



## **Guild Accountability Board – Session 2**

Wednesday 5 November – 10.00-12.00

On Wednesday 5 November, the second session of the Accountability Board took place in The Greenhouse in Devonshire House. 13 students attended this Board.

### **1. Welcome and Introduction**

The Chair welcomed members to the room and introduced new members following a re-recruitment due to lack of uptake. The Officers gave apologies for the Education Officer.

### **2. Working together & using this space effectively**

Given the renewal of membership for the Guild Accountability Board, the session started with a contracting exercise, in which members were asked how they wanted to use the space that is GAB.

Members discussed different behaviours and values they wanted to embody throughout the sessions such as respect, inclusivity, consideration for one another, kindness, honesty, and openness. Members also discussed the focus of the space ensuring that GAB is a constructive space for discussions, in which members feel safe, and can ask questions. Members highlighted that the aim of this space is to hold officers to account and ensure students feel represented and that it is important to ensure discussions stay focused on accountability.

### **3. Representation Review Workshop**

***Members were asked whether they had any general feedback on the Officer reports that they received.***

Members noted that they find the 'pink box' on the reports in which Officers provide updates on how they have been representing students very useful.

However, they noted that the reports contain too much jargon, members would like to see less jargon where possible.

- ACTION: For Officers to clarify the acronyms they use and provide more context on each project or meeting that is mentioned in the reports.
- ACTION: Student Change team to create a glossary of frequently mentioned terms, meetings and projects.

Members of the board would like to have access to a repository which can be used to refer to old meeting reports and minutes.

- ACTION: Student Change team to look into the creation of a SharePoint site.

***Members were asked whether they had found some positives in the work officers presented to them.***

Members noted that the working wardrobe was a very interesting initiative, and they wished to receive an update on how the wardrobe will work concretely at the next meeting.

- ACTION: Relevant officers to provide an update at the next meeting.

Members noted that the work done on support for drugs and alcohol abuse is very positive, they asked for clarification as to how the survey conducted was framed in order to ensure students feel safe disclosing their drugs and alcohol abuse.

The Student Living Officer (Kira Brookes) reassured members that all the necessary disclaimers relating to the purpose of the data collection were in place to ensure students would feel confident that they could be transparent in the survey.

- ACTION: Student Living Officer to provide an update on the survey at the next meeting.

Members suggested that the Officers provide more clarity regarding the timelines for the projects that are mentioned in their reports. They wished to understand whether the work that is mentioned in the reports is immediate, medium or longer term.

- ACTION: For Officers to add more clarity of timelines in their reports

***Next the board was asked whether they felt like all groups of students were being represented in the work presented by the Officers:***

Members noted they found the Inclusive Hair Project launched by the Communities and Equality Officer (Rose Arhin) during Black History Month a very positive initiative. They enquired as to whether Rose would be involved in Disability History Month, Rose noted she is involved in the planning and process of delivering Disability History Month.

Members highlighted the work on tackling classism in which the Officers are involved and noted they were interested in hearing more about the work being done, specifically in the work done in collaboration with the University.

A follow up question was asked of Officers on the projection they have for the impact their work on tackling classism will have.

Officers noted that the work on tackling classism is multi-layered and includes initiatives and work on:

- Supporting grassroots activism movements (i.e. 93% Club);
- Raising awareness of classism at the University of Exeter;
- Working with societies to address the issues of classism and removing barriers;
- How classism is addressed at a department level – with positive impact being seen in the English Department already;
- Transformations at the policy level.

Members noted that the work done by Officers is very extensive, but they wished to see a report tying all of their initiatives together.

- ACTION: Officers to produce a report on their work on classism to be shared ahead of the next meeting.

#### 4. Your time to talk

***In this portion of the meeting, students were asked whether they wanted to share any topics arising which the officers have not mentioned in their reports.***

It was mentioned that the opening hours for the Super Savour Kitchen have been halved, Officers were asked what they could do in relation to the issue.

It was noted by Kira that whilst they were not aware of this specific issue, the limitations currently faced with the Super Savour Kitchen are linked to its longevity and ensuring that the outlet can remain open year-on-year. However, they noted that decisions made to ensure the longevity of the outlet are not always serving students in the best way in the short term. This is something Kira will address ahead of the next meeting and will provide an update on.

- ACTION: Student Living Officer to provide an update at the next meeting.

Members enquired about the £2 breakfast option mentioned by the Guild President (Sebastian Racisz) in his previous reports. He clarified that he is lobbying for more affordable and nourishing breakfast options on campus.

Following a discussion, it was noted by the members that there are food cost disparities between the different outlets on campus. Members suggested the need for more signposting to cheaper options through an awareness campaign.

- ACTION: Student Living Officer and Guild President to follow up on the affordable breakfast options and awareness campaign and present updates at the next meeting.

It was noted by a member that the availability of data and training offered up to Department Officers is really positive and provides really good opportunities for Dos.

Members raised in the meeting some difficulties with the Exehale space losing its original purpose as a wellbeing space and being used instead as a social space. The Communities and Equality Officer and Societies and Employability Officer (Gemma Veal) took note of the issue.

- ACTION: Communities and Equality Officer and Societies and Employability Officer to follow up at the next meeting.

Members noted the lack of information and support available to international students looking to move into private accommodation with their partner or family and highlighted the need for more information to be shared online. It was noted that information could be shared as part of the MoveSmart campaign.

- ACTION: Student Living Officer and Communities and Equality Officer to pick up the issue and provide an update at the next meeting.

#### 6. Closing

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