

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The CEC 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:-

- President (page 2)
- Deputy President (page 6)
- Vice President Administration (page 10)
- Vice President Community (page 11)
- Vice President Education (page 13)
- Vice President Equality & Diversity (page 15)
- Vice President Media & Campaigns (page 17)
- Vice President Student Support (page 19)
- Vice President Student Voice (page 22)
- Student OU Council Member (page 23)
- Area Association Representative (AAR) for England (page 26)
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- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Business & Law (FBL) (page 32)
- Faculty Association Representative (FAR) for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS) (page 34)
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REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

This report covers the period 6 April – 30 June and is more of an overview than a complete list.

During this period I have been covering some areas that would normally be covered by the STEM FAR, since that post is currently vacant.

Specific Concerns raised with the OU (not covered elsewhere)

- Implementation of tutorial recordings guidance
- Tutor support statement
- Poor standards of invigilation during examinations
- Mismatch between Postgraduate Loan delivery and OU fee schedules (again)

Media and Communications

- Video on doing EMAs (Facebook Live)
- Video on revision and exams (Facebook Live)
- Student Hub Live – on the relevance of scholarship of teaching and learning for students
- Filming for revised material on tuition in the Induction BOC
- Podcast on Adult Education/ Lifelong Learning for “The Edtech Podcast”

Board of Trustees

I continue to be acting as Chair of the Board of Trustees until our external Chair is recruited. The intention is to move to recruit, for the autumn, an external Chair, and another external Trustee who will replace one whose term finishes this summer. Trustees have discussed matters including the Association’s finance and budget, the approach to creation and support of Groups and the proposed new Volunteer policy. Inevitably, a significant amount of time has been spent on the Association’s forthcoming incorporation.

Strategy

The work on developing a new strategy continues; following the feedback from the initial working groups, a second phase started, which involves work under the three strands “Inform and Support”, “Engage and Empower” and “Influence and Transform”. These three groups will feed back to July CEC with proposed projects under each strand.

Specific Committees with the OU that I Co-Chair (with PVC Students)

Student Voice Steering Group

This group discussed the Student Voice action plan and a proposal for me to present a student voice update to the Vice Chancellor’s Executive in the autumn. It moved on to how student voice activities should be monitored and evaluated; this is undoubtedly necessary, but it is important not to fall into prioritising those activities that are easily measured. The uses of the remaining Student Engagement budget were discussed, and a decision made to use some of it to offer additional places at the JISC Change Agents Network conference on campus, since this year its theme was “student partnership”

Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group

The group has worked on the appropriate responses to the student consultation on student satisfaction, with an emphasis on ensuring participating students do not feel “fobbed off”. Discussion were had concerning what analysis of this year’s NSS would be most helpful to inform the work of the group, how to better align the group with Boards of Studies and how to refocus the group on taking action to improve satisfaction.

Meetings

Again, not an exhaustive list.

Induction meetings

- New WELS Executive Dean

One-off OU meetings, either about specific issues with individuals or groups

- To discuss Association volunteer involvement in a project to discourage a “plagiarism culture”
- To discuss student satisfaction in a specific STEM school
- To discuss potential student involvement in the EDEN (European Distance and E-learning Network) conference to be held at the OU in 2020
- To discuss plans for Charter Day
- To discuss student involvement in the Steering Group for the AL Contract implementation
- To discuss how the information on tuition in the Induction BOC could be improved
- To discuss a student co-led scholarship project with Director of eSTEEeM
- As part of the student panel meeting a representative from Mid States Accreditation
- To discuss the choice of pilot student cohorts for Core Systems Replacement
- On proposals to deliver a new module in an unconventional way
- On opportunities for postgraduate research students to gain teaching experience in ways that benefit undergraduate students
- With the Enhanced Employability and Career Progression scheme, to discuss my concerns about the proposed Employability Strategy
- With VP Community, to discuss with the Module Chairs our ideas for new activities at the engineering residential schools.

