

Scrutiny Panel Feedback 4

We wanted to thank you all for the time you've spent at Scrutiny Panel over the last year. We hope you've found these sessions useful and as enjoyable as a meeting can be. Collaboration among Officers was a huge key to success this year and we hope you pass it on to the incoming Officers. This year has undoubtedly been trying because of all the curveballs thrown by Covid-19 but we are pleased with how you reacted and all the work you were able to achieve. A long-term goal for future Guild Officers is to really build open lines of communication between the Guild and Student body and really show students that the Guild and the new democratic structure is for them! We are excited to see all of the amazing work that is yet to come.

Full Time Officers:

President

- Congratulations on a really successful year despite all of the unexpected challenges. We want to particularly commend your work on the Black Voices campaign as it was a key part of your manifesto and has been really successful and will have a lasting legacy at the Guild.
- We also want to point out your large contributions to the successful NUS conference which is something that students often don't hear very much about.
- We think you've done some very important work to begin opening up the relationship between the Guild, students, staff and University. However, we still think this is an issue that the next group of Officers should continue to work on.
- We're aware that you are working on wrapping up loose ends and we hope that you can successfully finish any current projects or hand them over to the next Office to complete.

Activities and Employability Officer

- Congratulations on a successful term coming to a close and the recent success of Guild Awards!
- We particularly want to highlight positive improvements made. First on creating new categories and increasing nominations in the Guild Awards to ensure that a large variety of societies may be recognised.
- Save Our Society Scheme has been a wonderful boost especially due to the year many societies have had during the pandemic.
- We are also glad to see that the recognition system is being put in place
- Hopefully, you receive a positive response on getting in-person first aid training for volunteering societies.
- We look forward to the blog detailing the updates from the recent NUS Conference
- We are sure you will but be sure to continue engaging with the student community to coordinate larger events/activities when possible in the remaining days of your term.

- Finally, we think it is important you consider any aspects from this year that may be worthwhile for student groups to keep/integrate for a non-pandemic environment.

Education

- Congratulations on your reelection! We are all really excited to see where you take the role next year, especially as the university starts to move back towards blended learning. We hope you'll be able to take forward any positive changes that have happened in this year but as the work becomes less reactive that you'll have a chance to implement more long term manifesto points.
- In particular, we have been impressed with your commitment to ensuring a Fair Assessment Policy for all students, and realise how difficult it has been to secure this in a year with so many uncertainties. We think you've been really dedicated to your work on this.
- We also feel that you have responded to feedback really well this year: you were very hands-on in engaging with the student community and were very interactive with students (and with us!) throughout the year. Worth particular note is the improvements you arranged to the UoB App, which has since proved far more intuitive to use; and your ability to secure a collection hour for books at the library, which has proved useful for many students.

Welfare

- We all went to say a huge well done for all the amazing work you have done this year, and how well you've supported students throughout such a challenging time. In particular, the Spectrum Life service seems really useful and important for students to have access to, and we are really pleased with how this is going so far.
- In addition, you have been so supportive of students renting in the local area, both through your Don't Rush to Rent campaign, and through your open letters and templates for local landlords/organisations. We've also been really impressed with your ability to get local councillors and MPs involved in your plans, expanding the reach of the Guild even further this year.
- All the work done throughout the year with the Not On Campaign and potentially getting it included in the Accommodation pass has been fantastic.
- We'd like to see you pass on to the next Officer some of the great focus you've had this year: the focus on ensuring diversity and accessibility to welfare services; all your campaigns, getting sleeping pods in the library, etc.

Sports

- Although your role has been strongly limited by Covid we want to congratulate you on the amount you have managed to achieve. The strong and very successful relationship you've built with UoB Sport has been clear with your ability to constantly respond to changes in the situation. Getting full refunds for the gym, responding to feedback on gym hours and getting sport back up and running has been incredibly smooth.
- We'd like to commend the strong relationship you've built with the student body; we have a sense that you've built trust by responding to criticism and would like to see this passed on to the next Officer in this role.
- We truly appreciated the Safe Exercise initiative and hope that is something you can have a discussion with the incoming Officer about continuing.
- We feel that there are a lot of positive things that could be continued by the future Officer: short term gym memberships, work towards the Commonwealth games and a better understanding of the support for students in sports clubs may need from their personal tutor.

PG

- Your commitment to building relationships with the graduate school and other university officials is to be especially commended! We are sure this will prove such an important piece of groundwork for your successor.
- We recognise the challenges posed to your work by the pandemic, as it has been harder for you to reach students online and to get the same engagement as in pre-pandemic times. Given the success of Postgraduate speak week we hope that there you have begun a trend of increased postgrad engagement with the Guild. We hope that as things start to re-open, the next officer can carry your enthusiasm and dedication to the inclusion of postgraduates forward and be able to reach students at this level more readily.
- Hopefully, in this final hour you can lay the grounds for a relationship between the new PG Officer and new senior staff.

