

Present:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Jamie Cox (JC), Shreya Dinesh (SD), Rebecca Hudson (RH), Ellie Rose (ER), Sarah Aray (SA)

Officers: Reeve Isaacs-Smith (RIS, Welfare & Community Officer), Acacia Matthews (AM, Guild President), Aaminah Saleem (AS, Campaigns Officer), Ness Chigariro (NC, Education Officer), Chinaza Nwankwo (CN, Ethnic Minority Students Officer)

In Attendance:

Core Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute Taker), Scott Dawson (SD, Student Voice & Representation Manager)

Apologies:

Officers: Isobel Lawson (IL, Activities & Employability Officer)

Absence Without Apologies:

Officers: Madupavitra Palani (MP, Women's Officer)

Trigger/Content Warnings: assessments, Postgraduate student experience, study spaces, in-person teaching, mature student experience, UCU Strike Action, DAMSA protest, accessibility, Trans Day of Remembrance, trans and non-binary student experience, gym membership costs, EDI, Sports Night, Black student experience

Item No.	Role	
3:05pm - 3:10pm	Panel Pre-Briefing	The Panel received a short pre-meeting briefing.
3:08pm- 3:25pm	Postgraduate Officer	BL entered the waiting room.

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		<p>BL and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>BL provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I have been working on a plan of action for feedback for students with the Education Officer • We're reviewing messaging from central University to bottom level as it can get lost • Looking at greater diversity of assessments throughout the year and timing of assessments • Talked to Heads of Colleges <p>SA asked JC's questions on their behalf.</p> <p>SA: Could you tell us more about the PG Ball? Will it be accessible and affordable?</p> <p>BL: I would like to make it as accessible and affordable as possible. I'm talking to the Venues Team about this. There will be a target price of maybe £30 and under. I'm talking to the Graduate School, PG Society and Student Experience Ambassadors in the Graduate School about it too. A lot of PGs don't have accommodation in Birmingham in June, so the Ball probably won't be then.</p> <p>SA: What are you doing about PG study spaces?</p> <p>BL: I've spoken to the Facilities Manager and Director of Engagement about the old Costa. I'm suggesting to split this space into two study spaces, but all of the Officer Team need to support this. I'd like the space to be marketed as a PG study space. Sometimes it's difficult to get support of the whole team.</p> <p>RH: Why are PG students being charged?</p> <p>BL: Because PG students can start at any time of the year. A PhD doesn't fit in 3 years. University charges an admin fee. I'm going to get refunds for some PhD students. It's very complicated.</p>

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		<p>RH: That's very good! What was the feedback on withdrawal from in-person teaching for a course?</p> <p>BL: I worked with the Education Officer on this. Lots of the students are Distance Learners from all over the country. Students sent an open letter to myself and the Education Officer, and we met with a Student Experience Officer. The issue was resolved, and we're assuming the students are happy now.</p> <p>RH: Could I ask about the campaign that you're organising?</p> <p>BL: I'm submitting a motion about Living Wage – a motion about Living Wage was submitted a few years ago, voted through an all-student vote, but was rejected by the Trustee Board due to it not being financially possible to implement. Another motion was submitted and discussed at the last All Student Meeting, but it lapsed in the All Student Vote due to not reaching quorum. I'm keen to work on another motion on Living Wage – I met with the Finance Team and am in the process of writing a motion. This will go to the next All Student Meeting. I campaigned during Officer Elections and won, and I'd like to campaign for this motion too during the All Student Vote (as All Student Meeting won't be quorate).</p> <p>RH: Have you considered lobbying for a specific PG space in the library?</p> <p>BL: I'm looking into PG study spaces.</p> <p>ER: What did you do to support the DAMSA protest? BL: I helped to take a lead on this with the International Officer. A senior University staff member took down a long list of notes. The President is working with us too. I'd like to say well done to DAMSA, they did very well. I also took a list of things that we can work on with DAMSA. Student-staff should be trained on language used on</p>

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		<p>radios, and things like entrances to the doors. There's also good pushing on things like radar key awareness – Reception staff have been reminded about this. I've worked with the Officers on an Action Tracker, and talking to Middle Managers about what they're doing in their departments. Some things on the tracker were big wins, some were bigger things (e.g. lift access during club nights). The Disabled Students Officer has been involved too. Our team are working with DAMSA in ways that were better than before.</p> <p>SA: You've achieved a lot, that's great. Could I ask about the Postgraduate Society?</p> <p>BL: We're going to have a Democracy Review, which will involve reviewing the Associations and some representative societies (e.g. PG Society, starting a Mature Students Society). Mature student engagement is low, so I'd like to do some work on this. Some mature students came to PG mixer events, of which there were 4 of them, some of them were disappointed as they thought they'll be students aged 30+, but there were lots of 22-year olds.</p> <p>SA: Great job on the UCU Strike Action statement! How will you tackle the possible hate that international students who need to cross picket lines for VISA requirements might get?</p> <p>BL: It is the right of anybody to cross the picket if they want to.</p> <p>BL and the Panel thanked each other and BL left the meeting.</p>
3:25pm-3:55pm	Disabled Students' Officer	<p>HW entered the meeting.</p> <p>HW had no further updates to provide.</p> <p>JC: What does accessibility around campus involve?</p>

