

guildofstudents

Agenda for meeting of Guild Council – 6.00pm
Thursday 14th May 2009

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Katie Wilson, Steven Johnson, Fabian Neuner
The Committee of Independent Chairpersons - indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk

AGENDA



1. Starring of the Agenda and approval of the Executive's Recommendations

What is this?

Any item that is starred will be discussed in the meeting. Any item that is unstarred will be put to a single vote to pass all remaining unstarred items on the agenda. Any decisions that are required will therefore be passed as per Officer Team recommendations. Any item passed by this vote cannot then be discussed in this Guild Council.

Please star any items on the agenda you wish to discuss when invited to do so by the chair, by stating the items number on the order paper.



2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Guild Council held on Thursday 19th March



3. Questions, reports, communications and suggestions

a). Communications:

Night Bus presentation
Building re-development

b). Questions to Officers, Questions and Suggestions

c). Reports:

- ★ Officer Team
- ★ Report on Resolutions Extant
- Student Groups Committee

What is this?

Reports are submitted from the Officer Team at each Guild Council meeting. All Guild Councillors may ask questions about the reports, as well as questioning the Officer Team more generally and making suggestions to them. This is how the Guild can hold the Officers to account and make sure they are doing their job.

The Officer Team report will then be put to a vote to see if Guild Council will accept it. You can vote to accept it or reject it, or if you want to you can put forward a

procedural motion to vote on it in parts (for example, to allow Guild Council to reject one Officer's report but accept the rest).

This is also your chance to put Officers forward for commendation (if they've done something good) or censure (if they've done something bad), by calling for a procedural motion to commend or censure.

Any other reports on the agenda are only discussed if starred at the beginning; otherwise they will be accepted as part of the vote on all unstarred items.



4. Elections and Motions

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Guild Officer Group Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
a) Election:	Independent Chairs (x 3)		
b) Motion:	While we're in the mood, cold jelly and custard	Approval (with Amendments)	Simple Majority
c) Motion:	Events Groups (appendix to be tabled)	Approval	Simple Majority
d) Election:	Elections Committee (x 2)		
f) Motion:	Save Coventry Students' Union	Approval	Simple Majority
g) Motion:	The Birmingham Delegation Protection Act	Approval	Simple Majority

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Minutes of meeting of Guild Council – 6.00pm Thursday 19th March 2009

Fabian Neuner, Katie Wilson, Steven Johnson
The Committee of Independent Chairpersons - indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk

List of Attendees of meeting of Guild Council on 19th March 2009

Samuel Harrow (Bioscience)	Arsheen Rajpar (Bioscience)	Stacey Nelken (Business)	Damien Clark (Comp Science)	Robert Hosking (Engineering)	Kim Copitch (Engineering)	Anna Robin (Historical Studies)	Dora Meredith (Historical Studies)
Rob Hunter (Historical Studies)	Ed Sparkes (Historical Studies)	Joanne Grainger (Historical Studies)	Kathryn Woodroof (Humanities)	Miriam Felder (Law)	Johnny Davis (Law)	Briqid Jones (Physics)	Jim Phillips (Physics)
Alex Zatman (Social Science)	James Long (Social Science)	Anna Loosley (Social Science)	James Rhys Williams (Social Science)	Rhys O'Neill (Aitken Wing)	Phillip Harris (Aitken Wing)	Tom McNamara (FOCSOC)	David Hooper (FOCSOC)
Edward Scholes (Jarratt Hall)	Ellie Tubby (Mason Hall)	Vicky Barber (Mason Hall)	Susanna Milton (Tennis Courts)	Kim Finch (The Beeches)	Martin Swazba (The Beeches)	Cally Davidson (Victoria Halls)	Will Simpson (ACS)
Hannah Todd (Anglican Society)	Helen Harlett (Astrosoc)	Lia Parker (Back to Schools)	Kim Goss (Ballroom)	Tom Barnes (Bandsoc)	Allan Ssesanga (BEMA)	Amshika Amar (Indian Family)	Luke Sharkey (Buddy a Granny)
Frankie Ward (Burn FM)	Rachel Lomas (Carnival)	Olvsegun Adenitire (Chamber Music)	Will Bosworth (Change Ringers)	Rob Somerville (Circus Society)	James Reid (Comedy Soc)	James Nutt (CVG Soc)	Tom Guise (Conservation)
Hugo Dodd (D of E)	Eleanor Smith (Econ Soc)	Daniel Grutters (Friends of Palestine)	Sophie Bailey (German)	Marie Cassidy (GTV)	Tom Pratt (Indie Society)	Dave Borland (Labour)	Lizzy Par (Lib Dem)
Laura Thompson (Life Saving)	Nick Petrie (Lunar Soc)	Sarah Jennings (Methodist)	Monica Fonseca (Mexican)	Will Grey (Muay Thai)	Rebecca Wharton (Neighbours)	Sannasand Carlsen (Nordic)	Emily Weisfield (People and Planet)
Jennifer Roberts (Postgrad and Mature)	Joel Faulkner (Redbrick)	Charmain Werren (Rock)	Alex Smith (Roleplay)	Mary Burgess (Scout and Guide)	Simon Paul Davis (Skydiving)	Roisin Sarsfield (SLOBS)	Laura Telfer (SMPS)
Amy Chatwood (Social sciences)	Emily Wingfield (Social Sciences)	Lauren Maker (Socialist)	Katie Weston (Spoons)	Oliver Hassell (Student advice)	Carly Scholes (Taiji-chuan)	Nicholas Oram (Wayfarers)	Maudie Wyatt (Women's)
Rachel Tribbick (Women's)							

