

Officer Question Time Minutes

Present: Jess Levy (Representation and Resources Officer), Ellie Keiller (President), Adam Goldstone (Education Officer), Kris Ali (Housing and Community Officer), Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Officer), Helena Bailey (Sports Officer); Henny Green (Welfare Officer), Cameron Beavan-King (Community Action Officer), Mirabel Chu (International Students' Officer), Lucy Bleischroeder-Baker (LGBTQ Students' Officer), Holly Campbell (Women's Officer)

In attendance: Oli Killeen (Democracy Co-ordinator); Lucy Gill (Interim Student Voice Manager); Adam Tomes (Interim Communications Coordinator); Adam Sheridan (Director of Engagement)

Apologies: Shannon Farmer (Activities and Development Officer), Shimon Kelly (Anti-Racism ; Anti-Fascism Officer)

The RRO welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 17:35

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	Welcome to Officer Question Time	<p>The welcome was provided by the Representation and Resources Officer, who was acting as Chair for this meeting.</p> <p>Welcome to the first Officer Question Time this year. There are another 4 of these meetings planned throughout the year. This is an opportunity for you as students to hold the Officer Team accountable for the work they do. This is also an opportunity for you to give us feedback on what you think the Guild is doing well or not so well.</p> <p>You can ask questions in person or they can be submitted in advance online.</p>	Noted
2	President Update and Questions	<p>The President provided a verbal update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Things worked on so far include: • Presented at SU17 conference • Submitted a bid into the NUS Activities Fund • Elected onto and attended NUS Services board and Epona Board • Date set for Vice-Chancellors Question Time • With the RRO, re-launched the free periods campaign • Appointed new Guild Staff and Trustees • Working closely with MEDSOC to support their activity • Delivered Welcome Speeches during Welcome Week • Officer Role Review • Review of the Guild Officer Group Structure • Meetings with University Staff • Academic Year Structure Review 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed the Disaffiliate from Castle Cars Mandate New policy making body with outgoing and incoming RRO <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	
3	Activities and Development Update and Questions	<p>The ADO was not present for this meeting; her verbal update was provided by the President.</p> <p>Things worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Guild room booking system coming soon More bookable rooms in the Business School and UoB School More live music in the Guild Two more pianos in the Guild Societies fair New Student Groups Wall Student Poll to name the new room in the Guild <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
4	Education Update and Question	<p>The Education Officer provided a verbal update:</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Worked on the rollout of a new online printing credit system – which was an idea submission Oversaw the rollout of lecture capture practise – starting this term Kept Students updated on the changes to Higher Education <p>Things I am working on include: Further work to keep students updated on changes to Higher Education using blogs Currently sitting on a Study Space Project Board - further updates to follow.</p> <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
5	Housing and Community Update and Questions	<p>The Housing and Community Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crime and Safety – Including Night patrols by police in the local area Housing checks Freshers Fair/Freshers Fling Recruiting new community wardens Safety and Sustainability Day <p>Things I am working on include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas on Campus – currently planned for December 4th House hunting Campaign Winter Ball <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
6	Representation and Resources Update and Questions	<p>The Representation and Resources Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the President, re-launched the Free Periods Campaign 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes to the democratic structure – Introduction of Guild Policy Development Group • Street Kitchen Menu Changes • Been elected onto the NUS Talent Development Charity Advisory Group. • Reviewing the Incident and Disciplinary processes of the Guild • Redevelopment of Election Regulations <p>Things I am working on include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term 1 Elections – Nominations open now for Guild and NUS Delegate Positions • Working on changes to the Joe's Bar Menu • Creating new events in the Guild, showcasing amazing student talent 	
7	Postgraduate Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Postgraduate Officer provided a verbal update</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new postgraduate page on the website • Specific Postgraduate welcome guides and bags • Work completed with the University to include student parents and carers in the data set • Met with the University HR Team about the status of Postgraduate Teaching Assistants <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
8	Sports Update and Questions	<p>The Sports Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the number of 'This Brum Girl Can' events – the first one is now fully booked • Changed the time of collection for Sports Night Tickets from 10am to midday. <p>No other questions were asked.</p>	Noted
9	Welfare Update and Questions	<p>The Welfare Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Things I have worked on so far include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pizza welcome event for commuter students at the beginning of the year • The Guild support booklets have been updated. <p>Things I am working on include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work is underway with Umbrella to provide free STI testing on campus • A blog about things that students can do in Birmingham <p>No other questions were asked.</p>	Noted
10	Part-Time Officer Introduction	<p>The Part-Time Officers present introduced themselves, and gave an introduction to their manifestos.</p> <p>Holly Campbell (Women's Officer) The main areas of focus for my work in the year ahead will be:</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving sexual health • Improving Mental Health • Working on intersectionality of students <p>Lucy Bleichroeder-Baker (LGBTQ Students' Officer) The main areas of focus for my work in the year ahead will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer online voting for the LGBTQ positions in the Elections • Working with Birmingham LGBT Centre on providing sexual health services • LGBT Bar Crawl – and other events <p>Cameron Beavan-King (Community Action Officer) The main areas of focus for my work in the year ahead will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to the Community Warden Scheme • Campaign events for students who want to campaign on things that matter to them <p>Mirabel Chu (International Students' Officer) The main areas of focus for my work in the year ahead will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the housing provision available for international students • More accessible part-time work • Intercultural events to improve integration of international students into the community <p>No other questions were asked.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
11	Introduction to the Guild of Students	<p>The Guild of Students is the Students' Union at the University of Birmingham. As a registered student, you're automatically a member.</p> <p>Each year 8 Full-Time Officers and 11 Part-Time Officers are elected to lead the Guild and to represent you locally and nationally, to the University and beyond.</p> <p>One of the Guild's primary functions is to give you a voice. We do this through our elections held twice a year, the online democratic platform called 'Your Ideas' and the Student Rep System.</p> <p>It also offers a number of different services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 287 different societies to help you have fun, make friends, do something different • A Jobs, Skills and Volunteering Department – to support you to find a job whilst studying, build up your skills to make you more employable • Guild Advice – a dedicated free and impartial advice service that can give you support on academic, housing, finance and international student support issues • Joe's Bar and Street Kitchen – where you can relax and grab something to eat <p>Please get involved, whether it's in elections, the Student Rep</p>	Noted