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		<p>HW: I'm working on various projects for this.</p> <p>JC: Could you tell us more about the accessible night out?</p> <p>HW: It's at the end of November, and am working with the Activities & Employability Officer (AEO) on this.</p> <p>JC: How will this work out? How will it work for able-bodied students?</p> <p>HW: Accessibility will be built in rather than relying on students. Mermaid Bar will be a louder space and Joe's Bar will be quieter.</p> <p>JC: I can see that your Action Plan is more about physical disabilities. Will you consider mental disabilities too?</p> <p>HW: Yes – my work on accessibility is part of it – I'm getting the university to record seminars for students that miss them. I'm also talking to the EDI Team to make technology boosts clearer and accessible e.g. by providing instructions.</p> <p>RH asked SD's questions on their behalf.</p> <p>RH: Was there any progress on the spending pen?</p> <p>HW: I talked to Estates, but there wasn't much progress, due to it being University land.</p> <p>RH: Is there anything that you can do in the short term to combat issues faced by students?</p> <p>HW: I'm working on accessible night outs, and also working on awareness around radar keys and more accessible social elements</p>

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		<p>RH: Both of us wanted to say well done on the DAMSA protests. The report was strong. Is there anything you can do around better access for students?</p> <p>HW: This is something that I'm looking at.</p> <p>ER: You've done great job – the DAMSA protest was great! What are the hopes and realistic outcomes related to the DAMSA protest?</p> <p>HW: I'm working with other Officers and senior University staff on outcomes.</p> <p>ER: How will the accessible night out work – how will the night be changed for it to be accessible?</p> <p>HW: There will be Officer support. Lifts will be operational (they are not usually during nights), the lights will be on, there will be lower noise, there will be bigger printed menus, and generally set up in a way that there are staff available.</p> <p>ER: How will it be advertised?</p> <p>HW: In collaboration with DAMSA, and will be on the Guild website.</p> <p>SA: Accessibility on campus is unfortunately still a big issue – how are you prioritizing this issue?</p> <p>HW: I sit on the Disabled Students Priority Group – I'm looking at what is most achievable first.</p> <p>SA: How will Disability History Month be marketed? Digitally etc?</p> <p>HW: I have couple of events planned, and will be planned now, including an Employability Panel. I will be working with DAMSA and the Comms & Marketing Team to promote them.</p>

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		<p>HW and the Panel thanked each other and HW left the meeting.</p>
<p>3:55pm- 4:10pm</p>	<p>Trans and Non-Binary Students Officer</p>	<p>RoH entered the meeting.</p> <p>RoH and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>RH had the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I'm working on Trans Day of Remembrance. I'm meeting with somebody later about this, and will look at how ticket sales will work etc. <p>JC: The name changing guide is great – how do you plan to distribute it – will you bring in friends and family members into the guide, would you have advice around that?</p> <p>RoH: That isn't what I had planned. I'd like something more readily accessible. In terms of distribution, with permission from relevant staff, I'd like to use LinkTree (as Instagram is a nightmare for links). I would also use this to share other resources. I will also work with the wellbeing team.</p> <p>JC: The numbers for Trans & Non-Binary Socials were low - how plan to increase them?</p> <p>RoH: Collaborating is something I have on the radar. Also will advertise them on the LGBTQ+ Discord Server, I have close ties with the LGBTQ+ Association. I'm keeping the numbers up, and am having and maintain a presence. Getting fresh faces into socials is also difficult.</p> <p>RH: I think your action plan is looking great! I will be asking questions on SD's behalf. From both of us – fantastic work! In terms of Old Joe lighting up on specific days – can you do this more regularly, although I'm not sure if it costs?</p>

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		<p>RoH: There used to be a cost, I think they've removed the cost. They will do it free of charge. They don't want to light it up too much, and there has to be a reason or cause behind it e.g. Trans Day of Visibility. Trans Day of Visibility also clashes with anti-micro awareness week.</p> <p>ER: You've been doing great work! Have you spoken to the Guild about implementing gender neutral bathrooms?</p> <p>RoH: Yes, this has been a back and forth conversation from 2019.</p> <p>ER: Will these toilets also be accessible and disabled-friendly?</p> <p>RoH: I'd like to follow this up. The Disabled Students Officer can provide info on disabled student's toilets.</p> <p>SA: Have you considered making an interactive map which included gender neutral bathrooms? Maybe collaborate with the Disabled Students' Officer on it?</p> <p>RoH: I like the idea – I'm not sure who to talk to though.</p> <p>RN posted "Facilities" in the chat.</p> <p>RoH: Great idea, thanks.</p> <p>RoH and the Panel thanked each other and RoH left the meeting.</p>
4:13pm-4:25pm	Sports Officer	<p>FC entered the waiting room.</p> <p>FC and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>FC provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I'm reviewing gym membership costs due to cost of living, and working with UoB Sport on this. I'm lobbying them to offer a direct debit option. They don't understand that everyone doesn't have £200-

