

Present:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Jack Bowen (JB), Lucy Shapley (LS), Shaun Keen (SK), Eloise Watkins (EW)

Officers: George Christian (GC, Sports Officer), Jules Singh (JS, Education Officer), Adam Dorey (AD, Campaigns Officer), Danielle Murinas (DM, Postgraduate Officer)

In Attendance:

Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute-Taker), Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator), Lucy Gill (Student Voice & Representation Manager)

Absent Without Apologies:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Jingke Lin (JL)

Trigger Warnings: Disabled Students Commission, mental health support, drink spiking, disability access, widening participation, climate change, extensions, refugees

Time	Item	Notes
3:05pm - 3:10pm	Panel Pre-Meeting Briefing	
3:10pm - 3:25pm	Sports Officer	<p>GC entered the meeting.</p> <p>GC and the SP greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked GC if he had any further updates for the Panel since he submitted his report.</p> <p>GC provided a brief update on his work on the Commonwealth Games.</p> <p>EW: Will you follow-up with UoB Sport on the recommendations that we provided? Are UoB Sport going to do anything with them?</p> <p>GC: The recommendations will tie in with the Disabled Students Commission report and a survey that is due to be sent out. The aim is for the recommendations to be “please do this” and “this works this way”.</p>

	<p>EW: I like the points that you raised about sustainability and drink spiking on your report. Do you have any plans on this?</p> <p>GC: This is being taken on by the Venues Team generally. I've become part of relevant working groups though, as I found keeping up with the information and updates useful. This work will be ongoing for years to come, and the response moving forwards should be measured. Financial sustainability is being taken into account.</p> <p>JB: It is fantastic to see the priority campaign of implementing better mental health support services for those in sports teams due to the pressured environments that they work and perform in is a project you are leading. Can you please specify what these better mental health support services are?</p> <p>GC: Is this in relation to the overall Officer priority campaign, or something from my written statement?</p> <p>JB: It was on your report.</p> <p>GC: The Officer Priority campaign is based on the Student Minds Charter. Physical activity will be a part of this too. I'm keen to look at the welfare support of students with learning disabilities. The offer at UoB Sport is very tailored to performance level, but it could be improved, so I'm working on this.</p> <p>JB: You also mentioned that two members of staff in the Guild are leaving, which will impact services – how will you mitigate this to ensure that services and campaigns work are not disrupted?</p> <p>GC: Other Guild staff (e.g. higher-up staff) will help to mitigate this.</p> <p>LS: I'd like to ask about the form about disability awareness and how students feel about it – do you have a time frame for this?</p> <p>GC: It got pushed back due to work around drink spiking and the perception of the Guild at the time – I didn't feel that it</p>
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		<p>was the right time to send it out. The form isn't time sensitive, but I would definitely like for it to go out.</p> <p>LS: Are measures for drink spiking still in place? Tonight is the first Sports Night.</p> <p>GC: A lot of students still aren't on campus, we had some miscommunication with Sports Teams. I don't sit on the commercial groups, so I can't influence this. We would like measures to be in place moving forwards though.</p> <p>LS: Communication should be improved, as students will be expecting for measures to be in place</p> <p>SK: Can you clarify how your most recent update on non-club welfare support benefits students outside of clubs?</p> <p>GC:</p> <p>SK: Your work on disability access and widening participation is brilliant! Has your work on disability access provided any transferable knowledge and/or best practice for other underserved groups though, such as religious groups and trans and non-binary students? And if so, has this knowledge been actioned?</p> <p>GC: For disabled students, I've used personal knowledge from my past and by talking to the Disabled Students Officer at UoN Students Union. I don't want to alienate other groups. My work could be expanded. It's difficult to implement the work for disabled students to other groups as it's so specific to operations of that group e.g. access for people who aren't able-bodied</p> <p>SK asked GC if he had any questions. GC had no questions.</p> <p>GC and the Panel thanked each other and GC left the meeting.</p>
<p>3:25pm - 3:40pm</p>	<p>Campaigns Officer</p>	<p>AD entered the meeting.</p> <p>AD and the Panel greeted each other.</p>

SK asked AD if he had any further updates since he submitted his report.

