

**OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**  
**CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **receive** the reports
- ii) **note** that unless this paper is starred for discussion prior to the meeting, printed copies will not be supplied.

Reports submitted by:-

- President (page 2)
- Vice President Administration (page 6)
- Vice President Community (page 7)
- Vice President Media & Campaigns (page 9)
- Vice President Student Support (page 10)
- Student OU Council Member (page 13)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for England (page 15)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for Wales (page 16)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for Scotland (page 17)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for Northern Ireland (page 19)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for Europe (page 20)
- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Business & Law (FBL) (page 21)
- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS) (page 23)
- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Arts & Social Sciences (FASS) (page 25)
- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Science Technology Engineering and Maths (STEM) (page 28)

## REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

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This report covers the period 1 October – 31 December and is an overview rather than a complete list.

### **Specific Concerns raised with the OU (not covered elsewhere)**

- Modules not following the guidance on recording of tutorials
- Delays in Alternative Formats (still) and inaccurate information given out on it

### **Media and Communications**

- Session on the support the Association can offer as part of the Student Hub Live “Support at the OU” Adobe Connect presentation and discussion
- Video for Student Voice Week with the VC
- “Talking Point” interview with the VC
- Student Support video on deferring

### **Board of Trustees**

I have completed my last meeting acting as Chair of the Board, since we have successfully recruited an external Chair. He attended our December meeting as an observer, and assuming his appointment is ratified by the CEC, I look forward to him assuming the role in February. As per my remit, I will continue to act as Deputy Chair. We have not yet recruited an external trustee with financial expertise; we will attempt to do so again in the new year.

Trustees have met twice since my last report. Matters discussed include finance reports and safeguarding. Work is still ongoing post-incorporation, but the intensity of this is much reduced, and the old unincorporated Association will soon be able to be wound up as legal entity.

### **Appointments Committee**

We received further applications for Central Committee Representatives during Student Voice Week, and Appointments Committee were glad to be able to appoint to some vacancies.

### **Student Voice Steering Group**

The topics discussed here included plans for Student Voice Week (led by Head of Student Voice in our office); the Staff-Facing Student Voice Hub, the Representation Review, and ideas for a Student Voice Event in January. The January event will include both internal and external speakers, and feature workshops on student partnership and reaching the hard-to-reach, both co-led by students and staff.

### **Meetings**

Again, not an exhaustive list.

Induction meetings with new OU staff

- New Vice Chancellor
- New Director, LDS

- New starters in PVC Students Office
- Special Projects Officer in Academic Services
- Chair of AL Executive

One-off OU meetings, either about specific issues with individuals or groups

- Maths and Stats Curriculum Workshop (because we only had one CCR available to go and they were particularly keen to have decent student representation)
- Concerning opportunities for students to attend OpenFest
- To discuss Association involvement in the QAA review in 2021
- To discuss the student nominated AL teaching awards as part of the OU's Recognition of Excellence in Teaching awards.
- To discuss the governance of the Examinations and Assessment strand of Core Systems Replacement
- With OU in Scotland to discuss the potential for a grant application for a joint project to support mental health (an adaptation of the previous Student Led Project "well-boxed")
- With VP Student Support, Head of Student Support, Faculty Reps and staff from Student Support and Student Recruitment and Fees teams.
- With Director and Deputy Director of eSTEEeM to discuss the possibilities for paying students for larger scale involvement in scholarship projects
- Update/ Presentation on student-facing aspects of Core Systems Replacement
- With UCU about the then forthcoming industrial action
- With a member of OU staff on student use of social media
- Interview as part of the enquiry on Alternative Formats
- Planning for Student Voice event

Regular "catch up" meetings with the OU formally, and with specific OU staff; these happen at various intervals (from monthly to quarterly)

- Director, Learning Experience & Technology
- Library
- Strategy Office
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Students
- Team in PVC Students office
- Government & External Affairs
- Director of Academic Services and Head of Student Support
- Senior Manager, Student Voice
- Assessment, Credit and Qualifications

Regular meetings with CEC and Association staff

- With Deputy President, Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive
- With Chief Executive
- With Sue McCabe
- With the Strategy Project Steering Group

Specific Students Association meetings

- To discuss potentially revised volunteer roles
- Induction meetings with new Association staff
- With Chair and Secretary of DSG, and Head of Student Support

OU Committees and Groups

- PVC Students Advisory Group

- Apprenticeships Steering Group
- Education Committee
- AL Contract Steering Group
- Support for New Students working group
- Senior Team
- Council
- Technology Steering Group
- Recording Tutorials Policy working group
- Sustainability Week Planning Group
- Sustainability Group
- Senate (and Senate Reference Group, which I chaired following the resignation of VP Education)
- Access, Participation and Success Steering Group
- Student Consultation Management Group
- eSTEEem Student Reference Panel

## **Other events**

### OU events

- Presenting WELS Teaching Awards
- World Mental Health Day workshop
- Being a table facilitator at the Climate Emergency Forum
- Speaking at “Pioneer Reception” at OpenFest
- Middle States Reaccreditation Visit
- AL Assembly
- Introducing and doing speaker transitions at OpenTalks event “Chemists in their Element”
- Presenting at the eSTEEem online student-facing conference
- Co-presenting on “Sense of Belonging” at Glasgow and Cambridge AL Professional Development events
- Presenting on “Students and Social Media – How to Make it Work” at Cambridge AL Professional Development event
- With Head of Digital Communications, pres

### OU seminars and conferences

- On TMA Monitoring
- On the Scholarship Centres’ Tuition Projects outcomes, and implications of these
- On Alternatives to Exams

### OU Recruitment

- Longlisting, Shortlisting and Interviewing for the appointment of University Secretary

### Association Recruitment

- Shortlisting and Interviewing for external trustees

### Association events

- Strategy Launch Event for OU staff on Milton Keynes campus
- University Challenge auditions
- With Sue MacCabe, focus group on Individual Representation
- With Billy Docherty, student workshop on analytics in Edinburgh

## **Other ongoing engagement with students**

I continue to be a frequent visitor to the “Talk to Your Students Association” forum and to the main Open University group on Facebook, as well as various other forums and groups connected with the Association and the OU. I also use my own social media (Twitter and my page) to engage and promote Association events. I have also attended local meet ups and/or society events where possible.

