

GC.06.10.8b

GUILD COUNCIL

14.06.10

Author/contact:	Matt Ward (LGBTQ Officer) Emma Cooper (LGBTQ Officer elect)
Executive Summary:	<i>This motion calls for the Guild to review the current system for Guild Officer Elections and implement a more reliable mechanism for ensuring autonomous liberation in future liberation officer elections</i>
Recommendation:	Approval

Motion: Lacking Autonomous Liberation

Guild Council Notes:

1. The turnout for the Guild Officer Elections has improved from year to year since 2007.
2. The election of liberation officers (LGBTQ, Women, Disabled and Ethnic Minority) is subject to autonomous liberation. This is intended to ensure that only students who, by self-definition, fall under these categories may vote for the officer who will represent them in this respect.
3. The only effort to enforce autonomous liberation in the Guild Officer Elections over the past two years has been a barely noticeable, very indistinct note on an election page.
4. Elections for the NUS LGBT Conference took place online using a unique system – specifically developed for those elections, but easy to repurpose – that utilised the LGBTQ mailing list to email voting links to students, thereby providing a stronger assurance that voters were self-defining LGBTQ students.

Guild Council Believes:

1. Liberation Officers are elected to represent students who fall under the remit of their specific liberation campaign.
2. Autonomous Liberation is a crucial part of the Guild's long-term objectives for Liberation.
3. The current measures to ensure autonomous liberation in the Guild Officer Elections are clearly insufficient and must be improved.
4. Considering that the Guild Elections have exclusively taken place online over the past three years, there are technical methods to ensure that the student makes a declaration of self-definition that could and should be exploited.

Guild Council Resolves:

1. To review the current system for Guild Officer Elections and implement a more reliable mechanism for ensuring autonomous liberation in future liberation officer elections.
2. To reuse political and technical aspects of the LGBT NUS Delegate Elections system in future Guild Officer Elections in the planning of such a mechanism.
3. To ensure that the ability to vote for a liberation officer is initially obscured unless a student signs/ticks a small declaration acknowledging the autonomous liberation notice; while maintaining the same degree of anonymity provided by the current system of elections.

Guild Council Mandates:

1. The VPW to work with all Liberation Officers (current and elect) towards deciding upon a long-term solution that satisfies the needs of individual liberation campaigns, and liberation as a whole.
2. The VPDR to work with relevant Guild Departments in improving the current elections system and adding a declaration to liberation officer elections.
3. The LGBTQ Officer to provide all designs and details of the NUS Delegate Elections system to the VPDR and relevant Guild Departments.

Proposed: Matt Ward – LGBTQ Officer

Seconded: Emma Cooper – LGBTQ Officer-Elect

Allan Ssesanga – Ethnic Minority Officer

Claire Lister – Disabled Students Officer

Kitten Camilla Onwordi – 2nd Year Politics & Modern Languages

Kai Weston – 3rd Year Politics

Daniel Guzman – LGBTQ Association Chair

Robert Unwin – LGBTQ Association Treasurer

Andrew Roche – LGBTQ Association Secretary

John Chivers – LGBTQ Association Information/Communication/Press

Katherine Johnson – LGBTQ Association Open Place

Caitlin Horne – LGBTQ Association Open Place

Sarah Green – LGBTQ Association Open Place (Women's)

Dan Doherty – LGBTQ Association Guild Councillor