

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

27 – 28 April 2019

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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The C E C is asked to:-

- i) **receive** this regular report from the Board of Trustees

1. There is a Constitutional requirement for the Board of Trustees (BoT) to provide a report to the CEC at least four times per year. This report is intended to provide the following:
  - a) a formal opportunity for CEC members to raise any questions arising from the minutes or other matters relating to the role of the Trustees, and
  - b) the opportunity for Trustees to raise any specific items with the CEC or report on progression of any non-routine matters.
2. The BoT last met on 8 February 2019. The meeting minutes can be found [here](#).
3. At the meeting, the BoT approved the final Board of Trustees Code of Conduct following feedback from the CEC. They also approved the OU/OU Students Association Relationship Agreement subject to final approval by the University's Council. It was subsequently approved by Council on 5 March.
4. The Association's subvention negotiations for 2019-20 were reported on following a positive meeting with PVC Students who is now leading the discussions taking over from Director, Academic Services. It is intended that negotiations will return to three year agreements in the future rather than one year only which will give the Association much more stability in being able to plan ahead.
5. VP Administration and the Deputy Chief Executive (Finance & Resources) presented the year to date accounts and revised budget which was approved.
6. Trustees approved a funding request from the President from their discretionary funds for Association representatives to attend three Associate Lecturer events to help raise awareness amongst Associate Lecturers. A number of other proposals for discretionary funding have also been approved online on the forums. These requests included provision for staff to attend Mental Health First Aid training given by Mental Health First Aid England. This forms part of the

Culture Review objective as part of the current strategy. Another request for £13,000 was approved to hold a volunteer recognition event in the summer similar to the event held in 2017. The final request was for up to £2,775 for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project to purchase 50<sup>th</sup> specific products and merchandise to give away to students at events in this anniversary year.

7. Trustees inputted into the discussion around the budget for the Strategy review and were invited to participate in the Strategy Weekend on 2-3 March along with the CEC and staff members. In addition, the four non-CEC trustees were invited to input into the SWOT analysis process alongside the CEC and staff team.
8. Three new Trustees were elected during the February 2019 By-Election; Cinnomen McGuigan, John Paisley and Adelaide Ribaud. They will be attending their first Trustee meeting on 10 May 2019. We are currently talking to our external Trustees about their future plans after their current term ends on 31 July 2019.
9. Staffing Matters: Trustees approved a proposal for a change in the Management Team, making Leanne Quainton Head of Executive Support & Staff Welfare. There was support in principle to add a second supportive administrative post to this new team and a job description will be worked up will go back to the BoT for further discussion with the intention to recruit in the Autumn. Pete Turner returns to a full time position as Head of Student Community while Jess Smith is on maternity leave. Heather Bloomer was successfully appointed as Temporary Head of Digital Communications covering Kate Dungate's maternity leave from 18 April. Recruitment to fill Heathers role will take place immediately. Following two rounds of unsuccessful interviews for the Digital Communications Optimisation Officer position, a third round of interviews took place over 5/10 April. Advertising for maternity cover for Beverley Woodbridge, Research Assistant is underway and interviews are scheduled for 29 April 2019.
10. The next scheduled face-to-face meeting of the Board will be held on 10 May 2019.

**Rob Avann**  
**Secretary to the Board of Trustees**