

Scrutiny Panel Minutes

Present: Samuel Dickens (Chair of Officer Question Time), Joshua Williams (President), Josh Dooler (Sports Officer), Amanda Sefton (Education Officer), Millie Gibbins (Welfare and Community Officer), Ryan Ginger (Activities and Employability Officer), Tobiloba Adeyemi (Postgraduate Officer), Joanne Park (International Officer), Em Andress (Trans Officer), Jules Singh (Commuter Students Officer), Tukeer Hussain (Ethnic Minority Officer), Amber Culley (LGBTQ Officer), Shirley Ibegbulam (Womens' Officer), Katie Scandrett (Scrutiny Panel Member), Samuel Oanea (Scrutiny Panel Member), Isabel Norrington (Scrutiny Panel Member), Rebecca Cutler (Scrutiny Panel Member)

Apologies: Manisha Dhaliwal (Anti-Racism; Anti Fascism Officer), Alice Fowle (Disabled Students Officer)

Absence without apologies: Alex Sinclair (Mature Students Officer), Nicola Williams (Ethical and Environmental Officer)

In attendance: Rozena Nadeem (Democracy Coordinator), Lucy Gill (Student Voice Manager), Jo Thomas (Chief Executive)

The meeting commenced at 18.00

No	ITEM FOR DISCUSSION	QUESTIONS ASKED	ACTION
1	Welcome and Matters arising	SD opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	Noted
2	President Report and Questions	<p>JW provided his update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to university • Care leaver support – meeting with local authorities and widening participation <p>SD asked Scrutiny Panel if they would like to ask any questions IN: Your manifesto promised a Care Leaver Part Time Officer – how is this work going? JW: Will have Campaigns Officer role (non-portfolio role) as part of outcome of Democracy review – students can campaign on any issue important to them, care leavers is a niche issue, never been brought up before KS: How can the Guild monitor and stop ticket touts on the Fab n Fresh Group? JW: This usually happens in the Fab and Fresh Group. We are reviewing how we moderate the group so students know what is and isn't acceptable, and so the process is transparent.</p> <p>RC: Is support for care leavers whilst they are at university available?</p>	Noted

		<p>JW: Fortunate to be a care leavers ambassador, widening participation work around university (tailored support for care leavers - accommodation, hospitality (providing utensils, bedding etc) and helping to end stigma/labelling of being a care leaver) – good start, but still lots to do</p> <p>SO: How is the relationship between West Midlands Police and university? Safety?</p> <p>JW: Myself and MG on groups with police, helping to improve access to police for minority groups, blue line specials helping with peer support (breaking barriers), in contact with West Midlands Police Commissioner, there is already a relationship there, but making more accessible. MG & RG also doing harm reduction work.</p> <p>SD asked if audience had any questions</p> <p>YN: What do you do to ensure that students turn up to Officer Question Time, what think reasons are for students not turning up?</p> <p>JW: Issues with perception and accessibility of Guild, stereotypes exist, takes time to address this, asking what students would engage</p> <p>SD closed question time for the President</p>	
3	Activities and Employability Report and Questions	<p>SD asked RG to provide update</p> <p>RG provided update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Groups policy change – three waves of consultation • Bringing back Mega Forum • Groups Recognition Structure • Democracy Review work • General Election <p>SD asked Scrutiny Panel if they had any questions</p> <p>RC: How dealing with complaints and issues - are you looking at processes?</p> <p>RG: Complaints dealt with by Officers – and complaints not just against Guild</p> <p>RC: Better process?</p> <p>RG: Takes up a lot of time, and there are different types of complaints, finding smoothest and best way to do it</p> <p>KS: Industry-specific careers fairs - what is progress like?</p> <p>RG: Already been done, Jobs Skills and Volunteering (JSV) doing promotions and working with Careers Fairs, also working towards more specific fairs</p> <p>IN: You mentioned work to support student staff and to develop women in leadership in your report. Can you tell us more about this?</p> <p>RG: I am working on a campaign about respecting our student staff, because they get a lot of abuser during events like FAB and they are students too. Also looking at a women in leadership event for elections.</p> <p>IN: Podcast with student groups – progress?</p> <p>RG: Developing this</p> <p>SD closed question time for Activities and Employability Officer</p>	Noted
4	Education Officer Report and Questions	<p>SD asked Education Officer to provide update</p> <p>AS provided update on her work on Extenuating Circumstances.</p>	

		<p>KS: This question more specific to Disability Officer, but relevant to Education role – what are you doing to ensure lecturers put Panopto in place?</p> <p>AS: University lecturers have to provide an alternative to Panopto if they don't want to record their lectures – spoke about access and alternatives</p> <p>IN: Same panel for extenuating circumstances across university, what is your vision on that, and which people should be on it?</p> <p>AS: Small working group, myself and others on working group, going to Wellbeing Managers – two parts to this, one part is equal representation across university, colleges and schools, and second part is range of representation across courses and levels of study</p> <p>IN: If Panopto strongly enforced – what if lecturers not using it?</p> <p>AS: Don't know every single lecturer, but find out through Reps, work with Student Rep Team.</p> <p>Panel Member: BME attainment gap/decolonisation – important for being global university – what doing about this?</p> <p>AS: Looking at doing a report, looking at all students, different sections, different groups (e.g. women, LGBTQ+), some subjects harder than others, taking best practice and sharing it, looking at other universities and national</p> <p>Student (To SD): Will there be time to ask other questions?</p> <p>Student (to RG): Trade unions, do you/will you work with trade unions</p> <p>RG: Commercial – JW president</p> <p>Student: What is Speak Week?</p> <p>AS: AS explained Speak Week</p> <p>Student: Plan to publish outcomes of Speak Week?</p> <p>AS: Will publish and collate the feedback, and publish key themes</p> <p>Student (to AS): Would like to ask about Dubai as it's linked to colonisation. Topics in curriculum, particularly in Psychology and Education – programmes have to match to UK programme - but things that staff concerned about teaching e.g. can't teach child psychology, gender, LGBTQ+ rights etc – staff concerned about what can/can't be taught</p> <p>AS: Aware of issues of curriculum, but not aware of staff concerns, would like to know more of though</p> <p>SD: JP – would you like to comment, as this is related to your role too</p> <p>JP: I would like to know more</p> <p>Student (to JP): Will get back to you</p> <p>SD closed question time for the Education Officer</p>	
5	<p>Postgraduate Officer Report and Questions</p>	<p>SD asked Postgraduate Officer to provide their update</p> <p>TA gave update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Postgraduate events – tailored – inclusive and engaged • Skills – signposting • PTES and PRES – central space, meeting with university (slow pace, but moving forwards) <p>SD asked Scrutiny Panel if they have any questions</p> <p>KS: Byelaws state that you have to work with Grad School and Rep System</p>	<p>Noted</p>

