

Guild Policy Development Group Minutes

<u>Present:</u> Joshua Williams (President/Chair, JW), Jo Park (GOG Member, JP), Tobi Adeyemi (GOG Member, TA), Millie Gibbins (GOG Member, MG), Katie Spencer (GPDG Member, Disabled student, KS), Yernur Niyetkaliyev (GPDG Member, International student, YN), Yu Xu (GPDG Member, International student, YX), Naomi Bennett (GPDG Member, LGBTQ student, NB), Alex Heighton (GPDG Member, Trans student, AH), Xuexuan Peng (GPDG Member, Open Place, XP), Benjamin Lockley (GPDG Member, Open Place, BL), John Okon (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, JO), Uthman Mahmud (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, UM) & Eleanor Thomas (GPDG Member, Woman Student, ET)

<u>In attendance:</u> Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager, LG), Rozena Nadeem (Democracy Coordinator, RN), Jules Singh (Idea submitter, JS), Amanda Sefton (Education Officer, AmS)

<u>Apologies:</u> James Harris (GPDG Member, Open Place, JH), Melanie Horsted (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, MH) Guilherme Cardoso Da Cunha (GPDG Member, BME student, GCDC), Alina Satheesh (GPDG Member, International Student, AS).

Absent without apologies: Shruti Das (GPDG Member, Open Place, SD)

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	More Lockers in Guild	 JS presented and spoke in favour of his idea Members discussed the Idea and raised questions e.g. review policies, processes and procedures for lockers/locker spaces for society committee members and then see if we need more, idea maybe needs to be more specific. The group agreed that there needs to be distinction between commuter students, student group committee members etc. LG explained procedure around Idea approval, and that an approved Idea is allocated to a Full Time Officer for implementation. AmS raised concerns about financial feasibility/costs. 	
		15/15 Group Members voted in favour of the Idea The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.	Approved
2	Portable Phone	JS presented and spoke in favour of his idea.	
	Chargers in	JW raised that plug sockets already exist in Joe's Bar.	
	Joe's	 Members engaged in discussion and raised questions e.g. how idea would work, finances, are portable phone chargers in Joe's necessary. AH spoke against idea and raised concerns around proposed system being complicated, including the risk of data mining, who would be accountable for data collection etc. TA spoke against idea and raised concerns around finances. YN asked if the Guild could lend out chargers like lockers? 	

		 JP spoke in favour of idea, suggesting that engagement could increase and the Bar won't be losing customers. Members engaged in discussion and weighed the pros and cons of the Idea. 	Rejected.
		15/15 Group members voted against the Idea	кејестеа.
		The Idea was therefore rejected unanimously.	
3	Decolonising Group Activities	 YM explained and spoke in favour of their idea JW explained past/current work of Officers and Guild around decolonisation, including Equality and Diversity Reps & BAME Reps and the strategic plan/ ET raised question around what Equality and Diversity Committee members of student groups do JO raised that training society leaders is important and how to ensure committees are representative, in addition to ensuring that representative groups are coming into societies AH spoke in favour of Idea, in particular formal training for societies. YN spoke in favour of idea – some students don't feel comfortable attending societies AH – spoke in favour of idea – majority counterparts to minority groups will always be centric if not checked CP – spoke in favour of idea, including unconscious bias training and taking feedback from last year's training 	
		 JW – students can hold committees and Guild to account Vote Number for Decolonising Group Activities – 15/15 The Idea was therefore approved unanimously. Vote Number for Equality & Diversity Training for Student Group Committee Members – 15/15 The amendment was unanimously approved 	Approved.
4	More Transparent Guild	 YN presented and spoke in favour of Idea, stating that some processes not transparent or available to society members (e.g. not allowed to use Google docs JW - spoke about democracy changes and how we communicate as a Guild to students. KS - spoke in favour of idea - didn't know anything about GPDG before running, couldn't find information JW - some processes (e.g. use of Google docs) emphasised in society committee training MG - spoke in favour of idea - in Guild's interest, less questions for student-staff UM - spoke in favour - suggested public online forum where students/society committee members can see previous queries The Group voted unanimously to amend the Idea to focus on the transparency of Guild services and process Vote Number for idea - 14/14 voted for the Idea. (TA left the room during discussion) 	Approved
		The Idea was therefore unanimously approved.	
5	Streamlining	 YN spoke in favour of idea 	
5	Room	 Questions about the specifics of the Idea were raised by members. 	
	Bookings	 Questions about the specifics of the idea were raised by thembers. JP spoke in favour of idea and suggested the A&E Officer can oversee this 	
		Vote Number for Idea – 14/14 voted for the Idea.	ĺ

		The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.	
			Approved.
6	University Centre Cleanliness	 The Group discussed the feasibility of the Idea, including impact on cleaning staff. Vote Number for Idea – 15/15 voted against the idea (TA returned to room during discussion) 	Rejected.
		The Idea was therefore rejected unanimously.	-
7	Guild of Students & Upcoming Strike Action	 JW outlined the Idea, suggested that the statement aimed to provide students with information about the strike and allowed the Guild to lobby the University to ensure students were not academically affected by the action. Several members spoke in favour of Idea. AH stated that they agreed with most of the content, but felt that as a Union we should support a trade union. JO raised the impact of the strike if it fell during an assessment period. LG confirmed a point of information that the first paragraph of the Idea reflected the Guild's existing Belief and Commitment. JW confirmed that the Guild will provide study space during the industrial action so students do not have to cross the picket line to study. BL spoke against the Idea and stated that he could not support any Idea that would undermine the strike action. KS also wanted to support the strike but felt the Guild had a role to play in lobbying the University to mitigate the impact against students. XP left the meeting of the Group. An amendment was proposed to remove the first sentence of	
		paragraph 2. The amendment fell. Vote Number for the Idea – 12 approved, 1 voted against, 1 abstention. The vote was not unanimous; therefore the Idea will be passed to all student vote via Your Ideas.	Passed to Your Ideas for student vote.
8	Toilet Paper	The Group spoke against idea, and agreed this was a waste of resources. Vote Number for idea – 14/14 voted against the Idea. The Idea was therefore rejected unanimously.	Rejected.
9	AOB	The Chair moved that, as the meeting had reached 8pm, the Group vote on forwarding all remaining Ideas submitted to the agenda to a student vote.	
		Vote Number – 14/14 voted in favour. All remaining Ideas on the agenda will therefore be passed to an all student vote via Your Ideas.	Passed to Your Ideas for student vote

The Chair closed the meeting at: 8:00pm Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd January 2020, 6pm @ [Location TBC]