

**Action Group – Palestine Solidarity
Meeting Date: 09.07.24****Present**

Amira Campbell, Outgoing Guild President **(AC) (Allocated Officer)**

Syed Sadath, Incoming Guild President 2024.25 **(SS)**

Armaan Hussain, Incoming Ethnic Minorities Student Officer 2024.25 **(AH)**

Mariyah Ali, Student Attendee **(MA)**

3x Students (student membership reviewed and approved the Guild)

Scott Dawson, Student Voice and Representation Manager **(SD) (Note Taker)**

Minutes from meeting 09.07.24:

AC: Welcomed attendees to the meeting, asked JL to explain current situation with the idea.

JL: Outlined that the policy was now through the initial review stage, having had 350+ positive votes and was now at the action group stage. Initially, we believed the item may be able to be sent straight to the final All Student Vote of the year in June. However, the Guild sought legal advice prior to this action to ensure the policy could be taken forward appropriately.

The Guild can only take part in activity which is in line with its charitable objectives. The policy as currently worded acts beyond those charitable objectives and may not be able to be approved by Trustee Board and implemented.

Manchester University was referenced where the Students' Union passed a corporate conclusion that recognised the student vote but could not put any resource towards implementation. JL suggested that a decision for the group would be if the group would like to review and amend the policy so that it can be implemented, or if it taken forward as a corporate conclusion.

AC: What action can be done on the policy outside of term time?

JL: Noted that whilst a large majority of democratic activity will be put on pause for the summer to allow the Voice Department to update our democratic systems, we could still progress and workshop this idea, so that it was in place for implementation in September and student consultation.

Student Question: You discussed earlier about the articles of association and needing to represent the interests of students. Surely as we have students who are from Palestine, then supporting self-determination of Palestine is a student issue?

Students follow up on the above: And this likewise impacts student wellbeing, particularly if due to this issue they are being targeted on campus. Can you explain how this conflicts with the articles of association?

JL: Any activity must be in the interest of students at the University of Birmingham. What is happening in Palestine has an impact beyond students at the University of Birmingham, and therefore is outside the scope of charitable objectives.

AC: Discussed a policy that focuses just on services on campus support Palestinian students during this crisis would be more likely to pass, but acknowledged this is a significant divergence from the formal state recognition of Palestine.

Student Question: What can be implemented and taken forward by the Guild of Students?

JL: We have reviewed the current policy and provided colour coding as to what we feel could be re-implemented automatically, partially amended or will need to be fully removed, which can be reviewed by this group.

Student Question: This feels absurd and ignores the ongoing Genocide in Palestine, can we do anything else?

AC: We have in other action groups split ideas and policy suggestions in half for progression, could we do this here (i.e: Anti-Fascism and Anti-Racism)?

JL: Yes but advised caution as all ideas still need to go to Trustee Board for full approval.

[At this stage, the group reviewed the policy and colour coding]

SD: As a general point, areas which can be implemented or amended are resolvable because they are applicable to students at the University of Birmingham. A new or revised policy would need to consider this as a part of its development.

AC: Could there be a point included or amended on the encampment?

SD: This would need to be as the discretion of the chair. You could likely word support for the encampment based on the wellbeing of UoB students involved in the encampment, but this would require review.

[The Action Group reflected on the information provided and considered how to take the idea forward]

[It was the conclusion of the students present that they would like to keep the policy as is and take it forward to the next All Student Vote in the 2024.25 academic year as a corporate conclusion].

[At this stage the meeting concluded]

Agreed Actions:

The group unanimously agreed on the following actions:

- That the Manchester Corporate Conclusion information would be shared.
- That the policy with recommended colour coded sections would be shared.
- That the Guilds Charitable Objectives would be circulated.
- Another meeting would be organised following circulation of this content.

Any questions regarding approval, next steps or requests for further information can be submitted to: studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk