

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

16 – 18 April 2021

REPORT OF THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

The C E C is asked to:-

- i) **note** the information provided in this report and appendix

The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the members and the financial position of each Affiliated Society.

The appendix provides information on the state of OU Students Association's Affiliated Societies, showing the number of societies affiliated, the position of their members and financial information regarding their accounts and grant payments.

The data included on this report is taken from information held on the OU Students Association Office database and financial information provided by the Resources team within the Association office.

In the event of any inaccuracies, omissions or errors being noted, you are asked to advise the OU Students Association Office of these as soon as possible following the CEC Meeting.

The Society Committee met on 13 March with nine societies in attendance. Once again this was a 'remote meeting' but these are now functioning very well. There was a full and lively discussion on how to deal with societies who are not complying with Association reporting requirements. A later meeting was convened between VP Administration, VP Community, Society Chair and Heads of Community and Resources to put a plan in place for societies struggling on this front (see below).

GDPR training is to be run in April by Mark Burnett of Hope May to cover the basics of managing data for societies.

There has been an increase in the number of Clubs registered and active with the addition of Ecology and Conservation, Politics and Policy, MBA, Canoe and Kayak, Jewish Life, Debates, Advocacy and Craft Beer and Real Ale Clubs signing up since my last report. We currently have 77 registered clubs with a membership of 11,521 students.

Society Finance Review:

A number of societies have been having difficulty in managing their finances and some have been difficult to contact so a review of each society's current situation was undertaken. A plan of action has been initiated with the societies of greatest concern in order to ascertain if they are still active, if they simply need a little support in getting back on track or if they are struggling to the point that they may need to disaffiliate and/or become clubs.

Societies of concern:

Dr Turing: Has been quiet for some time VP Community to make contact with the society chair to establish a plan.

Technology and Innovation: Emails bouncing back, society does not appear active, recommendation 'suspension'.

Entrepreneurs: No contact through formal channels, VP Community to contact informally to establish status.

Mountaineering: Society active but has been struggling for numbers for a considerable time VP Community to contact informally to establish plan – probable club.

Philosophers: Despite an active forum there has been no contact with society leads for some time, proposal suspension – please note there is now a thriving Philosophy Club so students have a point of contact.

Students for Ethical Science: No activity for a while and website now out of date, VP Community and Head of Student Community to reach out to current contacts to see where the society currently sits.

Societies on amber:

Development and Environment: Despite much communication there has been little movement in getting the society constitution changed and contacts for officer roles. Head of Student Community to contact.

Alchemy: some significant work has been done with new society contact to finalise finances, conversations still on-going but looking very positive in re-establishing activity.

Law: Major efforts are being undertaken by a new Law officer to bring the society back to compliance. Positive conversations are on-going.

Music: Struggling for members. Head of Student Community to contact to help devise a promotional plan to generate new interest and build membership.

Anca Seaton
VP Community

Pete Turner
Head of Student Community