

Scrutiny Panel Meeting 4 (FTOs) Minutes

Date: 21/04/21

Time: 3pm-5pm

No.	Time	Item for discussion
1	3:00pm-3:05pm	Welcome and matters arising
2	3:05pm-3:20pm President Report & Questions	<p>TA entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everything is coming to an end at this time (e.g. finishing projects, priority campaigns) - looking at plans and what needs finishing - Some projects the next team won't be taking over <p>ET: I saw that you would like to put the Black Voices Campaign as part of Guild Policy, I think that's great. What are you doing for sustainability?</p> <p>TA: I'd like to focus on the Guild's work on sustainability. I've looked at the sustainability action plan. I'm still also raising the issue where I can e.g. University Council meeting. There's not much coming out of University meetings. I will also lead on actions wherever possible. I'm feeling very positive about it. By the end of this month, something should come out of University meetings ready for the next Council meeting at the end of June.</p> <p>OO: I'd like to ask about the democratic structure and democracy engagement survey?</p> <p>TA: This review has not happened, it will happen in the summer, but we're working on the logistics and how we can get as much feedback as possible on the democracy structure. The results of the review would determine recommendations for next year. I would like the next Officer Team to have enough to work with, and know that the system is something they can work with.</p> <p>OP: How was Officer Elections?</p> <p>TA: I was quite pessimistic at first, but as it was online, I think it went really well and it was good to see students engage. Students are very</p>

		<p>aware and alert of what is happening nationally, especially because of COVID, this year, and it's great to see their engagement.</p> <p>JT: How was engagement with smaller roles in Officer Elections?</p> <p>TA: I think it went fairly well. I wasn't at the NUS Conferences, so I can't say too much about engagement of the Delegates at the Conferences.</p> <p>There were no more questions from the Panel</p> <p>The Panel and TA thanked each other for their work, and TA thanked the Panel for providing motivation.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>3:20pm-3:35pm</p>	<p>AR entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Guild Awards - MedSoc joined, lots of nominations - National Societies Volunteering Awards - Panel - Fab & Sports Night events planning - Attended NUS Conference as a Delegate - Chair on Panel for Volunteering Week - International Women's Day/Women's History Month events - Panel went well - Session on employability at the Guild - what employability looks like at the Guild - Student Group Elections - In-person activity on campus until May <p>ET: That sounds great! How is in-person activity going? What were the main takeaways from the NUS Conference?</p> <p>AR: I'm helping to support societies and in-person activity. For the Conference, we had discussions around education, employability, decolonisation, curriculum and what these will look like. There was also a session on welfare. We have a Google Doc with notes that we took. Charlotte and Jules can provide information on this too. We felt motivated during the Conference.</p> <p>ET: I'm glad the Conference motivated you.</p> <p>OO: It's great that Guild Awards has increased nominations. My question is about student group committee training. Is there going to be provision for first aid training?</p> <p>AR: We would like to provide this, but it's better to do it physically than online.</p>

		<p>OO: Is there going to be any Canvas training in general for student groups committees?</p> <p>AR: There'll be training around sustainability, academic committees and how they can improve their relationship with societies, recognition, return to in-person activity, accessibility, and more.</p> <p>OO: That's really nice to hear! Hopefully they'll be in-person first aid training.</p> <p>OP: I'd like to ask about the recognition system, as it sounds exciting! How are you going to put it in place?</p> <p>AR: It will be put into Canvas training. There will also be information on relevant processes included.</p> <p>OP: That's great!</p> <p>JT: How did Super AGM go?</p> <p>AR: It didn't go as well as expected, but I've sent a feedback survey to student group committee members.</p> <p>The Panel and AR thanked each other, AR complimented the Panel and AR left the meeting.</p>
4	<p>3:35pm - 3:50pm</p>	<p>JS entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I got re-elected for my role - Assessment Periods coming up - increasingly important that demands are being met by the University for students - I'm in constant communication with the University, and doing work on study spaces - Library - 4 days a week, students can now collect books from library without getting a ticket - First student evaluation teaching survey - sit on panel for this - Student Insight Panels - Supporting work on COVID-19 Response Fund - In communication with a student who wants to do work for refugees, putting them in contact with right people <p>ET: That's lots of great work! What came out of Student Voice/Speak Week?</p>

		<p>JS: Haven't had a chance to look through this yet. I've looked at feedback on the student survey though - there seems to be concerns about feedback and workload - that's broadly proportionate across the 5 colleges.</p> <p>OO: Your work for the library is great, it's helped lots of students. I'd like to ask about the upcoming 2-week assessment support.</p> <p>JS: We did offer something in the last assessment week, and I'd be keen for us to do something similar again.</p> <p>OP: I'd like to ask what blended learning at in-person teaching will look like at the University next year?</p> <p>JS: This is difficult, as there's only three weeks of teaching left. I'm talking to the University about this though. There are some students e.g. commuter students, disabled students who have benefited from online learning, and I'd like to take this into account.</p> <p>JT: I'd like to ask about study spaces?</p> <p>JS: There's lots of issues to consider around staffing, cleaning, booking rooms - it's something that I'm consistently bringing up though. What is difficult is proving the demand. For example, numbers pre-Selly Express were showing that the later hours were the least popular hours among students.</p> <p>There were no more questions for JS.</p>
5	3:50pm-4:05pm	<p>RH entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person sports activity - had to have 1 negative COVID test a week to participate, now UoB Sport are asking for 2 a week - Getting gym back up and running - got sports and gym refund during the time they have been closed, introduced short-term gym membership too. - Club conference & committee training - getting PTOs and Wei-Lun involved with inclusivity work - Commonwealth Games Sports Day/tournament - more participation-focused though than competitive <p>ET: That is all really good, we struggled to come up with questions! What takeaways have you had from your recent meetings about inclusivity and gender in sport, for the next Sports Officer?</p>

