

**Guild Council**  
**13:00, Friday 25 March 2022, 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 meeting was recorded to be published online.

**2. Attendance and Apologies.**

**Present**

GP	Guild President
VPE	Vice President Education
VPLE	Vice President Liberation & Equality
VPO	Vice President Opportunities
CO-CLES	Life and Environmental Sciences College Officer
5/10	<i>Quoracy not reached. The meeting continued with the agreement of those in attendance as Guild Council was not scheduled to conduct any business requiring quoracy.</i>

**Apologies**

CO-EMPS	Engineering, Mathematics and Physics College Officer
CO-SSIS	Social Science and International Studies College Officer

**In Attendance**

CGC	Chair of Guild Council
SGC	Student Governance Coordinator
AIC	Academic Impact Coordinator

**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.**

The action log was published with the minutes. The following updates were given:

- VPO has publicised Spikies available on both campuses.
- GP has organised some events over the Easter break (Give it a Go day trips) for those who are in Exeter over the break. Will learn what works and run some over the Summer break.
- GP – the Guild has gotten more involved in Lukies Fest. Also looking into pop-up bar and outdoor cinema (but licensing considerations).
- CO-CLES CLES organised session on job rejection and how it is normal.
- CO-CLES is joining delegation for NUS Liberation Conference in Liverpool next week so has been promoting the Mental Health poster.

**5. FOR INFORMATION: Notifications of any other business.**

SGC: Democracy Review update.

**6. FOR DISCUSSION: Implement a Sustainable Food Policy written by students and academics that requires more plant-based options and takes into consideration the necessary reduction in scope 3 emissions outlined by the University Climate Emergency White Paper from Hospitality and Catering, and working with the university to implement this policy that helps Exeter transition to a plant-based campus by 2023. [student submission]**

The student who submitted the item was not in attendance. The paper that outlined the proposition was published online with the agenda. Part of a national student campaign.

GP: will be best to have this conversation when the student is present.

GP: view is that need to encourage the University to be expanding and improving plant based options. But also need to examine food on campus intersectionally: cost / income, cultures, religion and belief, etc. Do not think that an entirely plant-based campus would be accepted by a majority of students, but do think the quality and variety should be improved. Also need to consider if students endorse the University achieving Fairtrade accreditation.

VPE: do not think a fully-plant-based campus would be the majority view. Do think need to consider that meat that is used on campus is local, sustainable, and ethical – majority of student would agree with this.

The other VPs concurred.

**Action:** GP and VPO to explore the issue of food provided on campus (intersectional approach). E.g. a 'Let's Talk'.

## **7. Any Other Business.**

### **›Democracy Review**

SGC: The Guild has been reviewing how it operates as a democratic organisation over the last couple of years (delayed in part by COVID) over a number of phases. Most recently, have been working with external experts Dem Soc about how we can learn from good practise in other contexts. We are now beginning to develop the approach we want to take from September (is drawing on expertise of staff, practise from inside and outside of the sector, and most importantly from students' feedback).

The current approach is not working. This meeting of Guild Council shows this: no students attended, not even all the members or the student who submitted an agenda approach. The 'traditional' approach does not work as not engaging, accessible, flexible, or relevant. We want to adopt a more flexible approach(es) which would include things like facilitating debates and discussion, partnering with media groups and academics, panels, deliberative democracy (e.g. citizens assemblies), student juries. Can then deploy as and when required – the best approaches. Moving away from a model with a fixed meeting, bodies, and roles. The new approach would enable us to respond far better to things like cost of living, Ukraine, free speech.

We want to empower, resource, and up-skill students, communities and campaigns (existing and new) to influence and campaign for change impactfully.

This is an exciting new approach and it's nothing quite like it elsewhere.

We will be working with officers over the next few weeks to continue to develop this approach. Some of the changes will require GC to pass byelaw changes (in last meeting in Term 3).

Questions:

Is the problem the model or engagement methods (how to make students care)? A: Students do care already (e.g. free speech, Students for Life, Ukraine, sustainability) but our model is not facilitating that. Our model is about

going to students who care, have issues and concerns. The Guild being deliberately neutral as an organisation, not picking sides, will enable us to facilitate and equip all students participate in debate.

How can bring Guild to students (not the other way around), e.g. media groups, societies, surveys feeding into GC? A: A large part of what will direct what the Guild does will be real-time student insights (also why we chose to use personal statements in the elections).

