

guildofstudents

Minutes of Guild Council – 6pm Thursday 13th March 2008

Will Stevens, Hannah Lazell, Fabian Neuner

The Committee of Independent Chairpersons

indchairs@guild.bham.ac.uk

List of Attendees of meeting of Guild Council on 13th March 2008

Rebecca Cox (Anglican Society)	Ewan Last (Ballroom)	F. Begum Miah (BEMA)	Stephanie Roberts (Carnival)
Rachel Hudd (Carnival)	Rachel Rogers (Cathsoc)	Catherine Goode (Comp and Vid Soc)	Matt Szeto (Debating Society)
Laura Macculloch (Diving Club)	Sarah Cunningham (Diving Club)	Grant Mizen (Duke of Edinburgh)	Jess Bartlett (Econ Soc)
Adam Tiley (Engineers without Borders)	Mark Beecher (Fusion)	Frank Wilcox (GTV)	Joel Faulkner (German)
Rima Patel (Hindu Soc)	Stephen Pitchers (Infinity Stage Company)	Stuart Russell (KIDS Adventure)	Emma O'Dwyer (LGBTQ)
Stuart Brown (LGBTQ)	Elaine Bagshaw (Lib Dems)	Toni Bryant (Marrow)	Felix Rehren (Math Soc)
Abel Garcia Najera (Mexican)	Mark Duggan (Mountaineering)	Laurence Everitt (Mountaineering)	Glyndwr Spence (NAPs)
Sarah Adeegan (Navigators)	Fran Norris (Niteline)	Tim Gilbert (Nordic)	Laura Worth (Photo)
James Ogden (Redbrick)	Jonathan Boissonade (Rock)	Alex Smith (Role- play)	Rhys Matt (Scout and Guide)
Ellie Brazier (SLOBS)	Desha Wasala (Sri Lankan)	Nirekhna Raizada (Student Advice)	Andrew Steeds (Ultimate Frisbee)
Marek Zarembo-Pike (United Nations)	Laura Clark (Watch This)	Nicholas Oram (Wayfarers)	Madeleine Miller (Wilderness Medicine)
Iain Tebbutt (Wilderness Medicine)	Domeneque Di Ciacca (Women's)	Tom Walden (Elgar Court)	Sophie Bailey (Elgar Court)
Lennard Somera (FOCSOC)	Joanne Robinson (FOCSOC)	John Kirby (Hunter Court)	Anneka Brooke (Hunter Court)
Claire Lister (Opal One)	Peter John Clark (Pritchatts Park)	Matthew Lamb (Shackleton)	Rachel Tribbick (Tennis Courts)
James Williams (Tennis Courts)	Dani Walters (Victoria Halls)	Matthew Williamson (Victoria)	Peter Haagensen (IQ5)

		Halls)	
Simon Menashy (Business post-grad)	Hayden Cohen (Education ord)	Ammer Humza Meherban (Engineering 1 st yr)	David Remington (Engineering 1 st yr)
Phillippa Calver (GEES 1 st yr)	Chris Nash (GEES 1 st yr)	Rob Hunter (Historical Studies 1 st yr)	Suzy Raily (Historical Studies 1 st yr)
Tom Marley (Historical Studies ord)	Ed Sparks (Historical Studies ord)	Alan Johnson (Historical Studies ord)	Paul McMaster (Historical Studies ord)
Tom Whittaker (Historical Studies ord)	Abigal Symons (Humanities 1 st yr)	Aaron Wright (Humanities ord)	Charmian Werren (Law ord)
Kyle Williams (Maths 1 st yr)	Amy Squire (Medicine ord)	Brigid Jones (Physics and Astronomy ord)	Bryn W J Gough (Psychology 1 st yr)
Richard Charlton (psychology ord)	Gary Hughes (Public Policy post- grad)	Aaron Lewis (Social Science 1 st yr)	Peter Mason (Social Science ord)
Matt Reeves (Social Science ord)	Tom Guise (Social Science ord)	Le Brown (Social Science ord)	Sissi Penttila Not Voting
Dean Clever Not Voting	Felix Rehren Not Voting	James Long Not Voting	Rich Walker Not Voting
Jennifer Larbie Not Voting	Mark Smith Not Voting	Louise Rudd Not Voting	Hollie Jones Not Voting
Thom Saunders Not Voting	Tim Stillwell Not Voting	Rachael Tribbick Not Voting	Kirstie Jones Not Voting
Rachel Jones Not Voting	Robert Watson Not Voting	Deepa Chohan Not Voting	Rimi Watson Not Voting
A Arambepola Not Voting			