Apologies received from: LGBTQ, Article 19, Romanian Soc, Ice Hockey, Oxfam Outreach, Home Students Association, French Society, Motor racing, Redbrick, Film Soc the International Student's Officer, the Vice President Sport, Jack Farmelo, Timothy Stilwell, the Ethnic Minority's Officer, David Remington, Cath Taylor, Kitten Onwardi, Daniel Kotzman, Reema Mistry, Ben Jackson, Danielle Cohen.

Welcome from the Independent Chairs
Fabian Neuner in the Chair, Katie Wilson Chairs Aid, Steven Johnson

- Role of Independent Chairs and Exec explained to new Guild Councillors
- Pointers on Conduct of the GC meetings given
- Voting cards explained and tested

Count of quorum – 66 voting Guild Councillors in the room – Meeting opened.

1. Starring of the Agenda and approval of the Executive's Recommendations

Chair informs guild council that the 'Pending' GOG recommendation status for Motion a) 'Communication, Engagement and Accountability' has been updated to 'Approval' status.

Chair informs guild council that the 'Pending' GOG recommendation status for Motion d) 'Sub Standard Sub TV' has been updated to 'Approval' status.

Sam Harrow (Biosciences) stars Motion e) 'What's Disgusting? Union Busting'

Vote to approve all unstarred items on agenda.
Approved 86% (For – 86%, Against – 2%, Abstain - 12%)



2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Guild Council held on Thursday 19th February 2009

Approval of minutes from last Guild Council : Approved (86%) [Pending minor amendments]
(Yes 86%, No 3% Abstain 11%)

3. Questions, reports, communications and suggestions



a). Communications:

Jennifer Larbie (President) and Brendan Casey (University's Director of Academic Services) give communication on printer credits at the University and options currently available.

Questions are taken by Jennifer Larbie (President) and Brendan Casey (University's Director of Academic Services) regarding the finances for proposed solutions, the feasibility of such solutions, the current situation

regarding printer subsidy across the University and the scope for future negotiations.

Guild council are asked to vote on which of the three options;

- 1 – 35 sheets for every student per year as of the next academic year. Base rate of printing to go up from 5p to 5.5p
- 2 - Reduce printing on campus from 5p to 4p a sheet.
- 3 – Reject both options and continue to lobby the University to prioritise funding a larger subsidy for all students.

Vote on option to be taken by Guild: Option 2 (71%) (Option 1: 11%, Option 2: 71%, Option 3: 18%)

Tom Marley (VPEA) gives communication on H.E. funding and the Guilds current campaign.

Jennifer Larbie (President) gives a communication on 'The Great Debate'.

James Ogden (VPHC) gives a communication on the Student Housing and Advice Centre.

Hollie Jones (VPW) gives a communication on the upcoming European elections.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) gives communications on;

Behalf of ISO apologising for poor work rate and that he will probably be out of action for a while due to an injury.
The Guild Officer Elections

Rich Walker (VPSAD) communicates that a battle of the bands is taking place on Thursday 26th March

Circus society communicate that they are holding their annual showcase on Saturday 21st March

Tom Guise (Conservation Volunteers) communicates that he is hoping to arrange travel to a 'Hope not Hate' event.

