

Guild Council

18:00, Thursday 11 November 2021, 07 Baring Court (St Luke's) & Microsoft Teams

Notes

These notes are designed to capture key information on attendance, topics covered, decisions made, and actions assigned. It is not intended to be a detailed account of the discussions (see [agenda](#) and [recording](#)).

1. Welcome.

The newly appointed Chair of Guild Council was introduced. The meeting was recorded to be published online.

2. Attendance and Apologies.

Present

| | |
|---------|---|
| GP | Guild President |
| VPE | Vice President Education |
| VPO | Vice President Opportunities |
| VPLE | Vice President Liberation & Equality |
| CO-BS | Business School College Officer |
| CO-Hums | Humanities College Officer |
| CO-CLES | Life and Environmental Sciences College Officer |
| CO-EMPS | Engineering, Mathematics and Physics College Officer |
| CO-SSIS | Social Sciences and International Studies College Officer |
| CO-CMH | Medicine and Health College Officer |
| 10/11 | Quoracy reached. |

Apologies

| | |
|------|--|
| none | |
|------|--|

In Attendance

| | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| CGC | Chair of Guild Council |
| SGC | Student Governance Coordinator |
| CIM | Campaigns and Insights Manager |

3. FOR APPROVAL: The Minutes from the last meeting.

The notes of the last meeting were approved as accurate and will be published online.

4. FOR INFORMATION: Update on actions.

All actions from previous meetings have been completed. An action log will be included in the meeting notes.

Action: SGC to upload the minutes with a log of actions.

5. FOR INFORMATION: Notifications of any other business.

The College Officers were asked to stay after the meeting for a team update.

6. FOR DISCUSSION: Potential UCU Industrial Action.

VPE provided an update: there was a ballot by UCU (staff union) to see if they would take strike action this term on the 'four fights' and local issue of digital resources policy. Exeter's ballot had 47% turnout (did not reach the threshold of 50%) so no strike action this term.

But of those who did vote, a lot in favour of industrial action. Cannot rule out strike action this academic year. National UCU meeting happening tomorrow – considering to re-ballot in early January for branches with 40-50% turnout (including Exeter) – so currently in limbo. The impact could be on the marking window next term.

7. FOR DISCUSSION: Welfare Training (student groups).

Student Submission: Provide more welfare training for committee members, so they are better equipped to deal with situations arising with members, and so members feel comfortable disclosing information to them, and they know where to signpost them to.

A student recounted a situation about a student with autism was complained about or issues around welfare. This could have been avoided if more students had received training. CO-CMH has recently received training from Autism Education Trust which was good. Also students have raised issues around LGBT training needs.

To be a progressive community of students, we need to be prepared and we need to understand different students' experiences. There are also equality reps at subject level.

Co-President of Nightline said that over the last few weeks Guild student groups and AU clubs have approached them for welfare training as they feel the Guild provided training is inadequate. Would the Guild want to partner with Nightline on providing training?

Action: VPO to pick up with Nightline about their offer of training for student group committees.

GP said a challenge is the number of different circumstances and identities which could be included. VPO agreed that we want to develop the training the Guild provides and have asked students about what training they want to see. Committee training: online (including welfare, inclusivity, accessibility) and currently working on an accessibility resource (welcomes feedback), currently looking to expand welfare resources, also have one-off training events (would like to bring in suggestions for what options these could be).

The feedback from clubs and societies on the online training doesn't go far enough on welfare. Would want some kind of session. College Officers received additional training over the summer (although not everyone was available). There appears to be split provision between student groups and student reps – would advocate a more wholistic training offer. But there are feasibility issues around scale and focus for different groups.

VPO also advised that with finite resources, cannot guarantee can do all training people want. There are more creative ways of doing this kind of training than online content or hybrid sessions (e.g. dementia bus, anxiety and autism workshops). Exeter-based Intercom Trust are another training provider on LGBT+. Suggestions for training included: neurodivergence, gender and sexuality, racial and religious diversity, disclosure training, training for international students, and eating difficulties.

Action: VPO will take this feedback on potential training for student group committees to the Activities Team.

8. FOR INFORMATION: College Officer Updates.

CO-CLES: wellbeing (night safety – e.g. walking home, mental health poster, working with Nightline), student voice (blended learning, personal tutoring, social media communications, podcast, academic societies), career opportunities (career zone, handshake app).