AD provided some updates on climate change work.

EW: I don't have that many questions, as your report was very detailed. I noticed you mentioned infographics, I'm wondering if you could combine this with the work of the Welfare & Community Officer, as your work is very similar to what they are doing. This will make things easier for both of you!

AD agreed.

JB: I'd also like to say thank-you for your report, as I agree that it was detailed. Well done for your work on the Activist Network, general campaigning work, and the work with Robin to hold the new VC to account in an inclusive way too. I can see you mentioned in your report that you're working with some of the other Officers for LGBTQ+ History Month, please could you tell us about the events for this?

AD: I'm going to help to help to promote the events, and helping to plan them.

LS: There's only one question from me too. How are you planning on advertising the re-launch of the Activist Network?

AD: A key mistake that we made last time was not promoting the events for the Network early enough. So this time, we're hoping to get more professional looking graphics, and also collaborate with others to promote each other's events. I also don't understand the separate accounts that Officers have for social media, so I'd like to review this.

SK: Have you looked at promoting outside of the Guild central social media e.g. through societies, through the University etc?

AD: Yes, I'm not usually good at this, but it's something I'd like to work on.

		<p>SK mentioned that he understood that student engagement can be challenging.</p> <p>SK: Considering that mental health is a sensitive subject, have you considered privacy/safe space measures for those you intend to gather data from at larger events?</p> <p>AD: That's a good point. We'll be asking students to feed back what they think the University should be doing, rather than talking about their own mental health.</p> <p>SK asked AD if he had any questions.</p> <p>AD had no questions.</p> <p>AD and the Panel thanked each other and AD left the meeting.</p>
<p>3:40pm - 4:25pm</p>		<p>The Panel members worked on feedback for the Campaigns Officer and Sports Officer during this time.</p>
<p>4:25pm - 4:40pm</p>	<p>Postgraduate Officer</p>	<p>DM entered the meeting.</p> <p>DM and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked DM if she had any further updates.</p> <p>DM: On my report, I mentioned delivered by registry. I'm going to help to deliver this training. With the research question, it mentioned that I met with the Pro-Vice Chancellor, and she shared feedback from research staff, and it was really interesting, particularly for finding out more about research culture.</p> <p>EW: I'd like to ask about your work on making the postgraduate experience sustainable – do you have an update on this?</p> <p>DM: The Guild is working on the 5-year strategy, this year is Year 0. I'd like items around the Postgraduate Community to be incorporated into this. I've had meetings with the Sports Officer and Student Groups staff to talk about cultural barriers</p>

that stop PG students from engaging. We're also looking at accreditation badges for societies e.g. PG friendly accreditation, and possibly extend this to international students, commuter students etc. We'd also like to offer incentives for student groups who make effort to engage PG students. This work will be ongoing in future years.

EW: This is a great idea!

DM: Some societies require you to attend sessions every week, some have ad hoc sessions – we're also taking this into account.

EW: What were the main outcomes from the PGT and PGR Board meetings? What will you implement to benefit students?

DM: I had PGR Board an hour ago. I've asked for there to be space on the agenda for me to present things. Today I presented the results of the Disabled Students Commission. PGR Reps are invited to attend these meetings too, and I've been meeting and collaborating with these Reps outside of the meetings too. I've helped to provide the Reps with context.

JB: It's good to see that you're exploring the experience of PGR students, as they are both students and staff. How will you go about helping to improve awareness of Disability Support and wellbeing support for PG students?