Regular “catch up” meetings with the OU formally, and with specific OU staff; these happen at various intervals (from monthly to quarterly)

- Chief Auditor
- Strategy Office
- Office of the University Secretary
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Students
- Team in PVC Students office
- Director, Students
- Head of Student Success, STEM
- Executive Dean, STEM
- Research, Enterprise and Scholarship
- Vice Chancellor

Regular meetings with CEC and Association staff

- With Deputy President, Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive
- With Chief Executive
- With Sue McCabe
- With the Strategy Project Steering Group

OU Committees and Groups

- Senate
- Senior Team
- Council
- STEM Faculty Assembly
- Core Systems Replacement (CSR) Reference Group
- Student Casework Steering Group
- eSTEE M Student Reference Panel
- Substituting for VP Education on Qualifications and Assessment Committee
- AL Professional Development Planning Group
- Support for New Students Working Group
- Group Working on Finalising Policy on Tutorial Recordings
- Discussions on the development of a buddy scheme for credit transfer students
- Planning for project with OU in Scotland on running a student-led focus group on students' experience of, and expectations of, tutorials
- Technology Steering Group
- Recognition of Prior Learning focus group

Other events

OU events

- eSTEE M Conference (eSTEE M is the STEM centre for scholarship of teaching and learning; I am on their advisory group)
- Charter Day, at which I spoke about OU students who have inspired me (and was part of the Students Association University Challenge team, which beat the staff team 140-25!)
- 50th Celebration dinner
- House of Lords reception for OU 50th celebrations
- Celebratory event for the Open Degree
- OU 50th event in Cardiff
- Women in Engineering Conference at Aston University

OU/ Students Association joint events

- Mental Health Day – workshop on developing a mental health charter, at which I spoke about the issues around student wellbeing and mental health

Other events

- JISC Change Agents Network conference, held on campus. I co-presented on the partnership between the Consultation Office and the Students Association, was on the Student Panel and spoke at the conference dinner.
- Being on the Student Panel at the Future EdTech Conference (with VP Media and Campaigns)

OU seminars and conferences

- On designing modules using student personas
- On student understanding of marking criteria and whether these could be shared with students

OU Recruitment/ Interviewing

- Shortlisting and then interviewing for the new Vice Chancellor; this also involved recruitment of a student panel to meet the candidates
- Longlisting, shortlisting and interviewing for the Director of Learner and Discovery Services
- Longlisting and shortlisting for the Director of Academic Services

Miscellaneous

- Running a stand at AL Staff Development events
- Running an online quiz for Students Association volunteers

Other ongoing engagement with students

I continue to be a frequent visitor to the “Talk to Your Students Association” forum and to the main Open University group on Facebook, as well as various other forums and groups connected with the Association and the OU. I also use my own social media (Twitter and my page) to engage and promote Association events. I have also attended local meet ups where possible

. Other Association events

- With VP Community, ran a stand at a revision event for 200+ maths students

Cath Brown
President

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY PRESIDENT

We are nearly halfway through our C E C (Central Executive Committee) term and I have had an amazing experience in my role as Deputy President. I will highlight some of the keys areas of my work over the last 3 months and also mention 'future plans' for the coming year.

I continue to have one to one meeting with staff members, the President and other C E C members when required; my other regular and quarterly meetings are listed at end of this report. I feel settled in to my Trustee role on the Board of Trustees.

I organised '*Adobe Connect Host Training*' for meet up hosts on the 9th May with Vice President Community (next training opportunity for them is 10th July). I also hosted training sessions for society committee members on 2nd July and for D S G (Disabled Students Group) committee members and C E C members on the 3rd July, together with some '*Ad-Hoc Refresher Adobe Connect Training*' sessions on request.

I am the student lead on the stage 2 strategy working group "*Engage and Empower*" along with other C E C members, Trustees and Association staff members. We are currently refining our short-term, medium-term and long-term objectives, moving on to project proposals within those objectives.

Representation Review

I continue to work with Peter Cowan (Vice President Education) and Sam Harding (Head of Student Voice) on the review of student representation (specifically '*Central Committee Representatives*') from governance level to grassroots representation. This is a two-stage process as follows:

- I. Gathering evidence
- II. Investigating highlighted areas and bringing recommendations.

We are working together with all stakeholders including the University, for a joint understanding of best practice for student representation; this includes outlining recommendations to better support student representatives on governance committees. We are evaluating institutional policy and agreement level; this is to ensure the right people are involved in quality and governance, so that the policy supports everyone.

[Further information can be found in CEC paper 07/19/17 'Representation Review']

Future plans: - to continue to work with Peter and Sam to ensure this project reaches recommendations that can be implemented.