		System, joining a group or starting a new one.	
		No further questions were asked.	
12	Autumn Term Elections 2017	<p>The Autumn Term Elections are your opportunity to have your say on who completes the Guild Leadership Team in the year ahead; you can also nominate yourself for a role.</p> <p>At this time, we will also be elected delegates to NUS National, Liberation and Sections Conferences. This is an opportunity to influence national policy affecting students at a national level. They also offer excellent networking opportunities.</p> <p>Nominations are currently underway. They will remain open until Friday 13th October 2017 at 12midday.</p> <p>The positions being elected include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature and Part-Time Students' Officer (x1) • Commuter Students' Officer (x1) • Guild Policy Development Group – This group replaces the Assessment Group and will have responsibility for the formulation of Guild Policy and the review of Idea submissions (Various roles) • Chair of Officer Question Time (x1) • Appointments Panel Member – This group is responsible for recruiting new Trustees to the Guild of Students (x2) • Student Equality and Diversity Committee Member (x2) • Ethical and Environmental Committee Member (x2) <p>Delegates are also being elected for a number of NUS Conferences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Conference (x8) • Black Students' Conference (x1) • LGBT+ Students' Conference (x2) • Disabled Students' Conference (x1) • Women's Conference (x2) • Trans Students' Conference (x1) • Postgraduate Conference (x2) • International Students Conference (x2) • Mature and Part-Time Students' Conference (x2) <p>Further information about all the roles, and what they do can be found at: www.guildofstudents.com/elections</p> <p>Voting will be taking place between Monday 23rd October (10am) – Friday 27th October (4pm).</p> <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
13	Introduction to "Your Ideas"/Guild Policy Development	<p>"Your Ideas" is the online platform where students can submit their ideas about things they want to do or change at the Guild and the University.</p> <p>There will be 5 cycles of "Your Ideas" this year. In each cycle, ideas</p>	Noted

	Group	<p>submitted by students will be voted on, and provided enough students vote for the idea, it then becomes something the Officer Team must implement.</p> <p>Guild Policy Development Group replaces the Assessment Group. It will retain the role of reviewing all of the idea submissions on legal, reputation or financial grounds.</p> <p>It will also take on a key role to formulate, amend, adopt Guild Policy.</p> <p>Any policy that the group adopts, will be placed online with the other idea submissions, students will then have the opportunity to reject the policy should they wish to.</p> <p>If the policy is not rejected (voted down) by students, then it will remain Guild Policy for 3 years.</p>	
14	Any further Questions	No other questions were asked	Noted

The RRO closed the meeting at 18:10

Date of next meeting: 30th November 2017 (5.30-7.30pm in Guild Council Chambers)