

# guildofstudents

Agenda for meeting of Guild Council – 6.15pm Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Will Stevens, Hannah Lazell, Fabian Neuner

The Committee of Independent Chairpersons - [indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk)

## List of Attendees of meeting of Guild Council on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008

Tim Stillwell (Business Ordinary)	Simon Menashy (Business PG)	Hayden Cohen (Education Ord)	Robert Hosking (Engineering Ord)
Pippa Calver (GEES 1 <sup>st</sup> Year)	Chris Nash (GEES 1 <sup>st</sup> year)	Chris Blewitt (Ordinary)	Suzy Raily (History 1 <sup>st</sup> yr)
Tom Marley (History Ordinary)	Ed Sparkes (History Ordinary)	Alan Johnson (History Ordinary)	Camilla Onwordi (Humanities 1 <sup>st</sup> yr)
Charmian Werren (Law Ordinary)	Johnny Davis (Law Ordinary)	Adam Sher (Medicine Ord)	Amy Squire (Medicine Ord)
Brigid Jones (Physics Ord)	Steven Jones (Physics Ord)	Bryn Gough (Psychology 1 <sup>st</sup> yr)	James Williams (Social Sci Ord)
Anna Loosley (Social Sci Ord)	Preena Mistry (Social Sci Ord)	Matt Reeves (Social Sciences Ord)	James Long (Social Sci Ord)
Natalie Nerwal (Aitken)	Ashley Chambers (Aitken)	Rumbie Mushangi (Elgar)	Louise Mason (Elgar Court)
Emma Papworth (Jarratt)	Kathryn Woodruff (Jarratt)	Claire Lister (Opal One)	Frank Wilcox (Pritchatts Park)
Rachel Tribbick (Tennis Courts)	Sam Harrow (Tennis Courts)	Peter Haagensen (IQ5)	Olujunmilayo Olutoye (African and Caribbean Society)
Joanne Hayward (Amnesty)	Rebecca Cox (Anglican)	Hannah Robins (Artsoc)	Rosanna Kember (Artsoc)
Lauren Russel (Article 19)	Rebecca Levy (Bedsoc)	Steve Wheeler (Brumsurf)	Rachel Hudd (Carnival)
Cath Taylor (Carnival)	Rachel Rodgers (Cathsoc)	Matt Lazell (Chess)	Emma Gold (Spoons)
Dean Cleaver (Video and Computer Games)	Erin Leahy (Dance)	Nick Oram (Wayfarers)	Laura Jones (Dance Club Latino)
Tom Whittaker (Debating)	Sarah Cunningham (Diving)	Steve Streatfield (DofE)	Martyn Wormald (Econsoc)
Jo Murch (Ethical Trade)	Daniel Lo (Far Eastern Connexions)	Stuart Brown (Student Advice)	Dharshini Kunahlan (Sri Lankan)
Paul Morris (Fetish)	Alice Fergie (Fusion)	Hannah Ward (GTV)	Steve Lowry (GTV)
Tom Green (GMTG)	Sophie Bailey (German)	Victoria Holt (Gothsoc)	Pritesh Gokani (Hindu soc)
Yuri Villonga Stanton (Hispanic soc)	James Reid (Student Advice)	Katie Wilson (Home students)	Siobhan Dunne (Home Students)
Elisabeth Hensridge (infinity)	Sanjay Kumar Singh (Indian)	Jon Tutcher (JAB soc)	Christopher Gillespie (Talking Hands)
Mari Hirata (Japanese)	Shona Choudry (Ten Pin Bowling)	Emma McDowell (3Bugs Fringe)	Aron Lewis (Jewish)
Chaitanya Pankhania (Krishna Consciousness)	Tom Guise (Labour Students)	Ruben Dario Peralta (Latin American)	Emma O'Dwyer (LGBTQ)
Katie Weston (LGBTQ)	Laura Thompson (Life Saving)	Ben Fairbairn (Links)	Sarah Blackaby (locsoc)
Tom Sanders (Marrow)	Victor Landassuri Moreno (Mexican)	Alana Tooze (Muay Thai)	Glyndwr Spence (NapSoc)