Postgraduate Research Students (P G R Students)

I continue to work with postgraduate research students and the OU Graduate School, attending the '*Postgraduate Research Students - Graduate School Liaison Group*' (P G R – G S Liaison Group) meetings to discuss P G R issues, provision and work. I have regular meetings with Amy Fergusson (Community Projects Officer) to plan our work for P G R students. Planning for P G R Induction in September has already begun for the next intake of full-time and part-time students.

Our second themed event on 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion' around Wellbeing and Mental Health planned for 25th April was postponed due to a cancellation of the venue booking as exams were being held nearby. This is now being reorganised for October. We are hosting a workshop on 18th July around the O U Student Journey of P G R students.

Future plans: - Mapping the OU Student Journey of P G R students, to help identify the gaps in University provision; to understand the P G R student experience and the pinch points that impact on their studies; to help identify the scope for their engagement with the Association, which can be passed on to the next Deputy President in 2020

Volunteering Update

'*Investing in Volunteers*' accreditation is a UK industry standard for organisations that work with volunteers, provided through N C V O (National Council of Volunteer Organisations) and is an externally assessed award. Our work on the benchmarked policies and procedures that have to be in place has progressed, ready for our submission to the accreditation panel later this month. Heather Allen from N C V O held face-to-face interviews on the 28th April to understand 'volunteering at the Association'. The interviewees were randomly selected from volunteers, staff and trustees. Our '*Investing in volunteers*' workshop took place at JISC - CAN (Joint Information Systems Committee - Change Agents Network) Conference on 29th-30 May 2019. The feedback received through this activity will feed into our accreditation work. We are holding a '*Volunteer Celebration Event*' on 6th July 2019 inviting 60 students to network and celebrate volunteering and have the opportunity to share information and their experiences.

[Further volunteering updates can be found on CEC paper 07/19/5 'Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support']

Future plans: - to continue to find ways to improve volunteering support and provision whilst reinforcing a sense of community for volunteers.

Culture Change Review

The Students Association will be working with its membership to bring change to our existing culture to ensure that we can provide a 'safe welcoming inclusive environment that exudes a positive forward looking and professional image'. All aspects of our organisation are within the scope of this project. I am co-leading a 'Culture Change Review Working Group' with Deputy Chief Executive, Wendy Burrell. The Working Group is reviewing processes and procedures that come within the scope of the organisational culture.

Members of the Working Group also held a successful '*Engaging Students in Change - Culture Change Workshop*', at the JISC CAN Conference 2019. Feedback from this will also inform our future work.

[Further information can be found in CEC Paper 07/19/10 on the Culture Change review]

Future plans: - I will be continuing with this work through the next academic year.

Student Experience Discussions

I am working with Amelia Gackowska (Vice President Student Voice) and Hannah Whittaker (Student Voice Team Representation Officer) around improving student experience, with the opportunity to feed collective student issues into the University's S E C (Student Experience Committee).

This is the first time we have had a fixed agenda item for a regular Student Voice paper submitted by students providing student representatives with equal status on this student-focused governance committee. Items of concern and success that have been raised by the collective student voice will be summarised in this student paper, with the aim that actions will be taken or that information will be passed onto relevant teams.

To collect that student voice we have been hosting dedicated monthly '*Student Experience Discussions*' on the first evening of every month. This is advertised on the Association Website and through social media channels. The University has agreed to promote this event each month on Student Home, to allow us to get to those OU students who we cannot normally reach. These sessions are being hosted by our student representatives to provide a platform for fellow students to raise topics that impact on their student journey. This is a great opportunity to hear about the real student journey and the different experiences that affect it, both positively and negatively.

We collect the feedback and collate it into a student paper to take to the Student Experience Committee. This allows the wider student voice to be heard and information to be taken away by the University for future action. The first student paper covered discussions across March and April and was submitted in May 2019. We are also sharing the student paper with the wider student body on the 'Student Voice' area of the Associations Website. You can find the latest one [here](#).

A new dedicated student-focused '[Student Voice](#)' Forum will have its first student generated discussion topics, initiated from student feedback, at its monthly session. Students can also use our '[Student Voice](#)' Feedback Form at any time (which can be anonymised) to share their student experience. Any comments obtained from these sources will be added to the student feedback collected.

Future sessions of the Student Experience discussions will be held on the 1st of each Month between 7.30pm - 9.00pm in our dedicated [Student Voice Adobe Connect room](#). Please get involved and get your 'Student Voice' heard! The more students that provide feedback, the more evidence we have to share with the University.