Phillipa Calver (EEO) communicates that the first Ethical and Environmental forum is occurring Friday 20th March in the Thompson training Suite at the Guild.



b). Questions to Officers, Questions and Suggestions

Video reports are played to Guild Council.

Mary Burgess (Scouts and Guides) asks if transcripts can be provided with the videos as well?

Hollie Jones (VPW) replies that she will look into it for the next videos at GC and ensure that a transcript goes up online when the videos do.

Johnny Davis (Law) asks Tom Marley (VPEA) why the answer he gave in February's Guild Council regarding the possible closure and relocation of the Law Library was wrong or ill informed. The Holdsworth Club has looked into the issue and has found that contrary to Tom Marley's information the Library may well be moving.

Tom Marley (VPEA) had asked the University if there were plans and had received assurances that there was no immediate threat to the Law Library. He also mentioned that the review into Library services had recommended that some satellite libraries should close but that this should not happen until the main library had undergone a refurbishment in order to allow it to accommodate some of the satellite libraries.

Johnny Davis (Law) asked if Tom Marley (VPEA) would stand by his previous comments that he would support students in campaigning against closures.

Tom Marley (VPEA) said he would stand by students over any immediate closures.

Sam Harrow (Biosciences) mentions that Mason Hall has been nominated by the Times as an example of a quality hall of residence. What's the Guild going to do about this?

James Ogden (VPHC) Will ask the Mason R.A.s to take some photos and send them with a letter to the Times.

Sam Harrow (Biosciences) asks the VPDR if the 'Your View' survey was worth it.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) replies that it was with nearly 3000 students answering it and a good cross section of students taking part.

Sophie Bailey (German) asks how momentum can be maintained in the aftermath of the community showcase.

James Ogden (VPHC) replies that it is an ongoing campaign and hopefully the SHAC will tie many different strands of community work together.

Alex Smith (Roleplay) is concerned that the Elections results night is too exclusive, that the sound quality in Joes is very poor and that the results were not put up on the website until the following week.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) agrees that sound on TVs is poor, that the Deb hall is used to give the candidates and their supporters a celebration and that the results weren't put up on the weekend as this is when staff have their time off.

Alex Smith (Roleplay) couldn't find vote proportion breakdown online.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) they could be found by Saturday on Redbrick on-line.

Alex Smith (Roleplay) mentions that the agenda for Guild Council (19/03/09) was hard to get hold of.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) says they were emailed out but apologises for hiccups caused by elections.

Kathryn Woodroof (Humanities) asks if the Guild can update Guild Council on the issue of an on campus pharmacy?

Hollie Jones (VPW) The University is still reviewing the comments and suggestions submitted by the Guild along with other bodies regarding this.

Kathryn Woodroof (Humanities) asks what is going on with the Guild Council review as the current deficiencies are confusing for her constituents.

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) replies that this is taking longer than expected due to the review encompassing more than just name changes for Guild Council positions.

Ed Bauer asks Tom Marley (VPEA) why he attended a meeting at the University regarding contingency planning for a potential lecturers strike thus taking a stance against a staff Union?

Tom Marley (VPEA) replied that he had taken the side of students as the last time there had been union action against the University this had affected students. Additionally the meeting had not been to 'plan' what the University and Guild would do but to receive information from the University regarding potential issues.

Alex Zatman (Social Sciences) asks who will be communicating information about NUS delegates travel and accommodation arrangements?

Guild Officer Group replies as one that they will sort it out.

James Long (Social Sciences) asks Jennifer Larbie (President) why she broke election regulations by joining a candidates facebook group?

Jennifer Larbie (President) apologises for oversight.

James Long (Social Sciences) proposes a commendation for Hannah Lazell (VPDR) and hands the speech over to Tom Guise (Conservation Volunteers) for the excellent turnout for the elections.

Vote to approve commendation. Commendation Approved 89% (For – 89%, Against – 11%)

James Williams (Social Sciences) notes that 'The Radish' is back and the Guild comes in for a lot of criticism in it. Does the Guild Officer Group have any response?

Jennifer Larbie (President) has heard that it is imaginative but will only act to remove it if students say they don't want it on campus.

Rich Walker (VPSAD) says that the Guild will take the criticism, the only reason 'The Sanctuary' was removed from campus was because of complaints.

James Williams (Social Sciences) notes that the Guild now has a Twitter profile, who is manning it?

Hollie Jones (VPW) Just created it, hadn't thought through that bit yet.

