



EDI Advisory Board – Session 3

29 January 2026, 14.00-16.00

The Advisory Board Session took place in The Greenhouse, Devonshire House. It was attended by 11 members.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Campaigns and Democracy Assistant opened the meeting. An icebreaker was then done to introduce the members to each other and the facilitators. The focus of the session was introduced as the Student Priorities and looking at further examining what was identified as the biggest issues for students.

2. Student Priorities Presentation & Questions

The Student Change Manger presented the Student Priorities Report. This report comes from 4200 survey responses and identified the biggest challenge to students was balancing student responsibilities, and the areas needing the most change were identified as accessibility and student living. The presentation looked in detail at the data for these 3 aspects, and members had copies on their tables.

The members reflected that the data presented to them aligned with their experiences and expectations. The Aims of this Session were reiterated; they were to find out what the balancing act experience is like for members and to exploring ideas for solutions.

3. Workshop

The Board members were asked to discuss and note down what was part of their balancing act. These included balancing studying and part time work, managing long days on campus, and academic issues such as support, feedback, and essay writing.

4. Break

5. Workshop

The Board Members were then asked to identify what makes things difficult to balance, and what were specific barriers. Here is a list of what they noted down:

- Not adequate ADHD support, lack if in person opportunities, too many forms and online only options.
- The length of the University's days, 8.30-6.30
- The Forum is flashy and expensive, found it isolating, and there should be cheaper options.
- The February Universal Release Date, added unnecessary stress

- Sometimes ILPs from schools are not recognised, causing delays and not the right support immediately.
- Christmas break only 3 weeks, not long enough to prepare for exams.
- Tutor taking too long to respond to emails and emailing for help tends to be an infinite circle of being referred to other people.
- Not enough chances to get feedback outside of assessment
- Too many assumptions from lecturers that everyone is at the same level of understanding
- PGRs not having enough time to research and do part-time work
- Having to go out of your way to have access. Low accessibility.
- Huge gaps in the day in-between lectures, and having to change campuses

6. Workshop

The Board Members were asked if and how these barriers could be removed, and from where and who should support come from. Here is a list of what they noted down:

- More frequent restocking of communal fridge
- More affordable options in Market Place
- Better communication on where cheaper food options are on campus, also the university should incentivise price drops in outlets
- Better communication of apps to get discounts
- Shuttle bus subsidised by the University
- University should partner with private sector to build higher density accommodation in the city centre.
- More campus jobs to help with employability
- More formatives to build essay confidence.
- Have each course establish essay structures
- Day in the life of an Exeter Student to get more transparency before coming
- ILPs not always followed by lecturers
- Graduates able to sell their belongs from their time at university
- Society processes were too long

7. Reflections

The Board Members verbalised what they had written down and shared their group discussions. The main points they raise was struggling to manage long days on campus, the cost of being on campus, especially the choices of food, the many issues with feedback and accessibility.

8. Closing

Members were thanked for their participation, and the meeting was brought to a close.