

**Present:**

*Scrutiny Panel Members:* Jack Bowen (JB), Lucy Shapley (LS), Shaun Keen (SK), Eloise Watkins (EW)

*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)

**In Attendance:**

*Staff:* Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute-Taker), Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator), Lucy Gill (Student Voice & Representation Manager)

**Apologies:**

*Officers:* Imogen Mann (IM, Disabled Students Officer)

**Absent Without Apologies:**

*Scrutiny Panel Members:* Jingke Lin (JL)

*Officers:* Manisha Kaur (MK, Ethnic Minority Students Officer), Eleanor Thomas (ET, LGBTQ+ Students Officer), Louisa Martin (LM, Womens' Officer), Rachel Boucher (RB, Ethical & Environmental Committee)

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

Item No.	Role	Notes
3:05pm - 3:10pm	<b>Panel Pre-Briefing</b>	
3:10pm - 3:25pm	Education Officer	<p>AS entered the waiting room.</p> <p>AS and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked AS if she had any updates since submitting her report.</p> <p>Had an Officer away day to talk about key individual priorities as a team</p> <p>De-stress period</p>

	<p>JB: I read there was a delay with          JS: It's delayed – academics too many projects – catastrophe. An additional survey is going to be sent out.</p> <p>JB: Referendum results strike action – what support is being put into place          JS: I've had meetings with University senior management about support for students and mitigations. It's taken into account for student cohorts. Frameworks was set up at the start of the year which outlines that any strikes will be taken into account by the exam boards in the summer.          LS: As I'm a joint Honours student, and I've noticed you want to improve communication between schools for these students          JS: Purpose is to make it easier to do credits for interdisciplinary study, take credits from across the University, students are in their first year, students to be able to do study in different year. I would like to improve the experience of these students.</p> <p>SK:</p> <p>JS: Mikey will be doing more work in this          SK: Do you have a heatmap of where student activism is present?          JS: I will have to look at the Student Rep data to identify this. No discrepancy with where the activism is.          SK: What work are you doing with the University, schools and colleges to support 1<sup>st</sup> generation university students?          JS: I've been invited to be a guest speaker for the Birmingham Access Project event, I'll be working with the Outreach Team to pass on experiences and knowledge.          There isn't a specific strategy, but it's not something that's given attention, so if there's anything that I'm not aware of, I'm happy to look into it.</p> <p>Any questions          JS: It has been a difficult week this week, please be considerate.</p> <p>SK asked AS if she had any questions.</p>
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		<p>AS had no questions, but thanked the Panel for their feedback, questions and ideas.</p> <p>The Panel thanked AS and AS left the meeting.</p>
3:25pm - 3:55pm	President	<p>RH entered the waiting room.</p> <p>RH and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked RH if they had any updates since submitting her report.</p> <p>MB: I'm on phased leave due to ill health.</p> <p>MB talked about other things that he is working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -dd</li> <li>• Behind the scenes – working on the Guild's 5-year strategic plan – 4 and half million pounds – relieve pressure in organisation in all sorts of ways. Involved a lot more work with the CEO to ensure it went successful. We haven't gone public with this information yet.</li> <li>• Climate emergency &amp; divestment – grass roots level</li> </ul> <p>LS: Can see you're working on the right things.</p> <p>MB: Change in mind campaign – asked to bring this to a conclusion. Responsible</p>
3:55pm - 4:35pm	President	<p>MB entered the waiting room.</p> <p>MB and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked MB if he had any updates since submitting her report.</p>

	<p>MB had no updates. Make sure we come to a resolution. We want a very clear outcome in favour of divestment. These are my priorities.</p> <p>JB: How will you ensure that your handover will be successful?</p> <p>MB: I have talked to the President-elect. Our team didn't have the best handover, don't just a document, ensuring a smooth transition, in particular around University relationships. Review of Guild democratic structures, liberation review, part-time Officers etc. There are lots of admin hand over bits.</p> <p>JB: As President, there's lots of things you need to reconsider. It's a complicated system that what you're doing will allow the Officer Team.</p> <p>SK: UAE in 4<sup>th</sup> year of democracy review. These questions are heavy. Given the concerns raised at ASM, can you explain the legal advice?</p> <p>MB: Legal advice, expecting phone call today. Statement separately. Complicated legal advice, spoken to two proposers. We will mark trans day of visibility tomorrow. We won't deal President tickellts previous actions, as its not an appropriate time, proposers receptive to this, will still release a statement though.</p> <p>SK: The discussion at ASM was that elegal advbice was sought when it hadn't beemn – what do as an officer, trustee and appointments panel.</p> <p>MB: ta;ked to CEO, cant discuss staffind matters here, the Guild may need to take advice on issues. We'll have a new post holder soon, as paert of that person's introduction to the role, what do in circusmtances like this? Souynds vague, but hope it offers reassurance.</p> <p>SK: Stafifng difficult – not for us to scruitizxne staff, at the same time, its our job to scrutinize you as an office.</p> <p>MB: I should ahvechecked that this happened – in my view, if we have th process right, we need the advice. We will make</p>
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		<p>sure that it works. A system ddi fall down. Happy to take my share of responsibility for that. It shouldn't be on one Officer to take the responsibility.</p> <p>SK: No one is putting the blame on you, we're not blaming Officers, especially with your reduced hours.</p> <p>SK asked MB if he had any questions.</p> <p>MB had no questions.</p> <p>MB and the Panel thanked each other, and MB left the meeting.</p>
<p>3:55pm – 4:10pm</p>	<p>Activities &amp; Employability Officer</p>	<p>JC entered the waiting room.</p> <p>JC and the Panel greeted each other.</p> <p>SK asked JC if she had any updates since submitting her report. SK also noted that the Panel appreciate that it's been a difficult week for the Officer Team.</p> <p>JC had no updates.</p> <p>JB: It's great to see how Welcome Week and Refresher's Week went, but could you let us know the main feedback that was reported, and how you will ensure that this is implemented next year?</p> <p>JC: These year was unique, as we were welcoming 1<sup>st</sup> AND 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. In future, we will cater events for all year groups, not just Fresher's. Feedback predominantly came from venues and societies. We won't do consecutive night clubs again. We had mixed feedback for Fresher's Ball. Give it a Go Fair feedback was very positive, but students didn't prefer for it to be combined with UoB Sport (as students may not have been dressed for sports activities). We had long queues for Fresher's Fair, which was great, but we need to manage students' expectations.</p> <p>JB: How will you ensure safety measurements in light of the Reclaim Movement?</p>

