

**This Union notes:**

- Edward Bauer, Vice President Education at The University of Birmingham Guild of Students, was arrested on 16th September for peacefully suspending a banner protesting university fees and education cuts during the Lib Dem party conference.
- That the entire NUS NEC signed a letter to the Home Secretary calling for his release after this arrest, as did Birmingham UCU.
- University of Birmingham Guild of Students - without any consultation with the guilds democratic bodies - has suspended Edward from his role as Vice President Education "indefinitely" and with "immediate effect".
- That he is, and remains, the democratically elected Education Officer of the Guild; with no Vote of No Confidence taking place against him.
- That upon his release Edward found that the Guild had undemocratically suspended him from his position, indefinitely banning him from using his work phone, e-mail or even entering the Guild premises.

**This Union believes:**

- That the only body capable of dismissing or suspending a sabbatical officer should be the students themselves through referenda.
- The arrest and detention for a minor act of civil disobedience was widely criticized as a repressive criminalisation of peaceful protest
- That for any other body to dismiss or suspend a sabbatical officer is a gross breach of a union's democracy. No disciplinary action is valid unless it is done democratically by students.
- That the Guild should immediately reinstate Edward to his position.

**This Union resolves:**

- To immediately email the Guild Trustee Board, Executive team and other Sabbatical officers condemning the decision to suspend, and to demand that he is immediately reinstated.
- To act in a similar fashion should any other sabbatical officer, or non-sabbatical officer, be suspended based on their peaceful activism.

**References:** Edward Bauer's Facebook note announcing his suspension on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September: [http://www.facebook.com/note.php?saved&&note\\_id=286754438016909](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?saved&&note_id=286754438016909)