

**Present:**

*Acting Chair of All Student Meeting* - Amira Campbell (AC, Guild President-Elect)

*Officers* – Acacia Matthews (AM, Guild President), Izzy Lawson (IL, Activities & Employability Officer), Alice Lui (AL, International Officer), Florie Craddock (FC, Sports Officer), Hannah Wilson (HW, Disabled Students Officer), Robin Hayward (RH, Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer), Ness Chigariro (NC, Education Officer), Reeve Isaacs-Smith (RIS, Welfare & Community Officer), Ben Lockley (BL, Postgraduate Officer), Aaminah Saleem (AS, Campaigns Officer)

*Scrutiny Panel Members* – Becky Hudson (BH), Jamie Cox (JC), Sarah Aray (SA)

*Idea Submitters* – Matthew Widdop (MW), Dylan Gibbons (DB)

*Student Trustees* – Serabi Opiyo (SO)

*Guild Core Staff* – Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator), Jane Baston (JB, Senior Voice Coordinator), Scott Dawson (SD, Student Voice & Representation Manager), James Lindsay (JL, Director of Support & Representation), Adam Dorey (AD, Policy & Campaigns Coordinator), Dayna Hopkins (DH, International & Postgraduate Coordinator), Amelia McLoughlan (AM, Representation Coordinator), Solomon Gibson (SG, Representation Coordinator), Chris Black (CB, Senior Representation Coordinator)

**Apologies:**

*Chair of All Student Meeting* – Nandini Sharma (NS)

*Scrutiny Panel Members* – Shreya Dinesh (SD), Ellie Rose (ER)

**Absent Without Apologies:**

*Officers* - Chirag Sejpal (CS, LGBTQ+ Students Officer), Madupavitra (MM, Womens' Officer), Maiar Elhariry (ME, Ethical & Environmental Officer), Chinaza Nwankwo (CN, Ethnic Minority Students Officer)

**209 students excluding Guild Officers were in the meeting at the start of the meeting.**

**Trigger Warnings: cost of living crisis**

**Discussions On: external memberships, Vote of No Confidence**

**Acronyms: ASM = All Student Meeting, ASV = All Student Vote**

Item No.	Item	Starts
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introduction from the Acting Chair of ASM</b>	12:05pm – 12:15pm

**AC noted that she is the Guild President-elect, and that she will be chairing this All Student Meeting (ASM), due to the Chair of All Student Meeting not being able to be present.**

AC also noted that her role is to be an impartial Chair and to ensure that all thoughts, opinions and views of attendees are discussed and taken into consideration when having discussions and making decisions.

**AC provided an overview of the Guild of Students:**

- If you are unfamiliar with the Guild of Students, we are here to represent all UoB students, and help you to get the best experience possible during your time here.
- There are lots that we offer for students, from making change, to volunteering, student-staff jobs, student groups and societies, to Reps, campaigns, elections, and advice. A link to the Guild website will be posted in the chat if you would like to find out more about us.

The link to the Guild website was posted in the meeting chat, for if students wanted to read more information about the Guild: [www.guildofstudents.com](http://www.guildofstudents.com)

AC noted that quorum for today's All Student Meeting would be called at the end of the introductions to the All Student Meeting.

**AC provided an overview of the ASM:**

- The All Student Meeting is currently part of the Guild's democratic decision-making system, which should be representative and inclusive of all UoB students.
- In this system, some decisions are made by students with a specific interest or experience in the issues, and who are part of one or more of the Guild's decision-making committees (Education, Activities, Welfare & Liberation and Campaigns Committee).
- Some decisions should be made by all students, and/or should have more student input - these decisions will be made at the All Student Meeting.
- Each committee discusses and makes decisions on ideas that have been sent to them.
- The committees also support the Officers to achieve their written statement and manifesto aims.
- Any ideas or policy that the committees cannot make a decision on, will be discussed at the All Student Meeting - and decisions on these ideas or policy will be made here.

- Policy that supports the Guild's values and aims as a charity may also be discussed and developed at this meeting.
- All Student Meetings take place at least 3 times a year and this is the final All Student Meeting of the year.
- Any UoB student can attend the All Student Meeting.
- The All Student Meeting is usually chaired by a Chair of All Students' Meeting, who is elected in Autumn Elections. They were unable to be at today's meeting.
- Decisions at the All Student Meeting are made using consensus decision-making - instead of just having a yes, no and abstain vote, decisions are made by consensus (which means we will take all of the issues, ideas associated with the idea into account, and come to an agreement on these).
- Consensus decision-making means that a more rounded discussion is had, more diverse perspectives are heard, and better-quality decisions are made. Therefore, any ideas submitted must have a two-thirds majority in order to pass.
- If students and Officers at the All Student Meeting cannot make a decision or the meeting is not "quorate", the ideas and policies will be allocated to an online All Student Vote (we need 416 students at the All Student Meeting for it to be quorate).
- If not quorate, discussions and debate will still take place, but as votes won't be valid, any ideas will be allocated to the All Student Vote (ASV).
- The ASV is scheduled to take place shortly after the All Student Meeting, and further information on this will be shared as soon as possible.