	<p>JCL taking about reclaim campus event?</p> <p>JB: I'm there as a support for the society, and contact to the Venues team. All of the security measures will be lead by the society. I'm offering personal support and 121 meetings with societies.</p> <p>LS: The Balls can be unaffordable – feedback from studnets. How will you divide costs for tickets? Include food etc?</p> <p>JC: There have been various tickets previously e.g. £75 includes food etc. Can't redicde price, but it can include FAB and DJs – won't be a normal fab, it will be a unique night in itself. The Grad Ball ticket will be open to campus. This will include the fairground rides, acts, bars etc. We'd like to open up to alumni – this is TBC though. The tickets are open to all students. Studnets can also just attend the after party.</p> <p>LS: You were planning to talkt o other sus about reducing barriers to student groups.</p> <p>JC: that conversation we have a big whatsapp chat, officers from different sus. AEos are idifferent in different SUs, some include sport, some include venues etc. the answer hasn't come to me yet. Wokring with the student voice team, we had new members of staff to focus on barriers. Pricing is a big one. Difficult to work out why student aren't engaging in groups, there's a lot of factors. Events happening late on, saft concerns. Me and aaloyah talking about safer routes, different buses etc. talking small issues at a time, overall reduce barriers. Not one aanswer on why students aren't joining groups. Hoefuklk have answers next time.</p> <p>SK: What elessei sbeing done to help international students?</p> <p>JC: we want to hire an extwrnal speaker to tlaka bout edi to make groups as inclusive as possible – this is important as they have the expertise and knowledge. Also put out a form to student groups – how can we better support them.</p> <p>SK: We do have bank of knwokedge in Guild, ensuring that it's transferred over. There's things that an external speaker won't understand.</p>
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		<p>SK asked JC if she had any questions.</p> <p>JC had no questions.</p> <p>JC and the Panel thanked each other.</p> <p>JC left the meeting.</p>
<p>4:10pm- 4:25pm</p>	<p>Postgraduate Officer</p>	<p>Updates: - Emplouability aspect - Inclusion for PG students</p> <p>EW:</p> <p>EM: What improvements have been made for student access services. Researcher rather than student – PGR –freidnly language and channels. I will look at what changes have been made.</p> <p>EW: Sounds good. Wellbeing in University wellbeing strategy? Graduate school strategy</p> <p>DM: Graduate school strategy. Wellbeing has been separate. Wellbeing group created from PGR experience survey – more reactionary group looking at what can be fixed. Look at things that just trying – working on it actively, not just when things are bad. They will be actively working on general wellbeing.</p> <p>LS: What ffeedback was on the attendanc eogf the events.</p> <p>DM: The PGT cafes are ran by the Guild itself, it's ran in caollaboration – advertised by Graduate School and Guild. The events are ran by PG Ambassadors. Queer academia seminar, not overwholemng people not lots of promotion avaulabr bcause of a lot of things they need to ge tout. One event had to bne cancelled bnecause of Storm Eunice. We have a strong hold on Twitter at the moment, so we're using Twitter to promote more things.</p> <p>LS: Academic Twitter is very big. One of my lecturers showed us memes on Twitter the other day.</p>

		<p>DM: More places are using Twitter to engage PG studnets.</p> <p>LS: What ddi the library say about PG study spaces, quiet spaces?</p> <p>DM: Difficulty with pracitability of this, hared to monorit democratic system.</p> <p>LS: Agree it's hard. There are limited amount.</p> <p>Dm: There are other spaces on campus that are quiet. The library can primote ither quiet spaces. Students can use the UOB app to track qhich places are quieter.</p> <p>SK: Great feedback on what you've done. Jack;'s first queston – what actions can be taken for students in substandard conditions for ucu strikes?</p> <p>Dm: Me and jules met with Deborah to discuss mitigations, students wont be assessed on things that they haven't learnt. For me, the threat of industrial action, as it will affect PGs more. This conversation not cemebeed as we don't know what we're dealing with. The floors in the library did used to be different.</p> <p>SK: Inclusive language – areas beyond renters union where better pG practice can be used?</p> <p>Dm: Elections – read all newsletters that go, actively involved in these, write them, in general emails, not sometjing thay I oversee for Go Green Week and elections – not from me so I cant moniro the language. Use student and researcher. If doesn't haven't PG written on it, the assumption is that it's not for them. For new PG Officer, normally we do Q&amp;A events, and they were given questions but we didn't have the ability to write the questions. Mikey was running in the elections. Question – how support PG students – this will put PG students off – researchers less likely to apply for positions because of how degree program structured. Role fits more with PGT, but easy to fall into trap of not remembering researchers. A lot of it is about culture change.</p>
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4:55pm - 5:00pm	<b>Panel Debrief</b>	The Panel were debriefed.