

Present:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Jack Bowen (JB), Jingke Lin (JL), Lucy Shapley (LS), Shaun Keen (SK)

Officers: Wei-Lun Chen (WLC, International Officer), Josephine Conway (JC, Activities & Employability Officer), Robin Hayward (RH, Trans & Non-Binary Students Officer), Mikey Brown (MB, President), Imogen Mann (IM, Disabled Students' Officer)

In Attendance:

Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute-Taker), Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator), Jo Thomas (JT, CEO)

Apologies:

Scrutiny Panel Member: Eloise Watkin (EW)*

**the Panel asked EW's questions for the Officers to them on EW's behalf*

Absent Without Apologies:

Officers: George Christian*, Aaliyah Simms*

(both George & Aaliyah sent apologies during the meeting)

Trigger Warnings: inclusivity for international students, welfare, wellbeing, access of facilities/campus, drink spiking, search policies, employability, gender neutral toilets, Disabled Students' Allowance, social media

Item No.	Item Title	Meeting Notes
Start		
1	Welcome 3:00pm-3:10pm	The Scrutiny Panel received a short briefing.

2	<p>International Officer Slot</p> <p>3:10pm-3:30pm</p>	<p>WLC provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for international students • Inclusivity training for committee members • Academic interests work – liaising with Student Voice Team & Officers • Working with societies • We don't have exchange students society <p>JL: Thank-you for re-launching the global buddies scheme! Will there be another international welcome?</p> <p>WLC: No, but I'm planning UoB Festival. Some students, including PG International students will start in January.</p> <p>JL: You mentioned that you wanted to fight for inclusivity for international students. How will you do this?</p> <p>WLC: The priority issue is communication. I'm working with the Education Officer (EO) and Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education, as international students' wellbeing has been affected, and international students can't apply for an extension.</p> <p>JL: What about international students who identify as LGBT+ and disabled – how will you ensure that they continue to be aware of support available to them?</p>
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	<p>WLC: It depends on what support they need. I'm open to any questions, I usually respond to students within one working day. I do realise that for students who are not in societies, there will be less peer support for them. It's also about me reaching out when there is a particular issue, and being visible.</p> <p>JL: We are also wondering what is happening with the hate crime reporting group?</p> <p>WLC: This group has now finished. I'm working separately with Guild Advice on this.</p> <p>JL: How will you support incoming students, and study abroad students?</p> <p>WLC: I'm having fortnightly meetings with the International Students Office, about more support for outgoing and returning students. I can raise issues of study abroad students with International Students Officer</p> <p>JL: How will you ensure that international students are represented effectively?</p> <p>WLC: I can talk about international students and ensure that they are represented. I'm on the University's EDI working group, where I have raised the issue of access of facilities.</p>
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JL thanked WLC.

SK: I heard that the international welcome in the College of Social Sciences went very well – why was there a college-specific induction for international students only in COSS? Could these happen again in January?

WLC: This is a good question – the majority of COSS is international students, including the Business School. I attend other inductions sessions for international students. Whether it's a small or big induction though, relevant information for international students will be made available to these students. I talk to the Student Experience Officers (SEOs) about this too.

SK: I'd like to ask about inclusivity training – there were lots of student groups who didn't attend this training. How can you as an Officer and us as a Guild ensure that those student groups receive that information?

WLC: I was worried about this, and the plan forward is to put it as a module on Canva.

LS: Do you have any future plans for further inclusivity training?