Future plans: - to continue with student experience work and evaluate the effectiveness of this as part of Association's 'business as usual'

Miscellaneous Events I have attended

23 rd April	OU Charter Day
1 st May	Mental Health Charter Workshop
8 th May	Esteem Conference
14 th May	OU Teaching Awards and Student Retention Fair
16-17 th May	NCVO Campaign training

OU Students Association Working Board/Groups/Committees

1. 'Appointment Committee' 2. 'Board of Trustees' 3. 'Controller Advisory Panel' 4. 'Culture Change Working Group' 5. 'Inclusion Meeting' 6. Chair of the 'O S L (Open University Services Limited – OU Shop) Board of Directors' 7 'Representation Review Team' 8 'Senate Reference Group' 9. 'Student Led Project Panel' 10. 'Wales Volunteer Panel' 11 'CEC Strategy Working Group (Involve and Engage.)

Open University Working Groups/Committees

1. 'Enhanced Employability & Career Progression Steering Group' 2. 'Equality Diversity and Inclusion Working Group' 3. 'Honorary Degree Committee' 4. 'Induction Working Group' 5. 'Postgraduate Research Students – Graduate School Liaison Group' 6. 'Prevent Steering Group' 7. 'Referencing Implementation Group' 8. 'Student Consultation Management Group' 9. 'Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group' 10. 'Student Voice Steering Group'.

Stephanie Stubbins
Deputy President

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT ADMINISTRATION

Since the last meeting I have been working with Alison Lunn on both the subvention negotiations and the budget for 2019/20. The budget was presented to the Trustees at their meeting in May. Further details can be found in the minutes of the Board of Trustees. The subvention figure was due to be discussed at Council on July 16th.

Looking ahead to next year there has been a meeting with the auditors to plan the regular annual audit of accounts. This will be attached to the annual report. I have been involved with approving Societies' financial reports over the past months. New Societies are also being formed. The Commercial Affairs Society has been approved. Three more bodies have applied to be societies and their applications are being considered.

I have been working with Academic Services to review postgraduate student induction taking part in a workshop and some online activities. I have also been filmed as part of an induction video for new postgraduates especially those new to Open University study.

Caroline Cowan
Vice President Administration

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT COMMUNITY

It's been a busy spring and start of summer. It's been a little quiet on the student facing front, as students were dealing with their EMAs and revision. Now the EMAs have been submitted and exams sat, it's time to put the books to one side and dedicate some time to recharging the batteries. And what can be better than connecting with the wide student community to share leisure tips and plans to buy stationery for the next academic year? From the VP Community's point of view, it's been a busy period of preparing for the residential school in Bath, putting together a business case for funding from the trustees for a societies' event and big meetup in September and, of course, making a start on freshers' fortnight planning.

Residential Schools

This year, residential schools in Bath start on Saturday, 6th July 2019 and run for 5 weeks. We were very fortunate to appoint a very dedicated team of lead residential school representatives and residential school representatives (best known as lead reps and resi reps). This year, the training for the resi reps took place on Adobe Connect, as all lead reps and some of the reps were acquainted with the Bath University Campus. There was also training to be done online, for GDPS, Prevent and Safeguarding.

Every weekend, we have a team of 3 students: a lead rep and two reps. They assist with registration, talk to students about the Students Association, sell merchandise, organise the quiz. Our teams are on Bath University campus on Saturday and Sunday every week for 5 weeks. As a pilot, we are trying a different approach this year: first weekend of the resi school will have 2 reps only, but they will be there for an extra night. The reason behind this is to try and have a better presence at residential schools, a more involved approach to resi repping. It's not about selling merchandise and organising the quiz, it's about supporting students and making their residential school a very enjoyable, educational and social experience.

As I will be there during the first weekend, together with our president Cath Brown, I will be able to present an update at the face to face meeting during the CEC weekend.

Freshers' Fortnight October 2019

Preparations are under way for the October 2019 Freshers' Fortnight that will take place between 23rd August and 6th October 2019. We are keeping the events that proved to be successful in the past, but will introduce some new chats and other exciting activities. We are looking into purchasing items that can be posted to students (students love freebies, don't they?) and at some other approaches to making the Freshers' Fortnight an inspiring, useful and relaxed permanent fixture in OU students' calendar.

