

Minutes: Scrutiny Panel 20/5/24

Date / Time:	Monday 20 th May 2024
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Location	Adam Redfern board room
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Chair:	Scrutiny panellist
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Attendees	Role of attendee	Acronym
Amir Iqbal	Union development officer	AI
Komal Shahzadi	Equality and diversity officer	KS
Fluffy Adewola	Welfare officer	AA
Destiny Mazaiwana	Academic officer	DM
Priya Karasala	Opportunities and engagement officer	PK
Nerissa Doran	Disabled students' Liberation officer	ND
Judith Olurankinse	Postgraduate students' Liberation officer	JO
Paige Billings	Scrutiny panellist	PB
Manav Madlani	Scrutiny panellists	MM
Lauren Riley-White	Scrutiny panellist	LRW
Mahek Rihwani	Scrutiny panellist	MR
Avani Mehta	Scrutiny panellist	AM

1. Introduction and Apologies for Absence

	Apologies were received from [...]
	Muhammad Akbar Khan – BAME Liberation officer
	Toni Fazaeli – Mature students liberation officer
	Chimdi Oriaku – Internatioanl students liberation officer
	Jacquey Boakye – Scrutiny panellist

Part 1 – Executive officers

2. Union development officer -AI

Mahek Rijhwani

Scrutiny panel	What is the progress of the student events committee?
AI	Currently Setting up the structure of the committed.
Scrutiny panel	Update on reduction of cost of graduation? What else has the university said, will it go ahead?
AI	Not heard back from Nicky pierce, a policy will be put through in the next Student council and will be incorporated in the next officer handover.
Scrutiny panel	Do you think NUS is worth the subscription that the university pays? If yes what are the benefit for students, if not how can we improve our experience with NUS, so we get the most out of it?
AI	We are not getting our money's worth. Delegates fedback saying; it was good for networking but the confidence we had for them as an organisation is exceptionally low. We could utilise the money elsewhere as a union. we could connect with local unions – in more efficient ways. Delegates at the conference also said they felt unsafe.
Scrutiny panel	What are the other avenues the unio could explore rather than NUS.
AI	Re invest back into the SU to improve our own services and national reps who can make changes which have a national impact e.g. cost of living.
Scrutiny panel	Has the feedback you have regarding the conference been re-laid back to NUS?
AI	Not yet, but it will be – will be bringing the feedback to student council. Hopefully this will move forward into a vote of no confidence
Scrutiny panel	Have you heard from any other unions?
AI	York has put through a no confidence vote
Scrutiny panel	Is there anything you want/need to pass onto the next officer?
AI	Handover – for the next officer, student events committee, graduations costs, NUS

3. Academic officer -DM Mahek Rijhwani

Scrutiny panel	Did you get a response from the Associate professor for CEM on issues that was happening within the course, or hear anything aback about the solution for block teaching for BA Music technology?
DM	Met with Susan Orr last Tuesday. Can't ask the university to change the structure of block teaching as

	<p>Dmu are also considering academic staff who are part time, need reasonable adjustment and specialist rooms.</p> <p>50% of students are timetabled 3 times a week – looking to increase.</p>
Scrutiny panel	Is there any resolution regarding the Adobe subscription did you find any suitable alternatives?
DM	<p>Each adobe license cost £70 each per student University cannot afford it.</p> <p>Looking into specialist computers in the library. Increase awareness of the ITMS Usage app where they can find certain computers with the adobe license – just have to connect to the Wi-Fi Assessment heat map – collecting data whether they are open at useful times for students</p> <p>Got in touch with course rep – to gather feedback on this</p>
Scrutiny panel	Will time tabling be better next year?
DM	<p>Not sure – but will be asking what will be changing to improve timetabling. Susan Orr will be holding faculties accountable.</p>
Scrutiny panel	Is there anything you would like to pass onto the next officer?
DM	Not much that can be done about timetabling – done all the digging that can be done.
Scrutiny panel	Are there any goals you are yet to complete?
DM	<p>Want to talk to dmu about personal tutoring – international students don't feel comfortable reaching out to their personal tutors setting up a meeting with Shusha and Susan Orr. Part of the student retention project is looking into attendance and what motivates students to attend university. What could potentially result in students not attending?</p> <p>Assessment and feedback aren't great – so will be looking into that as a project which the university is recognising.</p>

4. Welfare officer - AA

Avani Mehta

Scrutiny panel	Have you sent the university the proposal for free breakfast and the alternatives? If so, can you update on this?
AA	Not sent the proposal yet but will in the next JEC which is 6 th June
Scrutiny panel	Any more upcoming activities for wellbeing Wednesday?
AA	Activities for wellbeing Wednesday are always happening.

	Planting of seeds and a mental health campaign last week. RAG dog event had over 120 students attend.
Scrutiny panel	Why are there no mental health events when mental health awareness happened?
	There was the RAG Dog event purposely for mental health awareness week. They had valuable feedback and the impact it made on their mental health.
Scrutiny panel	What efforts have you made for students to know what you exactly do at the union.
AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goating • Chat with students during lunch time • Make myself visible • Exec door is always open for students to enter. • Massive increase in engagement of students to wellbeing Wednesday

5. Equality and diversity - KS

Lauren Riley-White

Scrutiny panel	Are you Goating regularly?
KS	Tried to, but sometimes there are other things that need more attention. Twice or 3 times in a week, during lunch time Doing as much as possible.
Scrutiny panel	What efforts have you made for students to know what you exactly do at the union?
KS	Go to other buildings to reach out to new students Social media Goating Being approachable.
Scrutiny panel	Do students even know they can contact you for organising events?
KS	Yes! - Students come regularly to put on events Example is Diwali with societies
Scrutiny panel	You mentioned better visibility in the previous meeting, is this happening?