The following link was posted in the Zoom chat:

[www.guildofstudents.com/representation/howitworks/](http://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/howitworks/)

**AC outlined details of the meeting logistics:**

- Please note that everybody is automatically muted in this meeting.
- If you would like to speak, or have a question, please use the raise hand function, and the host will unmute you at the appropriate time.
- There will be an opportunity to ask questions throughout the meeting where specified, but you will also be able to do so specifically as a part of any other business at the end of the meeting.
- We will explain the specific process for asking questions on idea submissions shortly.
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- No member shall exceed two minutes when presenting, unless expressly granted permission.

AC noted that she would need to interrupt students if they go over 2 minutes.

**AC also noted the following for meeting logistics:**

- If you post anything inappropriate in the chat, you will be removed from the meeting.
- If you have negative feedback regarding the performance of individual members of Guild Staff, please do not directly mention them by name.
- The ASM rules are on the Guild website
- The quorum for the All Student Meeting shall be 1% of the Full Members of the Guild, which is 416 students. The quorum is calculated at the start of the Academic Year. If met, the meeting remains quorate unless attendance falls below 50% of quorum. Members of the Guild Student Voice Team will monitor this throughout.
- For each idea or policy submission, the Chair will introduce the proposer, and they will provide a summary of no more than 2 minutes.
- Clarifying questions can be asked after this point regarding the idea.
- Students will then be invited to speak for or against the idea in question alternating between both viewpoints. Hands should be raised to speak for the appropriate stance you wish to speak to.
- If you don't want to speak verbally, you can post your question in the Q&A function of the Zoom chat and these will be responded to after the questions via show of hands have been shared.
- Once feedback has been provided, the Chair will decide if another round of discussions are required. If a large number of questions are asked the Chair may conclude the debate once a sufficient discussion on the topic has been had, so that the meeting can stay to time.
- Following this, and if we are quorate a vote shall be held through the Guild website, requiring that a two thirds majority to approve or reject as per the Guild Bylaws. If the meeting is not quorate or a two thirds majority cannot be found, then the idea will be put to the All Student Vote.
- Please note that points raised in the zoom general chat will not be answered if they are concerning any items in the ASM, this can only be through a show of hands or the Q&A function.
- As a reminder, any individual wishing to speak will only have 2 minutes to present their point or idea.
- Only those who have purchased a ticket for today's all student meeting will be able to cast their votes on the Guild Website if we are quorate.

**AC noted some information about wellbeing support:**

- Please note that some difficult topics may be discussed in this meeting.
- If you are upset by anything discussed in this meeting, and/or you feel that your wellbeing has been affected, you can contact our Guild Advice Team for free, confidential and impartial advice - [guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk)

- You can also talk to UB Heard, the University’s confidential, 24-hour, 7 days a week wellbeing helpline, and also the University’s Chaplaincy service, who you can also talk to about welfare concerns.
- A link for these services will be posted in the Zoom chat.

Link to webpages and relevant email addresses for these services were posted in the meeting chat:

- **Guild Advice** - [guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk)
- **UB Heard** - <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/your-wellbeing/mental-health/ubheard.aspx>
- **UoB Chaplaincy** - <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/multi-faith-chaplaincy/index.aspx>

AC noted that the following topics will be discussed in this meeting:

- External memberships
- Vote of No Confidence in the Guild President

AC noted that there were no trigger warnings and/or content warnings to note.

AC noted that attendees will be reminded of what topics will be discussed before they are presented, and that no breakout rooms will be used in the meeting.

**AC noted that a moment would be taken to confirm quoracy for the meeting.**

**AM confirmed that 220 attendees were present in the meeting at this moment.**

**AC confirmed that the meeting was not quorate at 220 attendees, and noted that this meant all ideas discussed would be allocated to the All Student Vote and no votes would take place within the meeting.**

2	<b>Officer Introduction &amp; Updates</b>	12:15pm- 12:21pm
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AC introduced this agenda item, and invited the Officer Team to introduce themselves and present their updates.

