

## Guild Policy Development Group Minutes

**Present:** Reece Patrick Roberts (President, Chair), Adam Goldstone (GOG Member), Jess Small (GOG Member), Holly Battrick (GOG Member), Amber Culley (Disabled Reserved Place), Ken Chan (International Reserved Place), Fan Xu (International Reserved Place), Horace Li (International Reserved Place), Jess Rutland (LGBTQ Reserved Place), Finn Humphris (Trans Reserved Place), Luke Hilton (Open Place), Xuexuan Peng (Open Place), Izzy Bygrave (Open Place), Miao Zhao (Open Place), Zhang Wenting (Postgraduate Reserved Place)

**In attendance:** Oli Killeen (Democracy Co-ordinator) (Note Taker), Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager), Adam Sheridan (Director of Engagement)

**Apologies:** No apologies were received.

**Absent without apologies:** Nathan Le Blancq (Open Place), Cai Lyons (Postgraduate Reserved Place)

**The President welcomed everyone and the meeting commenced at 18.00**

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Those present introduced themselves.  The meeting was declared quorate.	<b>Noted</b>
2	<b>Membership Training</b>	Training was provided to the members present on how the Group will operate this year.  Items accepted unanimously by the Group will be passed automatically for an Officer to work on throughout the year. Where there is no unanimity, items will go forward for an all-student vote, where items much reach quorum to be considered, with a simple majority in favour.  The quorum for cycles this year is 190 (upon clarification).  The full meeting schedule was provided, the dates are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24<sup>th</sup> January – 6pm, Mandela Room – Guild of Students</li> <li>• 7<sup>th</sup> March - 6pm, Mandela Room – Guild of Students</li> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> May - 6pm, Mandela Room – Guild of Students</li> <li>• 13<sup>th</sup> June - 6pm, Mandela Room – Guild of Students</li> </ul> All members were asked to make sure they could attend, and to send apologies if they could not.	<b>Noted</b>
3	<b>'Your Ideas' Submissions</b>	Ideas submitted to this cycle are below:	

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>A night shuttle bus from the library to Selly Oak and halls areas in exam season</b> – It was noted that this bus is now active, but that the mandate would be useful to argue for extension to vacation periods, and to cover residences outside of Selly Oak. Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>2. <b>Free Printing</b> – It was noted that the University already provides an allocation for free printing so more clarification is needed from the proposer. The Group agreed that information should be provided on what is already provided, but that universal free printing has a negative consequence on the environment. Taking into consideration further clarification, this will proceed to a full vote.</li> <li>3. <b>Diversity of thought</b> – It was noted that there is a Code of Practice on Freedom of speech that covers the University. It was also noted that the Guild has a Zero Tolerance Policy which restricts the use of language that may be considered offensive – and that this idea may be contrary to this policy. The idea was rejected and it was agreed that a full statement will be provided to the proposer outlining this decision.</li> <li>4. <b>Show us how our tuition fees are used</b> – Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>5. <b>Extended library opening hours</b> – It was noted that the extended opening hours asked for in the idea have already been completed, but that the idea should amended to lobby for a 24-hour library all year round to support international students who don't go home during the holiday period. Taking into consideration amendment, idea accepted unanimously.</li> <li>6. <b>Selly Style</b> – This idea was not accepted unanimously, and will therefore proceed to a full vote.</li> <li>7. <b>Release Timetables earlier</b> – Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>8. <b>Make clubs and societies have sessions for beginners</b> – It was noted that this might already happen in a number of different forms depending on the Group. The point was made that group members are volunteers and that this would be difficult to impose on some of the groups. This was not accepted, and will therefore proceed to a full vote.</li> <li>9. <b>Inclusion of the Guild as a pro-choice institution</b> – Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>10. <b>Utensils donation</b> – Concerns noted about the storage of items that would be donated and bought or sold by students. This idea was not accepted unanimously, and will therefore proceed to a full vote.</li> <li>11. <b>Student/staff lockers</b> – There were concerns raised that some of the lockers would not be cleared out regularly, and so would prevent the majority from using them. This was not accepted unanimously, and will therefore proceed to a full vote.</li> <li>12. <b>New webmail System</b> – Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>13. <b>Parking areas for those with unseen disabilities</b> – Accepted unanimously.</li> <li>14. <b>Guild Drinks Promotions</b> – It was noted that some drinks promotions are already offered. We are unable to sell</li> </ol>	
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4	<b>Beliefs and Commitments</b>	<p>It was noted that the Beliefs and Commitments were put forward for a student vote during Cycle 1 of "Your Ideas" held in October. None reached quorum and so did not pass successfully.</p> <p>Those voted on will be taken to each meeting, and voted on at GPDG for approval.</p> <p>The following were presented for discussion and approval. It was noted that these were the Beliefs and Commitments with the highest vote during Cycle 1.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Overcrowding</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>2. <b>Hidden Course Costs</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>3. <b>European Union</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>4. <b>Self-defence</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>5. <b>Climate change</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>6. <b>Funding</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>7. <b>Societies</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>8. <b>Consultation with students</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>9. <b>Living Wage</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> <li>10. <b>Balloons</b> – accepted unanimously.</li> </ol>	<b>Noted</b>
5	<b>Campaigns Pot Policy Amendment</b>	<p>The Campaigns Pot Policy (amended) was presented, to take account of budgetary changes.</p> <p>It is noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £4,000 will be allocated to Officer-led campaigns</li> <li>• £3,000 will be allocated to student-led campaigns</li> <li>• £4,000 will be allocated to the liberation history months, ring-fenced at £1,000 per campaign.</li> </ul>	<b>Noted</b>

		This was accepted unanimously.	
<b>6</b>	<b>NUS Conferences Policy Amendment</b>	It was noted that a number of corrections were required for this policy. It was withdrawn from consideration to allow the corrections to be made and will be returned to the next cycle.	<b>Noted</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	The chair thanked everyone for their attendance.	<b>Noted</b>

**The Chair closed the meeting at 20.00**

**Date of next meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – 6pm - Mandela**