

It is the Scrutiny Committee's job to function as a unit to hold Full-time and Part-time officers accountable to ensure that they are completing their work to the highest standard for students to gain from them in their positions as representatives. The following literature follows the Scrutiny process for the Part time officers and highlights key areas for improvement as well as their triumphs this far into the academic year. As a committee, we would like to thank the officers for their hard work so far as they are making necessary changes to help students gain the best university experience possible. It should be noted that Part-time officers work alongside their studies with less resources and time than Full-time officers and the process of scrutiny is adjusted accordingly in this document.

Dr Vaishnavi Chaudhari (Postgraduate Officer 2023/24)

Vaishnavi has ambitious goals beginning this role such as their working hours project, a national issue for post-grad students during vacation periods e.g., The month off appointed for the Easter holidays. Currently the maximum number of hours allowed to be worked by a post-grad student is 20 hours alongside the burden of decreased funding for their cost-of-living. This project, although not finished, should see benefits for post-grad students aiming to fund themselves through their education. Included in this project is a goal for completion before the Easter holidays. Vaishnavi provided a well-structured report including SMART goals to facilitate our understanding of their work which Scrutiny is grateful for. Vaishnavi has also taken on the admirable task of tackling timetabling within the University which has seen little progress thus far, but it has been acknowledged that this is a sizable change across departments which will require campaigning and large amounts of support.

Vaishnavi has taken on heavy projects which seem to be slow moving which inclines Scrutiny to push for some smaller projects to benefit their cohort in the meantime to prevent progress becoming stationary and function as a plan B in the event of University non-compliance which is likely given the amount of restructuring these initiatives would entail. Scrutiny raises the question of why the careers team is not collaborating symbiotically with the officer throughout its duration, so we would like to see more co-operation on this project. We would like to see more evidence of current projects from Vaishnavi due to missing information in their report. In the case of timetabling and working hours, these projects would be better supplemented with the support of other officers to make change so there is pressure on the university to implement these.

Vaishnavi receives a 'pass' from Scrutiny. The issues being tackled by Vaishnavi are relevant but sizable and the amount of progression is understandable given the resources of a part-time-officer. However, Scrutiny would like to see smaller-scale initiatives to ensure they are delivering impactful change on behalf of the students they represent.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and should you have any questions please feel free to email me at yb154@student.le.ac.uk.