Present: Joanne Park (GOG Member, JP, Chair), Tobi Adeyemi (GOG Member, TA, arrived late), Millie Gibbins (GOG Member, MG, left early), Yernur Niyetkaliyev (GPDG Member, International student, YN), Yu Xu (GPDG Member, International student, YX), Naomi Bennett (GPDG Member, LGBTQ student, NB), Alex Heighton (GPDG Member, Trans student, AH), Xuexuan Peng (GPDG Member, Open Place, XP), Benjamin Lockley (GPDG Member, Open Place, BL), Uthman Mahmud (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, UM), Eleanor Thomas (GPDG Member, Woman Student, ET), Guilherme Cardoso Da Cunha (GPDG Member, BME student, GCDC, left early)

In attendance: Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager, LG), Rozena Nadeem (Democracy Coordinator, RN), Amanda Sefton (Education Officer, AS), Ryan Ginger (Activities and Employability Officer, RG), Mikey Brown (Idea Proposer, MB), Members of the UoB Amnesty Committee (Amnesty students).

Apologies: Joshua Williams (President/Chair, JW), Katie Spencer (GPDG Member, Disabled student, KS), Melanie Horsted (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, MH),

Absent Without apologies: Shruti Das (GPDG Member, Open Place, SD), John Okon (GPDG Member, Postgraduate Student, JO), Alina Satheesh (GPDG Member, International Student, AIS), James Harris (GPDG Member, Open Place, JH)

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	**Introductions/ Welcome**	JP opened meeting and asked all present to introduce themselves. All present introduced themselves.	
2	**Minutes From Last Meeting**	JP asked GPDG members for approval of the minutes from the previous meeting. The minutes were approved.	**Approved**
3	**Democracy Review Update**	**LG** presented update on Democracy Review. **UM:** Who does decisions/sorting process? **YN:** How often would committees meet? **RG:** Discussed this and got some different feedback, committees will maybe meet every 6-8 weeks. Some committees might need to meet more often. **AH:** Why is welfare and liberation all one committee as issues may be varied? **RG:** We acknowledge this point and have contacted PTOs and Associations to discuss. **LG:** We would welcome feedback on this aspect of the proposal. **MB:** If you are proposing more regular meetings, how often would you want students in general to attend?	

		RG: We want as many students as possible to attend. All student meetings will be sent 2-3 things to vote on and will be things that students would want to vote on **AH:** This will be more effective than Your Ideas and will be more regularly attended **MB:** How will committees keep people updated about what they are doing - for example, we voted on things last term, but can't see what has happened to them? **RG:** We need to show that they are having regular meetings, need to decide whose responsibility that will be, anyone can hold Officers to account at OQT, and Scrutiny Panel will become permanent **AH:** Will there be one specific Scrutiny Panel for each committee? **RG:** Been having these conversations, may have public forum rather than make decisions behind closed doors? **JP** closed discussed for this item and reminded members to contribute feedback via the online form.	
4	**Halal Catering**	**JP** introduced the idea **AS:** Can we expand the idea to all religions? **AH:** Can we also expand to other dietary requirements? **AS:** This will allow us to lobby university to expand diversity of food. **Student:** Does Joe's bar offer Halal or Kosher food? **AS:** Joe's bar offers gluten free food **UM:** There is currently only one halal option in Joe's Bar. **RG:** The Activities Officer leads on accommodation and food. I can pass idea to Venues Manager. **MG:** I have also had conversations with university about meal plans **JP confirmed the amended to add other religious and dietary requirements to this Idea.** **GPDG agreed to this** **11/11 Group Members voted in favour of the Idea** **The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.**	**Approved**
5	**Put a Rubbish Bin in the Bicycle Parking Lot in Front of The Library**	**JP** introduced idea **YN:** Reasoning behind idea not good, bit of a waste **MG:** There are already bins around campus **JP** asked the committee for further comments and then moved to vote on the Idea. **11/11 Group members voted against the Idea** **The Idea was therefore rejected unanimously.**	**Rejected**
6	**Water Fountains on Campus Map**	**JP** introduced idea **AH:** Don't know about this, would it clutter up campus map? **GPDG Member:** Maybe have separate map, exclusively for water foundations, definitely good for students to use water foundations, as they are very environmentally friendly **JP:** On screens around campus, you can find shower rooms. We can ask university to add water fountains. **YN:** If maps are interactive, we should ask university to put water fountains on. **11/11 Group members voted for the idea** **The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.**	**Approved**
7	**Volunteering Co-ordinator**	**JP** introduced idea	

