

Idea/Policy:	Balloons [link]
Date/Time/Location:	19 Dec 25, 12:00 pm
Student Attendees:	Abhijeet Patel (SO), Max Williams (SusO)
Staff Attendees:	Sam Macbeth (Student Activities Manager), Molly Purcell (SSVC) Chloe Batten (SVC/DE)
Apologies:	
Actions/Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Let policy lapse ▪ AP/MW/MP - Take policy (and this meeting's minutes) to E&E Committee, with the actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrate detail around use of helium balloons ○ Decide whether to set hard line around use of any balloon, or to encourage students and staff to use more environmentally friendly balloons ▪ CB email minutes to Amy Simon, once approved

Minutes

AP introduces the policy

MP explains purpose of the action group and actions the group can take

MW: we already have a policy in the Guild's internal Ethical & Environmental (E&E) policy around balloons. The wording is slightly different – discouraging use and Guild can't be used as a release ground. If we already have a policy, suggest we don't renew/send to ASV but integrate into Guild internal policy.

SM: I agree with Max. When things are imbedded into internal policy, student groups can better follow that. A better solution than renewing.

AP: E&E Committee's policy isn't helium specific

MW: Let's put to EEC committee and see how they feel about the wording and discuss. They're meeting end of Jan, and Max, Molly and Abhijeet sit are members. Send it there with a recommendation to integrate it into existing policy.

MP: Action – let policy lapse but bring to EEC committee

MW: Do student groups follow this policy? Is there push back? Does it [students using helium balloons] happen under the radar?

SM: Probably happens under the radar. Student groups have had finance requests for balloons that they've said no to. Policy in E&E is worded in a way that makes it possible for students to have balloons at events, whereas the student Guild policy is less so. It is confusing because we have two policies that say different things

MW: Would it become an issue for students if we set a hard line on no balloons?

SM: Yes, but if it's helium specific, a lot of balloon places do it without helium. Might have an impact/pushback at larger balls, for example. But think they'd understand why if it's in the E&E policy.

MW: Might be stronger if it's in internal policy than student idea from 3 years ago

SM: Current policy is to "discourage". Do we want to say students "cannot"?

MW: Two actions to bring to E&E - 1 integrating policy, 2 do we want to change the word "discourage" to "not allowed"? Would be good for E&E to talk about because there's representation from all departments.

Recommendation – update policy to include helium, and decide whether "discourage" or "not at all"

SM: Not a member of E&E but will pass thoughts on. Agrees on restricting helium but doesn't see a need to stop all balloons. Can get biodegradable etc.

MP: The policy can recommend using more environmentally friendly balloons.
Recommends

1 - don't renew

2 - take outcome/thoughts to next E&E committee to look at reframing

AP: Sounds good

MW: some things from Gen AI action group went to E&EC so might do a big review of its policies anyway

AP: Let's take this to E&E where there's wider representation

MP: Send minutes of this meeting to the next E&E meeting (action for CB to contact Amy Simon)