DM: This overlaps with everything else I'm working on. With wellbeing, if a PG has a contract of 13 hours or more, they can access Occupational Health, through HR, and can access Disability Support as a student – sometimes this information isn't communicated though. I've contacted Disability Services to ask them to make the information clearer on their web page, and in particular include information for PGR students (e.g. Occupational Health). PGR email addresses are like staff emails, and they can't access their emails a month after – collaborating with IT, Library and Legal Services. Library Services want to change to a different gate away service. With research, PGRs that are able to go to staff and student seminars are left out of

		<p>mailing lists. I'd like to ensure that PGRs are actively invited to things. There are also bigger things like contracts that I don't have control over. These are the kinds of conversations I've been having in this area.</p> <p>LS: In one of your notes, it mentioned employability rights, and getting these on the Employability Hub.</p> <p>DM: This is part of the Disabled Students' Commission. I've also talked to the Careers Service about it. I'm collaborating with other Officers on this. Hoping to get this information out in April, after Elections – the comms calendar in the next few weeks is focused on elections.</p> <p>SK: Does the Guild have access to and review the PTES and PRES?</p> <p>DM: PTES is included in the Student Voice Report. We get data and report from the Graduate School, then it gets analysed alongside the NSS. PRES is different as it runs every two years – we can't include it in the Student Voice Report though. The PRES ran this year.</p> <p>SK: How has strike action affected PGs?</p> <p>DM: Up until the Referendum, I wasn't sure what statement to release, I didn't want to release something that was against the byelaws. In the Guild, if there are future strikes, there will be rooms in the Guild they can use, with refreshments. Whatever the Guild's stance, my role would be to support PGRs who are striking. I'd also like to help with day to day things to support PGRs. The Guild does act as a neutral space for strike action.</p> <p>SK asked DM if she had any questions.</p> <p>DM had no questions.</p> <p>The Panel and DM thanked each other and DM left the meeting.</p>
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<p>4:40pm - 4:55pm</p>	<p>JS entered the meeting.</p> <p>JS and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>JS had no updates.</p> <p>EW: Can you give a summary of the outcomes of the PS survey?</p> <p>JS: One of the main things that came out were that students want to participate in recreational sports. One of the things that struck me as the previous Commuter Students Officer was that students don't feel safe travelling around Birmingham at night.</p> <p>EW: Can you explain what you mean by inclusive by design for online exams?</p> <p>JS: To summarise, when the University decided to do online exams, they decided to make it 25 hours for everyone.</p> <p>EW: Thank-you for clarifying, that is helpful. Can the marketing of the canvas consent module be increased?</p> <p>JS: It's very fresh, the University has no comms plan yet or plan to publicise yet.</p> <p>JB: Could you elaborate on your work for Article 36 on scholarships?</p> <p>JS: The previous VC was not in support of expanding Article 36 Scholarships for refugees – this is something that I heard from close colleagues. The new VC is in support, as he did some similar work at Sussex. I therefore think that this can be achieved this year.</p> <p>LS: About the five-day extension, is it meant to be equally accessible across schools? It is different across schools. Is this something that is in your control? Is it meant to be centrally implemented?</p> <p>JS: My inbox is full of emails about this from confused students. The key thing is that you do need a valid reason for</p>
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		<p>an extension, and something that is outside of your control. Different Wellbeing Tutors might also have different perspectives on what is an acceptable reason and what isn't an acceptable reason.</p> <p>SK: What plans do you have to analyse feedback for ECs?</p> <p>JS: It's not something that I've particularly considered. The problems with the old process need to be fixed. I'll make a note of this and ensure a survey goes out when the new system starts. A consultation is also happening.</p> <p>SK: I'm assuming you've had time to reflect on the Reps training since the last Scrutiny Panel meeting. What key things will you take away from this review?</p> <p>JS: There was an over-recruitment of Student Reps due to the University wanting more feedback. In Semester 2, there will be some international students who are new to the University and UK, and they may be interested in becoming Reps. I'll consider this alongside the other academic focused Officers.</p> <p>SK: Do you have any questions for us?</p> <p>JS had no questions.</p> <p>JS and the Panel thanked each other, and JS left the meeting.</p>
<p>4:55pm - 5:00pm</p>		<p>Panel Debrief</p>