Henrik Veikhanmas (United Nations)	Joshua Blayney (Navigators)	Frances Norris (Niteline)	Tim Gilbert (Nordic)
Hester Enthoven (Oxfam)	Clare Fowles (Tribesoc)	Saadia Sajid (Pakistani)	Ben Aylott (People and Planet)
Tom Farmery (Paintball)	Yasen PAshapour (Persian)	Sarah Cunningham (Wilderness Medicine)	Gemma Woolsey (Ale and Wine)
Joel Faulkener (Redbrick)	Jonathan Boissonade (Rock)	Alex Smith (Roleplay)	Leanne Mountford (SCi-Fi)
Mary Burgess (Scout and Guide)	Laura Sterling (SMPS)	Erin Pockley (Spoons) <b>not voting</b>	Davood Godarzi (Persian) <b>Not voting</b>
Andy Lewis (Chess) <b>Not Voting</b>	Kate Clarkson (Dance) <b>Not Voting</b>	Tsz Wai Woo (Far Eastern Connexions) <b>Not Voting</b>	Anne de Bray (Far Eastern Connexions) <b>Not voting</b>
Marc Joss (Hispanic) <b>Not Voting</b>	Rosie Hamps (JAB soc) <b>Not voting</b>	Anna Yoshioka (Japanese) <b>Not voting</b>	Morihito Yamamoto (Japanese) <b>Not voting</b>
Kate Weiler (Oxfam) <b>Not voting</b>	Sarah Griffiths (NAPS) <b>Not Voting</b>		

### Apologies –

Kim Copitch (Engineering 1<sup>st</sup> Year), Alex Warents (Law 1<sup>st</sup> Year), obert Rosenberg (Business 1<sup>st</sup> Year), Anna Lawton (Social Sciences 1<sup>st</sup> yr), David Mouriquand (Article 19), Naomi Tomlinson (Medicine 1<sup>st</sup> yr), Adam Sher (Medicine), Paloma Sackman (Humanities), Rob Tomback (Law), ACS, Muay Thai, Burn, Sci-Fi, Civil Engineering, Conservation Volunteers, Labour, Methsoc, Investment Society, Richard Charlton, Georgina Burrows, Poker Society, Social Sciences, Malik Mohiuddeen, Tom Wittaker, James Williams, German, Sam Harrow, Focsoc, Purple mermaid, Batsoc, Brumski

### Welcome from the Independent Chairs

Fabian in the Chair, Hannah Steering, Will absent

- 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 –106 voting Guild Councillors in the room – Meeting opened.

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

Agenda items starred – 5a, b, and c, 6.

Vote to approve all unstarred items on agenda including all ratifications and Motions.

**Vote Passed** For – 83%, Against – 7%, Abstain 10%

## 2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Guild Council held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2008

James Williams asked first question to VPDR

German society were present but not in the minutes

Approval of minutes from last Guild Council: **Approved (88%)**

(For: 88%, Against - 3%, Abstain - 9%)

### 3. Elections

#### a). Elections Committee (2 Guild Councillors)

VPDR explained the role to GC

Candidates:

- Claire Lister
- James Reid
- James Long
- RON

Speeches

James Long

- Would want to do this more than independent chair. Would give this my full commitment. Ran an election, so have experience of what needs to happen. Not that happy with way last Exec elections were run and think it can be improved.

Claire Lister

- Think its an important decision and should be thought about carefully. Feel part of the guild and want to be more a part of the Guild. Ran in the RA elections. Motivated and strong person who can do a running jump and make it something I would like to do.

James Reid

- Recently started Guild elections/ democracy thing. Possible the rules are a bit more stringent than should be so would look to change this. If you want impartiality and the new guy I'm the one.

Questions:

Hayden Cohen (Education) – Are you considering running in any election next academic year?

JR – I am because I'm setting up a group in the Guild so will have to run for President of a committee.

CL – I am considering going for a position but if get this position then will probably wait and get further experience before running.

JL – Ran for president last year, so definitely not running for an Officer position next year.

Tom Marley (History) – What fresh ideas do you think you could bring to elections to increase engagement?

JR – Referendum doubled the election – we have the model to double election turnout – let's transport the referendum model onto elections.

CL – Referendum campaign was an amazing campaign –will continue with that same commitment and continue with the contribution of so many people.

JL – election turnouts are not good. Main reason is that people don't know what they are voting for. Students not told what people do before the election. Online voting a good idea but need to get a quicker system.

Fran Norris (Nightline) – Elections committee is a large time commitment. How are you going balance your time?

JL – Am a good manager of time, but am here for degree. However, I don't study for it for 24 hours a day.

