

OfS Student Panel Meeting - Minutes

Date: 4 December 2018

Time: 15.00 – 18.00

Location: Finlaison House, Furnival Street

Attendees:
Ben Hunt, Chad Allen, Lizzie Pace, Zahra Choudhry, Shakira Martin, Sinead Brown, Alice Richardson, Stuart Cannell, Shraddha Chaudhary, Ruth Carlson, Luke Renwick, Ruth Carlson, Martha Longdon, Nicola Dandridge, Edward Davison, Cassie Agbehenu

Apologies:
Xenia Levantis, Megan Dunn

Item 1: Chair's welcome

1. Ben Hunt introduced himself as interim chair for the meeting and passed on apologies from Megan Dunn and Xenia Levantis. The chair thanked panel members present for joining the meeting.
2. The chair thanked panellists for their varied contributions over the course of the year.

Item 2: Approval of 10 July 2018 meeting minutes

3. The minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Item 3: Chief Executive's report

4. The chair invited the OfS's chief executive to give a brief update to the panel. The chief executive began by thanking panellists for their contributions over the course of the year and asked for those panellists stepping down to give feedback on their experience. The chief executive then gave updates on the registration process, developing policy on market exit, OfS's values development and organisational design. Finally, an invitation to the OfS staff conference on 6 February 2019 was extended to all panellists.
5. Panellists asked whether market exit could be put on the agenda for the next panel meeting and this was confirmed.

Item 4: Student mental health and wellbeing

6. Jess Trahar and Kate McAlister (both OfS) introduce themselves and ran through a presentation on the OfS's work on student wellbeing.
7. Jess and Kate shared a number of discussion questions with the panellists which they responded to. Panellists discussed:
 - The limits on the OfS's remit in this area
 - The intersection between poor mental health and other forms of disadvantage
 - Issues with quality of data and the confidentiality of data

Item 5: Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

8. Cassie Agbehenu and Reece Horsley (both OfS) talked through the paper that had been shared with the panel, following the panel's questions about these issues in the July meeting. The panel asked about ownership of the work following the report.
9. The panel welcomed the report and asked about ownership of the work following the report. This was discussed and the work to address issues of equality, diversity and inclusion within the OfS was commended.

Item 6: Student Engagement Strategy

10. Ben Hunt introduced a paper setting out the principles for the development of the OfS's student engagement strategy along with a set of recommendations for the content of the strategy that had been developed by the student engagement sub-group, including Zahra Chaudhry and Ruth Carlson. These were welcomed by panellists, who added that:
 - The recommendations should be prioritised
 - The student engagement strategy should seek to reach students who are not the 'likely' ones to engage with

Item 7: Lizzie Pace visit to the OfS

11. Lizzie Pace updated on a recent visit to the OfS where she had met with staff and worked alongside officials in the portfolio management office and access and participation.