

Good Scrutiny Awards 2010



Liverpool Guild of Students

Taking new steps to ensure increased accountability to its members, the Guild created a scrutiny function in 2009/10. The Board of Trustees wanted to ensure that they were helping the student community in the best ways possible by placing students at the heart of their planning and decision-making process. The Student Council has looked around to see what works in other settings and has recruited independent people from outside the university to help them develop their scrutiny function.

Impact

- The implementation of scrutiny is being promoted as good practice at national conferences across the sector later this year.
- Elected representatives reflect concerns from their 'communities' and Student Council has regular opportunities to comment on the process.
- The Guild recognises the role of 'independent minded' students and panel members can attend site visits and are encouraged to carry out their own research.
- Scrutiny has already had an impact on performance measures, timescales and communications – it has a more focused approach towards achieving positive change.

Why shortlisted

- This entry demonstrates an innovative (perhaps unique) approach to scrutiny and accountability in an academic environment.
- Elected student representatives and external co-optees are working together to develop scrutiny so that it supports the Guild's mission to 'listen, lobby and lead'.
- Although in its early days, this entry shows evidence that scrutiny has already begun to influence strategy.
- This work shows the Student Council taking a new approach to holding the Board of Trustees to account.

“ Liverpool Guild of Students has delved into the unknown successfully by changing its model which has allowed it to be more accountable by placing students at the heart of the planning and decision making process. Not only has this ensured that the views and concerns of the membership are being reflected, but it also fulfils an aim of Students' Unions to give their members opportunities to develop themselves. ”

Kimberley Neal, Student Representation Coordinator, Association of Managers in Students Unions (AMSU) Reps Group Regional Co-ordinator (North West)