

What is the issue you want to change?

I propose the following motion:

A Referendum should be held in accordance with Article 20 of the Guild's Articles of Association on the question of whether the student body has confidence in the political leadership of the Guild President.

Proposer's explanation

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

In an All Student Vote in March 2023, students passed a motion that "The Guild Should Value, Protect and Maintain Its External Members"¹. Previously, in December 2021 students voted² to reverse the decision to charge External Members a fee for their membership and set it at £0.

The proposer of the motion passed in the All Student Vote in March 2023 has subsequently written on Facebook³ that, notwithstanding the views expressed by the participants in that vote, the President and officers intend to stand by the ban on External Members and not repeal it.

Previously, the President wrote in a blog on the Guild website: "I'm here to support and represent all students"⁴. By ignoring student votes, specifically the ASV in March 2023, I believe the President has caused a serious breach of students' trust.

The President said of Societies' External Members at the March 2023 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. 10 out of 11 provincial Russell Universities allow EM because they are beneficial for students.

The President stated that "not all the information was given" by previous Guild Officers in the ASV in 2022 regarding External Membership Fees. However, the President chaired the

¹ <https://www.guildofstudents.com/asset/News/6016/ASV-2-March-2023-Full-Results.pdf> 1,058 votes were cast, with 829 in favour, 186 against, and 43 abstentions.

² <https://www.guildofstudents.com/pageassets/representation/allstudentmeeting/All-Student-Vote-Dec-2021-Results.pdf>

³ https://www.facebook.com/groups/470776866402274/posts/3144465795700021/?comment_id=3145132312300036&reply_comment_id=3145227078957226

⁴ <https://www.guildofstudents.com/blogs/blog/acacia/2022/08/10/Hiya-Im-Acacia-your-Guild-President/>

ASM meeting at which the motion was discussed, so was aware of the student sentiment around External Members going into this academic year.

There was NO CONSULTATION with Societies and wider student body prior to abolishing EM. Societies benefit a lot from Alumni Members and use their specialist skills to benefit students.

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.

Motion has been adapted for publication for the All Student Vote by the Proposer.