Action Group – Palestine Solidarity
Meeting Date: 23.10.24

Present

Syed Sadath, Guild President (Allocated Officer) **(SS)**
Armaan Hussain, Ethnic Minorities Student Officer 2024.25 **(AH)**
2x Students (student membership reviewed and approved the Guild)
James Lindsay, Director of Community and Representation **(JL)**
Scott Dawson, Student Voice and Representation Manager **(SD) (Note Taker)**

Minutes from meeting 23.10.24:

SS: Welcomed the group to the meeting – discussed the reason for the group reconvening due to the item being withdrawn from All Student Vote 1 at the group's request, as the Trustee Board may have resolved the idea as a corporate conclusion.

SS: Opened with suggestion on splitting idea into two ideas, one containing the political elements (which may result in corporate conclusion) and another which could be approved and implemented.

JL: Discussed original idea submission may have gone beyond charitable objectives of the Guild as an organisation. If it did and was passed, no resource (financial or otherwise) could be contributed to anything resolved by corporate conclusion.

SS: Highlighted this would make campaigning for interested officers (current and future) as well as relevant student campaigners in this area more difficult.

JL: Re-iterated the suggestion that any policy or idea needs to be written 'for students as students' at the University of Birmingham. Noted anything drafted may still need a review by legal charity experts, as per the procedure.

Student Question: What is the risk of splitting up the policy in two and passing them both together?

SD: Whilst not certain, Trustee Board may view the two ideas as connected. If one was to resolve in a corporate conclusion or otherwise, then the other policy may be seen as a part of it and therefore also be included in the conclusion.

AH: What about if an item that could be taken to All Student Vote 2 was passed and a later item which may risk a corporate conclusion was taken to All Student Vote 3 or later?

JL: This is doable – but we would also then need to view how a new item was different to what had already been passed at the Guild. (Any deviation from the original idea may require the process to restart).

SD: A reminder that a corporate conclusion would limit activity and therefore may prevent long term engagement from students in relevant campaigns or activity.

[The group broadly discussed that having implementable policy would be preferred]

Student Question: Why do we need a policy – could we just do a lot of this activity now?

SD: Yes, but as it is not live policy – it is not mandated of the Guild. As such, it is dependent on current campaigners and officers. A policy holds the Guild accountable and mandates an ask for activity to be undertaken for a sustained period of time (2-3 years).

AH: Noted many of the sections previously noted by the Guild which are high risk could be revised to be implementable in some form.

SD: In most cases, yes.

[The group discussed a handful of sections noted from the previous meeting which would need to be revised – within the framing as Students as Students at the University of Birmingham]

Student Question: Regarding the opening statement of the idea, do we just need to confirm facts and figures are accurate?

JL: Yes – although you may want to consider how much information is included in the policy. The priority is implementable actions by the Guild.

JL: If an item was to progress to All Student Vote – we would need to ensure the item had information and context provided – the Guild of Students Voice Team would support in this activity to ensure fair information and debate on both sides of an item are highlighted to students.

[The group discussed deadlines for a revised item to be taken forward to the next All Student Vote]

SD: All Student Vote 2 Deadline for Items is Monday 11th November. This item (alongside others which could hold charitable risk) would need a further external review. This would need completing by the Monday 11th November date. Week of voting is 18th November – 22nd November.

SS: Can we get an external legal review of the final item prior to the 11th November deadline?

JL: It is time dependent on the action group drafting a policy in this timeframe.

Student Question: What support can be provided by the Guild for this work?

SD: If the action group wishes to separate and create a re-revised draft as soon as they are able. The Voice Department would do what they can to re-review your amended policy so that it can be taken for external review and included.

SS: So to confirm, what is the process now?

SD: Action group members create a revised draft, this is sent to the Voice Team for internal review and then pending that approval by the Action Group, it will be sent for external review and if this comes back positive – it would be taken to All Student Vote 2 if this is concluded by 11th November.

SD: If any of these above deadlines were not met – the item would need to go to All Student Vote 3 in February 2025.

SS: We feel comfortable that we could get a draft completed by the middle of next week?

[There was general agreement on this aim]

Student Question: Can we organise another action group?

SD: Yes – just let us know dates that would work for the group.

[At this stage the meeting concluded]

Agreed Actions:

The group unanimously agreed on the following actions:

- A revised draft of the policy which can be implemented at the Guild will be developed.
- This policy will then be sent through the relevant process to ideally be included in All Student Vote 2 in November 2024.

Any questions regarding approval, next steps or requests for further information can be submitted to: studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk