



Guild Accountability Board – Session 5

Thursday 5 March – 10.30-12.30

On Thursday 5 March, the fifth session of the Accountability Board took place in The Greenhouse in Devonshire House. 8 students attended this Board.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed the students, Officers, and Dhruv, a Student Trustee. The intention for the session was outlined. This was that the Board would vote on changes to the articles, but we were not quorate and were only 7 members at one given time, even though 8 members attended overall. Dhruv was present the work the Article Working Group undertook for the proposal for changes. Due to the low turnout the Chair clarified that the session would be different to the original plan.

2. Officer Updates

The Guild President updated the Board on the work he had done since the last Guild Accountability Board. This included having meetings with the University about AI and their aim to have a coherent policy. Seb mentioned meetings about the University's hiring freeze and tried to make sure it doesn't impact student jobs. He reported he was in meetings about the discussion on payment for Exeter Covid Students, and what the impact on current students would be if the University had to pay-out.

There was then a question about the recent news on Plan 2 loans. The Student Living Officer answered this explaining they were attending the All Parliamentary Group next week, to discuss this further.

The Societies and Employability Officer delivered her update. There had been good work done with the Career Zone as they are launching their first creative careers fair. Gemma is launching society finance workshops which will be a space for feedback rather than co-creation. There were lots of questions about society finances, including the level of Guild intervention and the level of financial transparency in societies, especially in regard to subsidised socials. Gemma clarified that policy that the Guild aims to put in best practice and tried to be pro-active, not reactive. The Guild is there to help societies and not to impose lots of restrictions on them, that they are there to support financially challenged societies and monitor for potential under use of society funds.

The Education Officer received questions about AI. He responded that an AI student assembly is taking place. This will be an opportunity for students to hear the University's plan and Students will have the chance to respond, the meeting will be put into a report and shared. Francis clarified that the University will be a guest in the space and reinforced that the assembly will be a student space. The Education Officer was asked about how the

University will approach employability and AI. He responded that this was something the University was aware of and more answers would be possible after the assembly. The Education Officer and the Guild President shared that the University has botched their AI policy, especially as there is no central policy. The Education Officer reported on meetings involving the Sports Science department as they are struggling with involvement and to have an academic representative. Francis shared that St Luke's campus is not a 3rd space for these students. An update was provided on lecture recording being live, there are discussions about this at a more senior level now and live streaming should be possible. Guild Accountability Board members suggested the idea of using voice isolation microphones to not record student's voices.

The Equality and Communities Officer gave an update on the launching of her hair care pilot, and the aspiration of it becoming a regional campaign with the college. Rose shared the launching of the menstrual equity survey. Questions were asked about Menstrual products and bins and posters for the survey in the men's bathroom. Rose responded that some posters had been put in the men's bathrooms but that more could be put up if necessary. An update on Matriculation was shared; the University is planning to launch a pilot that will run in some departments in 2026/27, and they want to make it more inclusive.

The Student Living Officer provided an update on Bystander Intervention training being made mandatory, there has been a positive response so far, and they are investigating possibly running it online. An update on the ring fencing of up to £2000 for the Hardship fund was given. This means if a student has £2000 in savings for a special reason, for example medical treatment, they can still access the fund. Kira shared that there had been slow progression with food voucher and graduation robes initiatives, but that the University was responsible for this delay. There was a question about the length of follow-up for the University Hardship Fund.

3. Articles Working Group

The members were given time read the Articles Working Group Report. Dhruv then briefly presented the work of the group. The members did not have any questions about the changes. As the meeting was not quorate there was no voting on the changes to the articles. The members were told that voting would take place online and they would shortly receive an email on the process for this.

4. Final Questions and Actions

The Board members were asked if they had any final reflections or questions and what they want to see actioned before next meeting. Their responses included the minutes being put on the website, exploring the possibility for Officer reports to go on the website, and an update on the standardising of society elections.

5. The Head of Student Engagement Update

The Head of Student Engagement spoke to the members about the future of the Board, and that there would probably need to be an extra session to review the by-laws. The members specified that they would want this session to be in person.

6. Close

The Board was informed that the Student Change Team would be in touch shortly to arrange online voting. The members and guests were thanked for their participation in the meeting. The session was brought to a close.