

Committee Name: Guild Officer Group
Date & Time: 25.03.25, 2-3pm
Present:

In attendance	Apologies	Absent without apologies
Syed Sadath – Guild President (Chair) Hope Aquilina - Welfare and Community Officer Ritakshi Maheshwari - Postgraduate Officer Lara Parker - Sports Officer Devansh Jhamnani – A&E Officer Alex Keen – Education Officer Abby Kenrick - Disabled Students; Officer Mariyah Ali - Ethnic Minority Students' Officer Max Williams - Sustainability Officer Also in attendance: James Lindsay, Director of Community & Representation (SMT Representation) Jane Baston, Voice and Representation Manager and GOG Secretary	Mimia Islam - Women's Officer Trinity Barson - LGBTQ+ Students' Officer Ravikiran Rajashekar - International Officer	

	Item for discussion	Questions/Comments/Voting Decision From Discussion	Action
1	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SS welcomed everyone to the meeting. 	
2	Minutes from the last meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes approved JB checked if GOG is happy for the teams channel to be set-up as part of the SVR Team. Agreement to set up the Teams channel. 	
3	Officer Projects	Standing Item for updates from Officers on projects they're working on <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HA has been working on her cookbook. 30 recipes, with 25 of those from students. It will be going to the design agency this week. 	SS & HA to discuss long-term planning for £2 lunch initiatives.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HA noted that there will be an ask for Officer to be involved in some videos related to this. • HA is working with the Council to make some letter templates for students on their rights and bills. • HA has reviewed the Cost of Living work and the working group has restarted. • HA noted that everyone will be contacted by Comms to ask for a short couple of sentence for Officer Profiles. • HA is working with AKeen on an event in April with Al Carns • DJ is working on the Student Success Stories and have found a space to record. This will be involving students and getting them to share their stories about part-time work and extra-curricular societies. • DJ is also working on an event with the Chancellor about sharing her story as a student at UoB. • DJ is working on the Research Portal Project and waiting on some data from the University. • MA has the next Chaii, Chaat & Chill on the second of April. • MA has also been working with SS and HA on meetings with the University on divestment. • MA is working on organising the decolonial workshops and have the first session planned soon. Also planning to work with the Black Voices Campaign on one of the sessions. • AKenrick noted that the SANDAM protest happened at the end of last month which went well and had a number of Officers attend. • AKenrick noted that the open letter has had a response, and a meeting has been arranged with the PVC for EDI. • AKenrcik noted that it was neurodiversity week last week. There was a plan about 	
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		<p>running a neurodiversity workshop but there wasn't a huge amount of interest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LP has been working on the Sport Access Fund which should re-open on Monday. • LP noted that the Club Executive is being launched next week at Club Conference. • LP noted that last week she was at Big BUCS Wednesday which had a number of UoB Sport Teams in attendance. • LP noted that the tender for new Sports wear has gone out as well. New supplier should be in place by September. • LP has set a date for the Women in Sport focus group which will be in May. • LP noted that Sports Night this week is part of Go Green Week and has a 'no buy' theme to encourage attendees to re-use outfits. • AKeen has been working on the Student Charter Refresh. This will be focused around education values. The first focus group is next Friday. • AKeen is planning to bring the values to this group. • AKeen has the second round of short research talks next week in Deb Hall. It's on life-changing technologies. • AKeen noted that it will be promoted by the University next week. Currently have 60 tickets sold and capacity can be up to 200 if needed. • SS is working on the podcast, and need to get some speakers for it from UEB. • SS has also been working on the £2 lunch initiatives with the University. This looks like it can be implemented from next month. • SS noted that this needs to have a governance structure set-up as well. • SS has noted that it needs more long-term sustainability. • JB suggested that it's reported in to the Cost of Living working group who may be able to pick up this work. 	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS and HA to pick up. • SS has been looking at putting together a representative forum for international students to be able to lobby the University for a better international student experience. • RM is running an event with MW on reducing waste. • RM is attending the NUS England event in Lincoln and is planning to raise issues around international students. • RM is working on another postgraduate speed-friending event with DJ. • SS noted that RR is working on a food festival. • RM and MA would like to be involved with this and will contact RR. • MW noted that he's been working on Go Green Week which is this week. • MW asked if everyone could share the Go Green Week events and encourage students to attend. • MW has been looking at running a post-Easter event. • MW is planning to go to the SOS-UK Conference next month. • DJ ran a Global Networking Event a few weeks ago which was very successful. 	
4	Activism Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SS noted that this item has come from the discussion at the last meeting. • SS noted that there was a small group formed to discuss this. • AKeen noted that there are a couple of blanks that need filling in. • MA has asked some students about this. They had highlighted the point around peaceful protest and that the statement could indicate the students have engaged in violent protest. • MA noted that there is a view that the statement is performative. The statement could be changed to reference legitimate protest instead of non-violent protest. 	SS to convene the group to continue working on the Activism Statement.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AKeen noted that is useful to have feedback from students on this. It is a statement from GOG and therefore we have to be happy with it. • LP noted that the feedback is useful. While the statement may feel performative there's unlikely to be any form of statement that could be written that would make it feel acceptable to students who feel this way. • HA asked if we could focus it on what the Guild could do more of, instead of having that second. • AKeen noted that the flow of the statement needs to be considered as well. • MA noted that the statement could be reframed to be on legitimate protest instead of non-violent. • JB checked if the wording was used as this is the wording in the Activism Policy. • LP noted that the views are very useful to have as part of this conversation and therefore we should try to incorporate them if we could. • AKeen noted that the Officers are elected to represent the students and therefore can take decisions like this themselves. • LP noted that we should be trying to meet the students who do care about this where we can and with honesty. • JB noted that the Officers are directed to support the policy as passed and Officers can decide to go further than this if they wish to. • LP asked if the us of the wording legal non-violent protest would make any difference to how the statement would be viewed. • MA noted that it likely wouldn't. • AKeen noted that if the statement says legitimate protest could expand this support to protest that is beyond what we can support. 	
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5	AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None 	

The Chair closed the meeting at: 15:01
Date of next meeting: 30th April