



CEC 04/20/2

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

24 - 25 April 2020

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

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

24 - 25 April 2020

REPORT FROM THE DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP (DSG)

Since our last report:

Committee

Our elections took place and we are delighted to have more committee members than in recent times. We now consist of:

Chair – Megan Brown

Secretary – Chris Hughes

Events and Communications – Marilin Salström

Committee Members – Cian Matthews, Ron Turner, Colin Pritchard, Hannah Burns, Felicity Burgess, Katherine Richardson and Gordon Harper.

There is currently 1 place remaining for committee member, and co-opting may take place later.

Participation

Inclusion January 23rd.

Unfortunately, the Chair had to send her apologies at the last minute.

Freshers.

There were two freshers' events for Disabled Students; both went very well indeed. The first session was a Facebook chat that ran very smoothly, and there were quite a few students who attended.

The second was an Adobe Connect session. For this we had Andy Broadbent, the CEO of BroadbentCo, a DSA advisory company. He was there to answer questions from students surrounding DSA England. This was an event mainly for students based in England, and due to differing rules, there are others planned for other nations.

Chat session for Hearing Impairment. January 20th.

There was a good chat even though a relatively small number of participants. There will be further chat sessions to engage with more students and to hear more about their experiences and difficulties, whilst also finding out what is going right.

Disabled Veterans Scholarship Fund. February 7th.

Chair, secretary and Colin Pritchard attended another online meeting with D.V.S.F staff, to continue looking at ways to work together to support students who are also Disabled Veterans. Veterans were being signposted to the forces community Facebook and signposted to the D.S.G Facebook and website. One update is that

support services that D.V.S.F Students have available, is now being opened to all veterans.

Community drop-ins.

Group and committee members continue to attend these events helping students and promoting the Association and D.S.G.

Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus there are no meet-ups happening, but committee members will be attending as many online meets and chat sessions as possible.

HLM

The DSG Committee were asked to contribute a mini article for the HLM Magazine.

Updates

NAIDEX exhibition.

Like many, this event was cancelled due to the Coronavirus and is now to take place on November 9th and 10th.

B.G.M.

The Biannual General Meeting has not yet been scheduled, the committee are still waiting for policies and guidelines.

The committee is currently in the process of re-writing the code of conduct for committee members.

So, what's next;

In addition to the day to day support, and signposting we give to students, the D.S.G. Committee will also be representing and helping students as follows:

Chat session for Hearing Impairment. April 14th.

The second chat session for hearing impaired students will be taking place, the planned discussion points are: Technology, Study strategies and Isolation.

Megan Brown
Acting Chair,
For and on behalf of the Disabled Students Group (DSG)



Central Executive Committee (CEC)

24 – 25 April 2020

REPORT FROM PLEXUS

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

Committee Update

Since our last report you are aware that as a committee (Stephen, Lyndsay, Billy and Kirean) had a meeting on site to discuss the plan going forward and will go into more detail further in the report.

Engagement

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 alternatives to the forums that would allow members to interact with the committee and also the wider membership network, we were considering Slack as this has a wider workspace and we can also use this to have separate channels for quiz nights etc

We continue to report on our social media presence and this quarters report is below which will demonstrate our reach on each of our platforms.

Due to the current COVID-19 situation it has been difficult to get a lot of engagement, this could be due to people being key workers etc.

PLEXUS Emails/Storage

On our last report we told you that we are working on this in an effort to ensure GDPR is being followed.

Following this I had cut off the email providers and as a result PLEXUS are not spending any budget on an email provider. The Student Support team have since set the officers on the committee with open.ac.uk email addresses.

Coming Up

PLEXUS Re-Launch

Following our sit down as a committee we had come up with a few ideas of a PLEXUS relaunch they are as follows:

- PLEXUS to be renamed, with this we are planning to get a panel together comprising of the committee, 2/3 PLEXUS members and a member of the student support team to discuss this plan.
- Renaming the current newsletter 'SOLAR' and this would again be determined by the panel.
- Reshuffle of the committee and renaming some of the positions to make them easier to fill and also giving the committee members a wider portfolio.

The plan was that the relaunch would take place at a 15-minute slot at conference, however this has been put on hold for the time being.

Membership

Since the introduction of GDPR Guidelines the management of the committee membership has been handed over to the Student Support team. The table below is from the last CEC Report.

OU PLEXUS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



Total Number of Members	737
-------------------------	-----

Full Member	635
-------------	-----

Associate Member	31
------------------	----

Friend of PLEXUS	48
------------------	----

HLM	1
-----	---

Revoked	21
---------	----

Members by Region			
R01 - London	80	R09 - North	19
R02 - South	54	R10 - Wales	52
R03 - South West	51	R11 - Scotland	76
R04 - West Mids	63	R12(a) - Northern Ireland	27
R05 - East Mids	47	R12(b) - Republic of Ireland	6
R06 - East of England	33	R13 - South East	74
R07 - Yorkshire	52	R14 - Continental Europe	20
R08 - North West	72	R15 - Rest of World	6

Membership Communications			
Opted - In	403	Not-Opted In Members	333

Future Commitments

We have not pencilled in any future commitments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of things have been put on hold or have been cancelled such as the pride dates.

We will continue to post on social media with the LGBT calendar dates and ensure that we hit as many as we can to keep spirits up in such a difficult time.

And finally

I would just like the committee note my extreme gratitude to the Student Support Team, for their ongoing support.

I would also like to thank the PLEXUS Committee for their ongoing engagement especially through this difficult time.

I would also like to ask the everyone that reads this stays safe, stays home and helps protect the NHS. Alongside this I would also like to add that we all need to look out for each other, mental health is just as important as physical health. If you are struggling and would like to have a chat, please reach out via social media or my email below.

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

chair@ouplexus.co.uk

www.ouplexus.co.uk