



Student panel update

Purpose

1. To update the board on the work of the student panel.

Recommendations/Decisions required by the board

2. The board is invited to note:
 - a. The updates in this paper.
 - b. The minutes from previous panel meetings which have been approved by the panel and will be published on the OfS website.

Paper publication

3. This report will be made available on the OfS website.
4. For more information, please contact: Emma Maskell, Head of Student Engagement and Information, Emma.Maskell@officeforstudents.org.uk.

Update

5. The student panel met on 2 March 2023, where it discussed:
 - a. The harassment and sexual misconduct consultation
 - b. The equality of opportunity risk register
 - c. The pilot prevalence survey on sexual misconduct.
6. The item on the harassment and sexual misconduct consultation focused on discussing the proposals, and how the OfS can encourage other students to share their views.
 - a. The panel asked clarifying questions about the proposals, including how the proposed condition of registration would be implemented, who would deliver training on misconduct at providers, and how student and staff relationships would be handled in the case of postgraduate research students who also have teaching roles.
 - b. An additional meeting has been arranged for 20 March with the panel to continue discussing how the OfS can encourage other students to share their views.
7. A presentation about the equality of opportunity risk register was shared for information. It included an introduction to what it is, and how providers could use it across the student lifecycle to ensure that they are acting on the greatest risks to their students or potential students.
8. The final session focused on the pilot prevalence survey on sexual misconduct. The panel were asked for their feedback on the proposed survey questions, and how we can minimise the potential for harm to the participants taking the survey.
 - a. The panel fed back:
 - i. Use of language is important for this topic.
 - ii. Sending the survey around assessment periods could be triggering to students, potentially impacting their grades.
 - iii. Consideration is needed for the questions to ensure they are inclusive of the LGBTQ community, and different cultures.
 - iv. A question around how incidences of sexual misconduct impacted students' mental health in the long and short term would be useful.
 - v. It is important to signpost to mental health resources as a way to minimise harm, as it could be the first time a student is sharing their experiences.
9. Rachel Houchen also joined the panel meeting to discuss her experiences as a board member.
10. Other activities the panel has been involved with include:
 - a. Attending the OfS staff conference.

- b. Participating in an expert advisory group for the sexual misconduct prevalence survey.
 - c. Participating in an expert panel for the postgraduate conversion course programme funding competition.
 - d. Speaking at a student webinar for the harassment and sexual misconduct consultation.
 - e. Participating in a focus group session about the OfS's communications approach to recruiting new student panel members.
11. Minutes from the January and March student panel meetings have been submitted to the board at Annex A and Annex B for information. These will be published on the OfS website.
12. The next student panel meeting will take place on 8 June 2023.