

SCRUTINY PANEL - MINUTES

YSJSU SCRUTINY PANEL TUESDAY 11TH DECEMBER, 2018 SU BOARDROOM

Chair:

Dan Grayson (SECC)

Students' Union staff (in attendance):

Louise Aiken – Student Voice Manager

Paul Murtough – Student Voice Coordinator

Panel members:

Keri Burrows – student of Primary Education (KB)

Charlie Carr – Student of Computer Science (CC)

Observers:

Megan Barber – student of Children, Young People and Families

Jordan Todd – Student of Primary Education

Holly Hinchley – Student of Religion, Philosophy and Ethics

Interview schedule:

Olivia Bowers, President of Wellbeing & Diversity 11:00

Steph Foxton, President of Education 11:20

George Coombs, President of the Students' Union 11:40

Welcome and Introductions

SECC introduced the purpose of the meeting and the running order.

Olivia Bowers, President of Wellbeing and Diversity

SECC welcome PWD to the meeting and explained the procedures.

SECC confirmed PWD's attendance at both the Student Executive Council and All Student Meeting.

Is the format of proving reports useful?

PWD felt that reports are useful but only a select group of students will read them. Vlogs have been a useful tool for merging the formality of a report and informal structure of a blog.

2. MANIFESTO

How did you decide on your manifesto points?

PWD stated that the points were taking previous officers' work and re-evaluating them and providing a new twist on the established work. There were also gaps which they felt needed to be filled with regards to areas of wellbeing which had not previously been focussed on.

What do you view as the most important of your points?

PWD answered that from a personal perspective the Housing Map was the most important, providing students with accurate, relevant information.

How has the year gone so far?

PWD stated that with regard to wellbeing there had been tailored activities as a part of the

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'Heads Up' campaign on the 1st of each month. Some events may need more work than others but 3 have happened so far.

WellU – PWD stated the programme had been rebranded over the summer to focus on more areas of student wellbeing.

What would you suggest could be improved?

PWD stated promotion of the WellU and looking at the range of activities. Looking at the potential to join with YSJ Active.

Accommodation – PWD stated that plans surrounding her accommodation campaign began back in July and with the introduction of the Housing map it has been completed. Regular conversations took place with staff of the SU to ensure that the system was functional and accessible for students.

Student Life – PWD informed the panel that there had been a restructure to the zone to feature an open discussion with staff from the university regarding the issue up for discussion.

KB asked PWD how the focus areas for 'wellbeing' were decided.

PWD responded stating that the points were based off research from previous officer's work in which she aimed to update the campaigns expand the focus in order to remain relevant to the student body.

3. CAMPAIGNS

SECC called for discussion surrounding PWD campaigns

PWD began by informing the panel and members in attendance about how she formulates a campaign.

SECC then asked what PWD viewed to be the most successful campaign.

PWD felt that the current Haxby Road bus provision, alongside the housing map had been the most successful. However, she also iterated the successes of the Plan Safe, Drink Safe, Home Safe campaign, Don't Drink and Drown and Sexual 'Elf' campaign.

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Steph Foxton, President of Education

SECC welcomed PE to the meeting and explained the procedures.

SECC confirmed PE's attendance at both the Student Executive Council and All Student Meeting.

Is the format of proving reports useful?

PE felt that reports are useful, however in a personal reflection she does not always find the time to produce them within the mandate of a weekly basis. Due to this her most recent vlog is a culmination of activity taken between July and November.

CC asked if PE had a plan in place which provided her enough time to write reports, film vlogs etc.

PE stated yes but felt that students digest information in a variety of ways and it is about assessing the most accessible way to distribute the information.

SECC informed the panel and those in attendance as to how the mandate for vlogs/blogs is carried.

SECC further noted to PE that a rather lengthy report had been provided to students at the All Student Meeting.

PE agreed but felt that students needed to be well informed with progress in her role. There is however a hope to create concise informative pieces going forward.