Societies' Event

At the time of writing, the business case for funding for a Societies' Event and meet-up on campus on 28th September 2019 is about to be submitted to the trustees in order to secure funding. This event is organised in collaboration with Danielle Smith, Area Rep for England, and Cinnomen McGuigan, Chair of Societies' Committee. It is taking place on campus and the plan is to have the Societies Committee AGM in the morning, then have the societies fayre and meet-up part of the event in the afternoon. The event is going to be free for students to attend, and we are expecting it to be well attended. There will be campus tours, goodie bags, competitions and refreshments.

Meet-up Hosts

Another “batch” of meet-up hosts have been recruited and will undergo training taking place on Adobe Connect on 10 July. The previous training session had only 2 participants, but that was not unexpected, as it happened during the EMA writing/revision period. The number of meet-ups dropped a little bit, as students were busy with coursework, EMAs and revision. We are preparing the hosts for the big meet-up for Freshers and also the next academic year.

Presence at revision weekends, resi schools on campus and societies’ events

This year, the Students Association had a presence at the Science Revision Weekend, M500 Weekend, the OUPS conference in May, and various Chemistry and Biology and Health Sciences residential schools on campus. The merchandise sales were modest in some cases, but the main reason for our presence is to raise awareness of the Students Association and what we do to support students.

Community Drop Ins (Adobe Connect)

Community Drop Ins continued during this period, with a limited audience due to EMA writing/revision. Although the audience was not vast, the students present interacted with each other and enjoyed sharing their highs and lows, and also trying to spend an hour or two not stressing about the coursework or assessments. During summer the attendance drops, but I will start advertising it in the Welcome forum, where new students post, so they get a chance to speak to other OU students, try Adobe Connect before they have to use it for tutorials and even pick up some tips and tricks from experienced students.

Meetings and events attended

13 April	Associate Lecturers Professional Development Conference – stall holder with Cath Brown (near Birmingham)
16 April	Chemistry Resi School – Students Association and Alchemy stall holder (campus)
16 April	Student Community Strategy Meeting (online)
18 April	Community Drop In (online)
23 April	Charter Day (campus)
23 April	OU Students Virtual Choir (initial meeting) (campus)
8-9 May	eSTEEeM Conference (campus)
9 May	Training for meet up hosts (online)
10-12 May	M500 Weekend (Students Association Stall Holder) (Kents Hill)
11 May	Societies Committee (campus)
17-19 May	Science Revision Weekend (Students Association Stall Holder) (Staffordshire)
13 June	Various meetings re: resi schools
19 June	Biology and Health Sciences Resi School - Students Association and Alchemy stall holder (campus)
26-27 June	Training for Residential School Representatives (online)
	Every fortnight on Thursday – Community Drop In

Future meetings

27 September – Societies Committee AGM and event (campus)

Anca Seaton
Vice President Community

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT EDUCATION

This is a report of activity carried out since the last Central Executive Committee meeting in April.

Meetings attended:

Curriculum Portfolio Panel (quarterly). This has now been formed and will advise the Vice Chancellor's Executive, Academic on matters relating to all aspects of curriculum including formal and informal learning. Matters discussed at the recent meeting included short courses, Apprenticeships and Flexible Study Intensity particularly relating to studying 120 credits in a single year.

Futurelearn Postgraduate Courses (monthly). One module, H880 (Technology Enhanced Learning: foundations and futures) is in progress and being well received according to the module team. The modules scheduled for the October 2019 presentation are working through formal governance and should be open for marketing and registration in mid-late July.

Quality Monitoring and Enhancement. The 2018 cycle is nearly complete and action plans based on the reviews and comments are (or have been) drawn up. I have attended the opening meeting of the 2019 cycle which has reviewed the process and documentation for this year. I am looking to extend student involvement in this so that representatives can feed in earlier and provide a students' eye view on what is being done and what is planned. As part of that I attended the training session for the Periodic Quality Review to see if there were any information there that could be used to assist student reps.

Middle States Commission on Higher Education Accreditation. The initial self study document was completed and after approval by Academic Quality and Governance and the Education Committees submitted to the Commission when they visited the University for an interim visit. I was unable to attend that due to a prior engagement but they did meet with a panel of students. Feedback was good and the process is on track for the final visit in mid-November.

