

What is the issue you want to change?

MOTION1

The Student Meeting has no confidence in the political leadership of the Guild President.

This is a matter of principle, not a personal issue.

A President should represent students' interests and act in accordance with the Guild Beliefs. Is it the STUDENTS' Union, or the PRESIDENT'S Union?

Students in 2022 & 2023 voted campus wide in favour of External Membership (EM) for Societies.

The President actively opposes these students' views and indicated she will vote against EM.

Previously, the President wrote: I am here, "to represent you (students) and your interests" By ignoring student votes, the President has caused a serious breach of students' trust

The President said of Societies' External Members at the March All Student Meeting: "spending money on non UoB students (External Members) was illegal" I believe this statement is JUST WRONG. External Members have been around for years and legally nothing has changed. 10 out of 11 provincial Russell Universities allow EM because they are beneficial for students.

The President stated: "not all the information was given" by previous Guild Officers about EM. However, the President in Dec 2021 Chaired the ASM meeting, which voted for reduced EM fees At the time she did not raise any issues about illegality.

The Guild Beliefs say: "any major changes require consultation with the wider student body, not just the Guild Officers" And the Guild Constitution states: "Trustees will give the utmost consideration to the views of the Members"

There was NO CONSULTATION with Societies and wider student body prior to abolishing EM.

The President I believe has shown serious disrespect of students' views and it is very unfortunate it has come to this. For the democratic health of the Guild, with regret, it is necessary to express no confidence in the President and her actions.

Proposer: Dylan Gibbons, in a personal capacity. I have been a member of 7 UoB Societies. I was an External Guild Member when on sick leave during COVID.

What solutions or actions do you have?

PLEASE CONSIDER MY NOTES FOR THE ALLOCATION OF MOTIONS 1-3

NOTES SUPPORTING THE STATEMENTS IN THE NO CONFIDENCE MOTION 1-3

1. "Students in 2022 & 2023 overwhelmingly voted campus wide to retain External Membership (EM)." The 2023 ASV vote was 80% in favour of EM, which I believe can be described as overwhelming. I have been told by Societies members that the 2022 ASV was also very substantial. I requested the 2022 vote details through the Student Vote email on the 26/3, but have not yet received the information.
2. "The President actively opposes these students' views and indicated she will continue to vote against External Membership (EM)." The proposer of the 2023 motion on EM talked with the President after the ASV. He told me that the President still opposed the Motion resolution that EM should be available to graduates. The Presidents opposition to EM are clearly visible in the January 2023 Trustee minutes. At the January 2023 Trustee meeting, students views from the 2022 ASV on EM were clearly discernible. The President at that time was the Chair of the ASM.
3. "I am here, "to represent you (students) and your interests" On the Guild website under the President profile. Also July 19, 2022, President Inst account
4. "a serious breach of trust between students and the President has occurred." This is my assertion, reasonably, with evidence described, that the students interests arising from ASVs were not taken on board by the President. Additionally "serious" is supported by the fact that the UoB ordinances specifically mention a change in the categories of Guild Membership as an item that needed UoB approval. There are very few or no other Guild terms mentioned in this way in the UoB ordinances. Merely the

fact that two ASM/ASV have occurred in 2 years shows the seriousness which students take this topic.

5. “spending money on non UoB students (External Members) was illegal” Minutes of ASM.
6. “I believe this statement is simply incorrect and was a scare tactic.” Firstly expressing my belief.

Secondly, Friday 5th May, Guild complaints response stated, in relation to the illegality of EM: “No legal advice has yet been sought by the Trustee Board in relation to External Memberships. In its staff team the Guild has experience and understanding of the legal framework of Students’ Unions.” Only external specialist legal advice might give more weight to the question of illegality.

Thirdly, I also described: “External Members have been around for years and nothing legally has changed. 10 out of 11 provincial Russell Universities allow EM because they are beneficial for students.”

If EM really were illegal, there would not be the very widespread adoption of EM at other universities. At the 2022 ASM/ASV dealing with EM, the Guild staff team did not advise the £0 EM fee was illegal.

Fourthly, I have worked at a charity and the Finance Director concurred with my views that wider considerations of students interest can be taken into consideration.

7. “The President: “not all the information was given” by the previous Guild Officers about EM.” ASM minutes
8. “There was NO CONSULTATION with the wider student body or Societies prior to abolishing EM.” The President announced through the Guild website that EMs would be abolished. Societies Committee members have told me they questioned the President about EM after her Oct 17th 2022 Instagram posting. “Had discussions with both the Director of Engagement and the FTO about External memberships and the implications of having them at the Guild.”

They say that the President only stated that they were working on something and the first they knew of the EM abolition was this President posting in mid February 2023.

There was consultation with Societies about how the decision to abolish EM could best be implemented, but no consultation about the actual decision.

9. “The President I believe has shown disrespect of students’ views” Firstly my view.

My assertion is based on the fact that the President did not adopt the interests expressed by students in the two ASV on EM.

Additionally, the President did not undertake a student consultation before announcing the ending of the EM category.

NO CONFIDENCE MOTION, POTENTIAL DIVERT TO DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

I believe this NCM should be dealt with through the Members Democratic Process.

It does not principally deal with interpersonal behaviour but the political aspect of the President role. I would appeal or complain if this proposed NCM were to be diverted.

6.3 In circumstances when the publishing of the motion of no confidence could lead to serious reputational, financial or legal issues for the Guild, the Appointed Person will decide whether the matter can be debated through the Members Democratic Process or should be dealt with by the employee disciplinary procedure (see Section 9) (For Full-Time Officers Only).

How will you know your idea is a success?