

guildofstudents

Minutes meeting of Guild Council – 6pm Monday 29th October 2007

Introduction from the Chair which Included guidelines to help make GC run more smoothly; read out the Guild staff protocol and an introduction to the electronic voting system and did a test.

Quorum is reached. 116 Guild Councillors in the room

STANDING ITEMS

1. STARRING OF THE AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND ALL UNSTARRED BUSINESS FROM SUB-QUORUM

Items 1, 2, 3a, b, 4, 5, 6a, b, f, g, h, I are all starred.

All unstarred items on the agenda were accepted as recommended by exec recommendation

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GUILD COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 07TH JUNE 2007

Paul McMaster, History is listed as representing Catholic Society but is not

Richard Charlton Psychology 3 says paintball are not on the minutes but Simon Menashy spoke so we were there.

Anime Manga are spelt incorrectly.

Minutes accepted

3. RATIFICATIONS

a) Report: Decisions made by 2006/07 Exec during Summer

Simon Menashy, business post grad, calls for a Procedural Motion (PM) is called to take in parts. 5 councillors are seen.

Speech For explains the procedural motion will take the report in parts:

Part 1 everything else

Part 2 exec approve rep motion

Discussion

No speech against

Vote on PM to take this report in parts – **Procedural Motion is Passed**

Discussion on Part 1

Tim Williams, Roleplay explains he doesn't see how we can take the word of 1 person that this is not contentious

Report minus section on representation was accepted

Part 2 – section on representation

Richard Charlton PM proposes that part B is referred to next GC speech as a motion

Discussion

Simon Menahsy, Bus PG, says that the motion says that only people who determine themselves as members of that association can vote for it. There is no rush to do this and we have time to debate this properly

Vote – this part of the report falls and will be referred back to Exec to bring to a future GC

b) Report: Decisions made by 2007/08 Exec during Summer

Rhea Kheen Speech in Favour of Report

This is just decisions made about e voting and college boards was to keep up with University who continued to work on college restructure over summer

No speech against

No speech in abstention

Vote to ratify Exec 2007/08 decisions accepted

4. Reports, questions, communications, and suggestions

a) Reports:

i) Independent Chairs Investigatory Report for information Tabled

ii) Executive Officer Reports

Tom Brown (BUS)

I have 4 questions the first is To President – in your report you say 'I am more clear about the tasks ahead' – what are those tasks?

Rhea

1. satisfying GC
2. how I approach issues & what comes across my desk
3. dealing with student complaints
4. some of the larger projects like guild governance
5. representation & how I represent students effectively to the University on a multitude of boards

Tom Brown

To the VPDR you talk about incentives to vote – isn't the e voting system a big disincentive rather than just turning up to vote

Simon

Yes there has been a transition but I think it is a good one and a more accessible system – you can even vote from Cuba. Sorry if you think it puts people off Tom but that isn't the idea behind it

Tom Brown

To ARFO do you have praise for David Cameron's work on DARFOR?

Alex Totton

I am unaware of his work but I am sure whatever he is doing is fantastic & I congratulate him on moving forward with it

Tom Brown

To CCo you have been in office since 01 August yet your report is very short

Sean Rath

It is short but I did explain that in the report. I actually was praised for the coherence of my report but if you want fuller ones you will get them.

Ed Sparkes (Tennis Courts)

You mentioned refreshments for GC – thank you – can we expect them each GC

Simon

Yes I hope so

Hayden Cohen Ed 3 to SSo

Just wondering in your report you mention the Shakespeare institute – how do you plan to balance your time so you don't just focus on one site but the others too

Joseph Brewer SSO

They are very remote so I have been giving them some time but I am spending time on them all but have decided to focus on Shakespeare

Exec officer reports are all accepted

Laura Morris proposed a commendation for Laura Sadler.

Speech in favour:

In Laura's report she laid out an amazing amount of things she has achieved in her short term in office. One thing that really struck me was the work she is doing with dentistry. This is a real change in culture in the guild engaging with satellite sites so I think Laura deserves a round of applause and a commendation for her work.

Tom Brown Business, speech against

Although one person doing well is a great thing but I don't wish to single anyone out on Exec

Vote approved to commend Laura Sadler on the work in her report

iii) Resources Committee 2006/07

Report is accepted

iv) Resources Committee

Elaine Bagshaw Lib Dem proposes a PM to take the report in parts, by separating the final paragraph that discusses governance

Rhea Kheen speech against PM, I do understand why you would want to discuss this bit – I had hoped to have something on the agenda but the mean Indie Chairs wouldn't let me. This report is a statement of what we did and we will have a debate on this matter. It is up to you

Vote - The PM falls

Questions on Resources Committee Report

Paul Mc Master (Hist 3)– why did exec decide 4:4 split and not leave it open for a GC discussion?