James Williams (Social Sciences) says it was good to see the fountain on the other day, will it be on more regularly now?

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) says she will look into it though it takes along time to get going and cost a lot to run.

James Williams (Social Sciences) asks if the fountain is moving as part of the buildings redevelopment?

Hannah Lazell (VPDR) no.

c). Reports:

★ Officer Team – Approval of submitted Guild Officer Group reports: Approved (62%) (For - 62%, Against - 14%, Abstain - 24%)

Chair reports that 2 reports have not been submitted;

LGBTQ Officer
Disabled Students Officer

Emma O'Dwyer (LGBTQ) apologises for her missing report as she has been busy but asks Guild council to censure her as there is no excuse.

Vote to censure;

LGBTQ Officer: Rejected (60%) (For - 40%, Against 60%)

Disabled Students Officer: Approved (67%) (For 67%, Against 33%)

★ Jennifer Larbie (President) leads the Guild Officer Team on Resolutions Extant.

★ Student Trustee Report

James Ogden (VPHC) leads Guild Officer Group on the report

Dave Borland (Labour) asks whether the candidate can take questions form Guild Council.

James Ogden (VPHC) says that the candidate cannot take questions

Chair suggest that a provisional vote is taken which will be ratified at next Guild Council. In the interim the candidate will answer written questions.

Guild Council is satisfied.

Vote to provisionally approve appointment of Sophie Dowden for the position of Student Trustee of the Guild of Students
Approved (80%) (For: 80%, Against: 9%, Abstain: 11%)

4. Elections and Motions

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
★ e). Motion:	What's Disgusting? Union Busting	Approval	Simple Majority

Amendment to motion moved by Alex Smith (Roleplay)

Amendment accepted by proposer of motion

Chair finds Guild Council to be against a second round of speeches
Round taken

Vote to approve motion: Approved (46%) (For: 46%, Against: 37%, Abstain: 17%)

Meeting closed: 21:15pm

Guild Officer Report

Guild Officer Report to Guild Council

Welcome to the new reporting structure for the Guild Officer Group to Guild Council.

1. Changes to the Guild Officer Group report

This month The Guild Officer Group is changing the way it reports to Guild Council.

Each Officer has a blog:

Jen Larbie <http://jenlarbiepresident.blogspot.com/>

Tom Marley <http://www.tommarleyvpea.blogspot.com>

Hannah Lazell <http://hannahlazellvdr.blogspot.com>

James Ogden <http://jamesogdenvphc.blogspot.com>

Rich Walker <http://richwalkervpsad.blogspot.com>

Mark Smith <http://marksmithvps.blogspot.com>

Hollie Jones <http://holliejonesvpw.blogspot.com>

Pippa Calver <http://philippacalvereeo.blogspot.com/>

Siobhan Dunne <http://siobhandunnehso.blogspot.com>

Chris Nash <http://chrisnashsso.blogspot.com>

Domeneque Di Ciacca <http://domenequediciaccawo.blogspot.com/>

Yasmin Patel <http://yasminpateleemo.blogspot.com/>

Suzy Raily <http://www.suzyrailyarafo.blogspot.com/>

Emma O Dwyer <http://www.emmaodwyerlgbtqo.blogspot.com/>

Guild Officers are responsible for updating these blogs regularly to keep students and Guild Councillors informed. This is the principle method of communication which Officers will have with Guild Councillors and we encourage you to take the time to read them.

The Guild Officer Group will now submit one consolidated report. This will be on the big strategic issues which we think Guild Council should be informed about. You can question us on this report, on something written in our blogs or something else entirely. Don't forget, it is always worth emailing with any queries that you have as often we can answer them more fully ahead of a Guild Council meeting.

The aim of this report is to provide a strategic overview of what is going on within the Guild for Guild Council. Under this new system the blogs are our primary method of communication to students and Guild Councillors. Therefore relatively little is in this report though it is the important stuff. The purpose of the GOG report to GC therefore is to notify GC of the major projects/issues/campaigns within the Guild. To communicate everything else we will use our blogs, which are a better form of communication anyway.

The Guild Officer Group is also trialling video reports which will be hosted on the Guild of Students website.

2. Update on Building redevelopment

Phase 2 of the building redevelopment is progressing. The designs are now complete and presentations are being put together to provide students with information about what will be on offer. Phase 2 includes the new bar food offer (where UB Clothing

and Gifts currently is), refurbishment of the Underground and a renovated retail area in the space outside of Spar. The plans for Phase 3 (the membership services area where Joes currently is located) will be complete by mid-May.