*Cath Brown*  
*President*

## REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION

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This is my report to the Central Executive Committee and covers my activity from October 2019 to December 2019. I have attended meetings with Alison regarding various aspects of my role and also with Rob and Magda regarding the *ex officio* posts on OUSET and OSL. During this period, I attended the Strategy launch, which was well attended. I have liaised with Alison regarding the end of financial year accounts and the initiation of the Bye-Laws review, which was carried out during this quarter. In November I attended an NCVO conference in my Trustee role as VP Admin which was extremely informative, especially with regards to safeguarding issues and volunteer's policy. The election review was reinitiated with help from Steph, and I also attended a meeting with Steph, Wendy and two people from the ERS team regarding issues raised in previous elections and posed questions for them regarding the forth coming elections. In December, the 2020 Conference Steering Group was set up and I was involved in choosing the five new non-CEC members onto the team. Everything is running smoothly so far, and I am looking forward to our first face2face meeting. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Societies meeting due to prior commitments. In December, I was involved in auditing various Society end of year Accounts. Although, I must report that the number of those submitted were few. Nevertheless, there were a couple of new societies that joined us. As VP Admin. I am a member of the Board of Trustees. Full details of non-confidential Trustee activity can be found in the minutes of the Board meetings and the CEO's report to the CEC.

### Diary

14 January Remuneration Committee meeting  
18 January 2020 Conference Steering Committee meeting

### Upcoming events (dates subject to change)

2/3 March CEC Project Meeting

*Caroline Cowan*  
*Vice President Administration*

## REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY

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This is my first report for this year, so I would like to wish you a very happy and academically fulfilling New Year 2020!

My last report concentrated on Freshers Fortnight. We had a successful couple of weeks introducing new students to the Open University Students Association and making them feel welcome, and also welcoming back the continuing students.

A report detailing the impact of Freshers Fortnight will be published at a later date.

### **Clubs and Societies**

The number of clubs increased in the last few months, we welcomed a few more clubs to our ever-growing offer. Students continued to enjoy getting together and sharing their love of stationery, crime TV, tips and tricks about how to study while being parents.

Societies – On 30<sup>th</sup> November there was a meeting of the Societies Committee. The main things discussed related to the difficulties societies had recruiting committee members and sharing best practice on how to attract more members and offer a variety of events. We also started planning the societies' presence at the upcoming Students Association Biennial Conference which will take place in June 2020.

### **Community Drop Ins**

Community Drop Ins continued to take place every fortnight, with new and continuing students getting together to talk about all things OU, have fun, ask questions about how to get the best of their OU studying experience and generally support each other.

### **University Challenge**

We organised the new University Challenge team for 2020 and their first face to face get-together and warm up will take place on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January. There will be a very quizzical evening, with matches between the 2020 team and the 2019 team, and also the 2020 team and the OU staff team. I would like to wish the 2020 team a very successful warm up event and good luck for the University Challenge!

### **Students Association Presence at Day Schools and Residential Schools in 2020**

This was part of my manifesto when I stood for this role in the 2019 bye-elections. I am in the process of getting together a team of volunteers and all the required materials, and they will trial the Students Association presence at tutorial, day school and residential schools' venues all over the country. After the evaluation of this pilot project, a decision will be made regarding the expansion of this project at more tutorial venues in all four nations.

### **Conference Steering Committee**

Just before breaking up for Christmas, together with the President and VP Admin, I took part in the selection of members for the Conference Steering Committee. Conference 2020 will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> June 2020 and we already started the discussion about the different aspects of conference (business, entertainment, workshops, expositions, etc). The team is very strong and I am looking forward to being part of the organisation of a great event, a highlight of our Students Association calendar in 2020.

## **Meeting attended since the last report**

25<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 – Birmingham Graduation (as student volunteer on the stall and in my capacity as OUStudents Shop Director)  
28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – Students Association Strategy Launch (campus)  
31<sup>st</sup> October 2019 – Community Drop In (online)  
14<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Community Drop In (online)  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Meeting with Head of Volunteering re: Students Association presence at tutorial, day schools and residential schools venues  
26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Meeting with the Operations Team Supervisor re: OUStudents Shop presence at residential schools, January/February Freshers face to face events and other events (campus)  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Community Drop In (online)  
30<sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Societies Committee Meeting (campus)  
10<sup>th</sup> December, 2019 – Interviews for Project Officer – Community (campus)

## **Future meetings**

9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Community Drop In (online)  
10<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 – University Challenge Warm Up (campus)  
14<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 – Training for meet-up hosts (online)  
18<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 – Conference Steering Committee 1<sup>st</sup> meeting face to face (campus)  
23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020 – Community Drop In (online)  
24<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – CEC Weekend (Milton Keynes)  
27<sup>th</sup> January – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Freshers Fortnight – various online events  
8<sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Freshers Face to Face event at the OU in Scotland with Billy Docherty (faculty rep for FASS)

*Anca Seaton*  
*Vice President Community*



## REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT MEDIA & CAMPAIGNS

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This report covers my term from end of October until January. With the holiday season, not a lot has been happening compare to other quarters.

### **Website**

The Digi Comms team and I have identified issues with the website and further input was gathered from CEC. Leah, one of our Comms officers has been working on prioritising and these changes with our website developer Gravit-e. This work is still ongoing.

### **NSS**

Together with head of Digi Comms, Heather I have been attending and contributing to the University's NSS meetings which have been running since November. This group focuses on the communications to students and the completion rate once we start receiving the data. This work is also very important to the Association, therefore we are due to have a meeting in January with the staff team to map out a communications plan to help promote the completion of NSS and help students understand more about it.

### **Studio**

With the recent rebranding of the Studio, the staff team and I have been having meetings about the new content for the Studio. This will include longer videos, podcasts and shorter time sensitive content as well as ad-hoc content creation when necessary.

### **Mapping the digital content**

The staff team and I met in October as part of a workshop to help us identify events that will influence our digital content creation. This will be used as a point of information to support the work of the staff team.

