



Guild Accountability Board – Session 1

Friday 20 September 2025 10:30-12:30

On 20 September 2025, the first session of the Accountability Board took place in The Greenhouse in Devonshire House. 9 students attended.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Campaigns and Democracy Co-Ordinator gave apologies for the Chair of the Board, then asked the Board members who they wanted to appoint as chair, giving the options of: one of them, an Officer, or the Co-Ordinator. The Board then voted for the Co-ordinator to act as Chair. The Officers gave apologies for the Education Officer.

2. Representation Review Workshop

Students were given 30 mins to think about the Representation Review and started creating models of representation.

An infographic on a dark blue background titled "What is the Representation Review?". It features several icons and text boxes. At the top left is a teal spiral-bound book titled "Student Representation" with the subtitle "The future of representation for students at Exeter" and the Guild logo. Below it is the word "Report". In the center are two white line-art icons of hands holding signs with an exclamation mark and a megaphone, labeled "Various Pilot". To the right is a red flag with white text that says "STUDENT OWNED CHANGE", labeled "Students Consultations". At the bottom left is a circular logo with two hands clasped, labeled "IMPROVED REPRESENTATION". In the bottom center is a white box with a pink and teal background on the left side, containing the text "REPRESENTATION REVIEW" and "Representation Review" followed by a paragraph: "We're transforming student representation to better reflect and support all 30,000+ students. From academics to housing, your voice matters. Only 36% felt represented las..." and the website "exeterguild.com". At the bottom right is a blue ribbon logo with the text "BARRIER FREE OPPORTUNITIES".

GAB's role in Representation Review

1st Rep Review session - Opportunities for feedback, student oversight and making changes in response to your thoughts

2nd Rep Review session - Voting to approve Officer role changes, endorsement of representation model for 2026/27

Teams involved: Leadership & Governance, Student Change, Full-Time Officers, GAB Members

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATION
IS CHANGING**

Members had the opportunity to ask questions. No questions were asked.

Members then workshopped ideal representation structures.

REPRESENTATION REVIEW

Representation is changing - you have the power to shape what that looks like. Create your ideal representation structure by thinking about:

- Representative roles (e.g. part-time officer roles)
- Platforms (e.g. advisory boards, forums)
- Opportunities or paid roles (e.g. EDI consultants, Changemakers)



Group A

- New roles need to collaborate with each other
- Less central contact
- Need to be clear who to contact in new system
- New roles should be visible and present in the community
- Feedback should be open in case a role is missing (flexible, reflective model)
- Have a committee with reps for different issues

Group B

- Smaller/part time roles focused on specific parts of student living (housing, societies, cultural societies, academic societies)

- Dedicated part-time role for a postgraduate student to take care of the PG experience
- Committees focused on specific remits e.g. housing, societies, student experiences, socials, postgraduates, distance learners

3. Officer presentations

The Officers present shared what work they had done over the summer and in the first part of Term 1. Updates are noted as followed:

- Exploring the possibility of a £2 Breakfast. This initiative originated from students telling the Guild that they are skipping meals. Meetings have been had with the Vice Chancellor of the University; there will be a follow-up with them and the CFO. It will potentially be in the same location as *£2 meals*. There will be an update on this in the next meeting.
- Food vouchers are being explored as there is no funding for the Feed Your Flat initiative. Food vouchers would make access to free food more consistent. Funding is currently being explored for the vouchers to be used on campus and to be sourced from the Guild and Wellbeing Services. Lobbying is taking place for £10-£15 vouchers.
- Officers are aiming to make the community fridge more visible and want to encourage volunteers to staff it.
- The Societies and Employability Officer gave an update on a key piece of work from the previous Officer: The Society Handbook. It was explained that the Handbook needs reformatting, and the current Officer is looking into transferring some of the content onto the knowledge base.
Incorporating Grand Challenges into Officer work.

4. Break

5. Q&A

The Board members asked questions to the Officers, and a Q&A session proceeded with Board members also making statements relating to the student experience.

Below is a summary of the Q&A content:

- Postgraduate students feel that getting involved with societies is difficult and attention is mainly focused on undergraduates.
- There needs to be more visibility so that people aren't just making it into the space but feeling like they belong to that space.
- An update on Curriculum for Change was given; insights from the Physics pilot with other departments, ensure department level pilots are transparent and shared with students. Advisory Boards are seen as helpful on a department level, they will be paying students.
- A question about doorstep food collection clarified that the council would provide proper food waste disposal through food waste bins and the University would do an awareness campaign.
- Society Common room would be a space for peer support, where training and workshops can take place.

- Clarification on the University's AI policy was given; there is currently a departmental discretion, some thought there should be a universal policy to ensure equity. The question of a DSA allowance for technology has been flagged.

6. Closing

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