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| Contact: | Student Voice and Representation – studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk |
| Purpose: | To briefly explain how the Guild's Democratic System works for the 2023-24 Academic Year |

Idea / Policy / Question

If you've got something that you want to see changed at the Guild or the University then you can submit it through our Democratic System.

You can also put questions forward to the Scrutiny Panel for them to put to the Officers.

All ideas should be submitted through the Ideas Platform on the Guild website. Make sure that you clearly state what the aim of your idea is, what you want to see changed and an action that should be taken to achieve this.

You can also submit Policy (Belief and Commitments). These commit the Guild to a certain stance or to campaigning on a particular issue.

Initial Review & Student Demonstration of Interest

The Guild's Student Voice and Representation Department will check all ideas to make sure that they're legal and that they fit within the Democratic System.

We'll also allocate ideas to either being complex or simple. If your Idea is allocated as a Simple Idea that means that we can get it done really quickly so we're just going to do it!

If you've submitted a Belief and Commitment (Policy) then this will be automatically allocated to an Action Group.

Complex Ideas will be allocated to the Student Demonstration of Interest. You'll be able to indicate if you think idea should move forward through the system or not via the Idea Platform. Complex Ideas have to reach a net positive of 50 votes to progress to an Action Group/

Action Group

Complex Ideas and Policy will be reviewed by Action Groups. These groups will be made up of an Officer, any relevant Guild Staff, the Proposer, and any other relevant students.

The Action Groups will review the Idea or Policy and work towards an implementation plan. They can call a Student Forum to gather more student views on the Idea or Policy. They

can also decide to directly implement an Idea if they feel that it doesn't need to go to the All Student Vote.

Action Groups may amend the original Idea or Policy to make sure that we can implement it.

All Student Vote

Action Groups can refer Ideas or Policy to the All Student if they want it to have wider approval by the membership.

The All Student Vote is a cross campus ballot where all students and researchers can vote on ideas and policy put forward. Any Idea or Policy put forward to the All Student Vote needs 1% of the membership to vote on it, and a 50% + 1 majority to pass.

Implementation

We'll be keeping you updated about the progress on Ideas and Policy submitted through the Democratic System. This might include keeping the Action Group running while we implement the Idea or it might be allocated to Guild Staff or Officers.

Before each all Student Vote we'll provide an update on the progress of ideas and where they're at in their implementation.

Scrutiny Panel

Scrutiny Panel is responsible for holding the elected Guild Officers to account and helping to direct their work. They'll be provided with reports from all elected Guild Officers and will be able to ask questions about the work that the Officers have been doing.

As a member of the Guild you can attend Scrutiny Panel meetings and can submit questions beforehand for Scrutiny Panel to put to the Officers.

Committees

There are three Decision-Making Committees: Education, Welfare and Liberation, and Activities.

Education and Welfare and Liberation Committee are responsible for supporting the work of the relevant Officers and providing discussion on issues relating to their remit.

Activities Committee is responsible for the approval of new Student Groups as well as allocating grants and supporting the relevant Guild Officers.

If you have any questions about the Democratic System please get in touch with studentvoice@guild.bham.ac.uk