### **The Hoot Advent Calendar**

A special mention to Sam Kenealy, one of our Digital Comms officers for making the Hoot Advent Calendar successful and engaging. More about it can be seen here: <https://thehootstudents.com/history-of-the-advent-calendar/>

*Fanni Zombor*  
*Vice President Media and Campaigns*

## REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT SUPPORT

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This report covers my role as V P Student Support since October 2019. The Student Support remit generally includes anything that can have an impact on students. I oversee the Peer Support Service, Chair Service Review and Joint SRSC/SST Association Reps meetings, and I am a Trustee of OUSET (OU Students Educational Trust).

### Peer Support Service

Our Peer Supporters continue to support students and answer one off queries. The Service is available to all students who need a listening ear. Please look at our site [here](#) which gives some information about what you can expect and ways to contact a Supporter.

Peer Supporters are active on Facebook, with a Facebook Page called 'OU Students Peer Support' and can be found here - <https://www.facebook.com/OUstudentsPeerSupport/>. If you message the page, your posts and the replies will be private so others will not be able to see the messages.

### O U S E T (OUSET)

The OU Students Educational Trust is the Association's Charity for students experiencing financial hardship. Details can be found [here](#). I attended the OUSET Trustee meeting in October.

### Service Review Meetings

Service Review meetings discuss matters relating to Academic Services and IT.

A number of topics were discussed in October, including:

- Various study booklets are on the Help Centre, some of them have recently been updated. These booklets include general study skills, assignment preparation and studying for an exam. There are also some aimed at students with additional requirements such as Dyslexia, d/Deafness, <https://help.open.ac.uk/booklets>
- The implications for students studying who are still using Windows 7 because this no longer receives security updates. The OU said that there is a security update concern for those who do not upgrade to Windows 10 because patches will no longer be issued. The OU would never turn away students on the basis that they have not upgraded, but they may well encourage students to upgrade.
- Insufficient information regarding emTMAs submission on the Help Centre. The OU agreed that this could be improved because there was not enough distinct information about emTMAs, such as what happens when an emTMA is submitted before the deadline.
- Regarding what the OU APP is. The app has been released for 21 modules and should be released further in due course. It should have more functionality than OU Anywhere and the OU is looking at whether Forums can be incorporated. It will essentially be an extension of the Module website.

## **S S T / S R S C Meetings (Student Support Teams; Student Recruitment and Support Centres)**

October saw the first meeting between a range of staff in the England SSTs / SRSCs and Association reps, including the Faculty Association Reps (FARs) and the England and European Area Reps. Various suggestions were made about how best to work closer together including how best to report issues affecting students. We are hoping to have another meeting early this year.

### **Student Support**

Cherry (V P Equality and Diversity) and I continue to have regular meetings with the OU about the support offered to students.

### **Facebook**

I continue to be active on Facebook but it is always great to see other students helping out with responses before I get the chance sometimes.

### **Alternative Formats**

Some students waited weeks for materials of modules starting in October 2019. The OU and Students Association Reps, including the President and Vice President Equality and Diversity and me, are continuing to work at ensuring affected students receive what they need and that this is not repeated in future. Students who feel their studies have been affected please consider completing a Special Circumstances form at the appropriate time even though the OU will complete one on behalf of all affected students. If you received your materials late and this is having an impact on your study you should have been contacted by the OU, if not, please consider contacting the OU to discuss any ongoing problems. The OU is generally trying to be helpful.

### **Help Centre Feedback**

The Help Centre has huge amounts of information that can help us in our study and can be found via Student Home or following this link - [Help Centre](#) I have ongoing discussions with Help Centre staff regarding how to show students our feedback can change what they include. One outcome is that in the near future there is likely to be an infographic which will show the journey our Help Centre feedback takes after we post it.

### **eSTEEeM Online Meeting**

I attended a meeting online run by eSTEEeM discussing scholarship which looks into how students learn. A couple of those mentioned the benefits of the OU enabling students to start their study early. What started in one module will be trialling this.

### **Graduation Ceremony**

I was fortunate to attend the Milton Keynes Graduation Ceremony in November. Always one of my favourite experiences, watching the friends, families and students, celebrate the achievements of students.

## **Various Meetings**

There are ongoing Task and Finish Groups I attend, including recording tutorials. I've recently been added to Group that will be discussing communications with students.

Please forward any parts of this report elsewhere. If you would like to contact me, please email [oustudents-support@open.ac.uk](mailto:oustudents-support@open.ac.uk)

## **Future Commitments**

<b>January 22nd</b>	Senate Reference Group and Senate
<b>January 23rd</b>	Service Review
<b>January 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Central Executive Committee Meeting
<b>January 27<sup>th</sup></b>	Communications Task and Finish Group
<b>January 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Workshop
<b>March 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Corporate Parenting Meeting

*Alison Kingan*  
*Vice President Student Support*

## REPORT OF STUDENT OU COUNCIL MEMBER

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Since my last report, in addition to attending Council meetings I have continued to stand in for VP Ed on the OU's TEF Management and Authoring Groups and on the Qualifications and Assessment Committee (QAC). I have also been appointed to the Academic Governance Advisory Group which will be working with Senate to decide whether and how to implement the changes to academic governance recommended by Advance HE. I continue to be a member of the Student Charter Review Group, the Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group and the Association Strategy Development Steering Group, which is currently making plans to launch our new Association Strategy in the nations.

### **Council Meeting 25/26 November 2019**

Due to the weight of business (25 separate papers totalling nearly 600 pages) Council met on the afternoon of 25 November to receive presentations on governors' duties with regard to Prevent and on the University's Access and Participation Plan and also to consider routine business where a quorum was not required. Amongst the reports included in this session was the Association Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2018/19, which was well received.

The formal meeting of the Council took place on the following day. Agenda items included consideration and approval of the University's 2018/19 Financial Statements and the 2019 Accountability returns, regular updates on institutional performance, Core Systems Replacement, FutureLearn and the AL Contract, as well as a review of the Strategic Risk Register and an assessment of the University's progress in meeting OfS requirements. In discussion of the Annual Quality Report the inclusion of an action plan listing outcomes and actions to address external and internal quality review activities was warmly welcomed.

