

Guild Policy Development Group Minutes

Present: Jess Levy (Representation and Resources Officer (RRO), Chair), Adam Goldstone (GOG Member), Lucinda Bleischroeder Baker (GOG Member, Rose Bennett (GOG Member), Adriana Xardone (LGBTQ Representative Member) Reece Roberts (Open Place Member), Fay Arnold (Trans Representative Member), Rajat Grover (International Representative Member), Zia Bresnahan (Open Place Member)

In attendance: Oli Killeen (Democracy Co-ordinator) (Note Taker), Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager)

Apologies: Joe Guntrip (Open Place Member)

Absent without apologies: Sheimona Jahan (BME Representative Member), Arundeeep Chaggar (Postgraduate Representative Member), Emma Atkins (Disabled Representative Member), Molly Gilbert (Women's Representative Member)

The RRO welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 18:10

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	Welcome to GPDG	The chair welcomed everyone to the Group. It was noted that this was the final GPDG Meeting of the Year.	Noted
2	Your Idea Submissions	<p>The Group raised questions about the following submissions. All other suggestions accepted without amendment:</p> <p>05.18.01 - Keep Harding Law Study Room Open For Longer Hours It was noted that the opening times had been extended to 6pm. The Group asked if this could be amended.</p> <p>05.18.02 – Renovate Lecture Theatres and Seminar Rooms Zoned to Education. Accepted without further amendment.</p> <p>05.18.03 – Gravy and chips in Joes Bar It was noted this is an option on the Street Kitchen Menu. The Group asked if it could be clarified whether this was acceptable to the proposer. If so, Idea will not be taken forward.</p> <p>05.18.06 – Suggestions page for the University The Group asked if this is what "Your Ideas" is for, it was noted that this was an idea for a University specific page, and was accepted without amendment.</p> <p>05.18.07 – Say No to straws It was noted that Joe's already has biodegradable straws, and the proposer should be informed. Idea not taken forward.</p> <p>05.18.08 – Desserts at Joe's Bar</p>	Noted

		<p>It was noted that the range available has been expanded. The Groups asked if the proposer could be informed, and if happy with this, the idea will not be taken forward.</p> <p>05.18.09 – Scrap minimum payment for card payments at Guild venues It was noted this has already taken place. The Group asked if the proposer could be informed. The idea will not be taken forward.</p> <p>05.18.11 – Birmingham Union Debates Zoned to Sports and Activities. Accepted without amendment</p> <p>05.18.12 – Make sports facilities available to casual spokespeople It was noted that the title of the idea was incorrect. This would be changed and accepted without further amendment. Zoned to Sports and Activities.</p>	
3	Zero Tolerance Policy	<p>The Zero Tolerance Policy was tabled for discussion.</p> <p>It was noted the policy makes reference to discrimination on the grounds of gender reassignment. The Group asked if this could be changed to Gender Identity, as there is an assumption that all trans people would undergo gender reassignment which is incorrect.</p> <p>An issue was also raised about the process for reporting/complaining about the abuse. It was noted that not everyone would feel comfortable about asking the person to stop and this should not form part of the action process.</p> <p>The Group asked if these changes could be made. It was agreed that this would be circulated again to the Equality and Diversity Committee, and the changes could be agreed via email resolution.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>OK</p>
4	EU Policy	<p>The EU Policy was tabled for discussion.</p> <p>The Policy committed the Guild to campaign for a second referendum on the terms of the Brexit deal.</p> <p>The Group were generally not in favour of campaigning for a second referendum, it was noted that this could be potentially divisive on a campus where there were strong views on either side. Instead it would be better to campaign on what students want to be included in the overall deal. These things might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued participation in the Erasmus Programme • Access to EU Research funding • Focus on academic issues <p>It was agreed that JL would take this forward and work with EK on amendments. It was agreed that this not be taken forward in current form.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>JL</p>
5	Beliefs and Commitments	<p>The latest version of the Beliefs and Commitments document was tabled for discussion and amendment.</p> <p>The following points were noted:</p>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statement of Purpose – Accepted without amendment • Affiliations – Accepted without amendment • Funding – Accepted without amendment • Hidden Course Costs – Accepted without amendment • Postgraduate Education – RB asked if this could be changed to Postgraduate Experience. This was accepted. • Academic Representation – Accepted without amendment • Overcrowding – Accepted without amendment • Teaching Excellence Framework –Accepted without amendment • Consultation with students – Accepted without amendment • National Campaigns – The Group asked if Go Green Week should be added to this list • Activism – The Group questioned whether it might be sensible to protect students against all activism. This will be amended. The No Platform Policy will be included here when written • Immigration – inclusion of Xenophobia into this list • European Union – Minor wording changes • Trade Unions – Minor wording changes • The Student Movement – Noted that the Guild should support NUS Action where it is for the benefit of UoB Students, as opposed to all action • Political Engagement – Accepted without amendment • Israeli-Palestinian Conflict – The Group questioned if it would be a practical to lobby the University to end contracts with companies that are negatively impacting on the peace process • Living Wage – Accepted without amendment • Anti-Racism; Anti-Fascism – Accepted without amendment • Societies – Minor wording changes • Associations – Groups to be listed to aid readability • Healthy Living – Accepted without amendment • Self-Defence – Use of Gender neutral language to incorporate all groups • Climate Change – Accepted without amendment • Education for Sustainable Development – Accepted without amendment • Facilities – Accepted without amendment • Balloons – Accepted without amendment • Ethical Business Practices – Queries regarding tax avoidance and evasion and the issues this would create for groups. Policy to be posted on Your Ides for wider approval • Discrimination – Noted that discrimination listed is non-exhaustive list • Stereotyping – Accepted without amendment • Feminism – The Guild will create an environment where all are equal regardless of gender identity. Wording to be changed. • Mental Health – Minor wording changes • Sexual Harassment – Reference made to Zero Tolerance Policy • Student Access to Healthcare – Accepted without amendment 	
--	--	--	--

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giving Blood – Queries regarding status of Gay Men and giving blood. This to be rewritten and re-circulated to group • Gender Neutral Toilets – All should be accessible with sanitary disposal units • Jobs and Employability – Accepted without amendment • Prevent Policy – To be written with new EMSO • Community – Accepted without amendment • Housing – Minor wording changes <p>It was agreed that the noted changes would be made, and circulated to the Group before going to a vote in September.</p>	
6	Any Other Business	It was noted that this was the final meeting of the year. JL thanked the Group for their work this year.	Noted

The Chair closed the meeting at 19:50
Date of next meeting: TBC