CL – as RA I've not balanced time well, but will learn from past experiences

JR – I'm here for a degree, but have 11 contact hours per week. Spent a lot of time training for student advice and managed to fit it all in.

#### **b). Independent Chairs (1 Full Member)**

VPDR explained the role

Candidates:

- Jack Farmelo
- Katy Wilson
- Alex Smith
- RON

As one of the candidates not present, no questions can be put to the candidates.

Alex Smith

- Spent last month thinking whether to be independent chair, am well qualified for this job and am secretary of a society committee. Have spent a lot of time looking through the new byelaws etc and looking for the loop holes.

Kaie Wilson

- A second year law student, came to law school to learn about the spirit of the constitution, which is fitting for the current state of the Guild. It is important that somebody is able to not just look at wording but what we are trying to pass. Only my 2<sup>nd</sup> Guild Council, but wanted to check that I would enjoy doing this. Will take the position of Master of the Moot this year, will have to chair the competitions, showing my independence.

Jack Farmelo (speech given on his behalf by Tim Stillwell)

- Believe some things need to be changed. Although progress is being made forward, there is still not enough transparency. Will be able to put time aside to make sure Council meetings run efficiently and effectively.



#### **4. Reports, questions, communications, and suggestions**

##### **a). Reports:**

###### ★ Executive Officers

VPW Report – *Tabled*

VPHC Report – *Tabled*

WO Report – *Tabled*

ISO Report – *Tabled*

Questions:

Ed Sparkes (History) to VPHC - Freshers Fest packages last year did not have big saving for students.. This year are we offering basic packages or the Platinum range?  
VPHC - We will be offering packages but will be different to last year.

Tom Guise (Labour Students) to VPDR – Login voting should be the same as mybham. Is this possible?

VPDR – need to discuss the bonding of the website with the University once we confirm the website. We hope to make this bond by the first e-vote.

All Exec Officers except DSO, BEMO and CSO submitted reports

**Vote to approve all reports submitted – Passed (85%) therefore Reports were accepted.**

85% For, 5% Against, 10% abstain.

Reports not submitted:

### **Move to automatic censure DSO**

Speech to censure – Sarah Bolt (VPW)

- The officer hasn't done anything. I have been doing the work, and feel passionate that he should be censured.

Speech against censure – formally

**Vote to censure DSO – 94% for, 6% against  
DSO Censured**

### **Move to automatically censure BEMO**

Speech to censure – Hayden Cohen (Education)

- Not on a personal agenda, but think it's the 2<sup>nd</sup> time report received. As only body that can hold Officer to account, disregard of not reporting is not on. Need to make a stand that Officers need to report to GC.

Speech against – President

- EMO elected mid way through the year. Know willing to attend Black Students conference and get involved in a lot of other things, but her commitments have prevented this. Have been in contact.

**Vote to censure EMO – 66% for, 34% against  
EMO Censured**

### **Move to automatically censure CAO**

Speech for – Tom Whittaker (Debating)

- Reason is 2 fold – communication and accountability. Not too sure what he does. Problem with the Guild is that it does a lot of great things but we don't communicate it. The Guild needs to communicate this better. Not enough to just do the activities, need to tell people. Need to set a good example to Officers next year. This year there have been officers that haven't done what they should. We need to show Officers next year that we will hold them to account.

Speech against – formally

**Vote to censure CAO – 94% for, 6% against  
CAO Censured**

★Report on Resolutions Extant

★

President

## Report on Trustee Recruitment – *VERBAL REPORT*

### President

- Shortlisted student trustees would be brought to Guild Council for election.
- Timeframe has been difficult to meet due to applicants currently being abroad. And getting a group together to make the decision.
- Normally it would be left to the officer team to make this decision over the Summer but want to extend this committee to include more Guild Councillors
- Recommendation – make a 'sub-committee' of GC to approve the appointment of the student trustees consisting of Current Exec, new Exec and Constitutions Committee.
- Members can vote by proxy if can not attend the meeting.

### **Vote to approve recommendation – passed 83%**

(83% for, 9% against, 9% abstain)

Autonomous Liberation Report - *Tabled*

Officer Remuneration Report

Redbrick Report – *Tabled*

Recognition/ De-Recognition Report – *Tabled*

Independent Chairs Report – *Tabled*

★Honorary Life Membership (Nominations Committee Report) - *Tabled*

Process of Nominations committee explained by Independent Chair

Nominations Committee nominated Jim Glover, Frances Norris, Will Stevens, Laura Morris.