### **Council meetings by correspondence December 2019**

Two additional meetings were held by correspondence during December

1. to approve the appointment of Dave Hall as the new University Secretary. Dave will be joining the OU from the University of Leicester on 1<sup>st</sup> April
2. to approve the appointment of Professor Josie Fraser to the substantive post of Deputy Vice-Chancellor. Josie has been acting as DVC for the past 12 months and has now been appointed to the substantive role on a 5 year secondment

### **TEF Management and Authoring Groups**

Participation in the next round of the Teaching Excellence and Outcomes Framework (TEF 5) is a condition of OfS registration. The independent review of TEF mandated by the Higher Education and Research Act (the Pearce review) was submitted to the government in the summer but it has not yet been published so we do not know what their recommendations are or whether they are likely to be adopted. As a consequence, the Office for Students (OfS) has recently confirmed that there will be no TEF in 2020. Following the publication of the Pearce review and the government response, OfS will consult on a new TEF framework later this year. However, in order to be ready for whatever comes next the University is working on updating and strengthening its 15 page provider submission with the help of a small group of students who have

commented extensively on the draft. The collaboration appears to be working well and the student input is being taken seriously, which is a welcome development.

### **Academic Governance Advisory Group**

The Advance HE report contained 35 recommendations, grouped under 12 headings. The advisory group has met twice since its inception, with a third meeting due on 7 January. It has agreed terms of reference and methods of working and has undertaken a prioritisation exercise to identify interdependencies and the probable duration and likely difficulty of implementation for each recommendation. Following a workshop for Senate members held on 12 December, the group is now preparing an initial report to present to the Senate meeting on 22 January.

### **Some of the meetings and activities I have attended since my last report**

14 Oct	Student Charter Task and Finish Group
15 Oct	Climate Emergency Forum/SRG Induction
16 Oct	SRG and Senate
22 Oct	TEF Management meeting
23 Oct	Governance and Nominations Committee
23 Oct	Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
25-27 Oct	CEC weekend
28 Oct	Association Strategy Launch
4 Nov	QAC (substituting for VP Ed)
12 Nov	Academic Governance Review Group
19 Nov	TEF Management Group
25 Nov	Council
26 Nov	Council
28 Nov	Academic Governance Advisory Group
4 Dec	Association Strategy Steering Group
7 Jan	Academic Governance Advisory Group

### **Future meetings**

13 Jan	Student Charter Task and Finish Group
22 Jan	SRG and Senate
23 Jan	Appointments Committee
24-26 Jan	CEC weekend
27 Jan	Code of Practice Workshop
28 Jan	Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group
29 Jan	Governance and Nominations Committee
30 Jan	Student Voice Steering Group
11 Feb	QAC
13 Feb	Student Charter Task and Finish Group
20 Feb	Academic Governance Advisory Group
10 Mar	Council
12 Mar	Academic Governance Advisory Group
18 Mar	Strategy Development Steering Group
25 Mar	Governance and Nominations Committee
30 Mar	Discussion of PRG Report
1 April	Joint meeting of Council and Senate

*Barbara Tarling*  
*Student Member of OU Council*

## REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR ENGLAND

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This is the quarterly report for the Area Association Representative for England from November 2019 – January 2020.

Following the last C E C meeting in October 2019, I have been involved in the following:

I was invited by our Vice President Student Support, Alison Kingan, to take part in a meeting between members of the C E C and the OUs Student Support Teams. The meeting focused on how we can ensure students are supported and given the right advice when contacting the teams. Discussions were very productive, and some actions were taken away to review. I look forward to further opportunities to meet with our OU colleagues as we seek to work together to ensure all our students have a positive experience when getting in touch.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019 I attended the launch of the new Association Strategy on campus with fellow C E C members and staff from the Students Association office. It was a great afternoon and a great opportunity to shout a little bit about all the excellent work the Association does for OU students.

I continue to be a member of the Strategy Project Steering Group as we are not quite finished yet. We have planned some events to take place in the Nations and we will be meeting again in March to review some of the key performance measures that we will be putting in place to monitor the success of the Strategy and the objectives within it.

Following the last C E C I have also joined the Elections Review Working Group which is tasked with reviewing our student elections to see what we can do to raise awareness and also to increase voter turnout, which has unfortunately been lower of late. The group have been discussing different options and will be taking some recommendations to the January C E C meeting for further discussion.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> December I attended the meeting of the Student Consultation Management Group remotely. We are well into the planning phase of the next round of face to face and online consultations for Spring 2020 and the OU team in the Consultation Office are currently finalising the topics for consultation, dates and venues. Further information will be sent out in early 2020 as recruitment for these events opens.

### **Social Media and Forums**

I continue to maintain a presence on various social media sites and have been answering queries from students who have messaged me directly or posted on any of the pages and groups of which I am a member.

### **Upcoming events**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Online Adobe Connect session with the OU regarding new classification algorithms.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Quarterly C E C business weekend.

Dates TBC – Online Freshers events as required.

*Danielle Smith*  
*Area Association Representative England*

## REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR WALES

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While I have kept track of forums etc, due to a period of ill health, I have largely been unavailable during this reporting period.

*Lucy Richardson*  
*Area Association Representative Wales*



## **REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR SCOTLAND**

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This report will be rather shorter compared to the usual, as C E C members will be aware, due to health reasons and family reasons, I have not been able to be as active since the last meeting in October.

### **Social activities and meetups**

Social meetups and activities continue to take place across Scotland, and I continue to get involved where I can with the regular Community Drop In sessions on Adobe Connect. There is a further Freshers' event in the planning for when the January/February module starts. I am pleased with the interest in the social meetups, especially given a few new ones have sprung up since my last report to the C E C !!

### **O U in Scotland and external meetings**

A few days after the C E C met in October, the latest meeting of the Student and Staff Engagement Group (Scotland) (S S E G S) met in Edinburgh. I attended this meeting by Skype. Matters discussed at the meeting included the O U I S Self Evaluation Report that they undertake on their Outcome Agreement, submitted each academic year to the Scottish Funding Council (S F C), the O U 50<sup>th</sup> celebration events held in Scotland, and student voice. As with all S S E G S meetings, as A A R Scotland, I submit a regular update paper on our activities within the Association in Scotland and our involvement in O U I S and external body events/meetings/projects.