Rhea Kheen – when I brought the motion to exec over the summer it did state figures but what I was seeking was movement not necessarily the specifics. The plan is to bring this to GC but after our first trustee meeting of the year that is tomorrow. I believe a student majority would suit this organisation better.

Resources Committee Report Accepted

v) Elections Committee (Tabled)

Matt Reeves Soc Sci 2

Are all the results of elections going onto the web so people can see who their Guild Councillors are?

Simon Fairbanks, Yes

Matthew Young roc soc. I do computing science but I didn't get an email re e voting

Simon Fairbanks explained there were 2 reasons you might have not got an email – if you registered with the Uni after 8 Oct then you will not have been in the data that the Uni sent us. If you did register before 8 Oct then I am not too sure what happened please come & talk to me after you have checked your bham.ac.uk account.

Discussion

Frank Wilcox, GTV, said, you say you can't have paper voting as we don't have paper cards – why can't you use real time data and use a database to mark people have voted in a paper fashion.

Simon Fairbanks, said we did consider this but there are lots of data protection issues about having student data on a table.
We were also responding to a mandate from GC and we know we will improve at each vote. I understand GC concerns but feel this is really beneficial for student at Birmingham University

Elections Committee Report accepted

b) Communications

None

c) Suggestions and Questions

5. ELECTIONS

- a) Committees and sub-committees of Guild Council
 - i) Elections Committee - 1 First Year Guild Councillor

Nominations:
Kitten Onwordi
Aaron Lewis
RON

Each candidate speaks on behalf of themselves. Fabian reminds everyone that RON is also an option

Kitten Onwordi was duly elected as 1st year rep on elections committee

Call for quorum – GC was still quorate

- ii) Nominations Committee – 4 Full Members

Nominations:
Richard Charlton
Tom Whittaker
Tim Williams
Paul McMaster
RON

Tom Brown proposes PM that the question now be put

Frances Norris speech against PM
Whilst I doubt any of these people would have extreme views I would like to hear what they have to say before I vote for them

PM passed – the question will now be put

**Richard Charlton
Tom Whittaker
Tim Williams
Paul McMaster, were all duly elected onto nominations committee**

iii) Sabbatical Remuneration – 5 Guild Councillors

Nominations:

Tom Brown
Ben Odams
Peter Mason
Hayden Cohen
Shaz Rahman
RON

Richard Charlton Psychology 3, proposes PM that the question be put

No speech against

PM passed

Tom Brown

Ben Odams

Peter Mason

Hayden Cohen

Shaz Rahman were duly elected onto sabbatical remuneration committee

iv) Discipline Committee – 10 Guild Councillors

Nominations

Louise Rudd
Matt Targett
Byron Melling
Ed Sparkes
Frances Norris
Alana Tooze
Lydia Brown
Rob Hunter
James Heywood
Neda Ivanovic
Tom Brown
RON

Jospeh Brewer proposes **PM** to reduce the speeches to 30 seconds

No speech against

PM approved

Louise Rudd	38 – duly elected
Matt Targett	58 –duly elected
Byron Melling	44 – duly elected
Ed Sparkes	62 – duly elected
Frances Norris	44 – duly elected
Alana Tooze	44 – duly elected
Lydia Brown	46 – duly elected

Rob Hunter	50 - duly elected
James Heywood	41 – duly elected
Neda Ivanovic	50 – duly elected
Tom Brown	26
RON	21

b) NUS Delegate Elections (Secret Ballot)

i) Delegates to NUS Regional Conferences – 16 Full Members

Nominations:

Laura Sadler
Naush Khan
Fabien Neuner
Peter Mason
Ed Sparkes
Alex Wright
Stuart Brown
Matt Targett
Louise Rudd
Alex Totton
Joseph Brewer
Tom Marley
Elaine Bagshaw
Simon Fairbanks
Libby Hooper
Tom Brown
RON

