

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

27 – 28 April 2019

### ELECTIONS REVIEW

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The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **discuss** the paper

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The main C E C elections in 2018 were disappointing in that there were cases of no candidates / one candidate for a post and in terms of numbers voting. On a more positive note some of the issues that had affected the elections and by-elections in the 2016-18 term regarding forum behaviour were reduced (although not totally removed) in the main elections and the subsequent by-elections.

#### 2. Election Review Group

- 2.1 The Election Review working group has been asked to look back at the elections and make recommendations for the Elections to the 2020-22 C E C and Board of Trustees to improve turnout in numbers standing and voting. Issues regarding individual posts are not in scope yet as they will form part of the remit review.

#### 3. To discuss

- 3.1 We would like C E C feedback on the following items:
- 3.2 Timing of elections:
  - a) Length of the election process. What is a good balance between a process long enough to be effective but not so long as to bore people or use up a lot of staff time.
  - b) When should the elections be held? May is probably too late as it runs into E M A and exam revision time. It also coincided with a busy staff time in preparing for Conference. Should we consider earlier – February/March or March/April?

### 3.3 Communications

- a) Do we need regular advertising of the election or should it be in short sharp bursts? Like a 'launch party' for the whole process, for example.
- b) How can candidates best get their views across and be questioned by the electorate? Are the forums working well for this – if not how can they be improved or should we look at alternatives?
- c) Candidate videos – should these be compulsory for all posts or just some?
- d) Hard copy or on-line. Should candidates receive hard copy election packs with rules and such?

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