The Full-Time Officers introduced themselves and provided brief updates on projects and campaigns that they have been working on:

**NC:** NC noted that they sit on lots of University committees, and are involved in discussions around timetabling. NC also noted that they have been working on EDI-related projects, including Be You at UoB -this is specifically involving looking at issues and barriers, and devising different solutions to these. NC noted the success of last night’s Student Rep Awards, where the achievements and successes of Reps were celebrated. Finally, NC noted the success of the Rep of the Month scheme.

**RIS:** RIS noted that their work on the Community Pantry was successful in providing food parcels to students in need. RIS also noted that their work on the Guild Hardship Fund and increase in sanitary products in Guild building has also been successful.

**AM:** AM noted that she has been working very hard on implementing the consent course. AM also noted that the Don't Rush to Rent Campaign and Cost of Living Campaign have been very successful with supporting students this year.

**IL:** IL noted her successful work on Clothes Swaps, and her upcoming Formal Wear Clothes Swap. IL also noted her successful work on the £3 hot meal in Joe's Bar, which is available between 3pm-5pm, and was introduced as a cost of living initiative. Finally, IL noted her work on music and DJs in Joe's Bar.

**BL:** BL noted that he was re-elected as Postgraduate Officer, and sits on University academic committees with NC. BL noted that he has successfully supported students with casework and individual campaigns, in addition to how to improve the experience of Postgraduate Teaching Assistants (e.g. through anti-casualization working group with the University's HR team).

**FC:** FC noted her successful work on expanding options for gym memberships at UoB Sports Centre (e.g. direct debit option). FC also noted successful work for the Sustainability Forum, Green Groups at UoB, and recent work introducing a UoB Sport Hardship Fund.

**AL:** AL noted her successful work on a community safety hub, wellbeing for international students, and successfully delivering a safety lecture and safety guides for international students (as international students have encountered scammers and/or criminals on campus, in particular near to the canal). AL also noted her successful Language Café events, the last of which for this academic year will be in June, on the Green Heart. AL noted that entry for the Language Café is free.

AC asked if any of the Part-Time Officers were present and wanted to provide an update.

RH posted their update in the Zoom chat, which was read aloud by AC:

"Hi all! I'm Robin (they/them), your Trans and Non-Binary Students Officer! Since the last All Students Meeting, I have continued to hold my regular Trans and Non-Binary Meets for trans and non-binary students at the university, put out a Trans Day of Visibility post collating the voices of trans people at UoB, and tried to keep trans and non-binary students updated about relevant opportunities and happenings. I have also continued to support students behind the scenes, including through the process of changing their name. Finally, I've been planning further info packs that weren't able to be released during LGBTQ+ History Month, which are now scheduled for Pride Month, and an end of year meal outing to celebrate the end of the academic year!"

AC thanked Officers for providing their updates.

AC thanked the Officer Team and asked attendees if they had any questions.

AC reminded attendees that questions must be submitted via a show of hands or through the Zoom Q&A function.

No questions were asked, and AC closed this item.

3

### Scrutiny Panel Report

12:21pm-12:29pm

**AC noted that the next item was the Scrutiny Panel Report:**

- The Scrutiny Panel, a group of 5 UoB students who scrutinize the Officers on their work, will provide a short report on the Officer Team's progress.
- This report is based on the work of both Full-Time and Part-Time Officers between March 2023 and the last Scrutiny Panel meetings, which took place on 2nd and 3rd May 2023
- I'm now going to handover to the Scrutiny Panel.

**JC provided an update about Officers' progress on behalf of the Panel:**

- AL had delivered great work on safety for international students
- FC has delivered great work developing Sports Ball and ensuring that it had stayed affordable. FC has also done great work on the Sustainability Forum
- IL has delivered great work on delivering Clothing Swaps, and the formal wear clothes swap is perfect timing for Society Balls and Grad Ball
- RIS has delivered great work on safety and support, increasing policy presence across campus, and the Pass it on Scheme
- CN has delivered a brilliant job on supporting ethnic minority students, using social media to promote events and movie nights, and taking advice from Full-Time Officers
- BL has delivered great work increasing inclusivity in the PG community, bringing back the PG Society, and generally delivering their manifesto
- AM has delivered a great job on pushing for the consent course, and she is in the final stages of getting this pushed through at the University. AM has been consistent with her updates on social media, highlighted the Guild's collaboration with the organising Diversify for Trustee Board recruitment at the Scrutiny Panel meeting, and has done great work on the Cost of Living crisis. AM had also highlighted her role in working closely with the University, and consideration of the result of the last All Student Vote.

AC thanked the Panel and asked attendees if they had any questions.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** What is your opinion on external memberships?

