

Meeting:	PGT Council
Location:	The Weston Studio, The Edge
Date & Time:	21 November 2023 13:15 – 14:45
Present: Reps	
In attendance: [any staff or SU Officers present]	
Taibah Orpin	Student Voice Coordinator (Postgraduate Representation)
Jura Neverauskaite	SU Postgraduate Officer
Item	
1.	<p>Introduction from Jura</p> <p>Welcome</p> <p>Introduction to the Top Ten</p>
2.	<p>Presentation from Kate Awdry</p> <p>Update on the future of PGT provision.</p> <p>Stems from the senior leadership team, and a need to update provision going forward</p> <p>A need to make provision as excellent as it can be – we have been working for the past several months, liaised with both current and previous students</p> <p>Measuring up against competitors – what made students decide bath, what is the difference between expectation vs reality...</p> <p>Currently looking at what we need to do differently as a university</p> <p>5 guiding principles –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education which delivers for students, business, society and research 2. Purpose and pathway driven courses which recruit students to the right culture 3. A personalised postgraduate experience which values the individual whilst building community 4. Exceptional postgraduate professional development which accelerates impactful careers 5. A reputation for excellence in our postgraduate experience which is integral to our institutional identity <p>Phase 2 workstreams –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Market Insight, Course Framework & Portfolio Review

	<p>2. External Engagement and employability</p> <p>3. Personalising the PGT journey – pastoral Support and Signposting</p> <p>4. Building our PGT Community – transitions, events, spaces and enrichment</p>
3.	<p>Induction and settling in:</p> <p>Something to support with time management – offer time management advice, introduce evidence-based tips, advice, and models.</p> <p>“Fresher's events and induction events were nice, but a lot of students were unaware about certain things. Maybe discussing the future events in current workshops would help create more awareness.”</p> <p>No specialisation and personalisation of induction</p> <p>Clear and more direct help, and spaces to discuss the expectations on new assignments e.g., “International development – critical review of book chapter – too open and un-direct.”</p> <p>Clearer assignment briefs, for students with different backgrounds and for students who had a year out.</p> <p>“Lovely city”</p> <p>“Generally, lectures have been engaging.”</p> <p>Good:</p> <p>How did you find the freshers and induction event? – “very structured”</p> <p>“The Professors are passionate and well-aware of the content.”</p> <p>“The first few months at UoB – fun”</p> <p>“Welcome week had a good variety of events.”</p> <p>“Lecturers are engaging.”</p> <p>There's a “sense of community.”</p> <p>“First assignments tough by fair.”</p> <p>Bad</p> <p>“Content is very fast paced – does not always consider people coming from different academic backgrounds.”</p>

“Events are less frequent but would still be appreciated – freshers’ event such as PGT pub crawl.”

“5000-word essays too much for a first assignment”

“Opposite but 4000 words for a 30% assignment is too little – doesn’t feel like I am learning.”

“PGT welcome week events poorly advertised and difficult to get tickets for – do a top ten PG events and send via email.”

“More city events beyond fresher's week”

“First month just went by in settling down, now trying to figure out how to manage time.”

“Some assignments are vague or generic.”

“Have a proper campus tour during fresher's week.”

“For international development

- Mark assignments that are time consuming
- Lithium case studies would be different if it were marked.”

4. **Extra-curricular activities**

Would like a specific postgrad soc.

Society that just organised socials for PG students, very flexible e.g., hiking, specific activities

“Not interested in societies – Find it difficult to relate to undergrads.”

Would be good if socs had more flexible/ changing timetables.

PG Society specific to sport, sports could rotate weekly.

Less interested in very competitive sports/ socs – more casual, for wellbeing and fun

“PG sports club competition at the end of the academic year – just before July possibly – possible build up throughout the year.”

“Funding for PGT socials”

“Provision for PGTs was great in the first few weeks – would be great if this continued (with more variety – not just a generic mixer) – inc events in town.”

Regarding PG Sec role - “Would need an orientation/ induction to club leadership roles – time is short.”

