of the 3rd term. AL has continued to request that the University ensure the plans are fully communicated to students especially with the impact on students with international visas.</p>	<p>JH to raise concerns about UoB Xtra to the University.</p> <p>JH to raise concerns about lecture recording in Politics with the University.</p> <p>JH to speak to the library to look into what group work provision could be offered to students at night.</p>
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		<p>JH mentioned that the Guild will continue to run events throughout this time as well including Valefest but will pass on concerns about UoB Xtra to the University.</p> <p>JD then raised a concern about quality of lectures and the recording of lectures with some lectures not being recorded by lecturers. JH said that lectures should be being recorded and it is an expectation that notes should also be sent out after the lecture as well. JH said he will look into this issue. AM also mentioned the ongoing CAL focus groups and that is these issues were occurring across CAL, that would be a perfect opportunity to raise this.</p> <p>JD elaborated on the concern around the quality of teaching and how this varies across the University and even with departments. JD raised the idea of have set requirements for lecturers. JH commented that each lecturer will</p>	
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		<p>have their own style of lecturing, however, advised JD to raise any individual issues with teaching in their SSFs, and is happy to speak further with JD about this issue.</p> <p>JD then asked about is the bookable rooms in the library could be open later, moving towards 24 hour bookable system. JH advised that when speaking to the library previously, staffing the group rooms for 24 hours a day was a concern especially with the budget implications. JH happy to speak to the library to look into what group work provision could be offered to students at night.</p> <p>JD asked about how the Guild were publicising the reps. CB responded saying they don't track individual rep interactions however SSFs were going well with good student engagement and feedback given. CB also spoke about ongoing work within the rep team such as rep of the month. CB also mentioned</p>	
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		<p>another project on the promotion of student reps which is ongoing. The Rep team is currently collecting rep wins from across the University for this promotion which will hopefully go on the Guild website.</p> <p>JH added that this was a point of focus moving forward throughout the year, acknowledging this could not be done at the start as reps were not recruited.</p>	
7	<p>Officer Elections</p>	<p>JH asked if there were any questions regarding the upcoming Guild Officer Elections. FW asked about the financial support for Officers with JH and JB both confirming that these were paid positions, with both Full-time Officers (FTO) and Part-time Officers (PTO) being paid next year, PTO earning 20% of the FTO salary</p>	

8	AOB	<p>JD asked about why the committee only meet 3 times a year. JH advised this could be considered moving forward alongside discussions around how the committee will function moving forward with the new democratic structure. JB added about the Officer Scrutiny Panels, ran 3 times a year, which student can watch and put questions forward for.</p> <p>DG noted that they could not see any restriction in the number of meeting the education committee met in the bye-laws. JB clarified that the bye-laws have now been updated anyway with the Education Committee no longer in the bye-laws sitting outside the new democratic structure.</p> <p>JD asked for clarity on the reasons behind the change in democratic structure, JB advised the previous system was abolished after the 2022-23 academic year with numerous reasons behind why this</p>	
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		<p>decision was made including how long decisions took through the old system. JH added the new structure made the guild much more responsive, however was open to continuing to having a meeting or forum in place, with education a important area of focus for the Guild.</p>	
9	End of Meeting		

Date & Time of next meeting: