

guildofstudents

Minutes of Guild Council – 6pm Thursday 17th January 2008

Hannah Lazell, Will Stevens and Fabian Neuner

The Committee of Independent Chairpersons

indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk

List of Attendees of meeting of Guild Council on 17th January 2008

Elizabeth Birmingham (Anime and Manga)	Becki Cox (Anglican society)	Adam Morris (Ballroom)	Rebecca Levy (BEDsoc)
Fareeda Miah (BEMA)	David Heath (Bridge Society)	Stephanie Roberts (Carnival)	Rachel Hudd (Carnival)
N Rodgers (Cathsoc)	Sharlene Greene (Circus soc)	Emma Galliano (COGS)	Catherine Goode (Comp and Vid Soc)
Matthew Dunn (Darts)	Matt Szeto (Debating society)	Grant Mizen (D of E award)	James Long (Econ Soc)
Adam Tiley (Engineer Without borders)	Heather Roberts (Ethical trade)	Joel Faulkner (German)	Edward Power (Green Soc)
Siobhan Dunne (Home Students)	Emma O'Dwyer (LGTBQ)	Stuart Brown (LGTBQ)	Elaine Bagshaw (Liberal Democrats)
Yasmin Ausari (Loc Soc)	Alana Tooze Niteline	Ben Aylott (People and Planet)	Soo Guan Ng (Photographic)
Byron Melly (Paintball)	Farshad Eslami (Persian)	Steve Streatfield (Redbrick)	Matthew Young (Rock)
Alex Smith (Roleplay)	Kayleigh Davis (Slobs)	Greg de Quidt (SMPS)	Jessica Blaynee (Social Sciences)
Desha Wasala (Sri Lankan)	Frances Norris (Student Advice)	Marek Zaremba-Pike (United Nations)	Nicholas Oram (Wayfarers)
Siobhan Lyttle (Wilderness medicine)	D di Ciacca (Womens)	Deborah Brewes (Womens)	Oliver Beach (Business 1 st)
Rob Rosenberg (Business 1 st)	Thomas Brown (Business ordinary)	Simon Menashy (Business post grad)	Said Abdullahi (Computer sci 1 st)
Hayden Cohen (Education ordinary)	Kim Copitch (Engineering 1 st)	David Remington (Engineering 1 st)	Jonathan Sussman (Engineering ord)
Phillippa Calver (Environmental 1 st)	Chris Nash (Environmental 1 st)	Alissa Field (Environmental ord)	Rob Hunter (Historical stud 1 st)
Tom Marley (Historical ord)	Ed Sparks (Historical ord)	Alan Johnson (Historical ord)	Paul McMaster (Historical ord)

Tom Whittaker (Historical ord)	Alexander Warents (Law 1 st)	Laura Smith (Medicine ord)	Georgina Barrows (Medicine ord)
Amy Squire (Medicine ord)	El Rivers (Medicine ord)	Brigid Jones (Physics ordinary)	Steven Johnson (Physics ordinary)
Bryn WJ Gough (Psychology 1 st)	Richard Charlton (Psychology ord)	Gary Hughes (Public policy Pgrad)	Peter Mason (Social science ord)
Matt Reeves (Social science ord)	Tom guise (Social science ord)	Aimee odedra (Aitken)	Christopher Hughes (Douper hall)
Miranda May Groves (Elgar court)	Louise Mason (Elgar court)	Tom Wardell (Elgar court)	Sophie Bailey (Elgar court)
Jon Allsop (FOCSOC)	James Hayward (FOCSOC)	David Hooper (FOCSOC)	Jon Kirby (Hunter court)
Anneka Brooke (hunter court)	Kathryn Bonham (Jarratt)	James illing (Maple bank)	Rachel Lomas (Maple bank)
Opal one Alan Pooley	Opal one Claire Lister	Frank Wilcox (Pritchatts park)	Peter John Clark (Pritchatts park)
Rob Woodward (QHC)	Tasha Hartley (QHC)	Matthew Lumb (Shackleton)	Rachel Tribbick (Tennis courts)
Timothy Stillwell (Tennis Courts)	James Williams (Tennis Courts)	Mike Gough (Tennis Courts)	Rachel Jones (Tennis Courts)
Sam Harrow (Tennis Courts)	Matthew Baker (Beeches)	Stephanie Taylor (Beeches)	Manoj Sharma (Victoria halls)
Dani Walters (Victoria Halls)			

Apologies

Conservation, Paul Beswick, Sci-Fi, Mai Thai, Medsin, Labour, Women's Association, Suzy Railley, Kitten Orwally, Carmen (law).

Welcome from Fabian Neuner:

- Explained the role of Guild Council.
- Commendation for ARAF Officer awarded at December Guild Council presented.
- Maiden speaking rights explained.
- Voting pads explained and tested.
- Count of quorum – 89 voting Guild Councillors in the room – Meeting opened.

1. Starring of the Agenda and approval of the Executive's Recommendations and all unstarred business from Sub-Quorum

Agenda Items Starred – 1, 2, 4a.a., 4a.c, 4b, 4c, 5 6a, 6c

Vote to approve all unstarred items on agenda. **Vote Passed (78%).**
(For – 78%, Against – 6%, Abstain – 16%)

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Guild Council held on Thursday 17th January 2008

Frank Wilcox, stated that some names wrong. Tom Guise, not Tommy/Toby Guise and Shaz Greene, surname has E on the end.

Approval of minutes from last Guild Council: **Approved (78%)**
(For: 78%, Against - 9%, Abstain - 13%)

3. Ratifications

Ratifications from sub quorum

GC decision in Sub Quorum

Procedural Motions motion

Rejection

Student Group Membership Efficiency

Referral

Ratifications of constitution changes

Guild Council Decision

Overhaul of Standing Orders

Approve

Guild Television

Approve

Ratifications all passed in vote on unstarred items.

4. Reports, questions, communications, and suggestions

Reports, Questions, Communications and Suggestions

a). Reports: Executive Officers (excluding PMSO report)

Questions

Tom Brown (Business) asked the President if we don't get 3000 votes, is the vote a failure given the significant amount of time spent on it. She replied yes, if we don't get the 3000 (approx) votes it will be a failure, and we will need to look at

the reasons why this was the case, for example, was it due to reasons outside of our control.

The Satellite Sites Officer asked the Vice President Welfare about the Nightbus. He stated that it was a great idea, but asked about the problems the night before and asked what was being done to resolve the issues that emerged. The Vice President Welfare responded by stating that regrettably there was an incident, the night bus had to be cancelled for that evening but she assured that the safety of students was of foremost concern. She indicated that the matter was being looked into to make it safer and get it up and running properly. This may mean however that it is off the road for a while.

Gary Hughes (Public Policy) asked the President when the Guild Council would see the work of the strategic plan. The President replied that they have drafted the general outline of what they would like to see and the Executive would together be formulating the plan. The Strat plan would then be shown to students to see if that's what they wanted, after which it would be submitted to Guild Council for approval.

The Vice President Democracy and Resources was asked about the referendum and what was the contingency if we don't get 3000 votes. The Vice President Democracy and Resources stated that it was 'not the end of the world' if we don't get the required vote. The Guild has until 2009 to make the changes and so there is still the next year. As such we will have to try again, although he said that this was not ideal.

Gary Hughes (Public Policy) asked the Vice President Education and Access about how all officers mentioned congregation and asked if this was the best use of Officers time. The Vice President Education and Access explained about congregations, and said that there are lots of academics on stage. She also stated that when she graduated she knew no one else on the stage except for Guild members.

Question asked regarding reports as a whole. At the beginning of the year some officers offered prizes related to their reports. Now all officers seem to be doing it. Do you feel this is appropriate? The Vice President Democracy and Resources said that activities that are put in are to incentives people reading the reports as well as to engage them with what is going on. He also mentioned that it is Guild policy for officers to write blogs and this was also a way to get students reading the blogs.

Tom Marley (Historical Studies) asked if every officer has started blogging yet and if so, are they enjoying it? The President said that she enjoyed it, but for her it was a case of finding time to do it. But said that all officers were trying to. The Vice president Housing and Community said that everyone tries to put time into their blogs, but particularly for the non sabbatical offices this could be hard to do.

Rob Hunter (Historical Studies) asked how people accessed the blogs. The Vice President Democracy and Resources indicated that anyone could go to www.guildofstudents.com and then look in the executive section where they could find a link under every photo.

Elaine Bagshaw (Liberal Democrats) stated that all visible marketing was about the Executive Elections and not about the Referendum. She questioned the Vice President Democracy and Resources what, if anything is being done with regards to the referendum. He said that the reason why there were no posters was because Guild Council hadn't approved the referendum. But he listed things that were being done whilst they were waiting for approval; poster design, RA training, University support.