A role for postgraduates a good start – but still seems like there is a low number of postgrads engaging.

	<p>Not a lot of postgraduate participation in societies.</p> <p>No time to be a PG secretary in a society.</p> <p>“Wednesday afternoon timetabling stops people participating in a lot.”</p> <p>“Timetable clashes, unfortunate logistic problem” - barriers to being involved.</p> <p>“Was interested in joining a society but timings don’t match and difficult to commute to college on days.”</p> <p>“In a society but no time to attend sessions. “</p> <p>“Did not join any society.”</p> <p>“I am in a sports club – I previously participated in this prior to bath.”</p>
5.	<p>PGT Community</p> <p>Partial sense of community</p> <p>“Organise relevant and casual events e.g., sports tournaments, intra and inter.”</p> <p>An “Engaged community is like a driving force for a change.”</p> <p>“An engaged community would have more interaction with people on other courses. Would have events across different departments.”</p> <p>Not enough opportunities to build connections in different departments.</p> <p>More inter departmental interaction and events.</p> <p>“Inter-departmental events/ socials – across cohorts/courses.”</p> <p>“Hard to create a community in one year.”</p> <p>The SU and University “Need to help people to feel confident enough to make connections.”</p> <p>PGT icebreakers, quiz nights etc. – doing something you can talk about.</p> <p>Would like more “chances to get people together with something to do.”</p> <p>Those on smaller courses can find it difficult to build a large community.</p> <p>Greater coordination/facilitation of PG mixers and events at the beginning of the year – specific activities or prompts.</p> <p>“Pre-arrival PGT group chat/WhatsApp group publicised.”</p>

	<p>“Consistency with events, specific to PGT students.”</p> <p>“Community = connection, engaging, fun, understanding.”</p> <p>“Host more events that are open to multiple PGT cohorts.”</p> <p>Events related to employability.</p> <p>“PGT societies and sports clubs.”</p> <p>“More needs to be done to connect students pre-arrival, before coming to university.”</p> <p>“Send out emails to those on the same PGT courses with PG chat links.”</p> <p>“Everyone mostly has their own clique.”</p> <p>More networking events.</p> <p>A “good community is where everyone knows everyone.”</p> <p>“Building confidence and making international students feel at home.”</p>
6.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Accommodation Issues:</p> <p>Damp problems in several university run PG halls.</p> <p>Only 2 PGT options – would be good to have PG sections/ flats in other halls so there is more choice and more price options.</p> <p>Photos on the website do not reflect rooms – very different room sizes in flats, maybe photos of multiple size rooms, multiple flats for each hall.</p> <p>UG’s in PG accommodation.</p> <p>“Just because we’re PGT we shouldn’t be overlooked and given bad quality!!”.</p> <p>Accommodation not guaranteed to home students.</p> <p>“Accommodation social: room was too small for so many people.”</p> <p>“Twodio’s don’t have a kitchen – no info beforehand.”</p> <p>“More advertisement, earlier advertisement” of accommodation.</p> <p>“Green Park house key collection too far.”</p> <p>“Moving in was terrible & the move in was shocking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didn’t get the chance to collect second hand products from the previous year. • Organise events better and prepare for large numbers.”

	<p>“No security in city accommodation for immediate noise complaint.”</p> <p>“Need more help with accommodation rules are strict to move out.”</p> <p>Accommodation is expensive compared to other unis. It costs as much as halls in London.</p> <p>“Postgraduate accommodation is awful – overpriced and horrible quality.”</p> <p>Other Comments:</p> <p>The difference between the scheduled time & actual arrival time of busses. It wastes a lot of time for students who already have a demanding schedule.</p> <p>Timetabling: huge gaps between lectures (one lecture at 9am, other lecture at 5-6pm); makes it hard to have a job</p> <p>Not having Wednesday afternoons off makes it impossible to join sports.</p> <p>No past papers are given to prepare for exams.</p> <p>“This session was a good brainstorming session.”</p>
	<p>The meeting ended at [15:13].</p>
<p>Item No</p>	<p>Actions</p>