As I outlined in my last report, one such project was the Student Led project, alongside Billy as F A R F A S S and Cath, as President, as part of the O U I S work on the Q A A Enhancement Themes. The one day event was held at the O U I S on November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Due to health reasons, I was unable to attend on the day. However, I am sure that Billy and Cath in their reports, will be able to give more detail on how the event went. Despite the very positive initial take up of places, this did not translate into a large turnout on the day itself. I am told though, despite this, that the event was a success and there will be things to take from the day going forward that will be of use. Following this, a few weeks prior to Christmas, I, along with the institutional team at the O U I S, attended the Themes' Leaders Group meeting as part of the work on the Themes, in Glasgow. The December meeting of the T L G includes all institutional teams and updates on work that institutions are doing, relating to the themes, as well as looking forward to the next Theme. There was a session during the meeting, and some interesting ideas came out as to what the next Theme will be. Another interesting breakout session on the day involved looking at what other institutions have been doing as part of their work on the Themes and being able to evaluate those – as well as having our own looked at! It was an interesting exercise to undertake and does give opportunities for some collaboration with other universities. The following week, I met with the institutional team at the O U I S for their regular meetings on the work they are doing as part of the Themes; we looked at the T L G event and what we took from it, to inform the work going forward.

I attended the newly formed Sparqs National Education Officers Network event at Glasgow Caledonian University, in mid-November (as a group, we decided to rename it N E O N – hence the new name you see here!) This event brings together student officers from all colleges and universities in Scotland, and allows us to share best

practice, as well as learn of the latest developments in the sector. The next meeting of N E O N will take place at Fife College, Dunfermline campus, in mid-February. In the meantime, as I outlined in my last report, I am involved in a working group on mental health in the curriculum, with other student officers, as part of Sparqs' work in this area. The group has met twice since my last report, and at present we are currently looking at mini projects being set up as part of the work being done – we can be involved in some of this work, however, some more thought needs to be given as to what is relevant to us as compared to the campus-based institutions. The group's work is intended to be showcased at the N U S Scotland's Think Positive Student Mental Health Conference, taking place in May, in Stirling.

I attended a Skype meeting with Scottish Student Sport and the O U I S in early November. This initial meeting proved positive in ascertaining how we can be involved with S S S and what they do in promoting sporting activities for students.

The annual O U Student Consultative Meeting in Scotland has been pencilled in for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, again to be held in Glasgow. I hope to be able to attend this year.

### **Activities and meetings attended since the last C E C**

October 30 O U I S Staff and Engagement Group (Scotland) meeting (attended via Skype)

November 1 Scottish Student Sport pre-meeting (via Skype)

November 8 Q A A Enhancement Themes Student Led Project catch up meeting (via Skype)

November 11 Scottish Student Sport meeting, Edinburgh

November 11 Sparqs Mental Wellbeing Working Group meeting (attended via Skype)

November 14 Sparqs Scottish Education Officers Network meeting, Glasgow

December 10 Q A A Enhancement Themes Leaders Group meeting, Glasgow

December 11 Sparqs Mental Wellbeing Working Group meeting (attended via Skype)

December 16 O U I S Q A A Enhancement Themes Institutional Group meeting (attended via Skype)

### **Future Commitments**

March 7 O U I S Student Consultative Meeting, Glasgow (T B C)

April 24 – 26 C E C Meeting, Milton Keynes

*Mark Cameron*  
*Area Association Representative for Scotland*

## **REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

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I am launching a new initiative to grow the meet-ups in Northern Ireland due to an increasing lack of interest in meet-ups in the greater Belfast area.

I will be taking the meet-ups outside of the metropolitan region to outer-lying towns in order to enable those students who cannot make it into the city to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in a meet-up closer to where they live.

A budget is available for me to achieve this and discussions are ongoing with Belfast staff as to how to effectively use this resource.

Promotion of the Opportunity Hub has yielded positive results, with students here becoming aware of paid placements that exist in NI. I will continue to promote this important service as the feedback has been excellent.

The Apprenticeship and Opportunities scheme is looking very promising. I have promoted this on the Northern Ireland Facebook page and five applications were received within one week. Information regarding these applications was passed on to staff.

I had a meeting with Belfast staff where we discussed the Quality and Evaluation Internship, Young Enterprise NI which is exclusive to Northern Ireland students. Applications were received via the Facebook page indicating great interest.

Further areas of discussion focused on working with staff to develop the Facebook page and a Twitter account for NI students; creating a connect with the newly-elected AAR for the Republic of Ireland; promote the Opportunity Hub by way of offering 'Opportunity of the Week' style promotions.

This concludes my report for this period.

*Wendy Reid*  
*Area Association Representative for Northern Ireland*

## REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR EUROPE

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This is a report about my activities as the Area Association Representative (A A R) for Continental Europe. In this role, I am responsible for representing and reporting upon the views of students living in Continental Europe to the C E C and informing the C E C about Association Activities within Continental Europe.

### **Social Activities**

There has been some interest in face to face meetings from students at the Facebook groups (Northern Europe, Switzerland). In all occasions the link to the O U S A website about meet ups was provided (<https://www.oustudents.com/about-meet-ups>) so students can advertise their meet-ups there and be supported by the Community team. Moreover, I suggested for them to contact me if they needed any further assistance.

### **Social Media**

I have been given administrator rights at the Facebook groups for Southern and Northern Europe. I am also a member, and in some cases administrator, to some Southern Europe national groups (France, Spain, Italy, Greece and Switzerland). I have also requested membership to some local national Northern Europe groups without any response as of yet. Until now, I use my personal Facebook and Twitter accounts for the role, but most news are shared through posting at the Southern and Northern Europe Facebook groups. The current number of group members are as follows: Northern Europe, 336 and Southern Europe, 254. V L E forums were silent as usual and I have provided my contact info there as well.

### **Other Activities**

'Brexit,' and overseas degree recognition continue to be among the most pressing issues which are ongoing from previous terms. I try to follow closely the news about 'Brexit'. I participate at the Student Led Projects Approval Panel.

