

FULL TIME OFFICER GROUP MINUTES

12:00 – 13:30
 Online Meeting (via Zoom)

Present

Mikey Brown, President **(President) (Chair)**
 Danielle Murinas, Postgraduate Officer **(PGO)**
 Jules Singh, Education Officer **(EO)**
 Josephine Conway, Activities and Employability Officer **(AEO)**
 Wei-Lun Chen, International Officer **(IO)**

Also in Attendance

Adam Sheridan, Director of Engagement **(AS)**
 Sam Jones, Executive Assistant **(SJ)**
 Houmaa Chaudhry, Senior Representation Coordinator **(HC)** (Item 2 only)
 Lucy Gill, Student Voice & Representation Manager **(LG)** (Item 2 only)
 Tom Snape, Campaigns & Policy Coordinator **(TS)** (Item 7 only)

Apologies

Aaliyah Simms, Welfare & Community Officer **(WCO)**
 George Christian, Sports Officer **(SO)**

The Chair opened the meeting at 12:00

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	Notes	ACTION
1	Previous Minutes (13.07.21)	The minutes from Tuesday 13 th July 2021 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.	Approved
2	Campaigns Approval	<p>HC and LG presented a student campaigns proposal for the Officer team's approval. HC updated the Officer team on the Guild's democratic structures.</p> <p>HC noted that as per the Guild's Bye-laws, campaigns proposals were passed to FTOG during the summer when the Campaigns Committee was not sitting.</p> <p>HC covered the Officer team's options for next steps with the proposal; approving the proposal, rejecting, or passing back to the Campaigns Committee.</p> <p>HC covered a campaigns proposal received from a student in relation to drug testing kits in the Guild. AS noted that the Guild had previously provided drug testing kits through the Guild advice service. LG noted that these kits had been paid for from the campaigns pot and the costs were significant.</p> <p>LG noted possible student conduct implications for students within the University found to be in possession of illegal drugs, in particular for students in University accommodation. The PGO noted a manifesto commitment from the WCO on drug testing kits.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>The President suggested deferring any decision until the WCO could review. The PGO noted wider ongoing discussions with the University over drug and alcohol safety. AS suggested working with the Director of Support and Representation for continuity.</p> <p>HC suggested updating the student proposer on progress to date. The Officer team agreed to update the proposer.</p> <p>LG and HC left the meeting at 12:15.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>HC</p> <p>Noted</p>
3	FTOG Chair Rota	The Officer team approved the FTOG charring rota for 2021-22.	Approved
4	C&M Photos	SJ updated the Officer team on arrangements for their team photos. SJ to hold time in diaries on Friday 23 rd July.	SJ
5	WW Update	<p>AS updated the Officer team on plans to date for Welcome Week 2021. AS noted the ongoing complications of possible COVID-19 restrictions, and that the Guild was watching the night-time sector over the next few weeks to understand the roll-out of the NHS 'COVID pass' in licenced trade.</p> <p>AS updated the Officer team on the range of events planned by the Guild for Welcome Week, including retaining some online events</p> <p>AS noted changing demand from newer generations of students, including more day events where new students could make friends without alcohol being served.</p> <p>AS updated the Officer team on possible new ticketing providers and solutions for the Guild from Welcome Week onwards.</p> <p>The PGO asked about plans for events focused at Postgraduate students. AS noted the pressure of events turning a profit, but noted ongoing work to engage postgraduate students from the outset and target certain existing events which may be more attractive to PG students. AS noted that the Guild's newly appointed venues manager was taking up their role shortly, and would be responsible for engaging all students in Welcome 2021.</p> <p>The President noted the importance of re-engaging with 2nd year students</p> <p>The AEO asked about the possibility of re-running the 'Lakeside' event from 2020. As noted that the event had run at a loss on the Vale in July 2020, and the format meant that profitability was unlikely. AS noted ongoing discussions on possibly re-running the event for 2021 in collaboration with the University, however the Guild's priority moving forwards were events which were likely to turn a profit. AS noted possible running of outdoor events during Welcome Week by the Hall Reps team, however this was unlikely to generate significant revenues.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		AS updated the Officer team on their usual roles and diaries during Welcome Week.	Noted
6	Relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions	<p>The Officer team discussed the relaxation of national COVID-19 restrictions from the 19th July onwards, removing the legal requirement for social distancing. The President noted communications released by the University.</p> <p>The PGO noted the uncertainty and concern for some students who may be uncomfortable returning to in-person teaching and the removal of social distancing requirements. The President noted significant numbers of students with health vulnerabilities who may need continuing online teaching.</p> <p>The EO updated the Officer team on the University's move to an 'as normal' teaching programme. The President noted that seminar's would not be available to international students affected by travel restrictions. The EO noted an expansion of University hybrid working spaces, however this would affected by differences in different time zones.</p> <p>AS noted continuing legal requirements for the University in terms of risk assessing COVID-19 transmission risk, and possible future re-imposing of</p> <p>LG and TS joined the meeting at 12:45.</p> <p>The President noted their concerns on plans to return in-person assessments for all students.</p> <p>The Officer team noted the need for communications to students concerned about COVID-19 transmission, with health vulnerabilities. EO to raise with the University.</p> <p>The President asked about changes to the Guild's guidance for staff and student groups. AS noted that the national changes would be discussed in GEMT and were currently unchanged. AS note that the Guild would consider the University's approach to the whole of campus and update staff accordingly.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
7	NSS Update	<p>TS updated the Officer team on the publication of the University of Birmingham National Student Survey (NSS) results for 2021.</p> <p>TS noted an overall significant decline in UoB's NSS scores, in excess of declines seen across the Russell Group of Universities, in the areas of learning opportunities and assessment and feedback. TS noted overall declining opinion of the University's management of course and access to learning resources.</p> <p>TS explained the history of NSS 'question 26', related to the Guild's role in representing student's academic interests. TS noted a steep decline in question 26 compared to the sector average.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>

