

# Scrutiny Panel Meeting 3 (FTOs) Minutes

Date: 03/02/21

Time: 3pm-5pm

No	Item For Discussion	Time	Discussion
1	Welcome and matters arising.	3:00pm-3:05pm	No matters noted.
2	President Report & Questions	3:05pm-3:20pm	<p>TA entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BAME student experience - Working Groups for Priority Campaigns have devised new action plans for this term -these plans need updating</li> <li>- Proposal for Appointments Panel for more BAME representation on Trustee Board - also taken to Trustee Board</li> <li>- Working with Student Voice Team to decide how to gain feedback from students on new democracy structure</li> <li>- Sustainability - will review sustainability action plan</li> <li>- Global challenges</li> <li>- Ideas/policy section - “Decolonising group activities” idea has been discussed at Activities Committee and AEO is taking lead on this</li> <li>- Raising student issues in meetings - statements and demands for University to provide more support for students</li> </ul> <p>JB: We’re very impressed, you’re doing loads of work. How are the Guild Elections going?</p> <p>TA: It’s going really well. I can’t give too much away at the moment. It’s a little difficult getting more students to apply for other roles (e.g. NUS roles).</p> <p>OO: I’d like to ask about student involvement in the VC recruitment - the student survey is quite broad. How will student feedback be collated?</p>

			<p>TA: This is a good question. We've been having meetings to ensure student feedback is embedded in the process. I just want to ensure that I'm not saying too much. We're still planning on reaching out to other groups of students, besides the survey.</p> <p>OP: Can you tell us how the Referendum went?</p> <p>TA: We had a reflection about this as a FTO team, it should be on the Guild website. We met with UCU representatives about the outcome, and how we can work together moving forwards.</p> <p>OP: How do you feel about the No Detriment Policy?</p> <p>TA: That's a tricky question. I think education is affecting everyone, even Officers (as they're not doing their role traditionally). The tricky thing is that students may have different opinions on it.</p> <p>JT: Can you tell us about your involvement in Go Green Week?</p> <p>TA: Matt brought events for Go Green Week to the Campaigns Committee. Last year, the priority campaign was on climate emergency, and this is still a priority now. Everything should be going live sometime this week. I'm letting Matt lead the project, but I'm supporting him as much as I can.</p> <p>OO: Are any upcoming plans for future Officer Team, how will you ensure it will continue?</p> <p>TA: This is a really good question. Student Voice Team have blueprint of what we've done.</p> <p>JT praised TA and the Panel thanked her for her time.</p>
3	<b>Activities &amp; Employability Officer</b>	<b>3:30pm-3:45pm</b>	<p>AR entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessibility training for groups and societies -</li> <li>feedback from attendees on what they liked and suggestions for improvement</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Report &amp; Questions</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conversion therapy incident - met with School of Psychology about this, also invited LGBTQ+ Officer to meetings</li> <li>- No Detriment Policy (Merge Policy - took to Activities Committee)</li> <li>- UoB Festival - Old Joe</li> <li>- Guild Awards - new awards coming in and working on criteria</li> <li>- Commonwealth Games - student volunteers for this project</li> <li>- Volunteering Week - talk about volunteer opportunities at the Guild and University. In March will be doing an event about employability</li> </ul> <p>JB: Last meeting, you mentioned creating a handbook for Student Groups.</p> <p>AR: Will ask committees for groups about what they would like to see in this handbook - hoping to get feedback on Friday and next week.</p> <p>OO: I'm glad to see progress on documents.</p> <p>AR: We have a deadline for AGMs to be run by July. Any societies who haven't elected a committee will go on the "Save the Society" page on the Guild website, and these will be promoted as volunteer opportunities.</p> <p>OO: That sounds really good, and good that you're encouraging students to apply.</p> <p>OP: You mentioned there is another Super AGM on Friday, how will you ensure increased engagement, and that societies know what it's for?</p> <p>AR: It had good attendance last year with a range of societies attending, but trying to promote it (as well as what it is) to societies (e.g. emailing out to societies)</p> <p>OP: That was ET's question. You mentioned in your report about an event about innovation with Career's Network.</p> <p>AR: We'll have an event in March. We don't want to lose momentum with Elections currently happening.</p>
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			<p>JT: I'd like to ask about Guild Awards?</p> <p>AR: Changed categories for Awards - previously, there were specific societies that always applied and won. The idea is to make it more inclusive and bigger, and get more societies engaged with it.</p> <p>The Panel thanked AR for attending and praised her for her work.</p>
4	<p><b>Education Officer Report &amp; Questions</b></p>	<p><b>3:45pm - 4:00pm</b></p>	<p>JS entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Met with library services - released a survey on Silly Spaces to get feedback from students on what they want</li> <li>- Working on promoting No Detriment Policy with Student Voice - negotiating fair outcomes measures with the University</li> <li>- We're looking into student reference groups</li> <li>- Met with Senior University staff about hardship funds</li> </ul> <p>JB: The Officers have been doing a lot of work despite the circumstances. I don't have any questions.</p> <p>OO: My question is more relation to student feedback and evaluation form. This is the first time that the University is getting feedback on a wide level about wider teaching.</p> <p>JS: The important thing to note is that the survey is a pilot scheme. This form will be released again after the next assessment period. Students will want feedback from Semester 1 to be acknowledged.</p> <p>OP: This might be a tricky question, but as a Student Mentor, I've been talking to some 1st years, and I'm wondering if policy will continue</p> <p>JS: Last year when No Detriment Policy was introduced, they released a framework for Educational Resilience. Similar situation this year, we have to support as many final</p>