Apologies

Talking Hands, Rhea Keehn (President), Rock Soc, Dance Society, Bridge Club, Power Kite Society, Siobhan Dunne, Purple Mermaid, Paintball, Home Students, Green Party Society, Alex Totton, Amnesty International, Astronomy Society, Steven Johnson, Kim Copitch (Eng 1st year), Alex Warents, (Law 1st year), Robert Rosenberg (Bus 1st year), Anna Lawton (Social Science 1st year), David Mauriquard (Article 19), Naomi Tomlinson (Med 1st year), Adam Sher (Med), Paloma Sackman (Humanities), Rob Tomback (Law), ACS, Muay Thai, BURN.FM, Sci-Fi, Civil Engineering, Conservatives, Labour

Welcome from Hannah Lazell (Chair):

- Staff Protocol was read out to Guild Council
- Role of Guild Council explained.
- Voting pads explained and tested.

- Count of quorum – 77 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, 3a, b, c, 4a, b, c, VPW Report, Elections Report

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

(For – 80%, Against – 7%, Abstain – 13%)

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

Richard Charlton had sent apologies but was marked down as present, even though he was not there.

Home Students were present but not in the minutes

Student Advice were present but not in the minutes

Paul McMaster (History ord) was not in the minutes

Approval of minutes from last Guild Council: **Approved (90%)**

(For: 90%, Against - 5%, Abstain - 5%)

3. Ratifications

Ratifications where passed during the vote on all un-starred items

a) Ratifications of bye law changes

For Ratification Decision

Guild Council

i. Black and Ethnic Minority Association

Approval

4. Reports, questions, communications, and suggestions

Reports, Questions, Communications and Suggestions

VPEA made Guild Council Aware of the resignation of the Satelelite Sites Officer

a). Reports: Executive Officers

Questions

Alex Smith (Role Play) to VPSAD – Will Guild Council be seeing the recent staffing policy?

VPSAD – Yes Guild Council would see it but it is really an operational policy regarding processes, consultation is planned with the policy as it will go to mini forums but it is too early to see it as a whole policy.

Matt Reeves (Social Science) to VPEA – How are the talks going with the library in regards to a better learning space?

VPEA – Talks have just begun and the issue has been placed on the working group; however it is a long process as it is impossible to just close down the library. The Changes will be gradual but it will mean that students will get the chance to input into them.

Matt Reeves (Social Science) to VPAC – What action is being taken to make Selly Oak safer?

VPAC - Attended the Birmingham Burglary Group and discussed issues there. There have also been talks about increased Police presence, ensuring that the Community Wardens are given more information about safety along with a campaign to encourage students and landlords to ensure that back-doors are closed and locked so as to stop burglars entering property that way. There have also been talks about improving street lighting in the area. This is an on going issue so there is still more work to be done.

*Vote to approve all reports except VPW report, **Passed 80%. Therefore the Reports were accepted** (For: 80%, Abstain: 11%, Against: 9%).*

VPW Report

Questions

Paul McMaster (History Ord) to VPW – The Guild's Pro Choice Policy talks about abortion and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act. Has anyone thought about the moral and ethical issues brought up with the Policy?

VPW- Have been to NUS Women's conference, and yes we do have a pro choice policy; also 83% of the country choose to let women choose themselves about abortion. All of the facts will be placed on VPW blog. The Women's Society has chosen to carry on the pro choice campaign and that is something that will not be apologised for. The Abortion rates will also be published but have not been as yet but VPW will look into them.

Bryn W J Gough (Psych 1st year) to VPW you mentioned the parliamentary committee and making time limits for abortion what would your response be?
VPEA on behalf of VPW– Pro choice is about everyone's right to or not to have an abortion. Everybody has the right to their opinion and to defend the right of abortion. This issue affects everyone not just students.

Matt Reeves (Social Science 2nd year) to VPW – You talk about how the National Blood Service are no longer coming to campus, why is that?