		RG provided an update on the Idea and the current recruitment of a Volunteering Coordinator. RG confirmed that he had also updated the Idea proposer on this issue.	
		11/11 Group members voted against the Idea **The Idea was therefore unanimously rejected.**	**Rejected**
8	**Strike Action**	JP introduced idea, explained there are three different ideas that clash and provided three options: • Go online • Talk to submitters and combine into one, and then put online for vote • Members discuss first two then reject third one One Idea Proposer (MB) identified themselves in the room. The Group discussed a way forward. JP asked the Group if they resolved to discuss all three strike Ideas together at the end of the meeting. **GPDG members agreed to this – 11/11 Group members voted to discuss strike ideas together at the end of the meeting.**	**Discussion for idea was rescheduled for later in the meeting**
9	**Lobby the University to Declare A Climate Emergency!**	**Amnesty Committee Member:** We have already begun our campaign on campus and have had a constructive meeting with the relevant Pro-Vice Chancellor. **JP:** Climate change is important and would be great if GPDG can support this **ET** support this Idea as a valuable tool to lobby the University. **BL:** Is it fair to restrict student access at Careers Fairs to firms like BP? **Amnesty Committee Member:** There are several careers that are unethical. Climate change is a crucial issue and the University should take this into account. **AH:** Having a Careers Fair isn't a necessity that the university should provide and there are other firms who can attend. **NB** proposed that the University give sustainability scores to companies that come in. **GCDC:** Careers service is vital part of university **JP** proposed amendment to remove "disincentives". **Voting for idea unanimous when amended -11/11 members voted for idea** **The idea was therefore approved unanimously.** A "We're Declaring a Climate Emergency" submission from the Guild's Ethical and Environmental committee was discussed. JP asked for comments in favour and against the statement. **Vote Number for submission – 11/11 voted for the submission.** **The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.**	**Approved**
10	**NUS Motion**	JP introduced idea and explained that this idea was only NUS motion submitted. YN and AH expressed supported for the Idea. **JP:** Thank-you for commending Josh's work in this area. JP sought further comments and no further contributions were made. **Vote Number for Idea – 11/11 voted for the idea** **The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.**	**Approved**
11	**Set Ecosia as the Default**	**Idea Submitter** presented their Idea, explaining that other Universities had already adopted Ecosia successfully.	

	Search Engine on all University Computers	**AH:** Following research, I am convinced that Ecosia is run in the same way as Google and can give more efficient responses. **Idea Submitter**: I have noticed no difference and Ecosia works well. **YN:** The Guild should lobby the University and apply this to its own computers. **RG:** The Guild computers are using an old system and we are trying to migrate to the University system. We should lobby for the University to adopt this across all machines. **Unanimous vote – all GPDG members agreed** **Vote Number for Idea – 11/11 voted for the idea** **The Idea was therefore approved unanimously.**	**Approved**
12	**Committee Minutes Published**	**YN** presented the idea **AH:** Is idea just for central groups in Guild? Or committees of each student group **YN:** The Idea would apply to committees such as GOG and internal committee. **RG:** Guild has had no Web Coordinator from July, which has caused delays in publication. **YN:** Dome minutes not gone up for months – minutes should go up as soon as approved in next meeting. **UM:** Is process in writing anywhere? **LG:** confirmed that the process is within the Byelaw. **JP (to YN):** Would you like to withdraw idea or continue? **YN:** Would like to withdraw **Idea was withdrawn by the submitter.** **MG, AH & GCDC left meeting during discussion at 7.10pm.** **TA came into meeting during discussion at 7.15pm.**	**Idea Withdrawn**
13	**The Low Efficiency of Work in Student Hub**	**YX (idea submitter)** presented idea **NB:** Clarified that there were a lot more staff on Student Hub in first term, to help students with student IDs, however each staff member has a specific job. **JP:** Students can directly complain about service **RG:** One suggestion to mandate Officer to talk to Student Hub about this **Idea was withdrawn by the submitter. However, the committee asked AS to investigate at the University and feedback to GPDG**	**ACTION (AS)**
14	**UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy**	**MB** (Idea submitter) presented and explained idea JP explained that there were only ten minutes to discuss the ideas about strike action, and outlined the differences between the three ideas: • One Idea asks the Guild to support the strike unequivocally, to lobby the Vice Chancellor to negotiate with Trade Unions, for the Guild Officer team and Guild staff to not hold meetings with the University during the strike period • One Idea asked for the Guild to support the trade unions, and that the Guild should support strike action on campus • One Idea asked for solidarity with conditions on campus	