Objections to recommendations:

- No objections received.

Objections to rejections:

- No objections received.

### ★b). **Sabbatical and Non-sabbatical Life Membership**

Sabbatical Life Membership

- **Vote to approve all sabbaticals to receive Life Membership – approved 90%**  
yes, 10% No

Non-Sabbatical Life Membership

- Objections – Matthew Heywood (DSO), Sean Rath (CAO)

Vote DSO not receive Non-Sabbatical Life Membership

Speech to not award – Frances Norris (Nightline)

- Defined as a disabled student. Life membership is an honour that we bestow. Do not feel that he has supported students with disabilities. Censured for not submitting reports. Awarding life membership devalues it if awarded to DSO.

Speech to award – formally

### **Vote DSO not receive Non-Sabbatical Life Membership – passed 95%** **95% for, 5% against**

Vote CAO not receive Non-Sabbatical Life Membership

Speech to not award – Ed Sparkes (History)

- Like Sean as a person, but for reasons that we have already spoken about feel that the role has gone unfulfilled this year. Don't believe CAO has supported students.

Speech to award – formally

**Vote CAO not receive Non-Sabbatical Life Membership – passed 91%  
91% for, 9% against**

**Vote approach all other non-sabbaticals – approved 89%**  
89% For, 7% Against, 4% Abstain

### ★c). **Communications**

Simon Menashy (Business) – Thank you on behalf of Vale Festival to Exec and staff and students for support – charity money raised - £40k

Kids Adventure (taken by HL) – Guild based project. Chance to take children who are disadvantaged out for the day. Running two holidays in the Summer. Looking for volunteers, particularly male.

Laura Sadler (VPEA) – New VC Prof David Eastwood, currently Chief Exec of HEFCE

Naush Kahn (VPHC) – Working closely with local Council and landlords. Have developed agreement to get rid of letting signs in Selly Oak and developing a code of conduct.

Frances Norris (Nightline) – Haven't given reports from 2 standing committees. Nightline has elected committee. Successful intake for new volunteers, revision timetables.

Student Advice – Have a new committee and minions have been trained. Successful intake of volunteers.

Sarah Bolt (VPW) – Nightbus back up and running – 1-3.30am.

Glyn Spence (NAPSOC) – if would like input please contact me.

#### **Election results.**

- Elections Committee – James Reid and James Long.
- Independent Chair – Katie Wilson

### ★d). **Opportunity for Questions, and Suggestions**

Johnny Davis – Speech for Commendation for President and VPSAD. Carnival Hitchhike; Hotel was taking advantage of a group of students. President and VPSAD sat in meeting with manager and in a better position now. Demonstrates ongoing work VPSAD has done, and the behind the scenes work President has been done. Pleasure to work with her over the year.

Speech against – formally

**Vote in favour of commendation – passed 96%**  
**96% for, 4% against**

**President and VPSAD Commended**

Hollie Jones (VPW Elect) – Speech for Commendation for President for work on the governance of the Guild this year.

Speech against (President) – don't think it should just be me that should be commended. The whole of the Exec has had to work tirelessly on this.

Does GC object to making this a commendation for the whole of the Executive Team? – no objections

**Vote in favour of commendation – passed 92%  
96% for, 8% against  
President Commended**

Emma Gold (Spoons) to VPEA – Policy not to give out any model answers which is very difficult for EPS subjects.

VPEA – assessment and feedback common issue raised by students. Any ideas would be welcome. Think its something we can look at next year. Feedback through your student reps as this goes through the University system as well as Guild.

Emma Gold to VPHC - point on Pritchatts Park road near stairs by fields. Students cross here, but currently no pelican crossing there. Need to get a pelican crossing there.

Also: Flat inspections don't turn up on time, get picked up on different things each time. Is there anything you can do about it.?

VPHC – Pelican crossing will happily bring up at the University. It does take a while to get these things done though.

You are right about the flat inspections. Will take it up with the university, They expect a lot from students but should give in return.

Tom Guise (Labour Students) – Conservative future on campus said that they would like to disaffiliate from the Guild as sick of the red tape and politics of the Guild. What suggestions do you make to bring them back into org?

VPSAD – Conservative Future are about to be de-recognised. The list for recognition is not that hard to meet, but they are non-negotiable. If I don not know that groups are acting safely and are active, then I how can I recognise them. All they have to do is ask for help and we will provide the support.