Shaz Greene (Purple Mermaid) asked if and when the Nightbus came back could the routes be better advertised as some people had waited outside Oceana on the wrong side of the road. It was also added that the Nightbus had dropped some people off at the Pritchatts Park stop 20 minutes away from Pritchatts Park itself. The Vice President Welfare stated that the bus should actually drop people at Pritchatts Park and assured Guild Council that she would speak to the bus company.

*Vote to approve all reports except PMSO, **Passed 90%. Therefore the Reports were accepted** (For: 90%, Abstain: 1%, Against: 9%).*

a). Reports: PMSO Report

FN (Chair) – PMSO 6 days late. Call for speech to accept report

There was no speech to reject the report.

The Post Graduate and Mature Students Officer - speech to accept the report; Sorry that it arrived late but this was due to a heavy workload with a lot of exams. Hopes it would not happen again and emphasised that although late, she did submit the report.

Questions on PMSO report

Gary Hughes (Public Policy) questioned that a lot of his constituents are distant learners and asked that the PMSO think of ways to engage with these students. PMSO stated that for those students not on campus it is possible for them to email her.

Vote to approve report, **Passed 70%. The report was therefore accepted.** (For: 70%, No: 12%, Abstain: 18%)

a). Reports: Report from Resolutions Extant (President)

The New Guild Trustee Board

Guild Council to be asked today to call a referendum to approve the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the move to a Company Limited by Guarantee

Access and Admissions

Sent to NUS for inclusion in NUS Annual Conference in April 2008

Childcare in HE

Sent to NUS for inclusion in NUS Annual Conference in April 2008

Environmental Policy

Policy is now a working policy

Student Advice Constitution

Student Advice now in-acting this.

Student Group Membership Efficiency

Referred to Student Activities Exec. This hasn't met yet but will go there when it next meets.

Shaz Greene (Purple Mermaid) asked what had happened to CAO report. Report was not accepted but Independent Chairs, so automatic move to censure the CAO

Speech for (Shaz Greene, Purple Mermaid) - hoped that CAO would have learned from last year's Com officer. There was also no update on his blog either indicating a lack of communication.

Speech against censure (VPW) - CAO should not be judged on past officers and he has put in a report at every other meeting. Therefore he shouldn't be censured for this.

Vote to censure - **Passed**

b). Communications:

Communication from the Warden

Independent Chairs stepped down and Tom Whittaker took the Chair

President introduced the communication, and referred to tabled report on investigation into the Independent Chairs.

Acting Chair, Tom Whittaker indicated that because the Independent Chair's had been found guilty of misconduct Guild Council had the opportunity to vote on whether to take further action on this matter.

Vote to not take action – passed, (72%).

c). Opportunity for Questions, and Suggestions

Shaz Greene (Purple Mermaid) – Is the DSO here, and if not, why not? Would like to call for a vote to commend the VPW for all her work, not just on the Nightbus

Speech for Commendation of VPW (Francis Norris) - She's been doing a lot of other work and has been there for student advice.

Speech Against commendation of VPW (Tom Brown) - As an individual VPW gets singled out but it's a team effort. She already has Commendation.

Vote in favour of commendation – passed (For: 68%, against: 32%)

The President was questioned that considering that all society grants are over subscribed, how can you justify the exec officers and staff spending 2 nights in a hotel? The President replied saying that we worked into the night, so staying over helped. Amy Squire (Medsin) asked why they did not get a taxi home rather than staying over? The President replied that some staff don't live close.

Matt Reeves suggested that maybe there should be a list of local doctors on the website. The Exec replied that would be good and would action this.

Ed Sparkes raised that next GC was on Valentines day and asked of any ideas to liven up meeting? VPDR replied that he would bring a chocolate fountain.

The Vice President Democracy and Resources questioned in the last GC about the sale of Real Ale, but it was stated that there was no proof of any sales. Do we have any proof that there is? VPDR answered that he has been assured there is.

It was asked if the minutes are appropriate for this meeting? The President replied that GC has been ratifying them, so until they stop being ratified, will be deemed appropriate.

The SSO was questioned about what was happening at Selly Oak? The SSO replied that the OLRC café is opening up in first week of Feb, seating for 70 people. Rendezvous space will become a social space open until 5pm. Laura Morris asked is the social space University run or Guild run. The Satellite Sites Officer didn't know but would get you an answer. The Vice President Education & Access answered that the University will run it and that there will still be space for students to do what they want, like having a common room.