**JC:** JC noted that they were commenting as a student. JC noted that they voted in favour of external memberships, and that the Officer Team noted that they were pushing for external memberships to be reinstated.

**Student: Question (Q&A Function):** Can All Student Meetings be better publicised please at more convenient times?

SA noted that Guild staff will take this into account.

**Student: Question (Q&A Function):** Will existing students have to do the consent course? Or will it just be Freshers? Hopefully existing students can do it too.

**JC:** Yes, all students at UoB will be able to do the consent course.

**Student: Question (Q&A Function):** When will the meetings of the post-January Full-Time Officer meetings be published, and also the March Trustee Board meeting? I don't think it's particularly transparent at the moment.

BH noted that the Scrutiny Panel minutes are published on the Guild website.

AC thanked attendees for their questions and closed this item.

4

### **Guild Democracy Review Update**

12:29pm – 12:52pm

AC noted that the next item on the agenda was an update on the Guild's 2022/23 Democracy Review, and changes to the democratic decision-making system that will be implemented next academic year.

AC noted that questions from students could be taken at the end of the presentation.

AC passed to BL to present this agenda item.

#### **BL provided the following update for the Guild's Democracy Review:**

BL outlined the current democratic structure and highlighted the need to review the system so that it was simpler, more effective and engaged students across the whole Guild democratic process.

BL outlined phase 1 of the Democracy Review which was done in support with Alkhemy (an external SU consultation group). This focused on the democratic process itself, Part Time Officers and Liberation and Representation Associations.

BL discussed the consultation that was undertaken as part of the process, which included co creation sessions with 15 paid students, interviews and surveys with students and relevant Guild staff, alongside investigations into best practice at other Student Unions.

The feedback found that students saw the All Student Vote as a helpful tool as well as Scrutiny Panel, but the process, decision making committees and All Student Meeting needed alterations.

BL then summarised a new revised process for Guild democracy, starting in September 2023, based on an up/down vote system alongside 'action groups' to deliver change.



Having spoken to this process BL also discussed future phases of the democracy review, which included moving the Part-Time officer posts into paid Community Organisers and another consultation round with liberation and representation associations.

BL confirmed that the new democratic process would start from September 2023, with the Part-Time Officer and Liberation and Representation Associations being reviewed by December 2023.

A new process in full would be implemented for the next Officer Elections in March 2024.

AC thanked BL for providing an update.

AC asked attendees if they had any questions.

AC reminded attendees to either raise their (virtual) hand or to share their questions and/or thoughts within the Zoom Q&A function.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** I would like to ask about the organiser roles. Would the changes for these be voted on in an all-student vote?

**BL:** This depends on how the consultation goes. We really want to reach a consensus to ensure that everybody is happy.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** This all seems really positive, and generally simpler. You mentioned that research was conducted on other Students' Unions. Do you know which other Students' Unions follow this model and how successful it has been?

**BL:** This model has worked very successfully with high levels of student engagement at other Students' Unions. I do not want to name other Students' Unions though in case I get it wrong. I can feed this back later though and come back to you.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** How did you ensure that it was not only students who are already heavily involved with Guild democracy were being consulted during this consultation, given that it is most likely that those students that you want to get involved, not just the ones who would be involved anyway?

**BL:** There were a mix of engaged and under-engaged students involved with the consultation sessions. There is a big comms piece of work to be done here. Engagement is a massive challenge, but I will really push this next year. Engagement also has to be an active thing that we do.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** If the number of Part-Time Officers is reduced, how will you ensure that all marginalised groups that are currently represented will remain represented?

**BL:** These are questions that should be asked during the review. All marginalised groups should still have representation. I cannot promise that all of the roles will be represented.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** How will the legality of ideas be decided?

**BL:** It will be reviewed by the relevant Guild Officer, staff and external expertise where needed. Transparency will be important here too.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** For the “Initial Review” phase of this democratic structure, how much transparency and ability for member feedback will be possible? I ask because I am aware that the external memberships proposition was initially declared illegal because of Students’ Union charitable aims, despite the fact that a very large number of other Students’ Unions have external members, and that it clearly cannot be unambiguously illegal given that the Trustee Board have reconsidered their stance following the ASV.

**BL:** It was not declared illegal. After the proposal was discussed, it went to the All Student Vote. It was not declared illegal when received.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Will the up votes and down votes on ideas, questions and policy be public?

**BL:** Yes. Students will not be able to see what individual students voted for, but the overall number of up and down votes will be public.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Would community organiser roles focus on specific marginalised groups per organiser or would it be a general scope? Are you looking to merge Part-Time Officer roles with the reduction in roles?