CO-Hums: collaboration (college-level peer support 'family' scheme, social events), wellbeing (guide dog puppies in T2, Nightline, PGT representation, inductions, exam, feedback forms, digital learning assessments, visibility of FCH and Liberal Arts, employability), inclusivity. Want to connect with Penryn.

Question on status Penryn students. SGC clarified that Penryn students have their own representation system through their Student Union there. College Officer focus is not on Penryn students. Voice Team can advise further.

CO-BS: international freshers (meetings with students who had difficulties in the transition), job opportunities (Career Zone), fixing communication issues. Will be ending as CO-BS in January so will be working on that transition.

Question on Finance and Business students' emails. GP said that they and VPE are working on this currently and just waiting on confirmation from the University before can provide an update.

CO-SSIS: all exams online (decided in September), no student left behind policy (personal tutor review, career zone, night safety, manual for induction, communication), mental health (student manual, mental health advisor).

CO-EMPS: now having meetings, student-facing social media, coding club, January exams and assessment models, Physics wellbeing committee trial, breakfast clubs / alternatives, personal tutor review, widening participation, growing college identity.

CO-CMH: 'Lukies Fest' to bring together the whole college (first in October – 250 students participated) and will be monthly (this month tied in to Festival of Compassion), Freshers and induction prep for next year, Truro society memberships, working on getting a gender-neutral bathroom, SPB brought forward.

GP thanked all the College Officers for all their work that they've been doing.

9. FOR INFORMATION & DISCUSSION: Guild President update from COP26.

GP was at COP26 in last week. It is the 26th Conference of the Parties (climate change summit organised by the UN). GP represented the student body, went to talks, panel discussion (including some Exeter academics), learned what needs to happen globally and locally, intersection between climate action and gender and disability.

GP outlined sustainability in the Guild: reviewing the carbon of the Guild's top five activities, set a net-zero target, develop and encourage training for societies, and empower students to be climate activists.

GP outlined what should lobby the University to do: making campus and community more visually sustainable (food, shops, recycling, travel), embedding climate sustainability in all courses (educating future leaders, all careers need sustainability, modules), move our net-zero goal (focus on reducing emissions rather than offsetting).

CO-Hums said Humanities has launched MA Cultures and Environments of Health which has relevant interdisciplinary modules. Drama also had climate modules. Medicine has a module on environmental health. Physics has an Energy and the Environment module and Engineering has a sustainability module.

Reducing single-use plastics (especially from food/coffee outlets), food pop-ups are 2:1 plant-based/meat, plant-based options need to be appealing and cheaper. The Business School café has a different offering with more plant-based food. More renewable energy sources on campus (communicating to students where we are). Cross Keys has more healthier and plant-based food and there are solar panels on campus but more can be done regarding medical waste. Energy rating of the buildings is often poor. Also need to consider the unintended negative consequences of such actions (e.g. plastic straws are necessary for some disabled students),

10. Any other business.

CO-CMH praised the Activities Team for the organisation of the Tar Barrels trips.

GP praised the Chair for good chairing of their first meeting.

The meeting ended at 19:56. The next meeting is at 13:30 30 November 2021 in Amory B106 and online.

Action Log (as of 23 November 2021)

| Meeting | Person | Action | Status | Date closed |
|----------------|--|---|---------------|--------------------|
| 09-Sep-21 | Guild President | The Guild President will have the approved candidates informed of their approval. | Complete | 20-Sep-21 |
| 09-Sep-21 | Guild President & Student Governance Coordinator | The Guild President and the Student Governance Coordinator will send the byelaw changes to the Board of Trustees. | Complete | 18-Oct-21 |
| 09-Sep-21 | Guild President & Student Governance Coordinator | The Guild President and the Student Governance Coordinator will work with the Appointments Committee to select a Chair for Guild Council (ideally before the next meeting). | Complete | 26-Oct-21 |
| 06-Oct-21 | Staff (Comms) | The Guild has highlighted wellbeing resources but will look into what information on abortion we could provide. | Complete | 07-Oct-21 |
| 11-Nov-21 | Student Governance Coordinator | SGC to upload the minutes with a log of actions. | Complete | 15-Nov-21 |
| 11-Nov-21 | Vice President Opportunities | VPO to pick up with Nightline about their offer of training for student group committees. | In Progress | |
| 11-Nov-21 | Vice President Opportunities | VPO will take this feedback on potential training for student group committees to the Activities Team. | In Progress | |