

## Guidance

- Your report should be 1000 words or fewer. You should write in all three sections, but it is up to you to decide how much weight to give each section.
- Your report should be submitted one week before the date of each Scrutiny Panel. Completed reports should be emailed to [r.nadeem@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.nadeem@guild.bham.ac.uk) or [l.gill@guild.bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.gill@guild.bham.ac.uk)
- You will have two minutes at the beginning of each Scrutiny Panel meeting to supplement your report with a verbal update.

Officer:	Matthew Griffin
Date of panel:	22/03/20

## Written Statement action plan

This section is for you to track your progress on your written statement priorities, as outlined in your action plan. The “context” section of the document can remain the same for each panel.

Written Statement Item #1	
'Climate Emergency Campaign'	
Context:	This campaign is one of my main focuses and aims for the year- to lobby the university into declaring a climate Emergency. This is crucial given the climate crisis and the campaign will also aim to encourage greater transparency and action at the University, and educate staff and students about the crisis.
Progress:	The campaign is launched in February with the start of Go Green week. The launch event was a success, with a good turnout and some fantastic speakers. The campaign has so far amassed over 250 signatures and the email campaign has ensured that university staff have been made aware. The video also has had a strong reach on social media and I was invited to give a talk at SOS about the campaign. I hope to submit the open letter soon and call for a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor.

Written Statement Item #2	
<b>'Plastic free zero waste shop'</b>	
<b>Context:</b>	This is one of my main projects that represents an exciting opportunity for students and staff to shop more sustainably
<b>Progress:</b>	While it has been made clear that this project will not take place under my term due to financial restraints and the COVID-19 pandemic, I have already raised the idea in a meeting with the president-elect Mikey Brown and will mention it to EEO-elect Rachel. So, my agenda for this term is to try and lay the groundwork so that this can come to reality in the academic year of 2021/22.

Written Statement Item #3	
<b>Organise a collaborative Sustainability Working Group</b>	
<b>Context:</b>	I pledged on my manifesto to encourage collaboration between the different Sustainability/climate action groups on campus.
<b>Progress:</b>	There has not been a meeting in some time now, mainly due to being busy and the election of new committees. But collaboration is ongoing, such as with the Business Symposium (see policy and ideas). On top of that, Mikey seems very keen to keep this group going in the future, so I will be working on continuity.

## Role and responsibilities

This section is for you to write about any projects you have been working on or meetings you have been to that you think are of particular importance to your remit.

Meeting / project	Outcome for students
<p><b>Go Green Week</b>  <b>Took place: 8th February to the 12th of February.</b></p>	<p>Go Green Week was a relative success, with a strong turnout despite being online. The topics covered were diverse and interesting and I hope that everyone who came enjoyed it!</p>

<b>Sustainability Steering Group (SSG)</b>	I offered student perspective and offered a strong stance on an item that is currently confidential. I plan to present the divestment report (see ideas and policy) to this group.
<b>Sustainability Task Group (STG)</b>	Again, was a voice for students and strong climate action.
<b>Biodiversity Working Group</b>	This group has not met since the last scrutiny panel, but we have applied for a DEFRA re-wilding grant which could be an amazing bit of funding.

## Ideas and policy

This section is for you to report on progress made to ideas and Guild policy that you have been mandated to work on. You only need to update your actions taken. You can also add ideas or policy as they are passed through the year.

Idea / policy	Action taken since last Panel
<b>Installation of Ecosia at the Guild and University</b>	Struggling to receive a reply from IT at the moment, who seem very busy. I have also emailed Mark Gee at the University to meet and discuss the reasons outlined for not introducing Ecosia at the University.
<b>Freebie Policy</b>	I am working with Rob (Sports) to try and create and put into place a new freebie policy. We have got the backing of GOG and are now articulating a policy; it is likely that we will aim to reduce freebies given away at freshers events by 50%

## Other student issues, meetings or projects to note:

- **Fossil Free**- this campaign has really gained some momentum over the last couple of months. For example, during Guild elections I worked with the group to lobby election candidates to commit to campaign for divestment if they won, which was a real success and got the topic on the agenda. I have also been compiling a report which Tobi (Pres), will take to Council; the report addresses the University's reasons for not divesting, breaking that down and making a strong case for divestment. I am hopeful that this could prove to

be the last piece in the jigsaw. I am also working with the group to try and project symbols on Old Joe, although this is proving difficult.