International Officer

- Congratulations on your re-election! We hope this will prove a brilliant opportunity to build on your work from this year and offer a chance to implement anything you did not have a chance to do due to the pandemic.
- Your transparency has been phenomenal this year and really ensured your role has built a strong relationship with the international student community and wider university community as a whole. A particular success is your daily updates.
- We have been really impressed by your commitment, enthusiasm and positivity towards your role, and we're excited to see your work next year as year abroads can (hopefully!) start to resume and international students can return to Birmingham in full.

- Your communication with international students of all kinds has been consistently strong, and we hope to see you continuing to support them through the various channels you have already created: ie. the Facebook Year Abroad page.
- It's been great to see how you have worked on incorporating students on the Dubai campus into the Guild and we look forward to seeing more of this.
- It's good to see that there is inclusivity canvas training but as you have acknowledged this is far from enough yet. Hopefully, during the rest of this tenure and the start of the new one you can continue to herald inclusivity and aid to broaden the scope of this canvas course

Part Time Officers:

Womens' Officer

- We were sorry not to see you at the meeting and not to receive a report this time. However, in past meetings we've seen that you have achieved a lot in your time in office in particular lots of work with the Not On Campaign.
- You have consistently worked well in collaboration with other Officers such as Sports on initiatives such as the safe exercise initiative, and we would love to see this collaboration continue as the next officer takes the role, as we feel that these joint efforts often have the best reach to students.

Trans & NB Officer

- We feel very positive about the groundwork you have done for the following Officer including setting up a communication channel with BEMA to work on supporting trans people of colour and the pronoun badges.
- We were also happy to see that the inclusive language guide has been received well by some colleges.
- Do email other colleges that are yet to respond to the gender neutral language guide so as to get momentum and create University-wide adoption.

Ethnic Minority Student Officer

- You have been so positive and enthusiastic about your role from the very start, and this has been so lovely for us to see. You've also run so many successful events and initiatives, such as the BEMA Employability event in collaboration with Careers Network, the Ethnically Empowered Students Group, and multiple panels and workshops that seem to have been really well received.

- We hope to see this amazing work continue into next year, and hope that you pass on a legacy of continued collaboration and positivity. We especially commend you for having conducted so much of your role from overseas! This year has been challenging for so many but we have been so impressed by your commitment to bettering the student experience for ethnic minority students.
- It's good to note that you have been working with the President to ensure the legacy of the Black Voices Campaign with the Guild
- We truly appreciate all the collaborative effort with different FTOs and we hope that you pass this on as useful advice to the future officer. Also make sure you pass on the Be the Change Campaign.
- For the final weeks, we look forward to seeing the One World Cookbook and all the exciting recipes.

Ethical and Environmental Officer

- We'd like to commend your commitment to this role; you have worked on so many projects simultaneously and made great progress on each of them.
- The compost bins are a great success and you should be very proud to see them in action!
- We are also excited to see the Environmental events go ahead as the events on this subject in Go Green Week were very well received.
- We loved the way you collaborated with student groups to help plan Go Green Week and ensured wide diversity in the events offered.
- We hope that the zero-waste store, reusable coffee cups, meat reduction, reusable cups at Fab and Fresh, divestment and the climate emergency declaration are all projects that can be passed on to the incoming Officer as you have made a lot of progress towards these and sustained campaigning will see them into reality. We think it is especially important that you pass on what you've learnt about the importance of collaborating with other liberation role PTOs to check how different groups of students may be affected by different issues.
- Hopefully your larger goal of getting the university to declare a climate emergency reaches fruition during your term but if not we feel you have built a strong climate for change in the student community which will pass on to future EEOs. This can already be seen in your discussions with officer-elects.

Disabled Student Officer

- Congratulations on your re-election! We know that this year you have been met with so many obstacles but appreciate all that you have achieved so far- you have worked so hard despite the various frustrations thrown your way and have achieved so much, from launching the Sunflower lanyard scheme to the tireless work done on Panopto Captions.

- Congratulations on the success of Disability History Month and spreading awareness.
- We are enthusiastic about the Hidden Disabilities - Sunflower Seeds idea. While this has been unable to launch due to logistical issues, we would really like this to continue into next year.
- Well done on beginning to launch Wheelchair Basketball, we are really excited to see where this goes next year. Additionally, we were so glad to see DAMSA relaunched, and are all looking forward to the amazing things you're bound to achieve in collaboration with them next year.

Campaigns Officer

- Thank you for your commitment to the role and for consistently sending reports and turning up to meetings. You have had the extra challenge of taking on a new role but we think you've been very successful in supporting lots of campaigns despite the challenges of the pandemic.
- We hope that you pass on the idea to the incoming Officer on having interlinking Campaigns as a secret to success and longevity.

LGBTQ+ Officer

- We were sorry not to see you at this meeting but understand that this is a very busy time of year.
- We thank you for your commitment to ensuring that members of the LGBTQ+ student community are represented in our Guild and throughout student experience. We've been really impressed by how you handled the Conversion Therapy situation and how committed you have been to ensuring that this is handled sensitively.
- The LGBTQ+ History month events all seemed to be really well received, and we were impressed by how well you managed to garner engagement for these despite the difficulties posed by the pandemic and events being held virtually.
- We hope that there is a successful election of an incoming Officer for this role and that you are able to pass on any ongoing projects to them to ensure they are seen to completion.