VPW – The National Blood Service have said that there is limited funding and staff resources for them to come onto campus, however they will be going to the Selly Oak Methodist Church. The plan is to continue campaigning for the Blood Donor service on campus until they return.

Paul McMaster (History Ord) to VPW – Are you aware that the Abortion rates report was a minority report and was in fact out of date and inaccurate?

VPW – Yes it was a minority report by 2 MP's, however the majority of the country do have an opinion. The pro choice policy is there to protect peoples right to choose. Turning in to a debate, perhaps this should be discussed at some other time.

*Vote to approval VPW report, **Passed 76%. Therefore the Reports were accepted** (For: 76%, Abstain: 10%, Against: 14%).*

a). Reports: Elections Committee

Questions

To VPDR – In the Executive elections a lot of people did not use all of their preferences for Single Transferable Vote, would it be possible to put more information on the website about it as people were unaware of how it worked?
VPDR – More Information will go on the website for next time.

Gary Hughes (Public Policy Post Grad) to VPDR – The turnout for elections has gone down, what will be done to improve voter turnout for next time.
VPDR – Yes it has gone down, the move to e-voting was designed to make things more accessible however the drop in turn out may not have been due to just e-voting. The drop could also be because of dissertation hand-ins during the same week, as well as the number of uncontested positions. I do not want to use e-voting as an excuse for the turnout but it is actually a real excuse for a lot of student unions.

Simon Menashy (Business Post Grad) to VPDR – Will there be a forum or meeting for feedback about the elections.
VPDR – There will be a debrief for the elections like there was for the referendum

Hayden Cohen (Education 3rd year) to VPDR – Why were the hustings not advertised?
VPDR – The hustings where advertised in Redbrick, but unfortunately that had to be removed, they where also on the website and there was a Facebook group.

Paul McMaster (History Ord) – What happened to Joseph Brewers vote?
Independent chair – stated Question could not be answered at the time.

Paul McMaster (History Ord) – Will the breakdown of the elections result be publicised?
VPDR – Yes they will

Richard Charlton (Psychology ord) to VPDR – There was no presence of the Guild in the advertising of the elections, why was this?

VPDR – The Guild advertised the elections on A0 poster boards throughout the Guild, on Facebook, officer blogs, an email was sent out at the beginning of the week as well as half way through. The Guild had a presence in other areas around campus including the Mason Lounge, Selly Oak and the Medical Building, also the Campaigners were out advertising the elections whilst campaigning for candidates.

Ed Sparks (Historical Studies ord) to VPDR – It took too long to vote and the positions further down the ballot got less votes, are you planning to change the e-voting system?

VPDR – the system will be reviewed and we will look at other systems such as BAM, Warwick and Leeds systems. We will be using this system for the Guild Council elections but we can not change the system to a tick box system at the moment.

Vote to approve report, **Passed 74%. The report was therefore accepted.** (For: 74%, No: 16% Abstain: 10%)

b). Communications:

VPHC – I noticed that the elections committee got thanked for their hard work during the elections period, but I would also like to thank VPDR for chairing the committee.

VPDR explained to Guild Council that Sophie Kettell and John Heath were visiting from Staffordshire University as they are looking at changing their approach to their Council.

VPDR – Can confirm that a photograph of Guild Council will be taken at the last Guild Council of the year.

VPDR – The referenda budget was £4,000 under spent, the original budget was £10,000 but only £6,000 had been spent.

Tim Stillwell – Will be running the London Marathon for charity and would like donations or sponsors.

Simon Menashy (Business Post Grad) – would like to thank VPEA for all of her help with the Physics campaign.

Simon Menashy (Business Post Grad) – The Vale Festival will be taking place on the 10th June, recruitment of stewards is needed and asked if anyone would like to help out as over 100 people are needed.

Bryn W J Gough (Psych 1st year) – The debating Society will be holding a debate entitled “This House would establish Gay Schools”

VPW – Mason Hall is being redeveloped and having name change, students can give suggestions for the new name by passing it on to the Executive Committee.

Frances Norris (Niteline) – Niteline awareness week is going ahead, there will be revision planners outside of the library.