		<p>RH: I had conversations with alumni about inclusivity, and one of the Trans & Non-Binary Students Officers about gender inclusivity.</p> <p>ET: That all sounds great!</p> <p>JT: I understand there were some issues with gym memberships, and different people getting different amounts refunded, how were these resolved?</p> <p>RH: There were some issues with IT, because of people with wrong memberships etc, but I worked on helping to resolve this. UoB Sport are sending another form out today with correct refund information for students.</p> <p>ET: How will you ensure that the next Sports Officer continues with your legacy, and specifically the safe exercise initiative.</p> <p>RH: We've got alarms set up, and the system is in place so it's easy to use. I've spoken to the new Sports Officer elect too and about the work I've done this year, and they're keen to continue working on the Safe Exercise Scheme.</p> <p>JT: Did focus groups with tutors on the student sport support initiative take place?</p> <p>RH: I believe it will take place in the summer when exams are over. I talked to Celia Green and Academic Services about this. I also talked about keeping Wednesdays free, which would help students involved with sports.</p> <p>RH and the Panel thanked each other and RH left the meeting.</p>
6	<p>4:20pm- 4:35pm Welfare & Community Officer Report & Questions</p>	<p>CM entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting with local MP about housing etc - COVID Hardship Fund with JS, RC & WLC - Discussions around personal safety and safety in general - Safety campaign with Community Wardens - Conversations with University about collaborate approach to issues e.g. Not on Training as Canvas course, student accommodation, expectations of students from the Guild and University before they start at the University <p>ET: I'd like to ask for an update on how Spectrum Life is going, it looks great! Congratulations on getting this launched!</p>

		<p>CM: I was brought into discussion when they were looking for a provider, I'm glad I was brought in at this time as I could help them with looking for a provider. There's been a soft launch at the University, and about 15 students have accessed it and referred to counselling.</p> <p>OO: Congratulations on the launch of the Spectrum Life! What takeaways did you have from reviewing the service?</p> <p>CM: Looked at how black students were accessing the service. The data got aligned with demographic data with the University, there wasn't any discrepancies there. For Chinese students, and for different groups of Asian students, there was some different data. I talked to Assistant Director of Student Support and had some good chats, they have now left though. We found there's a lot of cultural barriers with students accessing counselling.</p> <p>OO: That's a lot of great work.</p> <p>OP: I'd like to ask about the renting campaign.</p> <p>CM: Housemate finder events have taken place. For renting, I've worked on individual cases with international students, where they have been charged for rent for expensive accommodation that they've not lived in, and worked with Guild Advice to put pressure on providers. Students are moving back to University accommodation now.</p> <p>JT: Have you had the meeting about the relaxation spaces in the library, and sleeping pods?</p> <p>CM: I didn't feel it was appropriate to raise these in the University in the past few months due to COVID. I'd still like to raise the idea of sleeping pods in the library though.</p> <p>CM and the Panel thanked each other, CM praised the Panel and left the meeting.</p>
7	<p>4:35pm-4:50pm</p> <p>Postgraduate Officer Report & Questions</p>	<p>RC entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Met with new Dean of PG and Dean of PGR in University - Setting up stronger working relationships within the Graduate School, and thinking about what structures we'd like to work with and staff roles - Postgraduate inductions - update PG section on Guild website (talked to C&M Manager about this)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work with Associations with AR to make Associations more representative of PGs <p>ET: It's great to hear about both long-term and short-term goals. Do you feel you're ready for handover?</p> <p>RC: I've been adding information and advice in my handover document.</p> <p>JT: We talked about Assessment Support Week with JS, do you have any PG-specific support or events planned?</p> <p>RC: I don't, no. JS sits on the relevant group for Assessment Support Week, and it isn't on the top of my priority list at the moment.</p> <p>The Panel and RC thanked each other, RC commended the Panel and left the meeting.</p>
8	5pm-5:15pm	<p>WLC entered the meeting and provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusivity with EDI team - Canvas module - inputting into this module - Language sessions - for international students who want to learn another language - Accomodation for exchange students - taking feedback from students on this - Had several meetings about graduate routes visas and studying abroad - Student details on Student Hub - students don't need to update this now - Cookbook - No Education Committee since last Panel - Students on Dubai campus can't do online exams due to Department of Education in Dubai not allowing this - the University will do online exams anyway <p>ET: That all sounds good! I'd like to know more about the cookbook, I've enjoyed looking at the photos of recipes.</p> <p>WLC: We're encouraging students to increase awareness of different cultures and the initiative fits with the Black Voices Campaign. We originally had a deadline for recipes, but I have extended this.</p> <p>ET/WLC: May get more engagement after exams.</p>

		<p>OO: Your work has been really great! Would the University going against the Department of Education in Dubai affect the students in any way?</p> <p>WLC: I don't think it will affect students, and I wouldn't be too worried from a student perspective.</p> <p>WLC and the Panel thanked each other, WLC thanked the Panel and left the meeting.</p>
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