

Scrutiny Panel Questions For Officers - Meeting 2

President

- Ensure continued recognition of the need to ensure data from the 1000 conversations initiative is not biased to those comfortable to have these conversations. What people feel comfortable discussing with a volunteer may be different from reality or data could be limited to those comfortable discussing, responses could be skewed to indicate a larger positive impact. Data capture may be unrepresentative of the student population and effect recommendations. It is good that this is being addressed by having a range of volunteers and volunteer training. However could more be done for example an online anonymous form?
- Good work on the Renters' Union - updates would be nice at the next meeting.
- Greater emphasis on negotiating university-wide adjustments for students (e.g. tuition rebate, no detriment policies) might be appropriate should more UCU strikes take place
- Progress on the Renters' Union has been positive, but insufficient consideration has been paid to whether/how the Union will be able to support students on PSRB placements

Activities & Employability Officer

- Good work towards increasing inclusivity of societies and decreasing barriers to attendance - hopefully this can continue despite the coordinator leaving.
- Small business fair is a good idea - I wonder if more social media coverage, collaboration with the Activist Network, and societies (e.g. Enactus) might help with the turnout?
- The lack of events for remote learners is concerning, especially given that many of these learners on Health Science courses have faced the most severe disruption as a result of the pandemic. Planning events that can be accessed by students on placement and by remote learners more generally should be a priority within this workstream
- Clearer communication of the specific best practice knowledge gained from Give It A Go fair, specifically around how to attract and engage new members, could be provided to societies
- Spiking is still a huge concern, and its great to know that current measures will be in place until April at the earliest. It is good to know that there has been significant improvement in the aftermath of a student being spiked.

Education Officer

- Pulse survey seemed to provide some useful insights, updates of any work in addressing these would be useful.
- Great work to get the University to drop the 'inclusive by design' approach to RAPs.
- It would be helpful to hear about your contributions to ProFF and the progress of DSA working groups in the next report
- Rep Recruitment has clearly been reflected on as an area of work, and the discussion of training for Reps beginning courses in Semester Two demonstrates that continuous improvement of training has been considered
- Ensuring that feedback is captured post EC/RAP implementation will help measure the effectiveness of the changes in allaying student/apprentice concerns, and will provide better data for the incoming Education Officer to plan future campaigns in this area
- It was mentioned that the Education Officer plans to look into streamlining all EC processes, an update on this will be good!

International Officer

- Good to increase use of the EDI training canvas course
- Good progress about supporting incoming and outgoing exchange students
- The IST's delayed response regarding visa enquiries is concerning - it would be helpful to get an update on how IO and the Guild Advice have been addressing this
- The planning of events for Winter arrivals demonstrates good work on inclusivity and a commitment to building an integrated student community, which was welcomed by the panel
- Wei-Lun has identified that issues are present relating to the way in which both the University and Guild Advice respond to issues relating to International students - Whilst work has been demonstrated around lobbying the University on this issue, more specific recommendations on how Guild Advice can avoid future instances of failure for International students would be appreciated

Postgraduate Officer

- Good progress and thoughts about PG community sustainability and encouraging lasting change, including initiatives to overcome barriers to accessing Guild resources. Student group accreditation is a great idea - updates surrounding this at the next meeting would be good.
- Work representing students at GTB and GRB and collaborating with Reps is good.

- Danielle showed a good understanding of the effects of strikes on PGRs, and is poised to better mobilise the Guild to support these students than was the case previously now that the Referendum on strike action is complete
- The continuation of mixers/events for PGs to get to know each other is great, it'll be good to hear any further ideas for these in the future.

Sports Officer

- Greater consideration of how WP activity around disabled students could be used in best practice for other underserved groups could be useful, particularly for ensuring progress made is useful for future officer teams
- Ensuring that non-club welfare support is still specifically considered as part of wider efforts around welfare and wellbeing would be advantageous for the wider student/apprentice community
- Good work in terms of improving disabled inclusivity in sport. Set of implementable recommendations given to UBsport to improve sport inclusivity for disabled students. It is also good to obtain student opinions surrounding this (would like some updates on this in the next report).
- Importance of sustainability of anti-spiking measures, not directly involved in this but Guild is aware of this and working on plans.
- I second that I look forward to hearing an update on gathering student opinions on inclusivity in sport. Hopefully by our next meeting, the form has been circulated!

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Welfare & Community Officer

- In general progress is great and really clear in the report. The progress percentages on the report are really useful.
- Suggestion to distribute the master list of apps via email and the Guild website.
- Good to have awareness of ideally being able to increase the roads the Selly Express serves and possibly have more than one - also good to pass this on to the next WCO.
- 'Safe Sesh' scheme would be useful to a lot of students, updates of any progress/student reception would be appreciated
- Whilst support for student-owned businesses and specific local vendors has been positive, the ambition to see students better interact with independent businesses more widely will need more proactive action and engagement with the wider community
- The WCO's work with the Trans/NB officer to plan and prioritise events demonstrates good practice in ensuring campaigns are planned and delivered collaboratively for maximum effect

- The WCO continues to work closely with other officers RE spiking measures and agrees that a phased relaxation of measures would be best - the WCO is aware that student must feel safe and not troubled by any retraction of measures.

Campaigns Officer

- Further thought into wellbeing and safety of those involved in the conversations around mental health. Privacy a priority.
- Plans to better utilise existing social media for the Activist Network are sensible. Looking into better comms/ways to advertise. Perhaps better use of Facebook.
- In general, an excellent report with very helpful detail.
- Possibility of collaborating with WCO and International officer on infographics and masterlist of apps providing information on mental health and wellbeing resources.
- Good progress on improving visibility of campaigns on Guild website.
- Adam has been able to proactively respond to feedback and has demonstrated the ability to adapt activities in the face of new data
- Closer work with Guild staff to ensure that all campaign events adopt best practice with regards to mental health and privacy would improve these campaigns further

Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer

- Good progress towards running events for Trans & Non-Binary people (e.g. Trans Swim) - hopefully these are successful!
- Looking forward to seeing Instagram takeworkers e.g. Beat UoB and seeing future ones if possible.
- Robin has already demonstrated a better working relationship with the LGBT+ association, aided by their previous efforts to help the society rebuild their committee
- Clearer/formalised demarcation of responsibilities between the Officer role and association may allow more concentrated work on Officer-specific areas, including chasing up replies from the University on Officer projects
- I look forward to hearing an update on comms with other unis about lobbying Canvas to include more inclusive pronouns.

Disabled Students Officer

Ethical & Environmental Officer

Ethnic Minority Students Officer

LGBTQ+ Students Officer

Womens' Officer