			<p>years as possible - the next Officer Team may need to deal with this.</p> <p>ET: When will we hear about what has come out of different student feedback, and what came out of Speak Week?</p> <p>JS: The Speak Week report will be released very soon, and I can circulate a copy of this to the Scrutiny Panel.</p> <p>ET: May just be a case of timescales. There has been a lot of improvement with the My UoB App.</p> <p>JT: Has there been any more about the library becoming 24/7 study space.</p> <p>JS: This is something that came out of the Education Committee. May ask the library to make one space in the library available 24/7, rather than one (as in early hours of the morning, the library can get very quiet).</p> <p>JT: Your presence on Facebook has been good, and you should be proud of this!</p>
5	<p><b>Sports Officer Report &amp; Questions</b></p>	<p><b>4:00pm-4:15pm</b></p>	<p>RH entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Read the review of the last Scrutiny Panel - thank-you for the good feedback!</li> <li>- Celia Greenway - extra-curricular activities in weekly tutorials - support for Sports people - when Sport starts up again, foundations ready for that</li> <li>- Safe Exercise - ~100 students have signed up. Mainly students who are mostly in Selly Oak at the moment, due to the groups we're posting in, but hopefully we'll get more students sign up when Sports starts back up again</li> </ul> <p>JB: From all of us, well done on the Safe Exercise initiative. Can you give us an update on membership refunds?</p> <p>RH: It's going really well so far, and I think I have UoB Sport on my side with it. UoB Sport have been understanding. Trying to get refunds for other things such as classes as well.</p>

			<p>Given the vaccination programme goes well, hopefully the gym will be okay next academic year.</p> <p>OP: How are you hoping the extensions will work, and how you're hoping for it to work.</p> <p>RH: I'm going to talk to Senior University staff and find out what they're currently doing about extra-curricular activities (including societies and part-time work).</p> <p>ET: This work will help lots of more students, and have a lot of impact. You always seem to do really well.</p> <p>RH: Thank-you, that means a lot!</p> <p>ET: You're working on a lot that Sports Officers wouldn't normally do.</p> <p>RH: This is useful, as it is providing opportunity for fresh start. I've got all of the PTOs to send me documents about inclusivity. Still awaiting a report from DSO. LGBTQ+ and Trans &amp; Non-Binary Officers provided some examples of phrases that could be insulting and encourage disengagement. I'll be taking all of this into account.</p> <p>JT: I'd like to ask what impact you've been having on the Go Green Week.</p> <p>RH: I've been working with E&amp;E Officer on this. I've signed up to be a Sustainability Ambassador at the University.</p>
6	<b>International Officer Report &amp; Questions</b>	<b>4:15pm-4:30pm</b>	<p>WLC entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Helping to lobby for fair assessment policies and library opening times</li> <li>- Have new students on English course, and incoming exchange students for Term 2</li> <li>- Had Student Forum with Dubai Student Leaders</li> <li>- Started Officer daily update on Facebook channel</li> </ul> <p>JB: No questions, you answered my question about daily updates - you make us happy</p>