Emma Gold to VPEA – I'm leaving after the first year as dissatisfied academically. What is your response to poor lecturers?

VPEA – Value feedback about local level service. Issues need to be raised through student reps, but if have a particular issue about lecturers, can go to the ARC about complaints procedure. But if you have these issues, then you can come to VPEA to discuss options.

African and Caribbean Society – students told that those living in Five Ways and Edgbaston area can catch a free bus but it doesn't go to these areas.

VPHC – not aware of that at moment, but will work with university to see if they can take it forward.

Alanna Tooze (Muai Thai boxing) – can you clarify what is happening with PGs and Council tax

VPW – will be coming but not able to get hold of Council to see what is happening. GSSC told about it and it will go out on their student groups, Guild website, PG handbook,

Alanna Tooze – thank you to Exec but can we commend Cons Committee?

Speech for – put in a lot of work to get us to where we are  
Speech against – formally

**Vote to Commend Constitutions Committee– passed 92%  
(92% Yes, 8% No)**

**Commendation for Nightline ???No other details about this???**

**Vote – 90% for, 10% against**

## 5. Motions

**All motions below were approved by Guild Council**

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
<b>a) Motion:</b>	<b>Now is the Library of our discontent</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

**Guild Council Resolves:**

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1. The Main Library should have better provision of Shakespeare texts.
2. Alternatively or additionally, the English department should subsidise costs for journeys to Stratford-Upon-Avon.

**Guild Council Mandates:**

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1. The VPEA to lobby the Main Library to provide better provision of Shakespeare texts and critical works.
2. Alternatively or additionally, the VPEA to lobby the English department to subsidise travel costs for English students who currently have to travel to Stratford-Upon-Avon to access Shakespeare texts.

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
<b>b) Motion:</b>	<b>Guild Ethical Policy (Amended Version tabled)</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

Guild Council Resolves:

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1. To pass the attached Ethical Policy.
2. To reconstitute the Ethical and Environmental Committee as a Guild Council committee with responsibilities with regards to the attached Ethical Policy.

**(NB Change to GC Resolves 2 – remove representatives – not sure what this means)**

The make-up of this committee shall include:

- Ethical and Environmental Officer.

- Vice-President (Democracy and Resources).
- Two elected Guild Councillors.

The committee shall have responsibility for:

- Looking at actions of the Guild's current or future business partners.
- Deciding whether these actions constitute unethical practice.
- Generally support the Ethical and Environmental Officer in the implementation of the Ethical Policy, and any other related matters.

**Guild Council Mandates**

1. The Executive Committee to abide by and implement the attached Ethical Policy.
  2. The Executive Committee to confirm exact composition, terms of reference and responsibilities over the summer, including the above in relation to the new bye-laws (If adopted by Guild Council).
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	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
<b>c) Motion:</b>	<b>Guild Bye-laws</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Absolute Majority</b>

**Guild Council Resolves:**

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1. To use the bye-laws attached as the new Guild Bye-laws.

**Guild Council Mandates:**

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3. For the President and VPDR to attach the new Guild Bye-Laws with the Memorandum and Articles of Association
4. For the officers to begin work on the Guidance and Strategy documents.

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
<b>d) Motion:</b>	<b>Mental Health Policy (Tabled)</b>	<b>Approval</b>	<b>Simple Majority</b>

**Guild Council Resolves:**

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2. To adopt the Mental Health Policy attached and appendix's.
3. Put forward the policy to the University and develop working mental health policy.
4. To establish a working Disabled Students Association, that encompasses students with mental ill health, to get their voice heard.
5. To develop a mental health handbook for students.
6. To bring Mental Health First Aid to campus.

**Guild Council Mandates:**

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5. The VPW to put forward the policy to the relevant departments and personal at the University.
6. The President and VPW to work on a handbook and on bringing mental health first aid to campus.
7. The VPSAD and VPW to work to develop a working Disabled Students Association.
8. The President to ensure that the Guild has made reasonable adjustments for students with mental ill health.
9. The Sabbatical Team to support students with mental ill health.

<b>6. Sabbatical Officer Leaving Speeches</b>
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- a) VPDR
- b) VPHC
- c) VPSAD
- d) VPS
- e) VPW
- f) VPEA
- g) President

**Meeting closed 12:20am**