

Officer Question Time Minutes

Present: Adam Goldstone (Education Officer); Kris Ali (Housing and Community Officer); Jess Levy (Representation and Resources Officer); Rose Bennett (Postgraduate Officer); Henny Green (Welfare Officer); Lucinda Bleischroeder-Baker (LGBTQ Students' Officer); Holly Campbell (Women's Officer)

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

Apologies: Ellie Keiller (President); Shannon Farmer (Activities and Development Officer); Helena Bailey (Sports Officer)

The Chair welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 17.40

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	Welcome to Officer Question Time	The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of Officer Question Time this year. This is an open meeting where students can attend and hold their Officer Team to account.	Noted
2	Discussion Topic: Overcrowding on Campus	<p>Students may be aware that it can difficult at times to access University services – there are issues with space in the library, and it can be challenging to access University services, such as the Sports Centre and University Welfare provision.</p> <p>As an Officer Team, we have been working hard to hold the University to account for the recruitment targets they set, and for these targets to be achievable. We appreciate that over-recruitment can have a detrimental impact on the students already at the University of Birmingham, and can set false expectations to those that will come in the future.</p> <p>We will be working on campaign about this and need student feedback, get in touch with us, as we want to hear your views. You can also speak to your Student Reps if you want to raise anything at a course level that we may not know about.</p>	Noted
3	President Update and Questions	<p>The President's Update was provided by the Representation and Resources Officer.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visited India on an NUS Epona Trip • Assessment and Feedback Research • Working with MedSoc to bring them over to the Guild • Working on going on the Affordable Graduations mandate • Office Hours continuing 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One Thing Friday Campaign • Working on the Strategic Plan • BUCU meeting • Meetings on study space • Vice-Chancellors Question Time • Meeting of the Appointments Panel to recruit new Guild Trustees • Work underway on the BUAFTAs <p>No further questions were asked. All additional questions can be emailed to: president@guild.bham.ac.uk</p>	
4	Activities and Development Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Activities and Development Officer was not present for this meeting, no update was provided.</p> <p>The room was reminded that any queries could be addressed to the ADO directly via email to: activities@guild.bham.ac.uk</p>	Noted
5	Education Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Education Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University Regulatory changes • Met with the CEO of the Office For Students • Attended NUS workshop on the Race Equality Charter • Working with the University on changing the academic year structure – workshops ongoing • Consultations on new university buildings with students • Student Rep System Elections • Regional Rep Conference took place in November • University Challenge auditions • Attending University Executive Board meeting on Assessment and Feedback • MP Surgeries – Preet Gill (MP for Birmingham Edgbaston) has advice surgeries on the second Thursday of every month – anyone who is resident in the constituency is encouraged to attend. <p>Your Ideas Mandate Update – Free Academic Transcripts are available from the Registry for anybody who needs them.</p> <p>Anyone wishing to provide feedback on the Student Hub is invited to a feedback session on 6th December – for more information please email: education@guild.bham.ac.uk</p> <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
6	Postgraduate Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Postgraduate Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended Strategic Plan to feed in postgraduate experience • Submitted a motion to NUS Postgraduate Students' Conference on Postgraduate Representation • Worked with the University to put GRS2 forms online • Attended Postgraduate Open Day 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended meeting on Elections and Postgraduates to get them more involved • Attended a Postgraduate Office For Students consultation • Working on a new Your Ideas mandate on Postgraduate Study Space • Postgrads it's Friday – new Postgraduate mixer • National Student Survey consultation for Postgraduate Taught Students • Attended NUS Education Zones Conference • Attended Student Rep training with more Postgraduates than ever before <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	
7	Housing and Community Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Housing and Community Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the local police on crime and safety in Selly Oak • Housing Fairs • Community Warden patrols in Selly Oak • Undertaking work on new community strategy • Working on how students interact with letting agents – common problems/issues and raising awareness • RA Scheme restructure • Voter Registration Campaign for local elections in May • Deck the Halls – winter ball <p>Please make sure you stay safe over the Christmas Period. Lock up your houses/flats whilst you are away and secure valuables out of sight.</p> <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
8	Representation and Resources Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Representation and Resources Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autumn Term Elections – all roles filled, increase in turnout on the last comparable election • Your Ideas Cycle 1 has taken place, Cycle 2 is happening now • Guild Policy Development Group – new structure in place • Street Kitchen Loyalty Card • Live Music events on campus • Working on Green Impact • Working on the new Strategic Plan • Working on Officer Elections 2018 • Recruitment for new Guild Trustees <p>Q: How does the voting on Guild Policy work, this is quite confusing? A: All policy that is passed through Guild Policy Development Group is put online in Guild Policy section on website for a veto, when you vote on these you are voting for the veto, so you vote up. This is</p>	Noted

		made clear in the idea submission text and further information is available online – feedback is always welcome.	
9	Sports Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Sports Officer's update was provided by the Representation and Resources Officer.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on the LGBTQ Sports Awareness Campaign • UB Sports Strategic Plan • Changes to the Events Ticketing system • Changes to Sports Centre provision – Swim is now Pay as you go • Sports forum – feedback from Player Layer, which is the new Sports clothing provider • Supporting dodge ball <p>No further questions were asked. Additional questions can be submitted in writing to sports@guild.bham.ac.uk</p>	Noted
10	Welfare Officer Update and Questions	<p>The Welfare Officer provided a verbal update.</p> <p>Projects working on since the last meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning mental health training for Societies • Working with the University to recruit more welfare tutors • Working with Umbrella on pop up sexual health clinics • Working with the University against the closing of welfare services registrations • Not On – More ambassadors being recruited • Working on accessibility audit of campus • New strategic plan • Mental Health Training with PsychoSoc <p>No further questions were asked.</p>	Noted
11	Part-Time Officer Updates and Questions	<p>The Part-Time Officers present provided an update to the room.</p> <p>Lucinda Bleischroeder-Baker – LGBTQ Students' Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Sports Officer on the LGBTQ students in Sports Campaign – Sports Profiles • Selling rainbow laces raising money for Stonewall • Attending Guild Policy Development Group • Working with the University on a map of gender neutral toilets map • Working with the University on gender neutral ID cards • Working with the University on equality at the Dubai campus • Strictly Brum Dancing on 8th December <p>Holly Campbell – Women's Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on mental health training for groups • Planning an event to highlight sexual health on campus • Working on Not On Training • Work is ongoing with the Women and Non-binary Association • Attended an Inclusive Curriculum meeting • Working on Inclusivity at the Dubai campus 	Noted

		No further questions were asked.	
12	Speak Week	<p>Speak Week is taking place between Monday 27th November – Friday 1st December.</p> <p>Speak Week is an opportunity for students to give feedback about their student experience. As a Guild we really want to hear about what students want and need.</p> <p>There are differing questions for Undergraduate and Postgraduate students, to reflect the differing experiences.</p> <p>If you want to give your feedback, there is a stall in the Guild all week – and you can come and grab some free Jelly Beans for your trouble. You can find it at: www.guildofstudents.com/speakweek</p>	Noted
13	Any further Questions	<p>Q: When is there likely to be a Societies Fair at The Vale?</p> <p>A: The ADO is not here to answer that question, should you want to email her, she is available at activities@guild.bham.ac.uk</p>	Noted

The Chair closed the meeting at 18.30

Date of next meeting: Thursday 15th March 2018 (6-8pm) Guild Council Chambers