		<p>OO: I have a question about daily updates - you've mentioned year abroad students a lot.</p> <p>WLC: Year abroad students will be provided with a virtual equivalent of year abroad.</p> <p>OO: It was good to see you involved with Department conversations. I've spoken to a lot of international students.</p> <p>OP: I had no questions.</p> <p>ET: How is the EU Settlement Scheme going?</p> <p>WLC: Some students may not have applied yet - the deadline is July. Some will need to apply for visas, and we will support with that.</p> <p>ET: It's really good that you're looking at what support these students will need in future as well as now.</p> <p>JT: I have a question about the EDI module that you've mentioned a lot in your daily updates - have you been able to get feedback on this?</p> <p>WLC: Haven't been able to get as much feedback as I hoped. I'm looking at how we can better promote EDI as a student.</p> <p>JT: How do you feel support went for international students over Christmas?</p> <p>WLC: Didn't manage to have as much impact as hoped, due to furlough, but ISA put events on, and I attended one of the events. I also scheduled some social media posts.</p> <p>OO: Is there a link for students to view and give you feedback on the EDI course?</p> <p>WLC: There is, yes - I'm working on this. 400 students so far have enrolled on the course, I'm not sure how many have completed it.</p> <p>The Panel thanked WLC and WLC left the meeting.</p>
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7	<b>Welfare &amp; Community Officer Report &amp; Questions</b>	<b>4:30pm-4:52pm</b>	<p>CM entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wrote to MPs and private accommodation landlords</li> <li>- focused on this</li> <li>- Working with University on what rent rebate means</li> </ul> <p>JB: Sounds like you're doing a great job! Could I ask about the podcast that you're being working on with the rest of the team that you mentioned in your report?</p> <p>CM: This was Amie's initiative, and the aim was to be more transparent. We want to continue with this, and talk a bit more about ourselves too.</p> <p>CM talked about her work on surveys and support.</p> <p>The Panel thanked CM and CM left the meeting.</p>
8	<b>Post-graduate Officer Report &amp; Questions</b>	<b>4:52pm-5:12pm</b>	<p>RC entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students became satisfied with both the University and Guild</li> <li>- Work for PGR students</li> <li>- Working with Amie for placement courses (PG courses) - an area for students that the Guild doesn't really work with, so would like to continue doing this</li> <li>- Been involved in recruitment for 2 Senior positions at the University - been having meetings with the new staff about PG students and wider UoB students</li> <li>- Work on extenuating circumstances</li> <li>- Students and staff are being asked about their thoughts on qualities for a new VC.</li> <li>- Not much has moved in terms of my manifesto</li> <li>- Speak Week - Student Voice Team have been putting together updates - PG and UG responses are similar. Would like to do a deeper dive into data when the report is released - there's not enough non-white students for example who responded to the survey.</li> </ul> <p>A question about racial bias was asked by a member of the Panel.</p>



			<p>RC: I'm looking at if we have staff who can supervise non-eurocentric projects, and can support ethnic minority students. Also looking into why there aren't many ethnic minority students applying for PGR and PGT level. I'll put some suggestions forward for improvements (e.g. in engineering, or how we can support students in Arts). The Office for Students has put something out about getting ethnic minority students on PG courses - been invited to a Board meeting. I will get ethnic minority students to provide feedback on their experiences.</p> <p>OO: You mentioned that you're working with AEO to connect with alumni.</p> <p>RC: As students are on placement, they don't have time to meet with us, but it doesn't mean that we can't or won't support them.</p> <p>ET: This all sounds really exciting!</p> <p>JT: Are you still continuing with Brum with a Brew?</p> <p>RC: For some reason, it just hasn't happened. I did an event (Jingle and Mingle) before Christmas, and one for UoB Festival which had some engagement. I think posting on social media isn't enough. I've talked with Amie about trying events with societies. I also want to try different sorts of events, not just events where students are sitting in front of a screen and having awkward conversations.</p> <p>The Panel praised RC for her work and RC thanked the Panel.</p> <p>RC left the meeting.</p>
9	AOB	5:12pm-5:15pm	No AOBs noted.