	<p>WLC: Training is also about the quality of training – we need more resources, particularly for external members. There is a demand for quality of training to be improved.</p> <p>LS: We’d like to hear more about support for international societies – did you face any barriers on this?</p> <p>WLC: I’m just helping them to engage with more members. Some have also been referred to the Save a Society scheme.</p> <p>JB: Just one question/suggestion – it’s great that you’re trying to improve inclusion for international students, as last year this would have been difficult – to increase the sense of belonging of these students, I thought there could be more cultural events to emphasise multiculturalism, as we’re a very international campus.</p> <p>WLC: This aligns with my plans anyway.</p> <p>WLC outlined upcoming events related to this suggestion.</p> <p>SK asked WLC if he had any questions for the Panel.</p> <p>WLC had no questions, and thanked the Panel.</p> <p>The Panel thanked WLC, and WLC left the meeting.</p>
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<p>3</p>	<p>Activities & Employability Officer Slot</p> <p>3:30pm- 3:50pm</p>	<p>JC entered the meeting.</p> <p>JC provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge number of sign-ups for Welcome Week Societies Fair – I was encouraging students to sign up • 8 consecutive night events – fits with 7-day FAB manifesto point • Working on putting event tickets online – 900 tickets for FAB events • Working on Employability Hub – would like to ensure it’s accessible as possible • Commonwealth Games talks – ensure students are being used for jobs and volunteering opportunities – currently putting some opportunities in the works for Student Groups • Transparency – complaints process <p>SK asked JC about their report, and they had not submitted one.</p> <p>JC apologised and explained that they had written it, but forgot to send it.</p> <p>SK: There is a lot going on, so students do want to know what is happening - students are paying a lot of attention to the Guild. How are you helping the Guild to respond to the</p>
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		<p>drink spiking issue? How are you helping to direct the Guild's action in this area?</p> <p>JC: We're meeting 3 times a week to discuss plans on this, students want searches and provisions. Venues is my area. I worked on Fab on Saturday as an Officer to speak to students on how they're feeling, and ensuring that the Guild are putting on provisions to listen to students. We have an open event on Friday, which I will be attending.</p> <p>SK: I'm forever hearing scare stories about the Postgraduate Careers Service – are you working with the PG Officer (DM) on this?</p> <p>JC: I have worked with DM on this, I'm not a PG so don't necessarily know about the PG experience, we do have a meeting with the Careers Network though to discuss how to address these issues</p> <p>LS: I'm concerned that search policies will be targeted at certain students. I don't know much about the Employability Hub – this could be more visible. Thank-you for responding to the issues.</p> <p>JC: I am working on this.</p> <p>JB: What opportunities will be available for students and volunteer roles during the Commonwealth Games?</p>
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JC: I've had a conversation with WorkLink, and they're planning on having a couple of 100 jobs available for students. We're also in a Commonwealth Games Group. We've discussed how student groups could get involved, for example student groups could perform, and media groups may provide coverage. Some of this is to be confirmed, but I'm keen to push for these opportunities.

JB: I'd like to ask about the small number of sign-ups to societies from PG students?

JC: Less sign-ups may be because of work commitments – I'll be doing some open forums and focus groups though to find out more about this.

JL: How will you ensure that body searches won't target a certain demographic of people?

JC: There will be a female and male officer – we're finding out from students how they would feel about body searches.

LS posted the following text in the meeting chat: "I know it's expensive but you could look into some airport security type security (like they have at Pryzm) so that people can quickly walk through but have it still flagged if they need searching"