Senate Reference Group. A very interesting meeting for the last one of the academic year with a significant number of members putting their views forward particularly regarding the papers relating to Employability and Access, Participation and Success. Views expressed were carried forward to Senate.

Student Experience on a Module (SEAM). Cath and I continue to work on this and eventually agreed wording for students participating in this regarding the scope of the tuition question.

I have also been involved in filming for postgraduate induction material (as a current postgraduate student) and together with colleagues from the CEC and Central Representative Committees took part in a digital skills workshop. This also involved a short video presentation.

After some gentle persuasion I was able to have a one-to-one meeting with one of the team from Advance HE who are undertaking a review of the Academic Governance structure and provide my input on the role of student reps in governance. Regrettably

despite an invitation the team were unable to attend the Senate Reference Group meeting due to timetabling issues.

Within the Association I have regular meet-ups with Sam, Hannah and Allan from the Student Voice team. Along with Steph, we are engaged in a review of student representation inside the academic governance structure and at faculty level on Boards of Studies. More detail of that is in the paper

being presented to CEC at this meeting. There is also a recruitment process for new reps in progress as well as reappointment and a minor reshuffle of existing reps to fill vacancies. This is due to be complete before the next round of meetings in Academic Year 2019/20.

There was a student voice seminar held on campus on June 22nd in which the representation review and the current strategy review were discussed. We also had a session with Liz Marr, the interim PVC-Students, who very kindly gave up an hour of her time before heading off to a wedding. There was also an update on the Consultation process given by Rachel Garnham.

I have attended some external events. I was at the QAA Student Engagement Conference in Liverpool on May 6th and 7th followed by the eSTEEeM conference on campus. As a contributor I was also invited to the launch of the 'Wonk Panel' report in Higher Education compiled for WonkHE, an HE Policy group.

Peter Cowan
Vice President Education

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

This report briefly outlines my activities since the date of my last report to the C E C. Note: It's been a difficult six months for me and my family and very sad to report that since my last report, our daughter-in-law passed away on May 19 after being diagnosed with cancer last December. I'm also still going through the process of selling and buying property for my 92-year-old Mum. We now have a completion date of July 12 so will be taking a few days away from my desk while my brother and I move her and get her settled into her new home. Consequently my work for and on behalf of OU students has (and is) rather patchy so this report is a brief one and only contains ongoing items and brief details of activity for April, May and June and upcoming commitments in July 2019.

The OU's Race Equality Charter (REC) Mark Application

This application was due to be submitted in February 2019 but due to a low response to both staff and student surveys, this has now been pushed back to July 2019. New surveys have been sent out and I'm attending meetings via Skype and on Campus when I can. Ongoing.

Mental Health Awareness

The OU and the Students Association are very keen to promote the importance of students' mental health wellbeing and the support that's available. A first meeting took place in July 2018 and VP Student Support and I have had a couple of meetings since then with the OU. Unfortunately, the person we were liaising with, in the OU, has retired. A schedule of regular meetings via Skype with A.G.Hunter, Director, Student Support (Interim) Academic Services, Student Support has now been set up to further discuss the ways in which we can work together on this important issue. Ongoing.

The Open University's EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) Objectives

There are a number of these which are currently being re-written. The link to the OU's Equality page is [HERE](#) for more info. Ongoing

Daily / when available online activity

- Participating in Association working groups
- Liaising with the OU and Association colleagues regarding issues brought to me by students
- Attending meetings via Skype and Adobe Connect

Diary

April 23	On campus for Charter day celebrations
April 24 - May 2	On campus for other meetings including Inclusion meeting, CEC weekend, Mental Health Charter workshop, REC Steering group, Disabled Veterans Scholarship Fund (DVSF) project, SeGA Coordination group and WASS Steering group
May 29 & 30	The Change Agents' Network (CAN) Conference 2019 on Campus. Subject: <i>The Evolving Landscape of Staff-Student Partnership</i>

Did preso on Diversity in Higher Education with Billy Dougherty - Faculty Association Representative for Arts and Social Science (FASS)

