Scrutiny Session Report

Name: Lucy Whitlock
Position: Vice President (Education)
Date: Nov 2026

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Objectives Update

Transport Objective	Key result	Progress	Status Completed Working on it Not started
Every student has an affordable and safe commuting experience	10% increase in students feeling safe during their commute to university.	Leading on this Objective with other officers. Staff Project: Safety Project where "Students feel safe in the city and on campus" – We are to focus on gathering feedback with both Students and the public about the buses. On 14th December survey will be publicised and will be to the public too (will be in some shop windows in the city). As officers, we have clearance and will have to make sure we put the QR codes on the buses! Currently we are brainstorming how we start to address any feedback with direction. Ie, Free buses for students, cheaper bus fair than £2, etc. This project includes Advice, Student Voice and Marketing, so it's a membership priority with strong officer support and backing. NUS Campaigning: Signed signatures for Free Buses for students' campaign Free Buses for Students - NUS UK NUS Campaign has been delegated to another officer to lead on.	Working on it
	15% increase in students reporting that their commute is affordable.		Working on it
	10% reduction in students reporting commuting as a barrier to engaging in student life.		Working on it

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Employability Objective	Key result	Progress	Status Completed Working on it Not started
Students have the skills, awareness and confidence to pursue their next steps	Student leaders receive formal recognition for their role in the Union from the University **	Action to start working with Advice and Student Voice team for promoting employable skills with Student Reps and PAL leaders. A reqard and Recognition scheme for student leaders: Action to start work with Chris Bussell.	**Not started**
	80% students tell us “I am confident in my next steps towards my chosen career”	Action to start working with Mary Pemberton on Employability Sessions.	**Not started**
	90% of students feel more able to articulate themselves when applying for roles	Action to start working with Mary Pemberton on Employability Sessions.	**Not started**
	Secure 30 more employment opportunities reserved for students annually	Action to start work with Chris Bussell on University Temp Chats. Action to start work with Chris Meynall on Partnerships.	**Not started**

**= Excluding the HEAR

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Redundancies Objective	Key result	Progress	Status Completed Working on it Not started
Students affected by redundancies receive the experience they were sold	Launch a student consumer protection rights tool kit	A new Protection Plan has been launched in the last few weeks but is still out of date (2025/26). This protection plan wasn't given enough time for scrutiny. A printout has been made of the Plan and to scrutinise. There has been research and annotations to applicable legislation including Technical and Further Education Act 2017: Sec 4, Technical and Further Education Act 2017: Part 2 Chap 4, HERA: Sec 5 & 13, Equality Act 2010: Sec 149 and Consumer Rights Act 2015.	Working on it
	Achieve an 80% satisfaction rate among students on impacted courses regarding their academic experience	Due to start after the KR above is completed. Action to work with Union Marketing. Action to work with University Marketing.	Not started

Presence Objective	Key result	Progress	Status Completed Working on it Not started
Ensuring all students have access to the Union no matter their location	Community memberships of students from other campuses* increase by 5%	Delegated to another Officer; Passport Challenge. Have scrutinised the document before submitting.	Working on it
	Once a month officers run an interactive session at MS, BM, CAV, OFG, Chesterfield, and online	The sites have been delegated: VP(Ed) covers MS and Online students. This merges with the KR below. Have spoken to Student Voice about online students and have a working	Not started

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	70% of online students feel connected & part of a community	relationship with PAL leaders, especially those in MS. Have challenged the University of access issues in MS as soon as it got brought up (Real time issues). Action: Online Hub – Talk to Alexandra Vise: Student Experience Manager: how to show monthly sessions. Action work with marketing and Student Voice: How do I study effectively (mental health an education)? How do I make time? And things like "how do I find out who my PAT is"? How to maintain focus? Employability with Online students: you are multitasking – how do you apply that to your career CV? Ie. how do you market yourself?	**Working on it**

*= Excluding Kedleston Road

Additional Priorities

Other	Progress Update
Finance	Officer support on the pantry stock and maintenance of the Union Pantry. Officer support on the expansion of the Union Pantry into OFG and Chesterfield.
Mental Health & Stress	Officer support on the Community engagement Passport. Officer support on the Mental Health Week.

Meetings or events you have attended

Due to being on Sick Leave for 6 weeks during Freshers period, there is noticeably less attendance – and this has affected the officer's efficiency and work towards these priorities as they have represented VP(Ed) in several meetings and Freshers events.