**BL:** We will not be merging roles, but we will be seeking to understand how organisers can effectively support different intersections of our community. If you have particular ideas though, you can bring them forward to the review.

BL noted that if any students had further questions about the Democracy Review, he is happy for them to email him with the questions, and he would be happy to answer them.

BL posted his email address in the meeting chat: [b.lockley1@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:b.lockley1@guild.bham.ac.uk) .

AC closed this item.

5	<p><b>(Access) BREAK</b></p> <p>AC noted that this access break was some time for all attendees to have a short break.</p> <p>AC reminded attendees of the following services that they could contact if they felt that their wellbeing has been affected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guild Advice</li> <li>• UB Heard</li> <li>• UoB Chaplaincy</li> </ul> <p>Links for further information about these services are in the meeting chat</p>	12:52pm – 1:00pm
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AC noted that there were a few questions that she wanted to address:

**1) Question for Scrutiny Panel Members**

AC read loud an earlier question from the Webinar Q&A which was for the Scrutiny Panel: “What are your responses to accusations that the President has not considered ideas brought to her and not represented the student body?”

**JC:** We have been told by the President that she has tried to push for external memberships and inclusivity, and that she has had about 20-30 hours of meetings with students to talk about it.

**2) Question About Vale Fest**

AC noted that this question from the Webinar Q&A would be addressed in the AOB section of the agenda.

**3) Question About Publication of Meeting Minutes**

AC read aloud a question that was posted in the Webinar Q&A earlier: “Will the minutes from this meeting be published, if yes where and when?”.

AC noted that the minutes will be published before the All Student Vote.

6	<b>Update on External Memberships</b>	1:00pm – 1:15pm
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**AC noted that the item “Update on External Memberships” would now be presented by Serabi Opiyo (SO).**

AM noted in the meeting chat that SO is a Student Trustee of the Guild.

SO presented the statement from the Guild Trustee Board about their response to external memberships, which was published yesterday afternoon.

[The full statement presented by SO can be found here](https://www.guildofstudents.com/news/article/website/A-Statement-From-Your-Trustee-Board-Regarding-External-Memberships/) (URL: <https://www.guildofstudents.com/news/article/website/A-Statement-From-Your-Trustee-Board-Regarding-External-Memberships/> )

AC noted again that SO is a Student Trustee of the Guild.

IL posted some further context about the Guild Trustee Board in the meeting chat: “The Trustee Board is made up of 7 Full-Time Officers, 5 External Trustees (with varying levels of expertise), 1 University representative, and 4 Student Trustees.”

IL posted some further context about the Guild Trustee Board in the meeting chat: “The Trustee Board is made up of 7 Full-Time Officers, 5 External Trustees (with varying levels of expertise), 1 University representative, and 4 Student Trustees.”

**AC read aloud the following question that was posted in the Webinar Q&A:** “The reason to exclude external members has been given as a lack of disciplinary options available to non-students and staff, i.e. people not connected to the University. However, the Guild is intended to be an arms-length institution and should not need to rely on the University's disciplinary structures. Is it not possible that misconduct could be disciplined by expulsion from the Guild?”

RIS noted that the Task & Finish Group will address this.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** What category do students from other universities who are members of Guild societies fall into, and is there any indication as to how long until we hear what is going to be done about alumni memberships?

**IL:** Students from other Universities would fall under the “Other” category. Some students from other Universities might be UoB alumni, in which case they would fall under the “Alumni” category

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Given that a large part of the frustration with external memberships was due to societies feeling like they had been kept in the dark, what approach do you want to take in future regarding this?”

It was noted that the Task & Finish Group would also look at this.

**AC noted that there were a couple of questions about alumni in the Webinar Q&A:**

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Why is it that when students graduate and become alumni they are suddenly considered a safety concern?

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Considering that as previously mentioned that Alumni have been reinvesting into the Guild, why are they not included in the initial reinstating of External Memberships?

AC asked if anybody wanted to answer these questions.

**IL:** It is not the case that when you become alumni you are suddenly a concern (I am alumni as well).

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** How will you assure us that the priority will be figuring out how to make it so that a wider variety of external members will be allowed, rather than coming up with a reason it would be ‘impossible’ within the Trustee meeting?

**IL:** If a resolution arises, we will have an emergency Trustee Board meeting. The Trustee Board meeting is otherwise currently scheduled for July.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** If external (or internal) members breach acceptable behavioural conduct, surely they can also just have their membership revoked, and noted on a record if they want to re-join/join another society. Also, they could report to things like the police if needed to escalate.

**IL:** We do not have those processes in place, yes. We will need legal advice for these. A lot of this is not within the scope of the Guild.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** What is the difference between the safety concerns presented by carers of students versus alumni? What is in place for barring say a carer who is a misconduct offender?

