

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

27 – 28 April 2019

REPORTS FROM OU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION GROUPS

C E C 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:-

Disabled Students Group (DSG)
PLEXUS

REPORT FROM THE DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP (DSG)

‘Students Supporting Students for 15 Years’.

What Have We Been Doing Since the Last C E C Meeting?

Our Committee have:-

- Our Committee has established bi monthly Adobe Connect Meetings with Forum and Media Connections in between.
- Our first Interactive participation in the New Association Newsletter has been published. Several new members have joined since publication.
- We now have 10 Committee Members since our co-option promotion including Acting Secretary and PR & Comms.
- Several of the Committee have held Meet Ups and these will continue throughout the year.
- A new DSG Leaflet has been developed and uploaded to Media Platforms for dissemination.
- We continue to Signpost Students to a variety of help including their S S Ts, D S A, etc via our Open and Closed Social Media Areas and our Website.
- Our Meetings and Events are Hosted in both the Committee Adobe Connect Room and Events Room. We also hold a variety of Events in our Closed Event Page. Feedback continues to be positive.
- We continue to work with the O U to test various material and equipment and have provided active feedback.
- We are working alongside various OU Project Teams to set up various projects. This will be ongoing.
- We are working alongside Cherry and PLEXUS about the OU’s Equality Objective 1 C. This is ongoing.
- We continue to work with the Library on the Sensus Access as well as the Carers Section which is ongoing.
- We continue to help co-host Community Meet Ups with various CEC Members. - These biweekly events are very well attended.
- We continue to collaborate with other Association Groups
- Our Microsite is well established and updated regular with News and Events.
- We sent 2 submissions to be represented at the Change Agents Network (CAN) Conference 2019 and can inform CEC that both submissions were successful.
- We are part of Professor Jane Seale’s Team who are collating information about ‘Students with Additional Needs Experience of Technology to Support their Studies’ during April. These will be collected via a Facebook Event; Adobe Connect Event; DSG Closed Forum and a Face to Face Event on 24th April.

Future Commitments

- Committee Meetings will continue in Adobe Connect
- Regular Open Adobe Connect Events are being organised with subjects such as:-
- 'Mental Health Awareness Week' (May 19)
- Sensus Access trials are continuing.
- Chair will attend Inclusion Meeting in April
- Several Committee and D S G Members will continue to work alongside other OU Teams to promote of Members concerns
- A Big Picnic is being planned for September 2019 to Celebrate our 15th Anniversary Year and the O U's 50th.
- Operational Guidelines changes are ongoing
- Chair and another DSG Committee Member will attend CAN Conference
- Committee Members will continue to supporting students 24/7 in our various Open & Closed Social Media Platforms.
- Meet Ups will continue to be hosted by Committee Members
- We continue working alongside CEC Members as and when required
- We will continue to work with other O U S A Groups and O U Departments supporting each other in whatever way is required
- A group of DSG Students will be attending the Ed ICT Conference in June and some will be part of a panel hosted by the DSG Chair as part of the Conference.



Disabled
Students
Group

Sheila Cameron

Chair, Disabled Students Group (DSG)

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

26 – 28 April 2019

REPORT FROM PLEXUS

Following our last submission, we welcome the opportunity to provide this quarterly report to the CEC and wider Student body.

Co-Opt 2019

After our elections at the end of last year we were left with 3 vacancies however due to unforeseen personal issues we have had to accept the resignation of Amanda McDonagh as the woman's officer.

The committee vacancies are as follows:

- Secretary
- Woman's Officer
- Committee Member x2

I have been in conversation with the Student Support team and the committee and hoping that an email will be going out to the membership to ask people to show their interest.

Engagement

LGBT Inclusion

PLEXUS is in talks with Dr Clem Herman Director of eSTEEeM, and previous co-chair for the OU LGBT staff network, and they have requested our help in doing some research regarding LGBT inclusion in the eSTEEeM faculty. We are hoping to meet later in April to hold a focus group for LGBT students which is hoping to provide some information on LGBT inclusion.

Social Media

As our social media presence continues to grow, we've also recognised that our members (including the wider OU student community) are communicating via our social media platforms. One of the targets for the next 12 months is to consider our forums and how to increase traffic to this space. The forums are only available to members and is our official platform, including Annual General Meetings and elections.

We are going to start reporting on our social media presence and each quarter we'll provide the report below which will demonstrate our reach on each of our platforms.

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SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Feb 2019 - April 2019

Facebook

Page				Group	
Views	Engagement	Followers	Reach	Members	Engagement
102	84	10	561	4	261

Twitter

Following	Followers	Impressions	Interactions		
			Likes	Retweets	Clicks
355	444	8438	85	13	78

Instagram

Followers	Reach	Impressions
105	89	114



Coming Up

Mental Health Awareness Week

The Committee takes mental health seriously, we have plans that we would like to reach out to organisations that are there to support students who are suffering with mental health and to make sure they are more well known around campus.

PRIDE 2019

Pride is almost upon us, we have made the decision that we will be attending Birmingham, Dublin, Glasgow and Cardiff. Cardiff will be a big celebration as it is Pride Cymru 20th Anniversary. I am hoping that we get as many people to attend the events as possible. We are working closely with the LGBT staff network.

Membership

At the time of this report PLEXUS has 697 members. Our highest proportion of member remains in London closely followed by Scotland. However, following our increased engagement in the Nations we have seen significant rises in members in Scotland and Wales.

OU PLEXUS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



Total Number of Members	697
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Full Member	595
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Associate Member	31
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Friend of PLEXUS	48
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HLM	1
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Revoked	21
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Members by Region			
R01 - London	76	R09 - North	18
R02 - South	53	R10 - Wales	51
R03 - South West	47	R11 - Scotland	73
R04 - West Mids	61	R12(a) - Northern Ireland	26
R05 - East Mids	45	R12(b) - Republic of Ireland	5
R06 - East of England	29	R13 - South East	66
R07 - Yorkshire	49	R14 - Continental Europe	18
R08 - North West	69	R15 - Rest of World	6

Membership Communications			
Opted - In	363	Not-Opted In Members	333

Future Commitments

Friday 26 th April 2019	Lesbian Visibility Day
Monday 13 th – 19 th May 2019	Mental Health Awareness Week
Saturday 25 th May 2019	Birmingham Pride
Thursday 20 June 2019	Dublin Pride

And Finally

I would just like the committee note my extreme gratitude to the PLEXUS committee and how great they have been at finding their feet after starting their roles from January 2019. Also, a massive thank you to the Student Support Team especially Verity and Sammi for their ongoing support.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions, please feel contact me via email.

Kirean Dingley

For and on behalf of PLEXUS

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