*Michael Kasoutas*  
*Area Association Representative for Europe*

## **REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR BUSINESS & LAW (FBL)**

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I was rather quiet in this period as my mother passed away a few days after the last CEC and I am still working on sorting out her confirmation (probate in England).

Various student issues were picked up from law forums and social media, including a couple through an active Board of Studies CCR who also moderates social media. These issues were mainly caused by poor communication or misunderstandings and were resolved, however the issue of delayed alternative formats and errors in the printed materials at both level 2 and level 3 appears to be ongoing.

The MSCHE meeting with the FARs, accompanied by Deputy President, went smoothly with answers flowing freely to their questions, the Commissioners appeared to be very satisfied with what they heard and the friendly nature of the questioning suggested they had no concerns.

The Referencing project, changing from OU Harvard to Cite Them Right Harvard (and OSCOLA for law) is proceeding on plan with full implementation from October 2020 starts. Minor issues and progress on communication is dealt with during monthly meetings, which has 3 student representatives.

The library requested the FARs to take part in a podcast called 'Completely Shelfless' but we were unable to find a date where we were all on campus together since there was no budget for expenses. I was able to give (a minority) view from a student who prefers online modules to books as well as discussing the excellent support provided by the library service.

Student Voice Week suffered from the absence of Head of Student Voice. The FBL Student Lecture, delivered by the FBL Dean, was not well promoted either by the faculty nor by the Association although I am not sure that any better publicity would have helped in encouraging students to attend an evening lecture on campus so I think the concept was doomed from the start. I could only see four students in the auditorium, the rest being staff (and me, dragged in from the Association display). The lecture was excellent and thought provoking, examining how global populations will develop and grow in the future with some countries, particularly Japan, facing a crisis with an aging population and extremely low birth rate, leading to a shortage of economically active citizens. There was confusion over a change in the date of FBL lunchtime adobe chat with a faculty academic and an SRSC representative which resulted in no students logging on. It is not known if any tried to join on the original publicised date.

The CCR Induction event was well attended, although the training element was rather superficial in my view. The facilitation was good considering that Head of Student Voice, the organiser, was not able to attend but the staff coped well in her absence.

I was privileged to attend the Board of Trustees meeting as an observer which, although chaired by the President, introduced the new external chair. The amount of business was light but a few of the presenters spoke well on subjects such as how to participate in BoS meetings.

As no CCRs had been appointed to the FBL Assembly, I attended on my own. I had an observer invited as a possible future CCR, however she would not book her own travel and expected this to be arranged for her, so she declined to attend. The intention for the

Deputy President to present our new strategy could not happen due to an over-full agenda which included the new Vice Chancellor, however we had a stand available afterwards along with the Referencing project and Core System Replacement. I had as many interested visitors at our stand as the other two combined (none).

I was asked by Danielle Smith, as a member of the Education Committee, to establish the current position on student concerns over the proposed joint MSc with the University of Bologna. This has raised student concerns at all levels, Board of Study, Teaching Committee, QAC & CuPC as well as the December EC. After consulting with the representatives on the various committees, I met with Mike Lucas, Assoc. Dean, and obtained his comments on the issues before feeding back to the representatives. One representative has expressed ongoing concern and I can update at the CEC if requested. One issue which was not answered by Mike Lucas, as it is not an academic matter, is the increased financial risk from drop-out due to the OU modules moving from year 1 to year 2. The financial justification is based on the original proposal of students starting with the OU in year 1. Council rep. Barbara Tarling has confirmed this is not a matter for Council but a faculty risk.

### **Key meetings since the last Central Executive Report**

11 Nov: Middle States Commission for Higher Education (MSCHE) student interviews  
18 Nov: Referencing Implementation Group meeting  
18 Nov: Recording 'Completely Shelfless' podcast  
20 Nov: Student Voice Week - FBL Student Lecture  
23 Nov: New CCR Induction event  
06 Dec: Board of Trustees observation  
11 Dec: FBL Faculty Assembly  
18 Dec: FBL Assoc Dean re. University of Bologna proposal concerns  
18 Dec: Referencing Implementation Group meeting

### **Forthcoming meetings**

16 Jan: FBL Teaching Committee  
21 Jan: Referencing Implementation Group meeting  
22 Jan: Senate Reference Group

*Matt Porterfield*

*Faculty Student Association Representative for Business and Law (FBL)*

## **REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR WELLBEING, EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE STUDIES (WELS)**

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It has been a busy start to the Academic year with 120 credits at level 3 and many meetings! I have spent a lot of the first part of the year helping fellow students, who like me, have been having issues with their alternative formats leading to trying to help the university understand what has gone wrong and giving my take on how to try to fix it!! I have also had the great pleasure of running two Lego workshops to discuss Student Engagement. The first was during Student Voice week and went well; I am looking forward to getting into the findings and bringing a report back. I also held the same workshop with W E L S E L T. This was great fun and brought some people out of their comfort zones to be able to open up conversations that continued long after the workshop completed.

I also had the pleasure to be at the Associations New Strategy Launch. I felt the day went well and the conversations that we all had were valuable. I am so excited to see the implementation of this exciting new strategy and see where it takes the association. Unfortunately, due to illness, I had to take a step back for a week which meant missing out on going to the Open University TEDx conference. Thankfully I could watch it online, some great ideas and subjects discussed.

I am looking forward to what the next few months have to offer and the opportunity to be able to continue to work on behalf of W E L S students. I am loving working with the students and staff within my faculty and very grateful as always for the support I receive from the C E C and staff of the association.