Work is due to commence on 6th July. The retail area will be complete by 31st August with the new bar and food area complete by December (Joes will be open throughout term one and close in December) During term 2 the membership services refurbishment (along with Mermaid Square) will take place and this is all due to be complete by April 2010. By Grad Ball 2010 all building work will be complete

3. Quinquennial Review

Every five years the University is required to do a review of the Guild, in line with the 1994 Education Act.:

'the provisions of the constitution should be subject to the approval of the governing body and to review by that body at intervals of not more than five years;'
http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1994/ukpga_19940030_en_3

In this review a number of things are investigated including: that appointment to major union offices are by election in a secret ballot in which all members are entitled to vote and that such elections are fairly and properly conducted. The review also checks that the financial affairs of the Guild are properly conducted and that the procedure for allocating resources by the Guild to student groups is fair and is set down in writing. Finally the review checks that there is a complaints procedure available to all students or groups of students.

This review has been concluded and these are some of the recommendations that have been made:

- The Terms of Reference and statements of reporting procedure regarding the Guild's committees and groups (particularly in relation to the Trustee Board) are clear and fully documented.
- The procedure for Guild Council meetings continues to develop to focus attention on fundamental issues and demonstrate a more incisive and streamlined process of documentation.
- All delegated Guild expenditure is included in the budget approval process, with amendments, revisions or issues being notified as part of the monthly sharing of accounts with the University and resolved in the quarterly finance meetings.
- Sabbatical Officers are in receipt of the requisite level of training in all financial and operational matters (to include training in maintaining an effective representative function within University committees).
- There is a documented feedback procedure that is tailored towards the provision of a satisfactory remedy for each complaint, with reports to be made to the University on a quarterly basis.

A significant amount of work went into the Quinquennial Review and the Guild will be looking to implement these recommendations.

4. Budget

The draft budget will go to Finance Committee on 11th May for suggestions and will hopefully be approval on 18th May. It will go to the Trustee Board on 1st June before being submitted to Guild Council on 11th June for information.

5. Market Research

The Guild has conducted a significant amount of market research. This was partly through focus groups and then a wider survey, the YourView survey, which had 2322 responses. The focus groups explored the perceived impact of the Guild, democratic participation, communication and overall satisfaction. The student survey asked further questions developed from the focus group responses. Currently the results are being disseminated throughout the organisation and outcomes will be reported to Guild Council at a later date.

6. Guild Council review

The Guild Council review will be concluded this term. Since the Guild Council review group meeting a number of models have been in development. The review group will be meeting to make a recommendation on these models and will be making a recommendation to the June Guild Council.

7. Night bus re-launch

As part of a new taxi contract agreed with Castle Cars the Guild has secured an agreement to re-launch the Night bus. The new service will run from 8th June; 12:30-3:30 every 15 minutes and stop at Oceana, Risa and Gatecrasher

8. Printing charges

Thanks to lobbying by the Guild of Students a number of changes will take place to the cost of printing on campus. The basic cost of printing a black and white A4 sheet will be reduced from 5p to 4p. Also when you print double sided or double paged you will only be charged for one sheet instead of two.

9. Disaffiliations

GOG has decided to disaffiliate from the West Midlands Area NUS (WMANUS) and the National Postgraduate Committee. Disaffiliating from WMANUS will not affect our relationship with the NUS as they are separate organisations.

10. Voter registration campaign

The Guild of Students is currently running a voter registration campaign ahead of the European Elections on 4th June.

Blogging Guidance

This document outlines how the Officer Team can be held to account by students and their Guild Councillors. Accountability is central to any democratic organisation. It bolsters the legitimacy of the elected officers while safeguarding the interests of the members. Officers should seek to be held to account to ensure the legitimacy of their actions. Concurrently Officers desire to be held to account in a constructive, fair and objective manner. It is hoped that all participants of this process have both the best interests of the organisation and the students they represent at heart.

Effective accountability

Effective accountability is the process through which Guild Councillors, on behalf of students, monitor and appraise the actions of the Guild Officer Group. At its core it is based on the ability of Guild Councillors to commend or censure Guild Officers at a meeting of Guild Council.

