

Guild Council
11:00, Wednesday 25 May 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-EMPS	Engineering, Mathematics and Physics College Officer
CO-SSIS	Social Science and International Studies College Officer
CO-HUMS	Humanities College Officer
CO-CLES	Life and Environmental Sciences College Officer
CO-CMH	Medicine and Health College Officer
9/10	Quoracy reached.

Apologies

No apologies received.

In Attendance

CGC	Chair of Guild Council
CRC	Community Representation 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:

- GP: action for St Luke's complete (although embedded in ongoing pieces of work). The Marquee is up in the Quad and being used, CO-CMH and Guild supporting the Lukiesfest events, no update as yet re the cinema due to licencing regulations. Currently exploring further events and activities for the upcoming year. VPO added the whiteboard for Freshers Week ideas has plenty to consider.
- GP and VPO: action for food on campus complete (although will be embedded in ongoing pieces of work). The Forum Kitchen is now open which is exciting but also things it could do better (feedback taken to Commercial Collaboration Board). Also, Costa has now vacated its location so there will be something going there. Will do

- a proper consultation once vacant space filled and Forum Kitchen established – hoping to add Guild Insights staff to Commercial Collaboration Board.
- CO-SSIS: action re St Luke's complete – CO and team visited campus and looked at ways to improve student representation.
 - VPE: action re St Luke's complete. Will be meeting CO-DC to talk about event for international students and PGR families.

All outstanding actions have now been completed.

5. FOR INFORMATION: Notifications of any other business.

None.

6. FOR INFORMATION AND DECISION: The Democracy Review – update and Byelaw changes.

CRC: As has been discussed at Guild Council previously, the Guild has been reviewing we do student democracy and is now excited to [announce our new approach for empowering students to make change](#). CRC outlined the new approach to student democracy (outlined: [GUILD COUNCIL – 2022.05.25 – PAPER – Real Change](#)) which focusses on supporting and facilitating students to make change, influence decisions, and hold people to account (rather than the broken traditional approach). The approach consists of championing student communities and campaigns, student insights and sector expertise, facilitating discussion and debate – focussing on what all students have to say, the Guild being student led and accountable to students, and embracing continual evolution of this approach.

GP: This is a long-time coming but will provide students with amazing opportunities – am very excited. GP thanked the COs for their involvement in the process.

CO-SSIS: very happy with the changes being implemented, long time coming, thanks to those involved in contributing and leading the work.

CRC: thanked everyone involved – it is a better approach because everyone's contributions. Leaving a good legacy which will benefit future students.

CRC outlined the byelaw changes being proposed: (1) changes required to implement new democracy approach (changing Guild Council to Student Advisory Board), role of officers, policy making; (2) other compliance and streamline improvements.

Guild Council voted on [amending the Byelaws as proposed](#): Approve: 8, Disapprove: 1, Abstain: 0.

Guild Council therefore voted to **approve** the amendments to the Byelaws as proposed. The proposed amendments require ratification by Trustee Board in order to adopted.

7. FOR DISCUSSION: UCU Industrial Action.

VPE gave a quick summary of the history of this issue: there have been three ballots by UCU on industrial action this year, only the third one did Exeter meet the threshold required to secure the mandate to take action. UCU said they would take action short of a strike – including a marking and assessment boycott which could have disrupted people receiving degrees on time.

VPE: on Friday we received confirmation from Exeter's UCU branch that they would no longer be undertaking an assessment and marking boycott which is a relief for students. They still will be taking other action short of a strike (working to rule) which might have some impact on students. UCU still have a mandate to take action but will need to give 14 days' notice). The Guild conducted a poll of students opinion (on both the cause and proposed action): majority agreed with the cause but the majority disagreed with the action (although this was done while

the boycott was still going to go ahead so likely reflects that). The Guild will be updating its comms and information.

8. FOR DISCUSSION: Campus shops to accept cash again/abolish so-called "cashless campus" rules (Student Submission).

Received student submission: "Cashless systems discriminate against poor and working class people disproportionately ([see info](#)). It also restricts personal choice and freedom to pay how you wish. Discriminates particularly against new international students (20% of the uni) who may not have a UK bank account, or would face extortionate card fees. It also mandates usage of technology systems run by the global banking industry which is complicit in the exacerbation of inequality and climate change.