		<p>JL: I'd like to ask about the progress on your work on sustainability?</p> <p>JC: We're doing really well, we've sold over 900 tickets online, and would really like to work on plastic in Joe's Bar – this is a big change though. I will be helping with the small business fair which is sustainable, and I'm on the E&E committee.</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trans & Non- Binary Students Officer Slot</p> <p style="text-align: center;">3:50pm- 4:05pm</p>	<p>RH: I got an update from JC on gender neutral toilets</p> <p>JB: Are you able to ensure that every building on campus had gender neutral toilets, or a suitable alternative?</p> <p>RH: I'm keen to work on this, but it's a long-term project, which may carry on next year. I'm working on a catalogue on where they are – there are some on the 2nd floor of the Guild, some in the School of Computer Science etc. They're a bit difficult to find, especially in older buildings</p> <p>JB: We'll be asking the DSO this questions too, it's more of a suggestion – would it be possible/a good idea to devise a form of training on emphasising the importance of inclusivity, removing/challenging unconscious bias and micro-aggressions (such as the act of misgendering) for staff and students holding positions of responsibility at the very least, if not launching this on a whole university basis?</p> <p>RH: This is a good idea - I had this on the table from handover last year, my info on this is shaky, but if it exists, I'm happy to work on this.</p> <p>JB: You have nothing to worry about</p> <p>JL: Gender neutral bathrooms are an excellent idea – have you been communicating with the LGBTQ+ Students Officer about this?</p>
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		<p>RH: I have, yes.</p> <p>SK: You have talked about working with the LGBTQ+ Association, we're aware that there are lots of other groups on campus though - in terms of outreach efforts, are you working with those groups too?</p> <p>RH: I haven't no, I've been focusing on the Association, and sometimes I do communicate with them. I wasn't aware that there was a group in CAL, but it's something that I can look into in future.</p> <p>SK: Beyond outreach in UoB, have you reached out externally (e.g. other SUs, charities etc)?</p> <p>RH: No, but I'm planning on doing so</p> <p>RH and the Panel thanked each other and RH left the meeting.</p>
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5	<p>President Slot</p> <p>4:05pm- 4:20pm</p>	<p>SK informed MB that he did not submit a report, and emphasised the importance of submitting a report.</p> <p>MB provided his updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work split into 5 parts • Working with Advice • Established Activist Network – branding well-received by students <p>RN stopped MB due to time.</p> <p>JB: I'd like to ask, would you support a campaign called Reclaim Campus, should they want to host that?</p> <p>MB: Yes</p> <p>JB: There was some concern regarding this – it's not just a campaign but a society. Could you support them with becoming a society?</p> <p>MB: I'm not on Activities Committee, or can have input on that, but I have talked to the student who is chairing this. They ran a pop-up event which was well received by students. I think they should be a group though. I believe they will become a group pending an amendment on their constitution.</p>
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		<p>JL: I've been seeing a lot of Tik Tok videos as a way of communication. Please could I ask about this, and its impact?</p> <p>MB: We have two streams of communication with students – via Officers and via central Guild comms. Tik Tok is chosen as students are increasingly using it and have a presence on it. It's important that we produce content on this platform. We've produced a range of content for the Guild's social media, and dedicating time every few weeks to do this. I think it's largely effectively, we have some good numbers for reels. In the period leading up to Welcome, it was a good way of getting out to students.</p> <p>LS: I'd like to ask about the Activist Network event?</p> <p>MB: The second monthly event was last night – we're looking at what students want. We should ensure that what we're providing is what students actually want. There were over 60 students at the first session.</p> <p>MB and the Panel thanked each other and MB left the meeting.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>Disabled Students Officer Slot</p> <p>4:20pm- 4:35pm</p>	<p>IM provided updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disabled Students Commission (DSC) gone for approval to a high-up staff member • DAMSA has their AGM tonight <p>JL: Well done on your achievements – I’d like to ask about the plans of DSC?</p> <p>IM: I’m hoping to get it out in the press, launch it to students, and I’ve been in contact with staff members at the University, who will pass on the results.</p> <p>LS: DSA not very well known, and we think it’s a great idea that you’re putting together resources for students – will you be working on info for DSA for PG students, as this is trickier than UG students?</p> <p>IM: I hadn’t thought about this, but I can definitely look into it</p> <p>JB: I’m really impressed with the passion you’re showing for disabled students, the DSC is a great project. I’d like to ask about training?</p> <p>IM: I’ve provided recommendations on training, which are disability-focused. I will ensure that all student-facing roles have something similar.</p>
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		<p>SK: You're talking to the university about redesigning the RP process, one of the things that comes up is reasonable adjustment plans. I'd like to ask about this?</p> <p>IM: I made sure that they took it into account. I'm on a professional course.</p> <p>IM and the Panel thanked each other and IM left the meeting.</p>
7	<p>Panel Debrief</p> <p>4:35pm- 4:45pm</p>	<p>The Panel received a debrief, then the meeting ended.</p>