

Scrutiny Panel Meeting 4 Session 1 Wednesday 11th May, 4pm-5pm:

Present:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Lucy Shapley (LS), Shaun Keen (SK)

Officers: Jules Singh (JS, Education Officer), Wei-Lun Chen (WLC, International Officer)

In Attendance:

Staff: Rozena Nadeem (RN, Democracy Coordinator, Minute-Taker), Houmaa Chaudhry (HC, Senior Representation Coordinator), Scott Dawson (SD, Student Voice & Representation Manager)

Apologies:

Scrutiny Panel Members: Jingke Lin (JL), Jack Bowen (JB), Eloise Watkins (EW)

Officers: Mikey Brown (MB, President), Danielle Murinas (DM, Postgraduate Officer)

Absent Without Apologies:

Officers: Louisa Martin (LM, Womens' Officer), Rachel Boucher (RB, Ethical & Environmental Committee), Imogen Mann (IM, Disabled Students Officer), Josephine Conway (JC, Activities & Employability Officer), Eleanor Thomas (ET, LGBTQ+ Students Officer), George Christian (GC, Sports Officer), Aaliyah Simms (AS, Welfare & Community Officer), Adam Dorey (AD, Campaigns Officer)

Trigger Warnings: Inclusivity for international students, welfare, wellbeing

Item No.	Role	Notes
4:00pm- 4:25pm		The Panel were debriefed and reviewed the questions that they wanted to ask.
4:25pm- 4:40pm	International Students Officer	WLC entered the waiting room.
		WLC and the Panel greeted each other.
		WLC noted that there aren't many updates since the last meeting.
		LS: Could we have an update on supporting Chinese students who can't be here for the exams?
		WLC: We are lobbying for online exams, but this wasn't successful. If students can't be here, they will do their exams in August, during a supplementary period. We've asked the



University to not give any penalties to these students. If the students can't attend in August, they will still have the chance to sit next academic year without penalties.
LS: That's great!
SK: We'd like to ask about the Dubai Engagement Report?
WLC: I'm working on a report for the Guild's Engagement Committee, and this is still in progress.
SK: How does your role interact with the Dubai Campus?
WLC: The Dubai Student Association sits under the Guild's Byelaws, and as part of the University rather than a separate Association. I've been working with the Student Leaders at the Dubai campus. They want to change their role descriptions and elections, and have better processes for their student groups, so we are working with them on this. Their student Leaders are elected in the Summer.
SK: Do you think there's any more scope for the Guild in general to work closer with the Dubai Campus, rather than just the International Officer?
WLC: This is something that I've raised. A core staff member in future will work with Dubai Campus closely.
SK: What role do you think the Guild should be playing to address issues of working conditions in Dubai? Do you think the Guild should be supporting students on Dubai campus who are subject to these conditions?
WLC: This is a good question. We want to get activities arranged properly. Some activities happen here, some in Dubai, but there are different regulations in Dubai. We will monitor differences.
SK: What work is the Guild doing to support discrimination in Dubai?
WLC: Campaigning-wise, we're not doing much – there's not campaigning from the Guild.



		SK asked WLC if he had any questions for the Panel. WLC had no questions. WLC and the Panel thanked each other and WLC left the meeting. JS entered the meeting.
4:40pm – 4:55pm	Education Officer	 JS and the Panel greeted each other. The Panel asked JS if he had any updates since submitting his report. JS provided two updates: Went on Radio 5 live last Wednesday, talking about the record rise in University complaints Sat on Huddersfield SU's Scrutiny Panel last week to scrutinise their Students' Union. SK: I'd like to ask about the delay of the EC process? To you see this as having an impact on students? JS: I have a more recent update than that – the University have decided that the EC won't be included. There's a risk with the third party not being able to delivery to an acceptable time frame. There have been issues this year, such as attendance, and gaining references in time for this. Other universities have not had many issues. Also, as we're moving out of COVID, there are less applications. LS: Sounds like a lot is out of your control. The question from EW is asking for an update on the progress of creating/sourcing/implementing the consent course. In the last meeting, you mentioned that this was being prioritized. JS: We met week before last with a group of interested students who wanted to make a change – willing to have a 3rd party provider on a consent course. Interested students will go through potential providers with the University and do consultation. Much of this will happen after my term finishes.



		JS: Me and Danielle have been talking about this, particularly about the cross-over between the two roles. I'm putting the new Education Officer-elect into contact with people who can help her to make a change. LS: EW had a question about the commuter review. JS: I'm currently working on a report for the review work. It
		will be used to shape University policy. LS: I'd like to ask about the reasonable adjustment plan. JS: The new reasonable adjustment plan accommodates concerns that students have raised. There are similar grievances with previous years e.g. disabled students feel that academics aren't sensitive to their needs for adjustments. There needs to be a culture shift at UoB. The Disabled Students Commission should help with this.
		SK: I have a question about handover. Are there any insights and feedback that you'd like to use for your handover? As some projects are unfinished? Will your projects be evaluated, to establish best practice?
		JS: I will include every project that I've worked on. How my successor does the job may be different to how I did it, as they might have different priorities and interests. Some core work with include decolonisation and the Student Rep System. There will also be a democracy review that all of the Officer Team will work on.
		SK asked JS if he had any questions.
		JS had no questions.
		JS and the Panel thanked each other and JS left the meeting.
4:55pm – 5:00pm	Panel Debrief	The Panel were debriefed. The meeting closed.
		5