The VPDR was asked if the building development plans could be shown. He stated that he spent the last semester tweaking plans. Qf end of last semester

approved plans as exec. A Meeting with University rearranged until 1st Feb, so hopefully the plans will be shown you at next GC.

Elaine Bagshaw asked the President/VPDR, if there were any plans to bring in after visiting Nottingham Students Union. President answered that a lot of how they do their constitution has been useful with our bye-law work. VPDR replied that the food at GC is because of visit to Notts.

Roc Soc, asked the VPDR of the re-branding of the Guild and stated that this is a chance to re-launch the website. For example, the forums could be better laid out. He answered that the launch of website did coincide with re-brand and is an improvement on old website because of the e-voting.

Shaz Greene (Purple Mermaid) suggested to make anything tabled A5 not A4. Also, colour coding of areas was mentioned with the re-brand, but this is not happening. VPDR replied that this we are reviewing our communication strategy.

5. Elections

Election for Elections Committee (Ordinary member)

The VPDR stated that one of our election committee members stepped down so there was a position available. There are lots of elections this semester so it is exciting to join, but it is quite a demanding job. If you want to run then you need to be non biased, fair, and open-minded. Also, you can not be a member of a campaign team or standing in any of the elections.

Candidates

- Shaz Greene
- Frank Wilcox
- RON

Questions

1. Any of you members of political parties on campus?

Frank Wilcox – No

Shaz Greene – No – commitments lie elsewhere

2. How do you plan to increase turnout with e-voting? (Tom Marley)

Shaz Greene – advertise it, make people aware of e-voting, how to find it etc.

Frank Wilcox – people need an incentive to vote. Free food or something to get them to vote.

3. Elections right before dissertations etc. it gets quite hectic. Do you believe you can balance the times?

Frank Wilcox - I have done a dissertation in one night. I am here to have a good time and get the best out of it.

Shaz Greene – I am involved in extra activities. I came to University for the experience and I got onto the course because of the extra stuff I do.

4. Ed Sparkes – what are your views on campaigning on Facebook?

Shaz Greene – feels better that people had one main group to go to. The distinct guidelines need to be made clear. There should be proper guidelines to show what happens.

Frank Wilcox – with e-voting, how can we control the internet? It happens naturally so societies cannot say anything about elections or will be bias. Harsh but what else can you do.

Vote, Shaz Greene– 35%, Frank – 17%, RON – 49% (elected)

The nominations were re-opened

VPDR explained what being on elections committee means. It is a great chance to help the Guild do what it does best.

Candidates

- Tom Whittaker
- John Kirby
- RON

Speeches:

Tom Whittaker - will stand down as chairman of society chair in February. He wants to make sure exec next year is the best that it can be to go forward. Stated the he has the commitment and the organisation and flexibility.

John Kirby - stated that he had no experience, but he has been here for 2 months and would like to be part of anything he could. Has a lot going on but would want to be as involved as possible.

Questions:

Frank Wilcox - Do you think that a fresh perspective is required for elections committee?

John Kirby- don't know if it is required, but know that it will help.

Tom Whittaker– hope that who ever wins will take the advice of others.

Catherine Boollom - Why did neither of you run first time around?

Tom Whittaker– needed time to consider it.

Jon Kirby – didn't hear the first time, and also wanted to consider it.

Elaine Bagshaw - Will you dedicate the time to elections and attend meetings etc?

John Kirby – yes, I would try to get involved in as much as can.

Tom Whittaker – I know what frustration feels like; I am committed to this and committed to the time.

Vote, John Kirby – 44% Tom Whittaker– 54% (elected) RON – 3%

6. Motions

a) Motion: Referendum

Speech for (the President) – This has been a long time coming. Already been agreed by the trustee board, and we have been debating this in GC for a long time. The Memorandum and Articles of Association have been approved by Constitutions Committee. The document is about the legal compliance of the organisation. The question is quite long, but the way we present that in referendum will be more appealing. We can still amend the Memorandum and Articles of Association the same way as we can with old Constitution after it is passed.

Speeches Against and in Abstention were formally waived

Questions:

It was asked how much funding there is for no campaign? It was replied that as Exec we need to make it is a free and fair debate.

