

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 25.06.2025 12:00-13:00
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
<p>In Attendance:</p> <p><u>Outgoing 24/25 Officer Team</u></p> <p>Syed Sadath – Guild President (Chair) Devansh Jhamnani – A&E Officer Alex Keen – Education Officer Ravikiran Rajashekhar - International Officer Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Abby Kenrick - Disabled Students' Officer</p> <p><u>Incoming 25/26 Officer Team</u></p> <p>Antonia Listrat – Guild President Jacob Dyke – Education Officer Abby Kendrick – Welfare & Community Officer Aliasgar Gandhi – Postgraduate Officer Abhijeet Patel – Sports Officer Emeline Brown – Activities & Employability Officer Simrah Inamdar – International Officer Lucy McCabe – Women's Officer Olivia Bonner – Disabled Students' Officer Sabrina Ahmad – Trans & Non-Binary Students' Officer</p> <p>Also in attendance:</p> <p>Molly Purcell, Senior Voice Coordinator (Secretary) Jane Baston, Voice and Representation Manager James Lindsay, Director of Community & Representation (CEO Nominee)</p>	Jo Thomas – CEO	<p>Hope Aquilina - Welfare & Community Officer Ritakshi Maheshwari - Postgraduate Officer Lara Parker - Sports Officer Mimia Islam - Women's Officer Mariyah Ali - Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Max Williams - Sustainability Officer</p>

Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1 Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SS opened the meeting and opened introductions to all current and incoming officers ▪ SS welcomed the new team and gave congratulations 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SS and JB provided an overview of the purpose of GOG and today's handover meeting and that meeting minutes are published. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Minutes approved unanimously. 	
3	Officer Projects	<p>Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on</p> <p>AK: attended a lot of meetings. Education 125 with the University. Systems changes. Has professionalised the rep system and achieved record rep recruitment.</p> <p>AK: Accessibility oversight group and working with the disabled students' contribution group. Has worked with SANDAM on protests and number of issues.</p> <p>TB: Main focus is social events for the community and sharing educational resources, and collating feedback.</p> <p>SS: Outlined committee meeting attendance. Worked with University's investments and communication of these investments. Worked on the international student experience through RGSU and international student forum. Started podcast 'Coffee with the President' with the exec board at the University – conveying messages from Senior University Leaders.</p> <p>AK: spoke through external projects and engagement. RGSU – attended a number of meetings and met with civil servants & home office officials to improve government policy. Worked with Al Cairns local MP to engage him with the student experience.</p> <p>RR: Delivered Food Festival on campus and Language Picnic. Both events went really well and were well attended.</p>	
4	Action Tracker	Action tracker – UB2 completed and activism statement is discontinued.	

		AK recommended collaborative approach to incoming team.	
5	EHRC Consultation	<p>JB outlined the background of the consultation around the court case that went to the Supreme Court making various changes to code of practise which will affect Trans, NB and Women students. Looked through NUS's guidance.</p> <p>Consultation is very extensive and have focused on couple of areas of importance.</p> <p>SS reflected they liked the response and believes it's what the Guild stands for.</p> <p>AK noted the two-sided nature of SS's role between officer representation and legal duties.</p> <p>AK reminded the team that the political statements that are made by GOG may not be able to be backed up in reality.</p> <p>JB outlined the staff support when writing consultation reports and getting officers' opinion.</p> <p>JB thanked TB for their contributions to the consultation.</p> <p>JL explained legal, employer and student representation duties and the navigation of these obligations, and how the Guild can support through this.</p> <p>AK spoke through backing up statements with evidence.</p> <p>JD asked about the University's opinion.</p> <p>SS responded with their awaiting of information and guidance.</p> <p>JB outlined NUS guidance and how SUs should respond.</p> <p>AL asked to see initial draft response, SS and AK said this was fine and that it was a work in progress. It was devolved to a smaller subgroup.</p> <p>JB outlined deadline for next Monday for submission but will be done by end of the week. Approved by GOG.</p>	
6	Democracy update	<p>PA outlined the paper update with recommendations and actions. 6 student ideas/demonstrations of interests. PA spoke through the process of escalating to an action group.</p> <p>No live action groups at the moment.</p>	

		<p>JB outlined 'belief' and 'commitments' and their position in the policy book for 3 years, then comes back through the democratic system. PA suggested for officers to look at the report and get familiarised with the system. PA outlined elections and ASV data.</p> <p>SS asked about the closing date for ideas; PA responded with 30 June.</p> <p>SS spoke through the Officer Accountability idea and GOG's nature and recommended incoming officers review this idea.</p> <p>JB explained the role of democratic processes including scrutiny panel and the constraints of bylaws, and the role of GOG when discussing ideas.</p> <p>PA encouraged GOG to encourage students to vote on ideas.</p> <p>AK reminded GOG that a lot of democratic procedures are often peripheral for a lot of students.</p> <p>AL clarified turnout for Palestine ASV.</p> <p>JL explained threshold for quoracy, eg Ban Conversion Therapy did not meet quoracy even with anecdotal evidence from student who would support it. JL outlined scrutiny panel and the role of external trustees.</p>	
7	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ JB thanked outgoing officers for their contribution to GOG. ▪ JD asked why we needed 1% turnout for democratic quoracy processes. JB shared the intricacies of democracy and how to optimise student engagement, and the challenge of having 5 ASVs in one academic year and how this may disengage students, and that next year we will have less ASVs. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ JL added that elections turnout was 20% this academic year and the significant investment into the elections project, and how getting students engaged in democracy is a challenge.▪ MP added wider context of SUs and Universities across the UK and student engagement in democracy.▪ AL asked what a good mandate is considered to me. JL responded with building credibility▪ SS reflected that the University will engage with you with outcomes for both the University and wider student body.	
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The Chair closed the meeting at: 13:05

Date of next meeting: xxx