- June 11 & 12 in Milton Keynes for Ed-ICT conference at Chicheley Hall. On student panel. Extract from Delegate pack for info.
...”The Ed-ICT International network has been funded by the Leverhulme Trust and spans the UK, Canada, US, Germany and the US. Its aim has been to explore the role that ICTs—including computers, mobile devices, assistive technologies, online learning, and social networking sites—play or could play in creating barriers and mitigating disadvantages that students with disabilities in post-compulsory education experience both generally and specifically in relation to social, emotional and educational outcomes ...”
- June 18 Disabled Veterans Scholarship Fund (DVSF) Webinar workshop via Adobe Connect

Monthly meet-ups – West Sussex Coffee ‘n Chat

- May 11
- June 22
- July 27

Upcoming

- July 8 & 9 Presentation at Bloomsbury Institute’s 9th Teaching and Learning Conference with Bill Dougherty. Subjects Accessibility and Diversity
- July 17 to 22 On campus for CEC weekend and other meetings including Inclusion meeting

*Cherry Day
Vice President Equal Opportunity*

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT MEDIA & CAMPAIGNS

JISC CAN Conference

The highlight of this quarter for me was the JISC Conference. It was a lot of hard work from all ends, but the conference ran very smoothly. Participants could find out about how staff-student partnership works in different institutions, and it certainly helped me realise where the OU might have gaps. I got to present at two sessions, run the student panel and supported conference makers throughout the two days. The conference makers did a fantastic job - everyone attending was very impressed by them and I received a few e-mails afterwards to pass on their thanks for the hard work involved.

New Members of Staff

Heather has moved to become Head of Digital Communications and we have recruited two very talented members of staff, Leah and Sam - both of who I already get along with really well. From my perspective, it's great to have a full team for the first time since January and I'm excited to work with them on all the upcoming projects.

oustudents.com

After lots of discussions with the team and feedback from students and staff, we've started to identify some issues with the website. It's now the time to begin phase two of the website project. The work will be led by myself and Leah and there is a discussion paper going to the July CEC weekend to discuss the ideas proposed.

The Hoot

It has now been three months since the launch of The Hoot. When you google it, the site is currently fourth on the search results which is great progress. Stats for The Hoot are included in our Analytics paper submitted for this Executive meeting. There are now 103 users registered on the site – 22 of them have already submitted several articles. I'd like to thank the members of the student leadership team and staff that have submitted content so far, and encourage more going forward – especially quizzes and list articles.

STUDIO

STUDIO is something that I've wanted to rethink for some time. Now that the team is up to full capacity again, we're going to look at the show and how it fits in with everything else that we do. A discussion paper is also going to the July CEC weekend.

International Students

Michail (Area Association Representative for Europe) and I have started working with the OU on providing more support for international students. So far, we've had one meeting and a long thread of e-mails with the Qualifications and Assessment team, who has become responsible for international students since the closure of the Gateshead office. The issue that was identified first is that international students don't rely with one specific team for support. Also, there is no University-wide approach to supporting students with international and professional recognition and within SRSC's there are no specialist members supporting international students. The team, Michail and I are

looking to address and resolve these issues, firstly by finding a team who could be responsible for leading this work.

Strategy Working Group

I have been selected to be the CEC lead for Influence and Transform working group. At the time of writing this report, we have passed our midpoint which means we now have ideas for projects we

would like to deliver, and the ideas are currently being discussed with the other working group leads.

Meetings Attended

7th May	Leah (Digital Communications Optimisation Officer) welcome Meeting Meeting with President Middle States Accreditation, Chair of Panel Visit
8th May	Heather Catch-up CSR Staff and Student Reference Group CAN Conference Final Planning Group Meeting Preparation for JISC volunteers Adobe Connect Session
13th May	International recognition meeting Student Home banner planning meeting Council in conversation filming
15th May	NSS Campaign Team Meeting JISC Conference maker training
24th May	JISC funded places allocation meeting
28th May	Strategy Group meeting Dinner Briefing for JISC Conference Makers
29th-30th May	JISC Change Agents Conference
29th May	Strategy Group CEC leads meeting
4th June	Technology Steering Group
5th June	Digi Comms team catch up
11th June	Future EdTech Conference
12th June	CSR Staff and Students Reference Group
13th June	Website discussion
Fake tutorial	
17th June	Digi Comms team catch up
19th June	STUDIO meeting
21st June	Strategy mid-point document preparation
19th-21st July	CEC Weekend

Fanni Zombor
Vice President Media & Campaigns

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT SUPPORT

This report covers my role as V P Student Support since July 2019. The Student Support remit generally includes anything that can have an impact on students. I oversee the Peer Support Service, Chair Service Review meetings, and I am a Trustee of OUSET (OU Students Educational Trust).

