

OfS Student Panel Meeting - Minutes

Date: 10th July 2018

Time: 15.00 – 18.00

Location: Finlaison House, Furnival Street

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

Apologies:
Megan Dunn, Ruth Carlson

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 April meeting, in particular those who had volunteered to participate in the subgroups on value for money and student engagement.
3. The chair noted the ongoing recruitment campaign for a student voice representative on the OfS Board.

It was noted that this was Shades' last meeting and the panel thanked her warmly.

Item 2: Approval of 18 April 2018 meeting minutes

4. The minutes from the April meeting were approved with panellists appreciating their clarity.

Item 3: Chief Executive's report

5. The chair invited the OfS's chief executive to give a brief update to the panel. This included information on the process of provider registration, an overview of the OfS transformation programme and organisational design process and confirmation that the OfS was continuing to work with the panel and the board to ensure that the panel's role continued to evolve. The chief executive echoed the chair's thanks to the panellists for their involvement during the preceding months.

Item 4: Student Engagement

6. Conor Ryan (OfS) introduced himself as the new OfS Director of External Relations. Conor outlined his thoughts on the OfS Communications strategy and the Information Advice and Guidance strategy. Conor stressed that he was keen for the panel to be involved in the development of both of these strategies.
7. Ben Hunt introduced the work of the subgroup on student engagement and the draft recommendations to report back to the OfS board. Amanda Wilcox (OfS) discussed

how the recommendations fitted with the OfS's duties at both sector and provider level. The panel welcomed the work of the subgroup and agreed that the paper should be finalised for the OfS board, taking into consideration the panel discussion.

8. Amanda Wilcox (OfS) introduced the draft student engagement definition and principles to the panel. The panel welcomed these and the opportunity to comment on them. Comments received would be incorporated in to the next draft of the definition and principles in preparation for them to be incorporated into a board paper on student engagement. The subgroup would continue to be engaged in the development of the OfS Student Engagement Strategy.

Item 5: OfS's approach to Value for Money

9. Due to technical issues the agenda item on Value for Money was postponed until the next meeting of the Student Panel. A brief update was provided by members of the subgroup for Value for Money on progress of the group and the emerging principles.

Item 6: Developing the OfS Strategy for Access and Participation Plans and Equality and Diversity

10. David Barrett (OfS) provided an overview on the work to develop the OfS strategy on Access and Participation Plans. The discussion covered the importance of engaging with schools, what approach the OfS will take to encourage access for applicants with criminal records and the importance of high quality information, advice and guidance. The panel welcomed the proposal to explore integration of A&P priorities into the teaching excellence framework, as well as the proposal to move towards a more risk-based approach to monitoring but wanted to see more information on both of these in future. Finally, the panel were eager to explore how improvements can be made to the quality of student engagement at providers when A&P plans are developed. Panellists provided feedback on the questions posed and agreed that they were keen to continue to be involved in and kept informed of progress for this work.
11. Dan Aldridge (OfS) provided an overview of the work to develop the OfS strategy on Equality and Diversity (E&D). Panellists agreed that this was an important area of work and asked how OfS practice around E&D reflected what was being asked of the sector. The panel asked for a report at the next meeting on the OfS's own approach to equality and were eager to explore what role panellists might have in working with OfS officials on this. Panellists provided feedback on the questions posed and agreed that they were keen to continue to be involved in and kept informed of progress for this work.

Item 7: Report on meeting with Stand Alone

12. Zahra provided an update on a meeting that she had with the charity Stand Alone who champion issues for estranged students. Panellists were particularly interested in this work and thanked Zahra for bringing it to their attention. Panellists endorsed Zahra continuing to explore opportunities to raise awareness of this issue.

Item 8: Agenda forward look

13. The chair introduced items on the agenda forward look. Panellists also requested that free speech, barriers to access, information advice and guidance and challenges to new providers regarding student engagement were considered as future items. Panellists also requested an annual work plan that would set out meeting dates, agenda items and milestones for the OfS.

Item 9: Panel Feedback

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