		<p>TS noted significant variations between rates of student satisfaction between different demographics, including steeper declines for students with disabilities and black students in particular. TS noted consistent historical satisfaction gaps for black students compared to the wider student population, which appeared to have increased during the pandemic.</p> <p>LG noted possible significant variation between schools and colleges, the picture of which would become clearer over the summer.</p> <p>The President suggested revisiting the NSS data in a future FTOG meeting. SJ to include in agenda.</p> <p>TS and LG left the meeting at 13:10.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>SJ</p> <p>Noted</p>
8	Brumfess	<p>The Officer team discussed the 'Brumfess' Facebook page and the Officer team's use and participation in this. The PGO noted their sense that Officer's contributions on Brumfess were problematic and deterred students from coming to the Guild directly.</p> <p>The President noted their sense that the Officer team could not ignore grievances raised on the Brumfess Facebook page, which had a very large reach on social media. The President noted the importance of signposting students to Guild Advice when concerns were shared on the page.</p> <p>The PGO noted previous concerning content shared anonymously on the Brumfess page. The PGO noted the importance of queries being passed to the relevant Officer. The PGO suggested using the Brumfess page in an official capacity as a last resort.</p> <p>The EO suggested seeking a referral link to the Guild Officer team in posts on the Brumfess submission page.</p> <p>AS suggested discussing the Officer teams approach with the Communications manager and Director of Operations. AS noted possible issues for impartiality during a formal complaints process.</p> <p>The AEO noted their concerns on content shared on Brumfess. The President noted difficulties when they were tagged in a post on Brumfess, and students expected a response.</p> <p>The Officer team agreed to discuss with next steps with the Communications and Marketing team.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
9	Diaries	No Items noted.	Noted
10	Officer Wins/Priority Campaigns	No Items noted.	Noted
11	Guild Communications and Social Media	The Officer team discussed their takeover of their official Guild Social media accounts.	Noted

12	Schools/Colleges Dubai Update	No Items noted.	Noted
13	Part-Time Officer	The Officer team agreed to defer appointing part-time Officer 'buddies' until the next meeting.	Noted
14	Any Other Business (AOB)	The President noted an upcoming meeting of Union President's from across Birmingham. The President asked Officer's to circulate any issues they would like to be raised with other Birmingham SU's.	All

The meeting closed at 14:00.

Signed

Date

DRAFT