**IL:** Carers are accountable to their service provider. It is important that carers are one of the first groups to be included as part of the reintroduction of external memberships however, as some carers support disabled students.

AC closed this item.

7	<b>Idea Submission: The Officers Must Vote In Support of External Members Until an Appropriate Alternative is Proposed</b>	1:15pm- 1:45pm
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For this item, AC noted the following:

- We will first welcome the idea proposer to present their idea, and they will have 2 minutes to discuss their item and answer any clarifying questions.
- Attendees will be welcomed to ask a question through raising their hand or submitting questions through the Zoom Q&A function. Any questions or points which you would like to be shared must be done through a raising of your hand or the Q&A chat function.
- Points will be taken in a rotating order, one point for and then one point against the motion, starting with hands raised and then moving to the Zoom Q&A. If you are speaking, please note you will only have up to 2 minutes to make your point in the meeting.
- If you'd like to make a point in the Q&A, please ensure you note if your comment is for or against the idea by stating which at the beginning of your comment.
- The Student Voice Team will monitor the chat for any issues you are encountering during this time period.

AC passed to the idea submitter to present their idea.

MW presented their idea.

[A copy of their full idea submission can be found on the Guild of Students website here](https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/allstudentmeeting/)  
(URL: <https://www.guildofstudents.com/representation/allstudentmeeting/>)

The above link was also posted in the meeting chat.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** Societies run events in the Guild building, into which anybody can walk in and do something unpleasant. The only way to make a difference is for people to have ID. This might be expensive too but it is effective.

**NC:** Thank-you for your question. The Task & Finish Group will discuss this to ensure that we can find a solution to keep members safe. We need to do a lot of work for this.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** My main concern is the initial consultation from Trustees, they never included societies or other students, but hopefully this will be the case moving forwards.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** It is flawed to have an open campus but not an open society. For some events you cannot attend or buy tickets for unless you have membership. The initial conversations on external memberships were about specific safeguarding cases (e.g. harassment). Now we are engaging with democracy.

**Student: Question (Verbal):** One concern with how it was handled is that these things need to be handled in a particular way.

**FC:** I do agree in part to the last question, because of the severity of the issue, and confidentiality of the misconduct, we had to close external memberships.

**AS:** This idea submission passed with a huge mandate in the ASV. The debate has become too two-sided that students who are pro-external memberships are portrayed as not wanting students to be safe. We do want students to be safe though. Some societies need external members. For example drama societies (which I have been involved in) need external members to help with technical activities. The external memberships idea passing is a democratic mandate.

**Some further comments and questions were posted in the meeting chat:**

**Student: Comment (Webinar Q&A):** For: some student groups, from personal opinion, for example the Tea Society, are dependent on external members (staff and alumni) for donations of tea and funds. I would assume that the same applies for other, decades-old societies.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Why was this not presented to society committees prior to enforcement?

**Student: Comment (Webinar Q&A):** On the subject of the severity of the initial issues, yes, I agree. Why did it take until February to announce that external memberships would be closed, when my meetings with the President have suggested that the issues occurred in September/October. More than four months is far too long to justify the situation as “needing to be dealt with quickly”.

**AC noted that the comments and questions had all been answered, and that the idea would be allocated to the All Student Vote.**

SO noted the following in the meeting chat: “If anyone has more concerns on External Memberships please free to email me. My email is [sao070@student.bham.ac.uk](mailto:sao070@student.bham.ac.uk) .”

AC thanked attendees and Officers for sharing their thoughts and closed this item.

8	<b>Idea Submission: Vote of No Confidence in the Guild President</b>	1:45pm-2:07pm
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AC passed to the idea submitter for them to present their item.

A copy of the full idea submission can be found on the Guild of Students website here: <https://www.guildofstudents.com/pageassets/representation/allstudentmeeting/Idea-Submission-Vote-of-No-Confidence-in-the-Guild-President-Final.pdf>

The above link was also posted in the meeting chat.

DG introduced themselves as a public health student who has been a member of seven societies.

DG noted the Guild's values, and how according to the Guild's Byelaws, the Guild should consult with students if there are any major changes.

DG also noted that they were against external memberships being revoked.

AC closed DG's presentation, and asked attendees if anybody wanted to speak against the idea.

AM provided the following response:

- At the last ASM, external memberships were discussed, and the relevant idea submission was allocated to the All Student Vote, as it rightfully should have been
- When this Vote of No Confidence motion was submitted, we had not yet had a Trustee Board meeting
- In the Trustee Board statement that was published yesterday, we noted that all of the Trustee Board including myself collectively had made the decision to remove external memberships – the decision to remove them was not my decision personally. I am not directing the blame to others.
- I am listening to students, and have had lots of meetings with students. There are lots of examples of this both for external memberships and other issues and projects (e.g. the cost of living campaign)

AC closed AM's presentation.