Guild Councillors should endeavour to be aware of the actions and campaigns of the Guild Officer Group. They can do this through reading the Officer Blogs, reading the Officer Report to Guild Council and emailing the Officers. It is advised that the opportunity is taken to question Officers before a Guild Council meeting by email to ascertain whether there is a simple answer to any query the Guild Councillor may have. If the Guild Councillor is unsatisfied with the response they receive they are encouraged to raise this at a meeting of Guild Council.

Responsibilities of Guild Officers

1. That full-time Officer's should blog at least once a month (at least 3 days before Guild Council) and part-time Officers should blog once every two months (at least 3 days before Guild Council).
2. That this will facilitate direct contact between officers and students and will be written to enhance awareness of their activities.
3. It is intended that this enhanced awareness will ensure officers can be better held to account by students and their Guild Councillors.
4. A balance must therefore be struck between general issues that may interest students and more procedural/operational matters
5. That blogging is a requirement of all officers and they are required to complete this task.
6. Officers are entitled to training on how to blog effectively.

-- A suggested list of topics which Officers may blog on --

- A report of a meeting or event they attended
- Details and updates of a campaign they are running
- Topics of questions they may want feedback on
- Explain any successes they have achieved
- Provide a commentary on a national, local or campus news story
- 'A day-in-the-life of an officer'
- Work undertaken on motions passed at previous Guild Councils
- Promote general Guild events (Guild Awards, Elections, etc)
- Inform and discuss students about activity at the university.

-- Penalties --

Failure to blog in the timeframe required will result in an automatic censure, without the need of a vote, at the next Guild Council.

The Independent Chairs will have the ability to waver this automatic censure if they believe the Officer has good reason why they were unable to blog.

Responsibilities of Guild Councillors

1. Guild Councillors have a responsibility to read Officer Blogs to aid them in their role of holding the Guild Officer Group to account.
2. Guild Councillors are encouraged to post any questions they have as a comment or email the officer.
3. Failing a satisfactory response the Guild Councillor is encouraged to raise the issue at Guild Council.
4. Guild Councillors should encourage their constituents to read the blogs.

Officer report

As stated in policy, the Guild Officer Group will produce a single report for each Guild Council. This should be brief and provide a strategic overview of the organisation. It should supplement the blogs and only be used to highlight key developments which the Officers feel should be brought to the attention of Guild Councillors. It will be agreed by Guild Officer Group before going to Guild Council.

Promotion of blogs

Blogs will be accessible from the Guild of Students website. They will also be promoted through the e-newsletter and if possible through the my.bham portal.

Comments policy

Officers should encourage comments on their blog as this is a form of immediate feedback from students. Officers are entitled to be protected from inappropriate comments and are not required to allow anonymous comments.

Student Groups Committee – summary of meeting held on 6th May 2009

Student Group Recognitions:

The following new groups were approved:

Turkish

Meditation

Agape Student Life

Student Group derecognitions

The Committee considered the results of the Spring 2009 student group audit, and decided to derecognise some groups and to give other groups a deadline extension until the start of June, depending on their individual merits.

Derecognised (7): ARAF, Boxing, Czech & Slovak, Krishna Consciousness, Ironbridge Institute, Capoeira, Spoons, Real Ale & Wine

Extension given: Amnesty, American & Canadian Studies, Islamic, NAPS, People & Planet, SIFE, GMTG

In addition to the groups above, the Committee identified a number of groups that also needed to resolve issues by the start of June or they could face derecognition– these groups were either new groups recognised during the current academic year or volunteering projects or associations:

Bandsoc, Bhangra, Creative Writing, Documentary, Gingesoc, Italian, Rifle, Russian & Eastern European, SAMEEM, Social Policy, Sportex, Trading & Investment, BEMA, HSA, Kids Adventure, LGBTQ, Medsin, MNC, Oxfam, PMSA, Read International, Selly Oak Campus Association, TAPP.

That brings the total number of groups that have issues outstanding and potentially up for derecognition at the next meeting to 30.

Rolling grant allocations

The Committee received a large number of applications, and allocated just under £3500 (unspent money which had been allocated for the Spring term) to the following groups: Friends of MSF, Roleplay, Anime & Manga, scouts & Guides, Student Advice, Dance Club Latino, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Group, Skydiving, ThreeBUGS/BUFF, Wayfarers, Mountaineering.

Other Business

The VPSAD introduced his Events Group motion and the Committee suggested some refinements.

Discipline/complaints procedure – still being drafted

Guild Council reform models, specifically student group attendance at GC and mini forums, not available yet– to be discussed at next meeting.