Vote for motion passed: 94% (For: 94% Against: 2% Abstain: 5%)

b) Motion: Women's Association Constitution – **Passed during vote for unstarred items**

c) Motion: Med School – **Passed during vote for unstarred items**

d) Motion: Niteline - **Passed during vote for unstarred items**

e) Motion: Arms Dealers

First Round of Speeches

For: Tax payers paying for arms dealers. The Guild will be bale to lobby to University for ethical investment. More students campaigned against the BAE than came to listen to an event.

Against: Steven Johnstone (Physics) - received 7 replies from constituents saying how much they did not like it. As they are not really arms dealers, but they are research and manufacturing companies, which physics students, go to work for.

Banning these companies stops freedom of choice. Rolls Royce makes engines for jet fighters, and other companies who make parts. How far do we take this?

Abstain: Tom Marley, I am not sure how to vote, but I believe that as a Guild we can make a moral stance. As a Guild are we a campaigning Guild who will set out its marker and say this is what we believe, or this is something that we shouldn't campaign on. Will this stance have consequences? Will it give Birmingham a bad reputation?

Second Round of Speeches

For: Lizzy Bow (P&P) - it is in the interests of students. It is important that Birmingham students have freedom of choice but there is a difference between allowing students to choose who they want to work for and stopping unethical companies accessing our students. Stalls at careers fairs are expensive so are not accessible to a lot of companies. Other motions like this have been passed, such as Shell and BP.

Against: Richard Charlton (Psychology) - BAE do a lot more than just create weapons. The equipment to gather intelligence and fight terrorism comes from BAE. It is not an easy company to get access to already, but this will make it harder.

Abstain: Brigid Jones (Physics) - 226 seconders, only 30 were business and science engineering students. If unlikely to be employed by company, should abstain.

Third Round of Speeches

For: Amy Squire - this motion won't stop arms companies on campus. It challenges the companies that we want to get off campus.

Against: David Remington (Engineering with Business Management) - the idea of not having BAE systems and Kinetic at fairs is ludicrous. It should be students who decide, not the people sitting in GC, who don't study the degrees or want to work for these companies.

Abstain: Vice President Activities and Development - it is not an argument about whether someone can go work for the company as they can. It's a moral decision, anyone confused because of the nature of speeches should abstain.

Questions:

1. Tom Brown - Why did the Exec approve this motion?
President replied that there are a substantial number of students in favour of this motion. The motion is about students deciding the ethics of their Guild.

2. Simon Menashy - Why is a lot of effort being put into this motion, could they only get 30 Science and Business students out of 800-100 who attended fair.

The E&EO – at the fair you talk about, 250 signatures obtained. Most people wouldn't sign it because they were in a hurry.

5. Tim Stillwhart (Tennis courts) - Is the Guild going to ban other unethical companies such as Aracdia?

The E&EO replied that if students want to do that, they can put a motion to GC.

6. Catherine (CBG) - If people are aware of the money BAE gives to charities?
Amy Squire - tell that to the dead people.

7. Louise Rudd - Do the Exec think if this motion passes it will be successful considering how much the University gets from these companies?

The E&EO – More powerful than just a few student groups. Long term campaign won't be sorted overnight.

The President - Campaigning is about keeping hope on an issue. We lobby the University on other issues that we may not win. We don't campaign always to win but to make your point.

Call of Procedural Motion – put to cross campus ballot

5 voting cards shown

Speech For Procedural Motion: Shaz Greene (Purple Mermaid) - I Keep changing how I will vote, and hearing that this affects students and work. I feel that all students should have a chance to vote on this. We won't get the opinions of people across different areas.

Speech Against Procedural Motion: Stuart Brown - we are the elected reps and we are here to represent. A cross campus election will waste time and money when we have to concentrate on the governance referendum.

Call of quorum – 61 members in the room. Meeting still quorum.

Vote on Procedural Motion to hold cross campus ballot – **Motion Falls**

For: 20% Against: 80%

Speech in summation: Ethical and Environmental Officer

We already have policy on not giving platforms to companies. The motion has a lot of support. Most of BAE's trade is with countries with questionable human rights. This is more about the ethical nature of the company and who it works with. We should not be providing weapons to countries.

Vote on motion: Motion does not pass, 56%.

(For – 27% Against – 56% Abstain – 16%)

f) Motion: Avanti: Humm...not so sure – **Passed during vote for unstarred items**

Meeting closed 20:55