Question for officers: what techniques have worked for you in engaging students?

- Targeted / specific engagement on topics for certain groups / issues.
- Being more flexible about meetings and timings – being more reactive (days rather than weeks).
- Casual, themed drop-ins in areas of high footfall (e.g. Forum).
- Inviting interested students to GC which might be relevant for them.

But even when we did targeted invitations for GC, did not get much engagement.

But we want to move away from getting students to GC, but the Guild going to students with the right tool for that particular task. It is being more responsive and bespoke for issues as they arise, rather than shoehorning into one meeting/schedule/structure. What is the value is students coming to GC? Officers are doing good work, already engaging with students, but next to none of this happens through GC (happens despite it). Do you need GC to help you do your role / how has GC specifically helped you do your work?

Chair – this touches on the fundamental reason of what the Guild is here to do and how it operates.

SGC – there are more developments on this coming.

*The meeting ended 13:47.*

### **Action Log (as of 18 May 2022)**

<b>Guild Council 2021/22 Action Tracker</b>				
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Date closed</b>
09-Sep-21	Guild President	The Guild President will have the approved candidates informed of their approval. Update: done 20 Sept 2021.	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. Update: Trustees ratified changes 18 Oct 2021.	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). Update: chair appointed.	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. Update: see <a href="https://www.exeterguild.org/news/article/7222/Resources-for-Wellbeing-Sexual-Health-Pregnancy-and-Contraception/">https://www.exeterguild.org/news/article/7222/Resources-for-Wellbeing-Sexual-Health-Pregnancy-and-Contraception/</a>	Complete	07-Oct-21

11-Nov-21	Student Governance Coordinator	SGC to upload the minutes with a log of actions. Update: see <a href="https://www.exeterguild.org/pageassets/voice/guildcouncil/GUILD-COUNCIL-2021.10.06-NOTES-approved.pdf">https://www.exeterguild.org/pageassets/voice/guildcouncil/GUILD-COUNCIL-2021.10.06-NOTES-approved.pdf</a>	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. Update: working with Nightline on this.	Complete	22-Feb-22
11-Nov-21	Vice President Opportunities	VPO will take this feedback on potential training for student group committees to the Activities Team. Update: I've fed back to Activities and I am now working with the University to develop a bespoke Disability Awareness training session for societies and AU Clubs. I am also drafting a digital training session which outlines how societies can make their social media content more accessible.	Complete	19-Jan-22
30-Nov-21	Vice President Liberation & Equality	VPLE to meet with the Voice Team to discuss the proposed wellbeing forum further. Update: met with the Voice Team.	Complete	06-Dec-21
22-Feb-22	Guild President	Something that definitely can be looked into. Different term times for students on St Luke's – can look at optimising use of the quad on the campus to run events during the summer. When weather is better the outdoor space can be utilised – making something where students can be involved in the process. Update: GIAG day trips over Easter break. From that will do over summer term and break. will be collecting feedback. Become more involved in Lukies fest - looking into pop-up bar for quad, looking into outdoor cinema	In Progress	
22-Feb-22	Vice President Education	In conversation with CO-DC regarding events that are in process of getting approved one of which is an event specifically for international students to be held on St Luke's utilising quad area – put in touch with Associate Dean for racial equality and inclusion. Unity pilot is in beginning stage but there is representation from the whole of the medical college – all of CMH included as well as Truro. CO-CMH and I can liaise a bit on how we use Unity on how to gather more widespread insight as to the sentiment around d what we could be doing better as well as improvements to guild structure.	In Progress	
22-Feb-22	Vice President Opportunities	Can speak to activities about making sure that the promotion of spikeys is made clear on St Luke's.	Complete	25-Mar-22
22-Feb-22	College Officer - SSIS	Me and my team will physically go to St Luke's and see what it's like. Send out emails to GSC reps to make sure everyone is fine and if there is anything SSIS officers can do on our end. Long term issues can be resolved with meetings to ensure everything is done. If there are any other issues, we can talk to senior academics within GSC to ensure students perspectives as well as the way academics are going align with each other.	In Progress	
23-Mar-22	Guild President & Vice President	GP and VPO to explore the issue of food provided on campus (intersectional approach). E.g. a 'Let's Talk'.	In Progress	

	Opportunities			
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