		<p>TA: Grad School now for all PGs as well as PGR, made events plan for next term, building relationship, Grad Group consisting of PGR and PGT students, Westmere Scholars</p> <p>SO: How trying to get PG students more integrated – have a strategy for this?</p> <p>TA: First tool using is social media (FB, IG, Twitter), also building relationships, PGR hardest to engage, more outreach vibe, attend as many PGR events as possible but can't attend every single one, distance learners are challenging to engage (access can only be online, not on campus)</p> <p>SO: Is there a specific area that you're focusing on, as PGR may have tighter schedules?</p> <p>TA: PG Tea & Cake - PGR like more relaxed events (not FAB), and things that are of benefit to them – also speaking to them, takes more than advertising on Facebook, involves having conversations with them – next term will be the "magic term"</p> <p>KS: Are societies encouraging PGs too?</p> <p>TA: PGR and PGT reps on PGMSA committee – wider reach to engage more people</p> <p>RG: PG Master classes – societies can apply for funding for</p> <p>Student: What is your view on casualization (joint unions report)?</p> <p>Students not paid for their work, no contracts or job security</p> <p>TA (to student): PG community is very dynamic and diverse – learnt a lot whilst in the job - can have conversations with you, not currently equipped to answer question</p> <p>JW: As follow-up – worked with university on Worklink, facilitated meeting with Director of Finance (University) to raise these concerns, raising these issues at highest levels (e.g. University Council), strategic review of Worklink – student consultation – willing to engage with trade unions and students, has slow progress though</p> <p>SD closed question time for the Postgraduate Officer</p>	
6	<p>Welfare and Community Officer Report and Questions</p>	<p>SD asked MG to provide update</p> <p>MG provided update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing – living, housemate finder, complaints procedure, additional licensing • Mental health strategy and support week • STI kits in halls and guild, SHAG week <p>SD asked the Scrutiny Panel if they had any questions</p> <p>IN: Byelaws and manifesto say that part of role is to reduce safety, and increase Community Wardens – what is progress on this?</p> <p>MG: Wardens have increased, there are regular street watches and look at crime figure, Selly Express is running</p> <p>Panel Member: University recently came under fire for sexual harassment allegations, done some great work, what is progress on this?</p> <p>MG: Changed code of conduct – sexual assault, also for activities in societies, make easier for students for complain, steering group for sexual harassment, Not on campaign, next term will be tackling issues</p> <p>YN: Talked to friends who are disabled students/wheelchair users, these students have difficulties with finding housing in Selly Oak, streets not even, glass on streets (bins tipped over) – what can Guild do to help?</p>	<p>Noted</p>

		<p>MG: Glad this question raised, Guild play a role, have regular meetings with council and community council, interested in having conversations with students' friends and raising issues</p> <p>YN: Friend injured at Societies Night – First Aid received not sufficient enough according to hospital staff</p> <p>MG: Can review this, and look into it</p> <p>Student: Does Guild have Health and Safety Committee?</p> <p>MG - Yes</p> <p>RG – Yes, I chair meeting</p> <p>Student – Is there student representation on the Committee?</p> <p>RG – Committee is an internal staff committee, but reach out for student feedback</p>	
7	International Officer Report and Questions	<p>SD asked JP to provide update</p> <p>JP provided update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year Abroad fees, housing guarantee scheme – national benchmarking data • Events and engagement – global Give It A Go – grants and comms • International comms – precise and clear <p>SD asked Scrutiny Panel if they had any questions</p> <p>IN: Initiatives to engage International students are good – are you providing any support for satellite campuses?</p> <p>JP: Satellite campuses include Jinan, Singapore, China and Dubai, visited campus in China, can't directly represent students in China. Representation for Dubai programmes – six student leaders elected in Dubai, train and support, communicate with UoB</p> <p>Student: Fees rising - for my course fees are rising, used to be £15,800 when I started, now £19k, Freshers are paying more – why increasing, do international students know why? Will they stop increasing at some point?</p> <p>JP (to student): Do you mean your specific fees or for Freshers?</p> <p>Student: Fees are different to Freshers</p> <p>JP: Also upset that fees are rising, your question is more for university to answer</p> <p>Student: Also not the same for the whole country</p> <p>JP: Looked into this, UoB is one of the universities that has had the least increase each year. Question is more for university to answer, can ask university, university may not give clear answer, but can bring question to Vice Chancellor Question Time</p> <p>AS: Position is no increases in fees</p> <p>Student: Isn't this the Guild's role?</p> <p>Student: Isn't it for the Guild to lobby for what is best for students?</p> <p>JW – Any applicable issues will raise on high-level committees</p> <p>Student: Asked question about increasing fees and pays for lecturers teaching MSc students</p> <p>SD closed question time for the International Officer.</p>	Noted
8	Sports Officer Report and Questions	<p>SD asked Sports Officer to provide update</p> <p>JD provided update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media groups – sports promotion • BUCS super series and promotion of student sport • Participation - into hall sports • Come Out Active – thanks to AC • AF & disability sport 	Noted