KS	Trying best to be more visible on campus. Activity in the works on how to approach students and increase engagement with the other execs Posting once a week on social media
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6. Opportunities and engagement - PK Lauren Riley-White

Scrutiny panel	Can we have an update on the social media communication channel for committee members?
PK	A Channel for committee members via WhatsApp or teams has been created Instagram channel is unclear as its through DSU And a License is needed from DSU to hold the channels. This Will hopefully be up and running from September
Scrutiny panel	Can we have an update on the student hardship fund (free membership for society members)?
PK	Met with hardship fund – which was denied access to know which students who were going through the hardship funds because of data protection. Trying to do an alternative There is an option to give out 200 random free membership – However we won't know who needs it the most. Trying to find a way to know who needs the free membership.
Scrutiny panel	Are you regularly contacting students about the problems they face accessing opportunities?
PK	Free feedback session – during goating Committee members can give advice and let her know what's the best way is forward and how to improve communication
Scrutiny panel	Are you goating regularly?
PK	Yes – Mostly seeing the committee chairs and societies Attending all the training for sports
Scrutiny panel	Can we have an update regarding the by-law amendment for committee members to have student council attendance as compulsory?
PK	Can't make it mandatory unless it's in their role description Trying to implement, one person from the committee to attend which then results in a gold badge. At the end of the academic year, they could get awards at DSU celebrates.

7. Feedback

AI	<p>Actions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a plan to where the 30k NUS money could go - Alternatives to NUS • Build a local union network
AA	<p>Actions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do more events rather than just relying on wellbeing Wednesday • Make a guideline which creates a systematic way of goating so its effective • “What I can do for you” - a social media post stating as an officer what service you can provide for students so we understand what the students can come to you for.
KS	<p>Actions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have banners and posters bringing more awareness of what your role as an officer is more regularly. • Goating guide • Google forms tracking society events – on the website or around campus?
PK	<p>Actions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide for goating • Stronger incentive to get societies to attend student council – Mandate – incorporate student council attendance in training – this would be 1 per academic year minimum • Gold badge
DM	<p>Actions -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handover for the next officer of all research you have collected.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulfil as much goals as possible in the time remaining.
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Part 2 – Liberation officers

8. Disabled students' Liberation officer – ND Paige Billings

Scrutiny panel	How was your Destress refresh event, could you see it being repeated again?
ND	Yes, can be repeated – dsu do movie nights event regularly Having a small booking fee to get people to attend after booking. The event was successful, and the food went quick!
Scrutiny panel	Do you think that the accessibility map updates were promoted well?
ND	Yes- DSU and DMU posted on insta, LinkedIn and email. However future promotion needs to be done for new students, possibly be incorporated into freshers every year
Scrutiny panel	What transferable skills have you gained, and will you take from your experience as a Disabled Students Liberation officer that can help you in your future career?
ND	Time management, dedication, community engagement Microsoft, public speaking. Social media. I was self-conscious when I started but now feel more confident.
Scrutiny Panel	What advice or recommendations would you give to the next Disabled Students Liberation officer who will take on this role, and how much have you enjoyed your journey from working as a student volunteer in this position?
ND	Created a handover for her successor, making sure she is prepped for the next academic year. Enjoyed the role as disabled students' liberation office thoroughly.
Scrutiny panel	Do you think that you have been able to create a community for disabled students?
ND	No - - something will be passing onto the next officer and will assist to

	help them do this
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9. Postgraduate students' liberation officer -JO **Paige Billings**

Scrutiny panel	Have you had much engagement with your post graduate society, if not how could you increase this?
JO	No – The person who opened the society, it wasn't for postgraduate it was titled for PHD. It is now on hold and will be Starting fresh.
Scrutiny panel	How do you plan to make sure that the postgraduate society is sustainable on its own when you come out of your position
JO	Was looking forward to working with the next Postgraduate officer, but unfortunately are no longer in position. But will be working with the char of the society.
Scrutiny panel	Have you used the postgraduate society to ask students and collate information from postgraduate students about financial problems as there were issues raised from this, from what you said in the last Scrutiny Panel meeting?
JO	The plan was to get feedback via the society, but as it is not running nothing has been collated yet.
Scrutiny panel	Do you think that the quick turnaround of postgraduate's students may put your society at risk, how can you ensure it stays thriving?
JO	Postgraduate officer to oversee society elections to help make sure a student always full fills the role in that society
Scrutiny panel	What is the update and progress you made in organising the Money Talks postgraduate event, with DMU finance and the Alumni team as guest speakers?
JO	The Dmu finance was very successful a lot of people got help and feedback from them. They received money boxes and were happy about this. There was also a 1-2-1 discussion from the team.
Scrutiny panel	Have you been able to collaborate with the executives about a cost-of-living campaign for cheaper food options for postgraduate students?
JO	No- the money talks event did tackle some issues surrounding Cost of living, but not directly worked with the exec.
Scrutiny panel	What advice or recommendation would you give to the next Postgraduate Liberation officer who will take on this role, and how much have you enjoyed your journey from working as a student volunteer in this position?
JO	Advice: Start straightaway – do your best and gather information and connect with people.

10. Feedback

ND	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map handout during freshers • Incorporate handover a plan to provide a guide to create a community • Could distress refresh be a yearly event? - hand over advice team
JO	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money talks event – drop in event – could this be handed over to the advice team/ next lib officer? • Change the society to a community group – regular meet ups • Thorough plan for handover

Scrutiny panel	Closed the meeting.
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