"The 2018 Access To Cash report details other that cashless societies harm: 'including physical or mental health issues which make it hard to use digital services (2%), the risk of overspending and going into debt (9%) and those who rely on others to buy things for them (4%). For these groups, cash offers a degree of control which digital doesn't yet achieve. ([see info](#)) "17% of the UK population – over 8 million adults – would struggle to cope in a cashless society".

The student who submitted this item was not in attendance.

VPO had reached out to the University's commercial department, but they referred her to the finance department so no update at the moment on this issue.

VPLE said that other institutions, e.g. Keele, have introduced cards which students (+friends and family) can top-up with cash which can be used on campus for payments. Will work with VPO when in touch with the right team of the University.

9. FOR INFORMATION: Trustee Recruitment.

GP outlined that the Guild, as a charity, has a board of trustees who have ultimate responsibility for the Guild's legal, financial, and reputational position. They oversee the work of the Guild to ensure it meets its charitable objects, but are not involved with day-to-day operations.

The trustee board consists of: 4 x elected Full-Time Officers, 4 x appointed student trustees, 4 x appointed external trustees (who bring expertise and knowledge – e.g. finance, legal).

In the coming months, the Guild will be recruiting 1 external trustee and 3-4 student trustees. Guild Council will need to approve these trustee appointments (see below, agenda item 10).

10. FOR DECISION: Delegation of Guild Council authority for the summer.

GP explained that Guild Council will need to approve the trustee appointments over the summer, and for convenience over the summer months Guild Council should delegate to its members the ability to conduct this kind of business via email (so not via formal meetings).

CRC: this would enable Guild Council to conduct its business via email or informal meetings which is more convenient over the summer. Guild Council still could, if it wishes, meeting formally. Quoracy would still need to be met.

Guild Council is asked to vote on the following motion:

1. Guild Council moves to delegate the following responsibilities and functions to the members of Guild Council with the ability to conduct business (including votes) by email:
 - a. a. Governance responsibilities and functions (those required by the Articles).
 - b. The approval of minutes of Guild Council.

2. For votes conducted by email to be valid, more than 50% of the members must participate in the vote.
3. This delegation ceases after 15 July 2022.
4. Guild Council members reserve the right to conduct business in a meeting of Guild Council if they deem it necessary.
5. Records of business conducted by email should be published on the Guild website.

Guild Council voted on the above motion to delegate its authority: Approve: 9, Disapprove: 0, Abstain: 0.

Guild Council therefore voted to **approve** to delegate its authority.

II. Any other business.

At the close of the last meeting of Guild Council, CGC thanked the members of Guild Council for their work over the past year.

GP thanked CGC and the College Officers for their work over the past year.

The meeting ended 11:55.

Action Log (as of 25 May 2022)

Guild Council 2021/22 Action Tracker				
Meeting	Person	Action	Status	Date closed
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 https://www.exeterguild.org/news/article/7222/Resources-for-Wellbeing-Sexual-Health-Pregnancy-and-Contraception/	Complete	07-Oct-21
11-Nov-21	Student Governance Coordinator	SGC to upload the minutes with a log of actions. Update: see https://www.exeterguild.org/pageassets/voice/guildcouncil/GUILD-COUNCIL-2021.10.06-NOTES-approved.pdf	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 Update (25 May): action for St Luke's complete (although embedded in ongoing pieces of work). The Marquee is up in the Quad and being used, CO-CMH and Guild supporting the Lukiesfest events, no update as yet re the cinema due to licencing regulations. Currently exploring further events and activities for the upcoming year. VPO added the whiteboard for Freshers Week ideas has plenty to consider.	Complete	25-May-22

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. Update (25 May): action re St Luke's complete. Will be meeting CO-DC to talk about event for international students and PGR families	Complete	25-May-22
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. Update (25 May): action re St Luke's complete – CO and team visited campus and looked at ways to improve student representation.	Complete	25-Mar-22
23-Mar-22	Guild President & Vice President Opportunities	GP and VPO to explore the issue of food provided on campus (intersectional approach). E.g. a 'Let's Talk'. Update (25 May): action for food on campus complete (although will be embedded in ongoing pieces of work). The Forum Kitchen is now open which is exciting but also things it could do better (feedback taken to Commercial Collaboration Board). Also, Costa has now vacated its location so there will be something going there. Will do a proper consultation once vacant space filled and Forum Kitchen established – hoping to add Guild Insights staff to Commercial Collaboration Board.	Complete	25-Mar-22