

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

27 – 28 April 2019

## OU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION STRATEGY UPDATE

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The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **note** the updates on progress with delivering the current strategy

1. The 2017-20 OU Students Association Strategy was approved by the CEC and ratified by the Trustees in July 2017. A number of discussions and working sessions had previously been held with the Board of Trustees, the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and the staff team to build the strategy around three major objectives:
  - Listen to OU students and represent their collective voice and academic interests
  - Engage students in a vibrant and supportive community and create new opportunities
  - Raise awareness of our actions and the impact of our work to enhance the student experience and student success
2. Underneath each objective, there are action points detailing the operational actions that we wish to undertake. The full strategy is available at <https://www.oustudents.com/our-strategy>.
3. This paper provides a brief overview of key updates since the last CEC meeting in January 2019. This is briefer this time around, potentially due to the focus shifting towards the development of the new strategy which has resulted in a pause of some actions. The key updates to note are as follows:
  - ✓ The BAME Working Group recruitment was successful, the team are now however looking for a Chair from amongst the members recruited as the Chair who had been recruited has stepped away.
  - ✓ Our Investing in Volunteers accreditation assessment is underway, interviews with the assessor are taking place before and during CEC weekend with a range of volunteers and staff.

- ✓ Student-led projects successful: 9 projects submitted, two have been delivered already, another which combines three different ideas is being progressed. A paper regarding next steps with this following the successful pilot period will be coming forward to CEC in July.
  - ✓ The OU Students shop has now launched the OU50 range (<https://www.oustudentsshop.com/ou50>) and we are supporting units across the University with their merchandise needs for the anniversary celebrations, which is a huge undertaking. In March 2019, a large number of items were written off from our previous stock range due to the University's introduction of their new branding.
  - ✓ The new Library Support Partners scheme has been really successful and the team are now looking at potential expansion to Level 2 students.
  - ✓ Our staff mental health first aid champions received their training on 1-2 April 2019.
  - ✓ Work is underway on the external review of culture, more quotes are being sought from potential consultants with a view to undertaking the work in the new financial year.
  - ✓ Role Descriptions for CAP members and Forum Moderators are now in place and recruitment of further moderators is due to take place in June.
  - ✓ Discussions about the future approach to STUDIO and podcasting have been put back towards the Autumn 2019.
4. Development of the new strategy continues. Five emerging themes have resulted in working groups to consider each of these and each working group is being co-lead by a CEC member and staff member with interest in the theme. Further discussions will take place over the course of the CEC weekend, particularly during the workshop on Sunday 28 April to which all CEC members, staff and Trustees have been invited.

**Rob Avann**  
**Chief Executive**