2. MANIFESTO

How did you decide on your manifesto points?

PE formed her manifesto points from previous work in her first term as officer. She particularly paid attention to actions and minutes of the Education Zones, discussions with Chairs of School.

What do you view as the most important of your points?

The most important point for PE was around hidden costs for degrees such as printing. PE noted that statistically students are deemed to live on the poverty line which has been swept aside as the 'Student Lifestyle'.

Additionally, the Principles of Partnership work, which has not got as far as it would have been liked to, but working is continuing. This objective was formed at the start of the 2nd year in office.

SECC asked how far PE had come along with her Free Printing objective and if in realistic terms, it is feasible.

PE informed the panel that she had been working with the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Learning and Teaching. It has been developed that any course which deems it mandatory for students to hand in physical copies of work should have printing paid for – there is a policy in place at the university which dissuades the use of printing and focuses on electronic submissions. There is currently a pilot running within the school of Sport.

KB asked if use of a singular school would show inconsistencies and raise questions as to which schools/courses adopt the policy.

PE explained that in instances such as this a pilot school will be used to assess the viability of the proposal.

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3. CAMPAIGNS

SECC called for discussion surrounding PE campaigns

PE discussed the results of the recent 'Know Your Rep' campaign which saw 423 responses (not too dissimilar from 2017). PE noted the campaign was held over a shorter period this time around.

PE then informed the panel of the 'Battle of the Schools' which took place at the start of the month but noted that the timing of the event was not right and would look to redevelop it in the new semester.

CC highlighted PE's objective of Mental Health Awareness Training and what was currently happening.

PE noted that it is current in the development stages for Academic Tutors and there will be regular departmental consultations in the schools with a training provisions for staff. It is also being worked into a policy which will launch in the summer of 2019.

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George Coombs, President of the Students' Union

SECC welcomed PSU to the meeting and explained the procedures.

SECC confirmed PSU's attendance at both the Student Executive Council and All Student Meeting.

Is the format of proving reports useful?

PSU felt that reports are a valid form of providing insight to students however vlogs appear to work better as shown by statistics.

SECC further noted to PSU that the report provided to the All Student Meeting had been concise and accurate.

PSU responded stating that he felt impacts had to be updated verbally which is why there was some additional information which wasn't featured in the report to the meeting.

2. MANIFESTO

How did you decide on your manifesto points?

PSU informed the panel and members in attendance that he devised his manifesto points from consultation with students, looking across the different demographic make ups of the student body and what was relevant.

His further point for Sustainability is set to be a yearlong campaign with most of the work taking shape in Semester 2. This was highlighted to be of a personal interest but also linked with the motion 'Go Green YSJ' submitted to Senate at the end of the 2017-18 Academic Year.

SECC asked whether PSU considered his new items to be objectives or points directly linked to his manifesto.

PSU stated his points are interwoven to his objectives so that there is a crossover into both.

What do you view as the most important of your points?

Sustainability was a high priority for PSU, he noted that in the future he will be working to introduce 'Green Ambassadors' as well as focussing on how departments of the university can work to be 'green'.

Mental Health is also a high priority but not within the same respect for PE/PWD. Looking at the wider departmental impact of mental health issues.

PRES on Campus will continue, two have been held so far.

PSU also noted he is working closely on events which represent our minority communities of students after feeling that Black History Month did not run at the best it could have.

3. CAMPAIGNS

SECC called for discussion surrounding PRES campaigns

PRES noted that his role is not specifically campaign focussed and the budgets had been altered to reflect this in the previous financial year.

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A sustainability campaign will take place from the 2nd- 4th April 2019. PRES felt that sometimes campaigns are run for the sake of running one but he felt he wanted a campaign to have a drive, focus and impact and that dealt with a current issue that doesn't have much focus.

SECC called the meeting to a close.

Meeting closed 11:45