AC asked if any other attendees wanted to speak.

**Student: Comment (Verbal):** I have read the byelaws, and it is clear from there that the President is accountable for changes made through Members' Democratic Process, which is why they are solely accountable for this.

**BL:** I would like to speak against this motion. Lots of issues have been talked about. This motion is a motion asking for AM to be removed from their Officer position. It would not be justifiable to remove her after all of the hard work that she has delivered during this year. Her hard work has included work on the cost of living campaign and consent course. You can have your opinion if you want to. In five years, I have never known a more hard-working President.

**Student: Comment (Verbal):** We should as students hold our Guild accountable. We are disappointed with the response from the Guild. Apologies seem empty as there has not been any change. It is a giant move to make, but we have the right to have our say, it is democracy.

**SO:** To the previous speaker, you mentioned that we did nothing. I read a statement out earlier which was a response from the Trustee Board. You said that you are holding the Guild accountable, however kicking the President out of their role is not fair.

**Student: Comment (Verbal):** You mentioned that this was going to a Trustee Board, but the Trustee Board is not controlled by students. The Trustee Board is not a vote. You took away the two biggest contributors to external memberships – alumni and members of the public – that is why it feels like an empty promise. External memberships have not been reinstated, they have been brought back but in a different way. This is also not about the President as an individual, it is about them being accountable as the Guild President.

**FC:** A lot of people seem to think that the President has been the ring leader for abolishing external memberships. There are a lot of things that the President is not in control of e.g. serious misconduct. There are 18 people on Trustee Board, and there is no hierarchy. If AM is removed, the incoming President will have no handover and that will be difficult for them. I do not think that moving the President will give you the solution that you are looking for.

**Student: Comment (Verbal):** I would like to ask the submitter exactly what they want to achieve by this motion. AM has been extremely open to student engagement throughout the year, helpful and always open to meetings. Could this motion be considered a waste of time, as not having a President will be a huge loss for the last few months.

AC noted the following comments that were posted in the Webinar Q&A:

“The President is, according to the Byelaws: “Be ultimately accountable for the Guild of Students complying with the provisions of the Bye-Laws and adhering to changes made through the Member’s Democratic Process, particularly where relevant to their Officer portfolio.” The Members Democratic Process has not been followed, therefore the President is accountable. Do you agree?”

“For Vote of No Confidence: In my opinion an ex-committee of 2 years through lockdown and the year after (2020-2022), it has been made quite clear that the Guild are the enemy of student groups by crippling our ability to recover by taking excessively long periods to approve activities and merchandise despite following the correct procedures and paperwork resulting in many failed plans for revitalization.

The undemocratic proposal for the suspension of external memberships this year, which some student groups depend on to stay afloat, is the ultimate betrayal. To add insult to injury, the move also alienates students on leave, alumni (some which reinvest in the Guild after the fact) and University staff which are as much as a part of the University as students. With that being said, the move for a vote of no confidence is important as a sign that we the students, as members of the Guild, are above undermining democracy.”

“The result of the All Student Meeting was to re-open the external membership application form on the Guild website for this year. Regardless of the debate over externals next year, the form has not been reopened yet. Will you be intending to re-open the form this year?”

“Could you answer the proposers claim that the illegality comment was misleading?”



“I have a comment which is neither really for or against - I think that the Guild has made many, many mistakes in the last year, and that AM is only directly responsible for a fraction of them. As AM is elected to represent the Guild, removing AM is a concrete way of showing that we are upset at how the Guild is running. However, I want it very clear that at least personally, I am upset at the Guild in general and only representatively upset at AM. I do not want the removal (or lack of removal) of AM to be the end of the process, which I imagine will take years of work. The Guild is severely flawed and removing AM will not bring back my confidence in the Guild.”

“Against//I think students are disappointed in the fact that the President is not constantly doing what students have directly asked them to do. The President is an elected representative, and it is not undemocratic for the Officer Team to make decisions on our behalf. If the President can back up their decisions with reasons as to why they are best for the student body, we have to have some consideration for this. That being said, communication from the guild re External memberships has been terrible. But that seems in itself to be a small matter to attempt to base a VONC on.”

“For: How would you suggest we hold the Guild accountable if not to remove our elected officials from office?”

“I am slightly confused about the terminology used for the "compulsory consent course" when an opt out is there for anyone to misuse, most likely those that need the course will simply opt-out right?”

