

Welfare & Liberation Committee Meeting 2 17th November, 2pm-4pm

Present

Committee Members: Aaliyah Simms, (Welfare & Community Officer), Robin Hayward (Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer), Daisy de Labilliere (Student Member), Jo Birch (Student Member), Maiar Elhariry (International Representative)

Students: Amira Campbell

In Attendance

Guild Core Staff: Solomon Gibson (Representation Coordinator), Rozena Nadeem (Democracy Coordinator), Jo Thomas (CEO), Lucy Gill (Voice & Representation Manager)

Apologies

Committee Members: Manisha Kaur (Ethnic Minority Students Officer)

Absent Without Apologies

Committee Members: Imogen Mann (Disabled Students Officer), Louisa Martin (Women's Officer), Sifat Mohammed Istiak Bhuiyah (Student Member), Eleanor Thomas (LGBTQ+ Students Officer)

Trigger Warnings: classism, transphobia, menstrual health, sexual assault, genocide, Uyghur Muslims, islamaphobia, awarding gap



Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes	Actions
1	Welcome & Introductions	Those in attendance introduced themselves and explained their roles both on and off of the committee. SG – Minutes from the last meeting and this meeting will be circulated as soon as possible.	
2	Officer Updates	AS - Has had a meeting with Jo Linforth to further discuss adding mental health support information posters to toilet stalls. Also working to prepare for Trans Day of Remembrance RH – Has been working on and preparing for Trans Day of Remembrance. Has been getting in touch with people who want to perform and participate, as well as gathering equipment.	



	Menstrual Health	
	AS – We spoke at last meeting about menstrual products and we also discussed care-packages for students. Did anyone want to expand on these ideas?	
	JB – Maybe we should reach out to student groups who might be able to help us distribute and advertise free menstrual products. We could also possibly see if there are any local NHS community health schemes to help re-launch the campaign a little.	
3	AS – We have previously worked with Reclaim Campus and the wardens last time on this and could again. In terms of the mental health outreach issues, we have been considering if we should ask the university to look at attendance lists as a way to flag potential issues.	
	JB – Regularly absences should trigger a kind approach by the university to check in on student welfare, but not as a punishment.	
	University Book Swap	
	AS – Is it possible to start a covid secure university book swap? We need to chase this up with community wardens	
	RN – Haven't yet got an update but will hope to have this by the next meeting.	
	Increasing Education Around Sexual Assault, Consent & Sex Ed	
	Increasing about assault and sexual education	



AS – Idea proposed providing education, but we already have not on campaign. We now also have and new not on campaign coordinator. She and Jo are thinking about putting on a femme night to create a safe space. She and Jules have been working to make the current consent module mandatory. Manifesto includes safes sex and consent and is something AS wants to work on later in the year, and maybe working closer with Umbrella on.	
JB – Noticed there's been a large response to the spiking issues and that maybe the guild wasn't seen to be doing enough by student body. Suggests w made need to be very public about what we're doing and making sure we have good relations with students.	
AS – We did make these statements on action decided by officers, but it's a balance to make sure we don't come across a performative through too many announcements.	
JB – With events planned, policies need to make sure they're trans, non-binary and gender inclusive. We should work to make sure that action to protect women includes trans-women and the non-binary community, happy to help work on this.	
AS – Maybe me, Jo and Robin could take this out of the meeting and discuss this to make sure our events are inclusive.	
JB – Yesterday umbrella came round but didn't seem to get much engagement. Maybe we next time we need to do some social media campaigning.	



The Guild to Adopt the Term "Awarding Gap"	
AS – I can't provide a full update on this, but will ask Jules for update. Some progress has been made with the university; CoSS is now using this term and adoption is slowly happening. Action to update at next meeting.	
Classism Definition	
RN – Just to note, as this meeting isn't quorate we cannot approve any changes.	
AS – This idea proposed adding a definition of classicism to zero tolerance policy. It would be useful to have some wider student feedback on this especially for people who may have been effected classicism. Also worried that fancy dress is subjective, and it might be difficult to be consistent and reasonable with this.	
JB – Definition on clothes is very subjective and may be hard to include, this is very much defined by discourse and might be quite vague right now. We need to make sure any definition includes discrimination against those of all social classes, to make sure discrimination isn't shifted and to have a definition of classism in general. Classism can be experienced in different forms across different social classes.	
DDL – How does the university determine class?	
AS – It would be on the guild to define classicism in this case. Identifying that would be understanding if a comment or action has come as a result of someone's social	



	economic status. We can't make a decision here today, because we aren't quorate. RN – We will need to take this to all student meeting next.	



		Student – Introduces the issue of islmaphobia definition by giving some context. The current definition within the zero tolerance policy is that islamaphobia is rooted in racism and is a type of racism against Muslims. This definition was adopted by the Guild without consultation with university, Islamic society or student Muslim community.	
		We need to a suitable definition badly. The problems we have with this definition are firstly: the definition talks about racism, we believe islamaphobia should not be defined by race, as Muslims are defined by their faith not race. We believe Muslim community on campus should have a say in forming the Guilds definition of islamaphobia.	
	Islamaphobia	We are proposing to remove the current	
_	Definition	definition, and to consult Isos and the	
4		community to create a new definition. We also believe the university should do more to support those who are victims of islamaphobia.	
		AS – Believes it's more than reasonable to ask for consultation with Muslim student groups on campus for a suitable definition because they have already identified issues with current definition. Unfortunately we cannot act today because we are quorate, but AS can talk with Isos and do some consultation work.	
		JB – Completely agrees with the proposer, suggest might be possible, whilst waiting to of approve this, to start some kind of consultation with officers to do some ground work with Isos to work out a new definition.	
		AS – will discuss this with full time and part time officer groups and in meantime it can be	



taken to All Student Meeting where we will vote on it.	
Student – Last All Student Meeting wasn't quorate, so there is a risk it might not be implemented despite support due to a lack of attendance.	
RN – Because were not quorate this will got to ASM in two weeks' time, if this isn't quorate it'll go to All Student Vote which is the week after the ASM. All Student Vote is an online vote.	
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5	Solidarity With Uyghur People	AS – This idea was originally allocated to the officer team reallocated to this committee, it will need to go to ASM as we currently aren't quorate; but we can discuss it here. The idea deals with the genocide of the Uighur people, we note that this is a sensitive issue so it might be worth discussing sensitively in this committee. It might be difficult for us as the Guild to take an effective action, however it might be worth us consulting the wider student body as we have diverse international student community . JB – Completely agrees with the statement of solidarity, and that the current situation should be defined as a genocide. Need to be careful that its clear this is action being taken by national and regional governments and not on behalf of a race or demographic. AS – This is important to address especially since we have seen rising xenophobia and racism since the start of the pandemic. It would be useful to have that wider discussion for that reason, to avoid distaste. Even though this is going to ASM, we should definitely discuss this as an officer group due to the seriousness and sensitivity of the subject also.	
		RN – ASM is upcoming 1st December 12-2 –	
6	AOB	items from this meeting will now be discussed there.	