

Guild Council
Monday 7th December, 3pm
Microsoft Teams Online Meeting

Welcome

The Guild Chair had arranged for the CO-SSIS to act as chair in their absence. The CO-SISS welcomed those present to the meeting.

Attendance and Apologies for Absence

Present: Guild President, VP Activities, VP Education, and VP Welfare and Diversity College Officers: CO-SSIS (chair), and CO-CMH.

Apologies: CO-Hums (Guild Chair).

In attendance: Interim Director of Membership Engagement (IDME), Student Voice Manager, Student Governance Coordinator, Academic Impact Coordinator, and Academic Societies Coordinator.

Notification of any other business

None.

1. FOR DECISION: approval of the minutes from the last meeting.

Council voted on the minutes from the last meeting. The result was:

YES: 5

NO: 0

ABSTAIN: 0

The minutes of the meeting of 19 November 2020 were therefore approved.

2. FOR DISCUSSION: Officer Manifesto.

The Guild President outlined the Officer Priorities. This year has been hugely impacted by COVID, but rather than drop the manifesto points which the Full-Time Officers were elected on, they have been adapted so they can be carried out during COVID. Some of the manifesto points have been adopted by different officers as they better fit in their remit.

With the assistance of IDME, the officers have been more strategic with the priorities and how they will be executed. The priorities have been divided into themes. The Priorities are assigned to the officers: Guild President (union development), Education, Welfare and Diversity, and Activities. Each objective has been developed to relate to outcomes. VP Postgraduate has not been included as they stepped down to pursue PhD (has been replaced by CO-DC - Doctoral College). Also includes details on how students can get involved and provides continuity.

This will enable the Leadership Team to be more strategic this year, and it should provide a blueprint for future teams. The Officer Priorities 2020-21 has not been published yet but will be soon. It will also be circulated to Councillors at this point.

The CO-CMH asked about the VP Postgraduate's manifesto points and how these relate to the new CO-DC. The Guild President explained that the manifesto points have been picked up by the most appropriate officer (students want them, as voted for them) – so VP Postgraduate's points have been picked up by other officers. The role was created to bring attention to PG students, and it has done this so does not need a full-time VP role – which is why we have the CO-DC role.

IDME added that this is the first year we have done this process to create Officer Priorities in this way (COVID had accelerated the need for this). The intention for future is to do something similar with College Officers to create a one Guild set of priorities so there is synergy between Full- and Part-Time Officers.

VP Education sought feedback on something they've been talking to PG reps about – transparency. For example, last year had Scrutiny Panels which had elected Shadow Councillors elected to hold officers to account but wider student population did not engage. CO-SSIS liked the idea of progress tracker as can see the stage of each point. Monthly/termly updates on issues would also be good. Last year also had live O&As on Facebook – CO-SSUS also liked this idea as provides students with a forum to ask officers.

3. FOR INFORMATION: Democracy Update.

The IDME explained that we are not ready to come to Council with the outcomes of the Democracy/Governance Review, apologies were given. We will need to have another meeting of Council next week to get the documents ready for Council in order for it to approve them to be ready for the start of next term and the February election.

ACTION: The Student Governance Coordinator to schedule a meeting of Council for next week.

7. Any other business.

VP Education asked for any more feedback on the issue of no detriment policy. The CO-SSIS said it has been relayed to SSLCs – students are asking for no detriment policy. Students understand the University's position, but not happy about it. The Law School are going to send an email in the new year explaining how existing guidance will be used (likely also in rest of SSIS, maybe wider University too).

The meeting ended at 3:33pm.