

# OfS Student Panel Meeting – Minutes

Date: 2 May 2019

Time: 1500-1800

Location: Finlaison House, London

## Attendees

Martha Longdon (Chair), Chad Allen, Georgia Bell, Rose Bennett, Sinead Brown, Ruth Carlson, Zahra Choudhry, Samuel Dedman, Shakira Martin, Sabrina Mundtazir, Lizzie Pace, Josh Sanderson-Kirk,

OfS: Nicola Dandridge, Edward Davison, Cassie Agbehenu, Benjamin Hunt

## Apologies

Shraddha Chaudhary, Alice Richardson

## Item 1: Chair's update

1. Martha Longdon introduced herself as Chair of the Student Panel and welcomed returning panellists Chad Allen, Lizzie Pace, Zahra Choudhry, Shakira Martin, Sinead Brown and Ruth Carlson. The Chair also welcomed newly appointed panellists Samuel Dedman, Rose Bennett, Georgia Bell, Sabrina Mundtazir and Josh Sanderson-Kirk.
2. Apologies were noted.
3. The Chair noted that last year a lot of ground was covered and that this year the panel will be focusing on a new set of issues, led by the prioritisation exercise that the panel had been conducting at the panel's training day, as well as the OfS's board and strategic priorities.
4. The Chair updated the panel on relevant OfS activity:
  - a. On 1 May there was the first OfS Insight Event, focused on contextual admissions. The BME attainment gap and commuter students were also discussed. Joshua Sanderson-Kirk was thanked for attending and Shakira Martin thanked for contributing as one of the panellists.
  - b. The UUK/NUS BME attainment gap report was published on 2 May, the morning of the panel meeting and the Chair committed to ensuring that the report would be circulated to panel members to read.
  - c. At the OfS board meeting in March there were discussions of the OfS's Business Plan and an update on the OfS's approach to improving Information, Advice and Guidance for students.
5. The Chair ran through the remaining agenda items for the meeting:
  - a. The amended terms of reference
  - b. CEO's update

- c. A session on Student Protection and Market Exit, led by Yvonne Hawkins, Director of Teaching Excellence and Student Experience, and Rob Stroud, Head of Student Protection and Market Exit
- d. A session on Student Engagement, led by Cassie Agbehenu, Student Engagement Manager and Ben Hunt, Student Engagement Adviser
- e. Closed discussion and feedback.

## **Item 2: Approval of the Minutes**

6. The minutes of the December panel meeting were approved.

## **Item 3: Chief Executive's Report**

7. The Chair invited OfS's chief executive to give an update to the panel. This included updates on: the registration process and the implications of the OfS's decisions; the OfS business plan; the registration fee. The chief executive commented that the insight event on 1 May had been an excellent event and thanked Martha Longdon, Josh Sanderson-Kirk and Shakira Martin for their contributions.
8. The chief executive took a number of questions from the panel, including how the panel reports to the Board, the timeline for decisions around provider registration and the implications of the new fee regime.

## **Item 4: Terms of Reference**

9. The Chair invited comments on the terms of reference. It was commented that the first sentence of the terms should be amended to be more concise and that the panel should register interests. Finally, the panel asked for clearer guidance on how decisions would be made in the event that members were absent. Subject to these changes, the panel approved the terms of reference for 2019-2020 and the Chair stated that these would be circulated.

## **Item 5: Student protection and market exit**

10. Yvonne Hawkins and Rob Stroud joined the meeting. Yvonne explained what processes and student protections are in place in case of campus, course or provider closure. Rob then introduced two discussions for the panel, where the OfS was seeking their input. These were:
  - a. To seek the panel's views on the priorities for current students experiencing a market exit, with regard to the information, advice and guidance they should receive.
  - b. The point at which students should be informed of potential market exit and the tensions in this decision between future, current and past students.

## **Item 6: Student engagement**

11. Cassie Agbehenu and Ben Hunt introduced current OfS work around student engagement and facilitated an exercise to inform the student engagement strategy, asking panellists to reflect on their own experiences of positive and negative student engagement, as a trial run for a proposed consultation exercise on the development of the OfS's student engagement strategy.

## **Item 7: Closed session**

12. The panel had a closed session to feedback to the Chair on the meeting, without staff present.