- **Reducing Guild Plastic Use-** In discussion with the Guild and the society 'Plastic Free UoB' to phase in reusable cups at sports night and fab events. I have now had a several meetings with Mike and Dan regarding this and also mentioned it briefly in a meeting with Adam Sheridan. I have prepared a presentation and I am trying to meet with Adam to show him this. The Guild seem aware that this is a project that has to happen in the long-term, but seem apprehensive over the potential costs.
- **Campus-wide Reusable Coffee cup scheme-** As with many things, this has been hindered by COVID-19 and the lockdown restrictions that meant that few students have been on campus in 2021. We have applied for funding for a few trial in various competitions, and await news from the latest. The plan is to hold a free trial for the cup on the Vale in September 2021 if possible.
- **Student Composting-** Pleased to say that the compost bins are now in place (photo attached) and we launched a promotional campaign in March to coincide with 'compost week'. The bins are filling up nicely and this has been a real success. The next step ideally would be to purchase a bin for the Arley Road plot, but this is dependent on BUCV use of the plot.
- **Red Meat reduction-** Published a survey in March and received 1,200 responses. While there was a small backlash to the survey, generally the results show support for meat-reduction of some kind. Met in a meeting with Adam Sheridan in March to discuss this (I made a powerpoint presentation for the meeting), and while he was hesitant to make any commitment, conversations around this are ongoing and I remain determined to commit the Guild to increasing the vegan/veggie options. Will meet the 'chief chef' at the end of April. Based on the feedback received from the survey, I have learnt the importance of an inclusive approach going forward, and plan to work with Imogen and BEATUoB.
- **Encouraging more Sustainable commuting-** real progress has been made on this. We are hoping that April will see the legal team allow voi scooters to be allowed on the outskirts of campus which would be great- their presence in Selly Oak has been enthusiastically welcomed by most students. Along with that, WestMidlands cycle hire are launching a bike hire scheme in the West Midlands, and the University will receive 8 bike ports. This is fantastic news and I have supported the University in their plans to implement this; which has also supported my hopes to connect campus with the superhighway, which has been well received.
- **Hedgehog society-** great news on this front- our campus was awarded silver, which is an improvement on bronze last year.
- **Societies-** I have helped Amie (AEO) to add sustainability features to the badge recognition system she is working on. On top of that, I have begun working with two students on a project to introduce sustainability as part of the committee training process- I am yet to bring Amie in on this but will do so soon.
- **The Commitment-** this is an apolitical organisation working to get climate change on the agenda for elections. Not only have I signed the commitment but I have also encouraged

others to do the same, this is especially relevant given the West Midlands mayoral elections in May.

- **Green Impact-** with submission for Green Impact on the 4th of May, this has been a lot of work, basically compiling evidence for all the actions/plans/events this year and submitting them. We are on track to achieve *Excellent*.
- **Responsible Business Symposium-** In line with COP26 (probably) taking place this year, the Business school are organising a symposium for September 2021 on the climate crisis. I have been supporting to try and get student contributions. On top of that I am also on a Responsible Investment Business judging panel which will happen in April. Finally, I also sit on the University's COP26 Working group, so offering the student perspective on that.
- **'Environmenstrual event'**- I have organised an event with [WEN](#) surrounding sustainable periods, based on the success of the talk given in Go Green Week. The Community wardens are supporting on this event as well as Charlotte (WCO) and hopefully Alice too. The event will happen in the last week of April.
- **Student Initiatives-** I am still supporting a student in creating a environmental magazine, mainly by reaching out to potentially interest people. I am also writing an article for the first publication. Also supporting a student in creating a sustainability society in the Med-school for medic students.



Compost bins!