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		<p>£300 upfront to pay for gym membership. They're going to look into this.</p> <p>SA: It's great that you want to add feedback form at end of UoB Sport email.</p> <p>FC: Thanks!</p> <p>SA: How will you tackle EDI issues in intersport clubs? Have you thought about a canvas course on this?</p> <p>FC: I've not really thought about this. I've thought about accessibility issues, for which there will be in-person training, and it will be compulsory for at least 1 sport club member to come along.</p> <p>SA: You're doing great work on the university event! Your report could have included more detail, but overall it was great!</p> <p>ER: The student feedback system and uni boob takeover is great, it would be great to see more events like this in future. What are you planning on doing with the information from the feedback?</p> <p>FC: I will review it with UoB Sport and other Officers.</p> <p>ER: How will you be streamlining sports night allocation? It's very complicated at the moment.</p> <p>FC: This is a big part of my remit at the moment. I agree it's complicated. I will delegate to other members of the Guild. I reviewed it with the last Sports Officer, and it works in favour of small clubs, but not bigger clubs requesting 200+ tickets.</p> <p>RH: What are the main problems UB sport are facing?</p>

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		<p>FC: That's a good question. I'm working with UoB sport to ensure that what they offer is in line with what students want.</p> <p>RH: Could you tell us more about grant allocations and how they work?</p> <p>FC: We didn't get much training on it. More training would have been nice.</p> <p>FC explained the process of grant allocations.</p> <p>RH: How are you approaching marketization of sports clubs? You have some great ideas on your Action Plan.</p> <p>FC: I'm working with UoB Sports on this. It's difficult to have consistent marketing throughout year as it starts to annoy people, and most people buy memberships at the start of the year.</p> <p>RH: What are your non-negotiable aims for improving the student experience within BUCS?</p> <p>FC: I have lots of meetings with BUCS. Would really like to see change in BUCS e.g. there is currently no Trans Policy for all Sports, just a policy from the National Body, which is risky. It leaves institutions to make discussions themselves. The other side is sustainability – I'm the sustainability lead in the Guild, and am doing work in BUCS on sustainability.</p> <p>JC asked SD's question on their behalf: Well done on the boob event.</p> <p>JC: How has the Ethical & Environmental (E&E) Committee developed in terms of making the University accountable e.g. is the Guild developing any green proposals?</p>

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		<p>FC: I chair E&E Committee, and the Ethical & Environmental Officer sits on this too. I'm on working groups in the University and Guild.</p> <p>JC: What are your plans to improve safety?</p> <p>FC: I shadow a Duty Manager at FAB. I'm also working with welfare and social secretaries to increase awareness, and ensure that they are equipped to deal with relevant issues. There is also a chill out room. I'm also facilitating students to work with friends and team mates.</p> <p>FC and the Panel thanked each other and FC left the meeting.</p>
4:25pm-4:40pm	Ethnic Minority Student's Officer	<p>CN entered the meeting.</p> <p>CN and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>CN provided the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organising activities • Talking to the Club Development Officer for the club & fitness centre • Looking at what do to implement changes and activities for students • I'm organising a 2nd event – this will be a networking event for ethnic minority students who don't have safe spaces in the university, and working with another student planning social networking events for students. <p>JC: Is there a specific time where these events will happen?</p> <p>CN: Yes, I'm getting students opinions on how to change this. I'm also working with Black Voices on debate nights and events.</p> <p>SA: What will the safe spaces involve?</p>

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		<p>CN: I would like to make it more like an event in the Guild once a week</p> <p>CN and the Panel thanked each other and CN left the meeting.</p>
4:40pm-4:55pm	Ethical & Environmental Officer	<p>ME entered the meeting.</p> <p>ME and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>ME provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I meet with the Sports Officer after my placements <p>SA: Your ideas are great. What will be the active steps you're taking for accessibility for the prayer room?</p> <p>ME: I'm taking into account different religions and cultures. I will conduct a questionnaire. People of the same religion may have different views. I'm talking to the ISoc and JSoc etc.</p> <p>RH: Great work. Were you able to get notes or minutes from the meetings that you missed?</p> <p>ME: Yes, for some meetings I received the link late.</p> <p>RH: Can I ask about your work on stationary exchanges?</p> <p>ME: Students interested in stationary exchanges are putting their stationary forward. I'm getting the word out and promoting it. An exchange box will probably be in the library café or Guild. There will also be a donation box for stationary.</p> <p>RH: How do you plan to encourage students to re-sell clothes?</p> <p>ME: I don't have access to my Guild email, so I'm struggling and can't do much at the moment.</p>

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		<p>JC: How will you develop the stationary exchange? Could you collaborate with the Activities & Employability Officer with their work on clothes swaps?</p> <p>ME: I'm working with societies and will probably stick posters up.</p> <p>ER: What are the hoped outcomes for the sustainability City collaboration?</p> <p>ME: I'm not too sure at the moment, I'm still working on this.</p> <p>ME and the Panel thanked each other.</p> <p>ME left the meeting.</p>
4:55pm-5:00pm	Panel Debrief	The Panel received a debrief.