The Committee will have one more meeting this term, in early June, and will review the rolling grant process at that meeting; if groups have any feedback about the rolling grant, or the SGC itself, please contact the VPSAD or Student Development.

For full minutes of meetings or more details on the Committee, email studentgroups@guild.bham.ac.uk

Motion: While we're in the mood, cold jelly and custard

Guild Council Notes:

1. The only food provision in the Main Library currently is a small vending machine.
2. Many large buildings have 'cafe'-style areas across main campus, which offer a variety of hot and cold food and drink (Gisbert Kapp, Mason Lounge, Physics Coffee Lounge).
3. The Selly Oak Library has a cafe area with decent food and drink provision inside the building.
4. Getting a workspace or computer, especially at exam time, can be very difficult in the busy main library.
5. Students can feel uncomfortable leaving their belongings at a workspace if they have to leave the building to visit University centre, or another area, to purchase food and drink. There are regular instances of theft within the Main Library.
6. To leave the library and visit other buildings is time consuming, and time is a precious commodity which students do not wish to waste during the exam period.
7. The University boasts many cafe outlets across campus and thus clearly has the resources needed to operate such a service.
8. The till system used throughout campus in the University cafes has the potential to be used in conjunction with catered halls' Hub Grub cards. Thus if the catered system is extended (discussions are already being had on this matter) then students will be able to use their cards to purchase food within the library.

Guild Council Believes:

1. There should be a cafe in the Main Library, similar to those run by the University across the rest of main campus.
2. The best place for this to be located would be in the room adjacent to the ground floor iLounge. This room currently houses the vending machine and a decent seating area.
3. The Guild Officer Team should lobby the University to make them aware that this is an important issue for students, particularly as exam time approaches.

4. This is an issue that should be addressed by the outgoing Officer Team as they have built relationships with the necessary University staff members throughout their terms of office, which will help them and may enable faster progress to be made than if left to the new Officers come August.
5. A cafe should be introduced in the Main Library at the earliest opportunity.

Guild Council Resolves:

1. That the Guild should lobby Academic Services and the Main Library directly to create a cafe as soon as possible.
2. The Guild Officer Team should strongly encourage the University to undertake whatever preliminary work is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not a cafe is viable, using the strong relationships they have made and the respect they have gained with University staff throughout their term of office.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. The VPEA to contact Academic Services and the Main Library at the earliest possible opportunity, present them with a copy of this motion, inform them of how this is a real issue that affects students, and ensure that the feasibility of a Main Library cafe is looked into ASAP by the University.
2. The VPEA to blog, detailing the initial University reaction to the request for a cafe, by the end of May 2009.
3. The VPEA to report back to June 2009 Guild Council with full details on the progress of the discussions and explain what steps the Guild has taken to put the necessary pressures on the University. (This can be done in the Resolutions Extant communication, but must be made by the VPEA themselves).

Proposers: James Williams (Social Sciences II)

Seconded: Timm Smith (No Constituency)

Motion: Events Groups

Guild Council Notes:

9. That events are very much at the heart of the entertainment on offer at a student union
10. That students have limited involvement in deciding the Guild's current entertainments and events programme

Guild Council Believes:

6. That in order to ensure that the programme of events taking place at the Guild reflects our members' interests; students need to be involved in the creative process when events are first conceived.
7. That involving students in our events programme seeks to engage a large amount of our membership.
8. That at present as an organisation we lack the infrastructure to allow students to be involved a degree of decision making when it comes to events at the Guild.
9. That we need to establish a formal relationship between our membership and the organisation which will help students who seek to put on events within their own union.
10. That events management provides transferable skills relevant to prospective employers.

Guild Council Resolves:

3. To recognise Events Groups as a new type of student group
4. That such Events Groups have open membership in order to engage a greater number of students in the creative process.
5. That Events Groups will be responsible for creating specific events at the Guild.
6. That such groups will work with the Guild, existing student groups and the membership at large in order to achieve this aim.

Guild Council Mandates:

4. The President and the Vice President (Student Activities and Development) to alter Bye Law 9 of the Constitution to encompass this new type of student group.
5. The Vice President (Student Activities and Development) to embed the powers of Events Groups in the Guild's Guidance and Strategy
6. The Student Groups Committee to have jurisdiction over the recognition of Events Groups in the first instance.