Tom Brown proposed PM that the question now be put

No speech against

PM passed

Laura Sadler
Naush Khan
Fabien Neuner
Peter Mason
Ed Sparkes
Alex Wright
Stuart Brown
Matt Targett
Louise Rudd
Alex Totton
Joseph Brewer
Tom Marley
Elaine Bagshaw
Simon Fairbanks
Libby Hooper
Tom Brown were all duly elected

ii) Delegates to WMANUS Conferences – 6 Full Members (Secret Ballot)

Nominations:
Stuart Brown
Alex Totton
Paul McMaster
Tom Marley
Fabian Neuner
Suzy Railley
RON

Joseph Brewer proposes PM to shorten the speeches to 30 seconds

Tom Brown speech against PM

PM passes

Sarah Bolt proposes PM to move straight to the vote

Paul McMaster speech against PM

It would be quicker to answer the additional question that do this PM

PM passed

Please note that Gary Hughes did not vote in this election due to his position as WMANUS Convenor 2007/08

**Stuart Brown
Alex Totton
Paul McMaster
Tom Marley
Fabian Neuner
Suzy Railley were all duly elected**

c) Carnival Trustees 2 Trustees

Nominations:
Sarah Bolt
Laura Sadler
Hayden Cohen
Richard Charlton
RON

**Richard Charlton
Sarah Bolt were duly elected**

6. MOTIONS

a) ARC Motion

Paul Mc Master hist 3 said I stand by my motion and my intention was never to inhibit people's behaviour however it seems the guild and other agencies are

intent on misconstruing my intent. Rather than encouraging debate people on the other side have used slander to pursue their argument. Due to this I am withdrawing the motion

b) NUS Reform

Quorum called and GC has 50 voting members present

Rhea Kheen speech in favour of motion

This motion was started as a constituent member wanted more information on why we wanted an extraordinary NUS conference. NUS have asked members to call a meeting to consider the recommendations of their governance review rather than clogging up annual conference with this issue

Elaine Bagsaw Lib Dem speech against

Basically I am not against NUS reform but there is nothing in the motion about how we elect our members to attend and no opportunity to table amendments

Discussion

Joseph Brewer

For those who are not well informed can I ask for a short summary of the reforms?

Rhea Keehn

First it will put NUS in a better position to make good decisions for students by restructuring its decision making functions; this should also reduce financial deficit - if you are more interested please read the white paper as it is a full and informative document

Motion passed

c) Private Providers

Motion passed

d) 16 Hour Working Week

Motion Passed

e) LGBTQ Awareness Week

Motion Passed

f) Council Tax Exemption

Hayden Cohen Ed 3 proposes a PM that the question now be put

Sarah Bolt speech against PM

I wrote a speech for this & would like to read it to you

PM passed, the question will now be put

Motion passed

g) Nightbus Service

Alana Tooze proposes a PM that the question now be put
Let's get on with it this is not a contentious motion

Tom Marley

It sometimes takes longer to do a PM than doing the debate and informed vote –
lets not drag it out with PM's

PM passed, the question will now be put

Motion passed

h) Transitional Arrangements

Sarah Bolt speech in favour of motion

When someone moves from FE to HE or from UG to PG there is phrase called
'transitional arrangement' and this means your student status changes and you
can be responsible to pay council tax & stuff

Ed Sparkes speech against motion

It is a rubbish name for a motion

Discussion

Motion Passed

i) Burma Campaign

*Amendment accepted by the seconder & became part of the substantive
motion*

Elaine Bagshaw speech in favour of motion

I know lots of people ask me about this to say the Guild can't sent GC over there
to sort it out but I think it is better for us as a Gulid and as students to stand up &
say we are against what is going on in Burma with people demonstrating for
democracy and bing shot in the street. We need to say this is not right

Tom Whittaker speech against the motion

In the risk of starting a debate tonight – we keep coming up with these motions
about individual difficult situations in the world – can we have a motion that says
we are against horrible & nasty things? Surely the exec are supporting student
groups do activity otherwise we wouldn't have any.

2nd round of speeches

Peter Mason speech in favour of motion

The proposer has left and he clearly feels GC has not allowed him to access his
democratic rights as it is nearing 11pm. His experience is that he has worked in

Burma and he has asked Burmese people how we in the UK could support their struggle. We have Burmese students at this University – we have a right to represent those students. If someone feels this motion is flim flam then I ask him to go to Burma to see if his rights are so free there.

Alex ? speech against

I feel this motion is unclear about what it is asking for – can any student group say I am doing work for Burma so can I have some money. Burmese people include the government are we working with them or against them

Discussion

Motion passed.

Closing Statements by the chair

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.57PM