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welfare and initiations – external input <p>SD asked Scrutiny Panel if they had any questions. RC: You have talked a lot about inclusivity etc – how will you support non-BUCs sport and ensure more diversity? JD: Non-competitive sports, will have inclusivity festival, not all students want to compete KS: UB Sport App in manifesto, and team of the week? JD: Online platform, communications of Sports Clubs, no area where they present fixtures and results quite hard to add in IN: Doing some good work. Reducing prices in gym? How getting on with this JD: More valuable/affordable options, Sports Centre is a business, so will always try to make a profit, but the prices are lower for students than they are for the general public IN: How does the business work for interaction? JD: Sit on committee, and are the only student on committee, so they value student feedback SO: BUCS exist, but have any internal leagues? JD: Have a campus league, have issues around lack of space however (Sports Centre always very busy), will be having Varsity competition too</p> <p>YN: There was a post on LGBTQ Sports Nights – incident of transphobia EA: Issue has been raised, and in contact with student YN: Just wanted to raise so it's on record JD: Will contact students immediately and get account of events – complaints and support</p> <p>SD closed question time for the Sports Officer</p>	
9	AOBs	<p>Student (to JW): Question about Salary of Guild staff member JW: Don't feel that can answer, would like right numbers so can comment correctly and happy to meet outside of this meeting to discuss. Student: Question about strike action? JW: Explained that belief and commitment exists, strike is occurring over assignment period, clarified/ratified that information was not clear, Your Ideas voting finishes this Friday, raising concerns with university on Senate, Your Ideas idea is a decision that students need to make (students on both sides), students can come to Officer Q & A Student (to JW): Do you think that the general conditions imposed on staff in the university are in the interests of students? JW: Raising issues with university (e.g. casualization of contracts, strategic review of Worklink) – similar situation with New Core Student: In this incident, the Your Ideas process was not adequate, not efficient, referendum? – Officer Q & A & Your Ideas is once a term JW: Democracy review happening, work of previous President and Resources & Representation Officer Student: When democracy review coming (i.e. this term, next year)? JW: Want a system that students will buy into, happy to have conversations, National President visited, another UCU strike action in January where will rethink how Officers will support strikes</p>	Noted

		<p>RG: Democratic structures – shown us importance of emergency student meeting – on radar that need to be implemented, Your Ideas will promote – Officers want students to vote</p> <p>Student: Can Officers put ideas through Your Ideas?</p> <p>JW: Yes, Officers do have that capacity.</p> <p>Student: Advertise on Teach Out, Guild Council Chambers used to be full during Officer Q & A and Guild Council, engagement went down on GPDG, what was the rational for removing Guild Council?</p> <p>JW: Guild Council is now Your Ideas, system not been removed, just renamed</p> <p>Student: Clarification?</p> <p>Discussion took place about Your Ideas/democratic systems</p> <p>JW: Your Ideas promoted through University Comms</p> <p>Student: Democratic review from previous President statement blocked – why?</p> <p>JW: Not blocked, democracy review not yet finished – processing operational details, improving minority access</p> <p>Student: When will be communicated?</p> <p>JW: Next term</p> <p>Student: How describe relationship with Trustees?</p> <p>Full-Time Officers explained structure of Trustee Board (i.e. lay Trustees, Student Trustees etc.)</p> <p>SD closed time for AOBs for Full-Time Officers</p>	
10		Change-over to Part-Time Officers	Noted
11	Part-Time Officer Report and Questions	<p>SD asked Part-Time Officers present to provide update</p> <p>Present Part-Time Officers provided updates</p> <p>JS: Commuter Students' Day</p> <p>AC: Accessible language and sports</p> <p>TH: University and careers, racial harassment, inner city schools</p> <p>EA: Gender neutral toilets and trans awareness, complaints and New Core – preferred name, LGBTQ</p> <p>SI: Sisterhood campaign and WANBA events, Islamaphobia awareness, work with SmartWorks</p> <p>JS: Work further with University station – no direct complaints</p> <p>Scrutiny Panel asked about use of gender neutral toilets</p> <p>The Scrutiny Panel had no other questions</p> <p>Students had no questions</p> <p>SD therefore closed question time for the Part-Time Officers</p>	Noted
12	AOB	No other questions were raised.	Noted

The meeting closed at 8:30

Date of next meeting: Monday 16th March, 5:30pm – 8pm, Guild Council Chambers