

Scrutiny Panel Officer Report 2020/21

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 or
 l.gill@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:	Charlotte Minter (Welfare and Community Officer)
Date of panel:	10/12/2020

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		
Make the University wellbeing services more accessible and inclusive		
Context:	To assess the support available outside of University hours - is it sufficient? Where are the gaps? Also to look at how successfully students can access support remotely, not just in COVID times but if they are on a year abroad for example. Also to assess how attractive the services are to students from different marginalised backgrounds, particularly students of colour.	
Progress:	Staff Bios released on Wellbeing Intranet - councillors and practitioners visible. Met with TogetherAll. Invited onto a panel with the University to further look at provision on online counselling. Still waiting on data. Meetings requested with Wellbeing leads on culturally competent support.	

Written Statement Item #2		
Increase awareness o	Increase awareness of Not On campaign	
Context:	To encourage more students to do the training, making students more aware of what counts for sexual harassment and therefore more likely to come forward for support, more confident in bystander intervention or less likely to behave inappropriately themselves.	
Progress:	Exploring ways to get the training out to first years in accommodation. Exploring ways of tailoring the workshops more to different cohorts - e.g. groups - disclosure training. Communication with Director of Student Engagement - plans to explore ways of incorporating into inductions.	

Written Statement Item #3	
Give students more access to tools that teach them how to be actively anti-racist.	
Context:	As part of a wider plan for a more inclusive campus.
Progress:	Meeting with EDI leads to discuss the EDI canvas course and how it's been going - explored ways of incentivising students more to use it. Still plans to signpost more and potentially write a blog. Waiting on joint discussions with Guild/Uni to begin, coming from Student Voice Report recommendations.

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.

Meeting / project	Outcome for students
DBFO meetings (Pritchatts Village planning meetings)	Student voice in the development and reconstruction of Pritchatts Village.

Rent Right meetings	Joined up conversations on the private housing market with Guild and Uni
Hate Crime/Hate Incident Ops Group	Assessing different ways to report hate crimes. Looking at tools available to combat hate crime
Sexual Harassment Steering Group	Assessing ways to report and support available once reported. How far the University can and will investigate and clarifying where their jurisdiction starts and ends. Awareness of the different types of sexual harassment that students can face.
OfS Harassment and Misconduct consultation	Helped formulate response to the OfS on how harassment and misconduct are handled under their regulatory powers.
Pause Evaluation and Management meetings	Fed back on what students would like to see more/less of within the service.
Task and Finish Group SUMS review	How the Guild and University services can best benefit students.
UoBe Festival Operations Group	Student voice in operations planning for UoBe festival
Care Leaver working group	Making sure care leavers are recognised and supported at the University
Landlord Membership Scheme meeting	Making sure landlords understand the current concerns of students and the difficult situations they are in.
Selly Oak Stakeholders Meeting	Joined Up conversations with police and community stakeholders re student safety etc in Selly Oak
Self-Isolation Support meeting	Involved in meetings before students returned to discuss how best to support isolating students In university accommodation.

Campus and Community Safety Group	Joined up conversations discussing trends on campus and In the community that may threaten student safety.
Student Conduct review meeting	Delving into where the University can and cannot investigate misconduct.
Welcome Week Planning	Organising events for students in Welcome 2020.
SLAS Project Board	On the project team for implementation of the new Stars system, focusing on student learning and academic support.
Universities Meeting	I act as a student representative at the West Midlands Universities meetings with representatives from Public Health England and Birmingham City Council
Trustee Board Meeting	Overseeing the direction and travel of the Guild as a charity.

Ideas and policy

This section is for you to report on progress made to ideas and Guild policy that you have been mandated to work on. You only need to update your actions taken. You can also add ideas or policy as they are passed through the year.

Idea / policy	Action taken since last Panel
Black Voices Student Support Working Group	More conversations as mentioned in first written statement. Plans to get more data and analyse the data we have to hand
Sexual Misconduct	Need to seek clarification on what the exact action for me to take regarding this from the 'ideas' submitted and distributed at GoG. In ongoing meetings/discussions with the Uni surrounding conduct and sexual harassment
Increase the Amount of Secure Cycle Parking at University of Birmingham	Spoke to Head of Student Services about this. Plans to launch big initiative to

	decrease bike thefts which includes safer bike storage provision. Have asked to be included on the project.
Community Partnership 4 Selly Oak	Aiding good relations with the Community - inputting opinion on new development plans for Selly Oak
Landlord Membership Scheme	Regular meetings with landlords - opportunity to discuss issues facing students and implement best practice.

Other student issues, meetings or projects to note:

- Ongoing discussions with the University re rent rebates/releasing students from contracts early.
- Putting pressure on private providers to financially help students during the pandemic written open letters and engaged with local MPs and Councillors, asking them to sign and discussing how we can work together on this issue.
- Created letter template for students to send to landlords facilitating negotiations.
- Met with Sabbatical Officers across the West Midlands to discuss further how we can promote a joined up approach to this issue.
- Continuing to meet with Student Services to discuss promotion of services.
- Met with Director of Student Engagement to talk about wellbeing resources in Personal Academic Tutor meetings.
- Working with Activities Officer to create a workshop for society committee members focusing on wellbeing.
- Finalised tenders on Pritchatts Park development
- Created podcasts with Officers to increase transparency/communication