“Against – I have been heavily involved in the campaign to reinstate external memberships but I don't think this motion is very constructive or fair. After the ASV, we have seen clear steps from the Guild on the issue including steps to reinstate them in largely all forms which I think are realistic. The President has repeatedly made significant amounts of time to talk to students who had concerns on the issue and cannot act independently, it is the Trustee Board as a whole that act. Considering the first meeting since the ASV was on Monday and we have seen a significant shift since then, I cannot really see the points that the President has not done anything being very fair.”

AC noted that some of the questions had already been answered, and any questions that had not already been answered would be answered after the meeting.

AC thanked attendees and Officers for sharing their thoughts closed this item.

7	<b>Questions/AOB</b>	2:07pm -2:20pm
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AC noted that the AOB section of the agenda was for the following:

- Opportunity for attendees to ask questions
- Questions can be asked here about minutes from the previous ASM
- Opportunity for attendees to raise any other items

AC reminded students to either raise their hand or post it the Webinar Q&A function if they had a question.

**Student: Question (Webinar Q&A):** Last year the Guild created the Renter's Union. Are they functional, what happened to it?

**RIS:** RIS noted that this was set up last year, but the Officer team this year found that it was not as functional as they wanted it to be. RIS also noted that some of the work of the Union still exists in the work of the Community Welfare Team.

AC noted an earlier question that was asked about Vale Fest: "Why have there been so many more restrictions on Vale Fest this year?"

IL noted the following:

- There were not necessarily more specific constraints on events this year.
- Last year, the event ran at a loss, which had not happened previously – funding had come from other areas (e.g. campus life), for various reasons such as the cost of living crisis, Brexit, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Ukraine crisis.
- Students who organise balls know this.
- Ticket sales were not what they should have been
- There was a predicted loss of at least £24,000 – this is bigger than some people's yearly salaries.
- Funding is important to students, and the Guild had to work with Vale Fest in order to avoid a loss
- The Guild is a charity, and the money that Vale Fest makes goes back into the Guild's account for students (e.g. expanding staff teams to have more capacity, free sanitary products for students, student group grant allocation, community pantry etc).
- It is sad that Vale Fest could not go ahead this year, and we do want to work with the committee on this

A student who is on the Vale Fest committee noted the following verbally:

- Although there was a loss last year, we were still able to raise and donate money for charity.
- We fully accepted that it was harder to sell tickets this year - since COVID-19, we have struggled significantly, as we do not get funding like we used to.
- We were however disappointed with the approach to opposing the ticket sales target.

AC noted the following comment in the Webinar Q&A:

"I am slightly confused about the terminology used for the "compulsory consent course" - when an opt out is there for anyone to misuse, most likely those that need the course will simply opt-out right?"

AC noted that there was a conversation happening for this comment in the meeting chat.

AC noted further comments in the Webinar Q&A:

“Is it true that the Guild blocked the release of line-up for Vale Fest? Personally, I did not buy because I did not know what was playing.”

“Hi, apologies for submitting the same question twice, but I was ignored the first time and I am physically not able to speak because of my disability. The result of the All Student Meeting was to re-open the external membership application form on the Guild website for this year. Regardless of the debate over externals next year, the form has not been reopened yet. Will you be intending to re-open the form this year?”

“Why have minutes been so slow to be published from basically every major body? The Trustee Board minutes from January took until May to be published, and only once I (and others) started calling this out did the March ones get published... also in May. This shows that they COULD have been published in a more reasonable time frame, but weren't. The Full-Time Officer minutes since January were only published this week, and were all published at once, proving they were written, but hidden. Student Groups are given only 2 weeks to send minutes to members and Student Groups themselves, why is a similar timeframe not in place for the Guild itself?”

AC noted that the questions will be answered after the meeting.

AC thanked attendees for attending and engaging with the meeting.

AC noted that students can email [studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk) for any questions, and can also contact their Officer Team: [www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/](http://www.guildofstudents.com/officerteam/)

AC also noted that students can email the following wellbeing services should they require wellbeing support following the meeting

- **Guild Advice** - [guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:guildadvice@guild.bham.ac.uk)
- **UB Heard** - 0800 368 5819 (Freephone UK\*) or 00353 1 518 0277 (International)

(there is also a Live chat on the UB Heard portal:

<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/your-wellbeing/mental-health/ubheard.aspx>

- **UoB Chaplaincy** - <https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/multi-faith-chaplaincy/index.aspx>
- **Community Pantry** - [www.guildofstudents.com/support/communitypantry](http://www.guildofstudents.com/support/communitypantry)

**AC closed the meeting.**