

Accountability Board Report

James Lord, Accountability Board Chair

Since election the Accountability Board has been working with Student Voice to set out how we will operate for the year 2018/19. To date the Board has met twice, firstly to discuss duties and responsibilities and subsequently to discuss matters arising at Union Council.

The Accountability Board have recently begun operating drop in sessions, these sessions act like office hours and are held for one hour every two weeks in the Hive. We felt it was important that in addition to being able to conduct us through student voice or directly by email that we were approachable.

The Board have spent a good amount of time familiarising itself with the UPSU bylaws as well as its governing document and processes in order to be able to conduct the role in a more effective manner.

As Chair of the Accountability Board it is my responsibility to attend Union Council meetings and ensure they are conducted in a fair and democratic manner, as well as report any concerns or queries that the Board might have. I have attended the two meetings to date and the Board has had no concerns which it has felt it needed to raise.

The Board plan to continue working to promote itself among students, we are an important part of student democracy and while we should only be needed if something goes wrong, it is vital that students know we are here on their behalf. So I implore you all to please help us spread the word that we are here.

The Board operates an open door policy, if you ever need our assistance please contact the student voice team, or the Accountability Board email address: accountability@upsu.com and we will do our upmost to assist you in any way we can.

It is important to remember that Accountability is not dirty, nor should it intimidate you from speaking with us, if you want to know why a decision was taken, if you want to voice your opposition be it directly or indirectly this is what we are here for. As I have said, we are here on your behalf.

Thank you.