- Governing Council
- Trustee Boards (2)
- ADQC Agenda Setting Meetings
- CPSC
- LTC Agenda Setting Meetings
- AI Governing Committee
- All Staff Briefings (2)
- (Union Priority Project) Employability
- (Union Priority Project) Safety
- (Union Project) Data & Insight
- Freshers Events (±11h)
- Induction Sessions (±2 months)
- Officer Filming and Marketing (±7h)

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- Graduations (Jul and November)
- NUS and Student Forums – Student Finance Reform Meeting
- Info Point cover
- 1-2-1 Athena Swan
- 1-2-1 Student Hub (Fraiser, Emma, and Sarah)
- 1-2-1 Academic Transformation
- 1-2-1 Steve Ward
- 1-2-1 Kath & Keith
- 1-2-1 Chris Bussell
- 1-2-1 Elly Sample
- 1-2-1 Kathrine Cox
- 1-2-1 Ollie Sheera
- 1-2-1 John Hill

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Key Results Update

Current standing of key results compared to the goal (To be completed by HOM/SLT in conjunction with Executive Officer)

Key Result	Current / Goal
100% of students who commute feel safe on their journey to university	/100%
90% students tell us their commute is affordable	/90%
10% reduction in students reporting commuting as a barrier to engaging in student life	/10%
25% increase in students accessing financial support from the Union	/25%
70% of students tell us “Finance is not a barrier"	/70%
100% course costs are clearly marketed to new students	/100%
Implement 3 initiatives targeted at reducing course costs	/3
Access to financial support from the Union and University is representative of the student body, within 5%	/5%
Student leaders receive module credits for their role in the Union	
80% students tell us “I am confident in my next steps towards my chosen career”	/80%
90% of students feel more able to articulate themselves when applying for roles	/90%
Secure 30 more employment opportunities reserved for students annually	/30
25% increase in students accessing wellbeing support from the University	/25%
Access to mental health & wellbeing support from the Union and University is representative of where students’ study, within 5%	/5%
600 students engage in Union organised mental health and wellbeing initiatives	/600
Launch a student consumer protection rights tool kit	
100 students utilise the student consumer protection rights tool kit	/100
80% of students on impacted courses say that compared to last year their academic experience and support has improved	/80%
5% increase in students from affected courses, accessing advice	/5%
Community memberships are representative of where students’ study, within 5%	/5%
Once a month officers run an interactive session at KR, MS, BM, CAV, OFG, Chesterfield, and online	
70% of online students feel connected & part of a community	/70%

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Performance Review

Work ethic related to Officers' Job Description (to be completed by Officers' link mentor):

A link mentor is a member of Union staff who is supporting the Executive Officer within their role. The link mentor will be someone who works closely in the same area of representation e.g., the link mentor for VP Welfare would be the manager of the Advice Team and the link mentor for the Union President would be the Union CEO.

Link mentors can grade each area as:

1. Unsatisfactory.
2. Area for development.
3. Meets expectations.
4. Exceeds expectations.

Area	Grade
Has demonstrated living the Union's values of 'better together', 'caring for each other', 'sharing success', 'positive'.	4
Has worked within relevant legislation as well as structures, policies and procedures.	3
Has worked co-operatively with other Union staff and Officers, as well as relevant external organisations.	4
Has adhered to the highest standards, especially in the delivery of service and safety.	3
Has sought to continually develop and improve Union facilities and services.	2
Has kept up-to-date with sector developments, local competition and student's views/needs, where necessary undertaking market research to generate such information.	2
Has undertaken necessary training and attended all meetings as requested.	3
Has promoted a positive and professional image of the Union of Students to its members, customers, stakeholders and other external people.	3
Has positively contributed to the organisations ethical & environmental ethos.	3
Has performed any other additional reasonable duties as deemed appropriate.	3

Any additional comments from Officers' link mentor:

The areas marked for development are not a reflection of Lucy's inaction or inability to make change, Lucy has been off due to medical reasons during the beginning of term and as such has not had the appropriate time to begin work on more student-facing concerns. As the year progresses, Lucy will have the ability to develop in these areas as this work gets underway and I am excited to see this. Having completed her induction and now returned, the team and I are enthusiastic to see the work she undertakes to represent the student body.

Lucy clearly cares about University of Derby students and wants to ensure that the objectives set and the work contributing towards them will be of service to the student body – no matter which campus or mode of study a student exists within. Lucy has made a conscious effort to interact with student leaders and staff within the Voice team. Through her work, Lucy has also created strong relationships with university staff which will likely support her to better deliver the ambitious targets she and the officer have set for themselves throughout the course of the academic year.

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Any additional comments from Officer on their work ethic:

Lucy believes in working hard for the student membership. As an addition to the Union's membership team, voice team and officer team she always seeks to learn how to improve or better her work. These efforts to continually better herself and her work do not go unnoticed and benefit her own work and performance and that of the Union more widely.

Lucy works hard to balance the difficult relationship between university commitments, real time student issues, being in a figurehead position and delivering on her objectives. This is a challenging task for any officer, especially one that is in their first year of the role. Lucy wants to make an impact with her work and will likely do so thanks to her strong commitment as she manages these competing commitments.

Lucy should be proud of her work ethic.

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