Proposed: Richard Walker - Vice President (Student Activities and Development)
Seconded: Catharine Taylor – Social Sciences Postgraduate
Frankie Ward – BurnFM.com
Sam Harrow – Biosciences

Motion: Save Coventry SU

Guild Council Notes:

1. Coventry University Students' Union has been running bars and commercial services for over 40 years.
2. The venue is a core activity for their Union, which supports other core departments of the Union.
3. The Coventry University and Union had agreed that the venue in their new building would be managed by the students union
4. In a recent meeting between Coventry University Students' Union and Senior Coventry University Staff, the Students' Union was informed that the agreed option was no longer seen by the Coventry University as in the University's best interests.
5. The contract for the management of the venue facilities in the new building will now be put out to tender for external private organisations.

Guild Council Believes:

1. That the venue is the only guaranteed social safe space for Coventry students within the city and that the venue attracts a variety of people for a diverse range of activities.
2. The Coventry University has misled its Union and has taken advantage of its generous consultative services and free expertise from our staff and students, whilst concealing plans
3. That the University has deceived the Union and used this opportunity to take advantage of potential financial benefits in order to maximise profit from the building and its students.
4. That a private corporation may not be able to safeguard the interests and wellbeing of Coventry students.
5. The priorities of the Coventry University favour profit before students as they are concerned about maximising profit outside of term time making the venue profit driven and likely not to be a student only venue.
6. The Coventry University Students Union makes decisions based on student needs and not on commercial grounds.
7. Coventry University Students Union will lose the ability to run events such as One World Week, Halls Parties, Society Socials, Fresher's ball, Fresher's fair, Varsity rallies, Society practice sessions and could have a detrimental effect on Union activity.

8. The loss of income will have a crippling effect on the Union and its ability to provide quality representation and services to all students.

9. That Unions should support one another in times of difficulty and we should support Coventry University Students Union in their campaign.

10. That if this were to happen at Birmingham, then it would have a detrimental effect on the students here and it would have a devastating effect on the student experience.

Guild Council Resolves:

1. To support the students and officers at Coventry Students' Union in fighting against this decision by the University.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. For the Officer Team to write to the Executive Committee at Coventry Students' Union to show their support and offer any help where needed.

Proposed: Hannah Lazell – VPDR
Siobhan Dunne – HSO
Jennifer Larbie – President
Hollie Jones – VPW
Rich Walker – VPSAD
Emma O'Dwyer – LGBTQO

Seconded: James Ogden – VPHC
Tom Marley – VPEA
Pippa Calver – EEO
Mark Smith - VPS

The Birmingham Delegate Protection Act (2009)

Guild Council Notes

1. There have been a number of incidents at NUS events this year, that have compromised the safe space of delegates
2. That delegates from the Guild have been affected by such incidents
3. That the treatment of a Birmingham delegate, by committee members, steering and the national officer (open place) of the NUS LGBT campaign at LGBT conference in April is the most recent example of such an incident.
4. That NUS LGBT Conference delegates were discouraged from holding their committee and national officers to account.

Guild Council Believes

1. The Guild of Students has a duty of care to students representing Birmingham at any conference or event.
2. That NUS should place delegate welfare as a priority, and have procedures in place and dedicated trained staff or volunteers to ensure that any delegate who feels uncomfortable or unsafe receives the appropriate support.
3. That until these procedures are in place the Guild should not send delegates to conferences organised by the NUS LGBT campaign
4. That the delegate affected is owed an apology for the way they were treated at the conference
5. The NUS LGBT committee and national officers have a duty to make time for and encourage delegates to hold them to account at NUS LGBT Conferences.

Guild Council Mandates

1. The President, VP Welfare and LGBTQ Officer write a letter detailing the incident that occurred at NUS LGBT Conference 2009 and this motion, as a formal complaint to be investigated to the president of NUS.
2. To not register delegates to NUS LGBT conferences in the future until the LGBTQ Association and VP Welfare are satisfied that significant improvements have been made with regard to Guild Council Believes 2,4 and 5.

Proposed: Emma O'Dwyer- LGBTQ Officer

Seconded: Hollie Jones- Vice President (Welfare) Jennifer Larbie- President, James Ogden- Vice President (Housing and Community), Pippa Calver- Ethical and Environmental Officer, Siobhan Dunne- Home Students Officer, Mark Smith- Vice President (Sport), Rich Walker- Vice President (Student Activities and Development) Tom Marley- Vice President (Education and Access) Hannah Lazell- Vice President (Democracy and Resources)