### **Faculty**

30.10.19 W E L S E L T

5.11.19 W E L S Faculty Assembly

20.11.19 Employability Fair

27.11.19 W E L S E L T

10.12.19 Mince pies and thank you coffee with W E L S Comms team

10.12.19 Meeting with Annha Chowdrey

12.12.19 E C Y S B O S

### **Staff and C E C**

28.10.19 Strategy Launch

20.11.19 Catch up with Rob

21.11.19 I am a Rep adobe connect session

12.12.19 Catch up with Wendy Burrell

20.12.19 Culture Review meeting

### **Other Meetings**

28.10.19 S S T and faculty meeting

28.10.19 Meeting with Catherine Comfort

30.10.19 Referencing video recording  
4.11.19 Cardiff Graduation  
20.11.19 Model Office working group  
22.11.19 Student Engagement Workshop  
23.11.19 C C R day  
27.11.19 Student Voice researcher Project adobe connect session  
10.12.19 P G R Liaison Group  
10.12.19 Student Charter Task and Finish Group  
17.12.19 Student Consultation Management Group  
17.12.19 Alternative Format Inquiry

### **Future Plans**

6.1.19 Review of C C R day  
14.1.20 W E L S Teaching committee  
14.1.20 P G R Liaison Group  
14.1.20 Modle Office Working Group  
22.1.20 Senate Reference Group

Sarah Jones

*Faculty Association Representative for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies  
(WELS)*



## REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)

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### List of Meetings Attended (# indicates further information in main report)

Meeting		Discussion
<i>Glasgow freshers meet up</i>	28/09/19	
<i>Bathgate freshers meet up</i>	29/09/19	
<i>Teaching Committee</i>	03/10/19	Attended my first teaching committee meeting
<i>Student Consultation Planning with Ben Duncan Jones</i>	03/10/19	Started planning for the upcoming student consultation forum on assessment feedback
<i>Meeting with Hilary Jones (Library), Julia Prosser (SRSC) and Beverly Mason (Careers)</i>	04/10/19	Met with the managers of various support services to discuss up and coming FASS events and how they can possibly provide support.
<i>FASS Comms</i>	04/10/19	Attended the FASS comms meeting, discussing how best to support students.
<i>Skype Call re: Referencing Video</i>	10/10/19	Call with Library services and other FARs to discuss upcoming video for students in relation to new referencing system.
<i>Dynamic Earth</i>	15/16 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Manned the OUSA stall at the STEM Dynamic earth event in Edinburgh
<i>Mental health event</i>	21/10/19	Attended Kate Lister event in Edinburgh
<i>Meeting Heads of Schools in FASS</i>	23/10/19	Met 2 of the heads of schools to discuss upcoming FASS events
<i>Reference Implementation Group</i>	23/10/19	Monthly meeting of refencing group
<i>Meeting Alison Kirkbright and Catherine Greenwood (FASS)</i>	24/10/19	Planning for speakeasy video with FASS Exec Dean
<i>CEC Weekend</i>	25 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2019	Attended CEC Weekend
<i>Verity Robinson</i>	25/10/19	Meeting with Verity
<i>Whiteboard tour</i>	25/10/19	PVC Students office
<i>Student/Staff group FASS</i>	28/10/19	Planning for consultation and feedback events
<i>Student Voice Steering Group</i>	28/10/19	Planning for event in Jan 2020
<i>Skype meeting with Peter Turner, Beth Metcalf and Hayley Ness</i>	30/10/19	To discuss the setting up of the new Psychology Students Committee in Scotland
<i>FASS Connected launched</i>	31/10/19	I launched the monthly adobe chat for FASS students

<i>Skype call with Student voice team</i>	31/10/19	To Discuss Student Voice week
<i>Skype call with Shona Littlejohn and Mark Cameron</i>	01/11/19	To discuss upcoming Scottish Students Sport
<i>FASS Tuition event</i>	04/11/19	Attend this event with 2 other CCRs, discussing research by FASTEST into tuition for students.
<i>Zach Eaton (SRSC)</i>	06/11/19	Met with Zach to discuss SRSC strategies and upcoming events for FASS Students
<i>FASS SRSC group</i>	06/11/19	Attended the FASS SRSC planning meeting
<i>Skype with Shadia El-Mokad, Cath Brown and Mark Cameron</i>	08/11/19	Planning meeting for up coming student led event in Edinburgh about Analytics.
<i>Library Pod Cast</i>	11/11/19	Took part in a library podcast interview with FAR for STEM
<i>Student Voice Jan planning event</i>	11/11/19	Met with student voice steering group members to discuss an event in Jan 2020. This will be aimed at staff to discuss how they encourage and support the student voice in their work.
<i>FASTTEST Advisory Group</i>	11/11/19	Attended the scholarship school advisory group.
<i>Faculty Assembly</i>	12/11/19	Attended with 4 student observers
<i>Referencing Group</i>	18/11/19	Monthly meeting
<i>Skype call with Avi Boroowa</i>	20/11/19	Planning for analytics event
<i>SPARQS</i>	20/11/19	Covered this meeting for Mark Cameron (Area Association Rep for Scotland)
<i>Student Voice week event</i>	23/11/19	Attended the student voice event on campus with CCRs
<i>FASS Connected</i>	28/11/19	Monthly Adobe session for FASS students
<i>Analytics Workshop Edinburgh</i>	30/11/19	Along with Cath Brown, we led an all day workshop on analytics and how the OU collect and use them.
<i>Filming for Speakeasy event</i>	17/12/19	Along with Exec Dean we recorded a video discussing the upcoming Speakeasy and how students can get involved
<i>Meeting with Roger Knowles and Catherine Greenwood</i>	17/12/19	To discuss planning for speakeasy launch in March 2020.
<i>FASS Connected</i>	27/12/19	Monthly Adobe session for FASS Students

### **Student Consultation Forum**

I led with the support of two Central Committee Reps, a student consultation forum on the subject of feedback from assessments. This ran for two weeks after which I produced a thematic report on the outcomes. This report has now been circulated back to the students for comments, as well as distributed across senior staff in the faculty. I will be presenting this report at a future FASTTEST event in 2020. It has been commented that all ALs should be sent a copy to read in relation to the direct feedback from students I added to the report.

### **Faculty Assembly Observers**

I had 4 observers attend the November Faculty assembly event. I have 6 other names for future events. I will, in February 2020, put a call out for observers for the March assembly.

### **Student Led Project – Analytics (Scotland)**

Cath Brown and I led a day long workshop at the OU in the Scotland office, looking at analytics. This involved finding out what students knew about analytics, how information is collected and how the OU use this information. We also asked students to suggest how analytics could be used in the future to help with their learning. A report will be ready for release by end of January 2020.