Domeneque Di Ciacca (Women's) – International Women's Day will take place on Friday 14th March in the Learning Centre

Stephen Pitchers (Infinity Stage Company) – Thanked Guild Council for their help.

c). Opportunity for Questions, and Suggestions

James Ogden (Redbrick) called for a commendation for VPSAD for her work with Media groups.

Speech for (James Ogden) – Media groups are important to the Guild and really needed funding to help them out. Would like to commend the entire Executive but unable to do this. The work of the VPSAD has been great and media groups now have funding.

Speech against - None

**Vote in favour of commendation - passed 86% (For: 86% Against: 14%)
VPSAD Commended**

Brigid Jones (Physics and Astronomy ord) called for a commendation for VPS

Speech for (Brigid Jones) – Over a year ago a motion went through Guild Council for Pay as you go membership to the Monroe Sports Centre, at the time it was said that this could not be done. The VPS has lobbied the University for This to change and in August 08 this change will now happen.

Speech against – None

**Vote in favour of commendation - passed 90% (For: 90% Against: 10%)
VPS Commended**

Paul McMaster (History Ord) to VPDR – The Guild Council elections open in a week but there has been no advertising and the nomination forms were only printed today. Why?

VPDR- I can not apologise enough, it just did not get done, but I will work over the next week to get people involved.

Hayden Cohen (Education ord) to VPDR – Is it fair for current Executive members to be on an Exec candidates campaign team, this does not seem as fair as it could be?

VPDR – Everyone is entitled to their opinion and everyone is a full member of the Guild so can be on a campaign team. A Sabbatical officer can take Annual Leave from their role so that they are not working. If they want to spend their Annual Leave outside the Library then they can.

Gary Hughes (Public Policy Post Grad) – Would like to wish VPW good luck with the NUS conference elections.

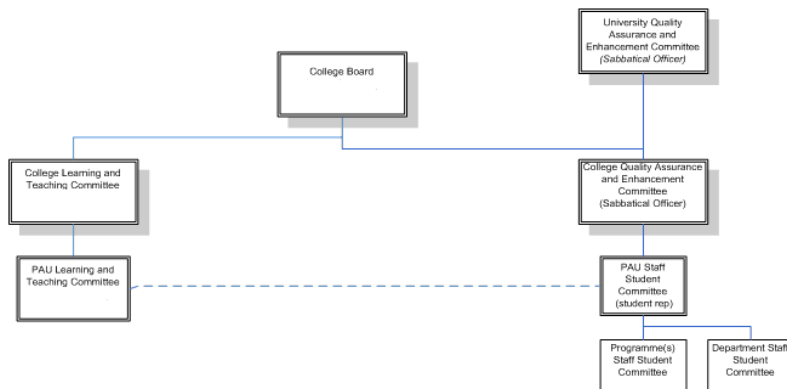
4. Motions

All Motions below were approved by Guild Council:

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote needed</u>
a) Motion:	Student Representation In Colleges	Approval	Absolute Majority

Guild Council Resolves:

1. There will be clear Policies and Guiding Principles for the Student Rep Scheme which will outline how it functions across the University.
2. The Guild of Students and the University will work together to respond to the feedback from students in order to enhance the quality of the student experience at the University of Birmingham.
3. For this structure of representation to be implemented:



Guild Council Mandates:

1. This system to be put in place from August 2008.

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote Needed</u>
b) Motion:	Black and Ethnic Minority Officer – Name Change	Approval	<i>Absolute Majority</i>

Guild Council Resolves:

4. For Guild to permit the change of name to **Ethnic Minority Officer (EMO)**
5. The name change will clarify the role and what they represent so all students from ethnic minority backgrounds feel represented equally.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. For all guild literature concerning the officer be changed to reflect the name change; folders, leaflets etc.
2. For the name to be changed in the constitution.

	<u>Motion Name</u>	<u>Exec Recommendation</u>	<u>Vote Needed</u>
c) Motion:	Time for a Change	Approval	<i>Simple Majority</i>

Guild Council Resolves:

1. To support the NUS governance review in its entirety.
2. To mandate the delegates to Annual Conference to vote in support of the new NUS Constitution and the Schedules as presented to Conference

Guild Council Mandates:

3. To mandate the delegates to Annual Conference to vote in support of the new NUS Constitution and the Schedules as presented to Conference

Meeting closed 19.35