JP asked which Idea the Group would like to discuss first. The Group resolved unanimously to discuss the "UCU dispute and Trade Union Policy" motion as this encompassed the content of the other two motions: "Support the Trade Unions" and "Student Staff Solidarity to build better working & learning conditions on campus".

JP: There may be legal issues if Guild staff didn't hold meetings with university e.g. if university and Guild need to hold meetings about legal issues or health and safety concerns.
AS: Proposed an amendment to idea to remove the reference to "Guild of Students staff"?
MB accepted the amendment as Idea submitter.
NB: The Guild is a Union and should support the strikes as it affects students. However, should we consider students who didn't support strike action? We should bear in mind that the Guild sets out to represent the voices of students and there may be backlash or complaints.
MB (Idea Submitter): The Guild should seek to influence student opinion, though I recognise that aspects of idea in writing seem controversial.
NB: We should recognise also that some students may have to cross the picket line – for example, my research involves growing stem cells and I need to come to University everyday otherwise they will die.
AS: I believe this affects the wider student body and should go to a vote, as we have time to do so.
RG: After last GPDG meeting, one criticism is that GPDG isn't fit for purpose and that large scale decisions likes this are not appropriate
GPDG Member: When is next Your Ideas voting cycle? **LG** confirmed dates of next cycle.
MB (Idea Submitter): Action today is very important as voting period will be after start of action.
YN: See AS's and RG's points, but do we think that students will vote this Idea down or support it on a public vote?
ET: Is there a possibility of passing more condensed down motion?
UM: Can we accept idea now *and* put to student vote?
JP: Can't do that (due to byelaws), however it could be good idea to put to student vote and indicate whether students supporting or not supporting.
NB: This submission mentioned everything that other submissions do
JP: Should we reject the two shorter ones?
NB: Happy to amend this idea – include postgraduate teaching assistant line

JP: Does the group resolved to reject the other two Ideas, as they are covered by the content of "UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy"?
GPDG agreed to unanimously reject "Support the Trade Unions" and "Student Staff Solidarity to build better working & learning conditions on campus". Vote count: 9/9

TA proposed that "UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy" be amended to include item from "Student Staff Solidarity to build better working & learning conditions on campus" covering support of Postgraduate Teaching assistants.
MB (Idea submitter) was happy to accept this amendment.
GPDG voted to accept the amendment unanimously. Vote count 9/9

		JP proposed that the reference to Guild staff was removed from "UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy" **MB (Idea submitter) was happy to accept this amendment.** **GPDG voted to accept the amendment unanimously. Vote count 9/9** **JP:** Only 1 min left, are there any more additional points that anybody wants to add? **Student**: Could we call a referendum on this issue before the Your Ideas cycle? **RG**: Quorum for referendum is 2,000+ students for an effective referendum. **JP asked GPDG to vote on final version of "UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy."** **Vote count: 6 approve, 3 reject, 0 abstain.** **The "UCU Dispute and Trade Union Policy" Idea proceeds to an online vote as a unanimous decision was not made.**	**Idea to go online for student vote**
15	**AOB**	**JP asked all present if there were any other AOBs** **LG** provided an update on the upcoming Guild Elections. **YN:** Can we see more democracy review documents? **RG:** Democracy review term refers to all changes made to Guild democracy and processes. Documents are published online currently. **MB (Idea submitter):** Officer team submitted idea to Your Ideas, but as Officer Team were not upfront and I believe it reflected poorly on them. **RG, AS & MB (Idea Submitter)** resolved to discuss this issue following the close of the meeting. **The meeting was closed.**	

The Chair closed the meeting at: 8:00pm
Date of next meeting: Thursday 5th March 2020, 6pm @ [Location TBC]