### **FASS Connected – Monthly Adobe sessions for FASS Students.**

I launched a new monthly drop-in session for FASS Students. This will take place on the last Thursday of each month, with the one in January being a fresher's chat. We have between 15 – 20 students at present popping in and out of the chat. FASS will continue to advertise this on all FASS module websites.

### **Other activities**

- Reading/posting in C E C, S R G and Central Reps forums
- Reading and responding to emails from colleagues, OU Student Association Staff and OU staff
- Reading and posting in student forums

### **List of future meetings/commitments**

*Billy Docherty*

*Faculty Association Representative for Arts and Social Sciences (FASS )*

## REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHS (STEM)

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### Roles:

Central Executive Committee (CEC) Member, STEM FAR, eSTEEeM Student Referencing Panellist, Senate Reference Group (ex officio)

### Attended Meetings & Events 2019

18-24 October	Adhoc meetings & introductions to Team (via Facebook / Messenger / Email)
25-27 October	CEC Weekend (including interim team meetings)
28 October	SRSC Staff, Students Support Team and OUSA Representatives Meeting
28 October	OU Students Association Strategy launch (Campus)
28 October	Tour of OUSA office and informal staff introductions
7 November	STEM Student Rep Listening event – with STEM ADAE Team (Adobe)*
11 November	Shelfless Chat - Library Podcast – (Campus) <i>(Myself (STEM FAR), Billy Docherty (FASS) and Amanda Closier)</i>
11 November	- Formal (Lunch) Student Voice Team (Role, Networking, Support, Planning) - Middle States Visit - <i>Debrief with Stephanie Stubbins (OUSA VP)</i>
11 November	Middle States Visit / Meeting – Student Q&A (Campus)
13 November	STEM Faculty Assembly - (Stadium) *
18 November	STEM FAR Induction and forum check in - with Beth Metcalf (Phone/Skype)
20 November	1st eSTEEeM Online Student Conference*
20 November	Big White Wall Demonstration Webinar
21 November	I am a Rep Chat – Students meet their Student Reps – (Adobe)
23 November	CCR Induction - (including FAR Introduction Session) – (Campus)
16 December	eSTEEeM Student Referencing Panel – (Adobe)*

*[N.B: Running up to (the above) meetings and events, I also liaised with Staff and Volunteers to plan and organise (on various formats).]*

### Meeting Overview (asterisked (\*)):

#### STEM Student Rep Listening event

An opportunity to meet senior members of the STEM Faculty and, STEM Central Committee Reps (CCRs), to discuss our roles as OUSA/Faculty Reps and to champion ideas to collaborate and better support each other, to support OU Student Community. Issues such as Rep visibility was amongst some of the challenges references and reported on. *(being pursued)*

## CEC Weekend

First meeting as a volunteer and (newly elected) Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths Faculty Association representative (STEM FAR). I attended, mostly to observe, meet and engage with fellow volunteers and have a brief overview of CEC related meetings. Over the weekend; I attended a debrief meeting and planned activities for the OUSA strategy launch event, I reviewed OUSA / CEC training papers, had informal training with volunteers and staff and, collaborated with the FARS (for FASS, WELS & FBL) to organise questions for the OU Library's 'Shelfless' podcast.

## STEM Faculty Assembly

First time experiencing a Faculty Assembly (the Fundamentals; OUSA's Strategy presentation, new Vice Chancellor's introduction and talk, STEM Exec Dean's overview of current state of STEM and its achievements across board, Staff commendations. (Attended as an observer and for training purposes due to inexperience. Cath Brown (OUSA President) presented for OUSA on my behalf.

## 1st eSTEEeM Online Student Conference (Engaging Students as Partners in Scholarship)

A condensed version of the eSTEEeM conference supporting 'Student Voice Week'; spearheaded by Diane Butler, Trevor Collins (eSTEEeM Directors) and Cath Brown (OUSA President). Attended by Stem Faculty Staff, Project Leads and Students. Its purpose; to highlight the successes accredited to 'Engaging Students as Partners in Scholarships'. The programme involved brief overviews of (past) projects; acknowledgement of gaps relating to student engagement, participation, retention, and inclusion; plans towards future community developments and; considerations for the STEM Faculty and eSTEEeM to better collaborate, engage, influence, and interact with students going forward. (As a contributor, I queried student inclusion and made suggestion on how the OU could advertise and better support Students, OUSA Reps and OUSA).

## eSTEEeM Student Referencing Panel

eSTEEeM Directors and Student Reps collaborating to steer plans for scholarship projects and, to deliberate how to better engage with students in the online space, bridging attainment gaps, better carryout assessments and look at annual eSTEEeM conference.

## Future Meetings and Events:

7 January	Degree classification algorithm review (Adobe)
22 January (TBC)	BME Meeting with OUSA's Student Support Team and OU
22 January	Senate Reference Group Meeting - (Campus)
24-26 January	CEC Weekend
27 January (TBC)	Code of Practice Content Development Day
5 February (TBC)	STEM Freshers - Online Community Chat – (with Anca Seaton)

***Other activities:***

- (Online) Training Certificates: GDPR, GDPR (for SRSC Staff), PREVENT (Tier 1, Tier 2, Direct Gov), Safeguarding Modules 1 & 2 (OU)
- Interacting with Volunteer Zone, reading past and present CEC papers.
- Contribution to OUSA related Surveys and feedback for Committee papers and Association working groups (via OUSA /CEC Forums)
- Contributions and monitoring of STEM student-facing forums (although, not a lot of activity outside of students referring to other students about their subjects).
- Actively, sharing information and events, signposting, answering (STEM & generalised) student questions, encouraging students and, liaising with OUSA's CEC, Volunteers and Staff and CCRs, on Facebook (FB) Groups, FB Messenger, Email, Forums and phone (to resolve queries where necessary).
- Black students' opinions matter survey - NUS Survey
- Collaborating with OUSA (Student Support Team and VP Equality and Diversity) and BAME Students (on Slack) to help champion and pilot a BAME Student's Group (still in deliberation).
- (18 November) BAME Online Chats Event (Student Voice Week) - Collaborated with Sammi Wright (Projects Officer for Student's Support) postponed as turnout was non-existent.

*Patrice Belton*

*Faculty Association Representative for Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)*