

OfS Student Panel Meeting - Minutes

Date: 24th April 2018

Time: 16.00 – 18.00

Location: Finlaison House, Furnival Street

Attendees:

Megan Dunn (chair), Ben Hunt, Chad Allen, Lizzie Pace, Xenia Levantis, Zahra Choudhry, Ruth Carlson, Shakira Martin, Shades Chaudhury, Sinead Brown, Alice Richardson, Stuart Cannell, Luke Renwick, Nicola Dandridge, Amanda Wilcox, Sarah Bruce, Edward Davison

Item 1: Chair's welcome

1. The chair thanked panel members for joining the meeting.
2. The chair thanked panellists for their varied contributions since the January welcome meeting, which ranged from speaking at the OfS all staff conference to giving evidence to the Education Select Committee.
3. The chair invited the OfS's chief executive to give a brief update to the panel. This covered the full launch of the OfS on the 3 April and the resulting assumption of its regulatory responsibilities and the start of the registration process. The chief executive echoed the chair's thanks to the panellists for their involvement during the preceding months.

Item 2: Introduction to the OfS's Regulatory Framework

4. David Smy (OfS) was invited to give an overview of the OfS's regulatory framework to the panel.
5. Questions from panellists included: the way that complaints and whistleblowing would be used by the OfS; how access & participation plans would be monitored; how the interests of academic staff would be considered in the regulatory regime; and how fines would be handled.
6. David Smy offered to respond to any follow-up questions or suggestions that the panel might have.

Item 3: OfS's approach to value for money

7. Jim Dickinson (UEA students' union) and Ed Marsh (Middlesex University students' union) were invited to present the OfS commissioned research on value for money from the student perspective.
8. The panellists raised various questions and emphasised: the importance of drawing out the widening participation elements of this research more clearly and the need to consider how best to contextualise information about value for money so as not to put off prospective students who could make decisions that reduce their opportunities.
9. The panel agreed to form a sub-group who would work with the lead OfS official, Jim Dickinson and Ed Marsh to develop a set of recommendations for the OfS board in May.

Item 4: OfS's approach to information and guidance

10. Edward Davison (OfS) was invited to lead an initial session on the panel's views on information and guidance.
11. The panel were invited to imagine what outstanding information, advice and guidance would look like for students at different stages of an educational pathway.

Item 5: OfS's approach to student engagement

12. Amanda Wilcox (OfS) was invited to lead a discussion with the panel centred on two questions that the board had asked the panel to consider:
 - Why should the OfS engage with students?
 - i. What should its priorities be over the next 18 months?
 - Should the OfS support providers to engage with their students?
 - i. What are the bounds of its remit within this space?
 - ii. How would it do this effectively?
13. The panel agreed to form a sub-group to conduct further work with the lead OfS official, Amanda Wilcox, informing the development of a student engagement roadmap.

Item 6: Additional opportunities for panellists

14. The panel took this paper as read and the chair emphasised the panellists should get in touch with Edward Davison to receive more information about the opportunities listed in the paper.

Item 7: Feedback

15. The chair led feedback from the panellists without OfS officials present and then concluded the meeting.