GuildofStudents
University of Birmingham

Guidance

- Your report should be 1000 words or fewer. You should write in all three sections, but it is up to you to decide how much weight to give each section.
- Your report should be submitted one week before the date of each Scrutiny Panel. Completed reports should be emailed to **r.nadeem@guild.bham.ac.uk**
- You will have two minutes at the beginning of each Scrutiny Panel meeting to supplement your report with a verbal update.

Officer:	Wei-Lun Chen (International Officer)
Date of panel:	31 March 2022

Matter arising – student issues to note (Jan – March 2022):

Semester 2 assessment in-person exams

- After the All Students Meeting in November and a series of meetings with the university senior management, the Officers have successfully lobbied that remote learning provisions are applicable until the end of semester 2 for international students who cannot be back on campus due to COVID-19 impact. However, some schools still require students to be back on campus for in-person exams in May.
- Based on students feedback, three schools require in-person exams for some modules– Engineering, Math and Business School. The two main reasons that the schools are not able to offer online exams are (1) external accreditation bodies requirement (2) increased rates of academic misconducts in certain modules.
- Over 150 international students who study remotely in China have written and signed a joint letter to plea for online exams or any alternative arrangements for them to complete their exams in May without deferring it. On 25th March, the letter was sent by the International Officer to the Pro-Vice Chancellor (International) and the Interim Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) as well as the Heads of Education in EPS and Business School.
- The International Officer has communicated to the Heads of Education and is currently working with the Interim Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education) to find solutions.

War in Ukraine

- Checked with the Russian Speaking Society to ensure if the society are facing any issues with supporting their members and offered support. (25th Feb)
- Spoke to 8 Ukrainian students to check on their well-being and what they might need support on in the upcoming months (6th March)
- Checked with fundraising societies, Carnival RAG and UNICEF, to potentially run fundraiser events. (7th March)
- Communicated to the UEB on the support for Ukrainian students. (7th March)

- Organised with Guild staff and worked with student staff to collect donation items at the Guild reception and the Vale to send to Ukraine. (8th – 10th March)
- Worked with Aston SU, UCB Guild and BCU SU to host the Vigil for Peace. (12th March)
- Monitor the situation and provide support to students where needed (On-going)

Written Statement action plan

This section is for you to track your progress on your written statement priorities, as outlined in your action plan. The "context" section of the document can remain the same for each panel.

Written Statement Item #1
Inclusivity
Context: Work with UBSport on inclusion of international students in sport provisions provided at the University as part of the new five year Sports Strategy.
Progress: - Communicated to members of Campus Services EDI Taskforce as part of the University Equality Change Programme. (3rd Feb)   - Met and discussed with the UBSport EDI lead (24th Feb; 8th March)   - Received final draft of the Strategy (26th March)   - Discuss the Action Plan for 2022/23 (Ongoing)

Written Statement Item #2
Support
Context: Visa problems are common issues for international students and it is important that the International Officer work closely with the International Student Team to support students. Below provide some updates on the visa support by the IST
Progress: - Lobbied the Senior Managers of Student Services to increase the capacity of the IST; The IST has now recruited another Assistant Head and more staff in the Advice team which they previously struggled to recruit; The IST is now back in capacity and the Office on campus is open to any international students with visa issues to visit from the w/c 21st March.   - Working with the Student Services and the IST to develop the and streamline the CAS application process; the final product is estimated to launch in May and be ready for 2022/23.

Role and responsibilities

This section is for you to write about any projects you have been working on or meetings you have been to that you think are of particular importance to your remit.

Meetings attended:
Full-time Officer Group Meeting (weekly)
Study Abroad and Exchange Team Meeting (fortnightly)
Guild Education Committee (31st Jan 2022)
English Language Teaching Committee (1st Feb 2022)
University Council (2nd Feb 2022)
Registration and Enrolment Project Board (4th Feb 2022)
EUniWell Student Board (7th Feb 2022)
Module and Registration Design Workshops (14th – 17th Feb 2022)
Campus Services/ Guild Officer Meeting (23rd Feb 2022)
University Education Committee (23rd Feb 2022)
Dubai Student Forum (24th Feb 2022)
Student Experience Review Away Day (2nd March 2022)
UEB/ Guild Officer Meeting (7th March 2022)
Meeting with ISOC (9th March 2022)
International Students Employability Group (9th March 2022)
CAL Student Rep Forums (15th March 2022)
International Committee (23rd March 2022)
Education Futures Away Day (22nd March 2022)
International Student Value Proposition Task and Finish Group (24th March 2022)
Officer Away Day (25th March 2022)

Meetings	Outcome for students
English Language Teaching Committee	Academic English Support (**https://canvas.bham.ac.uk/courses/38107**)
Module and Registration Design Workshops	A streamlined registration process to be implemented in 2022/2023
Meeting with ISOC	Proposed Islamophobia definition by ISOC submitted to the W&L Committee following the discussion in the All Student Meeting