Peer Support Service

Our wonderful Peer Supporters continue to support students and answer one off queries. The Service is available to all students. If you are struggling to maintain motivation, have a question, or need a listening ear please look at our site [here](#) which gives some information about what you can expect and ways to contact a Supporter. We are approaching the anniversary of the relaunch of The Peer Support Service and we currently have 9 supporters. Since September our Supporters have helped 81 students with one off queries and longer one to one support.

We are currently looking to add more Supporters to our team. If you are interested in applying please look here <https://www.oustudents.com/peer-supporter-volunteer>. The timeline is as follows:

4th July – Applications Open

22nd July – Applications Close

30th or 31st July – Training 6:30 - 8:30pm.

OU Careers Forums

In April I posted into the OU Careers forum during the week that had guests to answer questions from students about careers in IT and Computing. These messages are now read only but there is a wealth of information in those threads. A variety of careers are covered on other forums. The link to the forums and webinars is [here](#). There will also be an online Careers Surgery for simple questions about careers on weekdays from July 3rd to August 2nd and that will be open to all students. There is more information [here](#).

O U S E T (OUSET)

The OU Students Educational Trust is the Association's Charity for students experiencing financial hardship. Details can be found [here](#). At the Trustees Meeting in April Lorraine Adams was elected Chair and I was elected Deputy Chair. In the near future more focus will be needed on Fundraising for the Charity.

Service Review Meetings

Service Review meetings discuss matters relating to Academic Services and IT. The most recent meeting was held in April and the next will be in July. Matters under discussion in April included;

- Some aspects of the Computing Guide are not easy to access for screenreader users, this is being looked into.
- Continued to raise the issue of problems when large numbers of students want to use a particular function at the same time, eg booking tutorials. The OU is working on ensuring their systems are more robust during busy periods.

- The OU told us they will be working with various interested parties to ensure that systems maintenance impacts as few students as possible. I mentioned I particularly like the warning messages that appear some days before the system is due to go offline for maintenance.
- Regarding .rtf format for submitting T M As, we were told that apart from modules which insist on a specific format (eg P D F for M U 123) .rtf will continue to be a format students can use to submit e T M As and E M As.

At July's meeting we aim to raise the issue of students reporting necessary online services that are down out of Office hours. The 'Reporting Special Exam Circumstances' online form was unavailable late on Friday night of exam week. As this has a submission deadline it was vital the form was available as soon as possible. We'll also talk about Module Websites being available for over 3 years.

Student Support

Cherry (V P Equality and Diversity) and I continue to have regular meetings with the OU about the support offered to students.

Facebook

I continue to be active on Facebook but it is always great to see other students helping out with responses before I get the chance sometimes.

S S T / S R S C roadshow (Student Support Teams; Student Recruitment and Support Centres)

Following the successful roadshow visits to share information about the services provided by the Association with staff from S S T and S R S C staff I hope to build on these by providing information that OU staff can easily access. More information about Association services can be found on our website [here](#). In addition, I'm trying to instigate a group which will meet twice yearly, consisting of about 7 members of the Central Executive Committee and members of student facing staff from across S S Ts and S R S Cs. The focus will be different from the roadshows where the rationale was to share what the Students Association offers, instead it will be more of a two way process where we learn from each other.

OU Charter Day

I attended OU's Charter Day in April where the focus was on the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. However, my abiding memory will be hearing some very moving stories from students.

eSTEEeM conference

This was my second eSTEEeM Conference to hear talks about STEM modules. It is interesting because it quite often involves modules I'm taking or recently taken and finding out the various ways the OU is looking at improving the study experience. One example of this was a session I attended about TM112. I heard that it wasn't just accidental that our online quizzes marks (similar to iCMAs) did not count towards our final grade but marks given for participation did count. The aim was to encourage us to talk to other students about difficulties, which when I did TM112 I found extremely useful. It wasn't the usual enforced group work but students who were having trouble (me, me, me) could openly ask other students for help and only those who wanted to

replied. Nobody was given answers but other students were pointing us in the right directions, under the supervision of tutors.

Strategy Working Group

The Students Association is working on its strategy for the next few years. Currently I am part of the strand which is considering what the Association would be able to provide that could help to support OU students. It will only be to complement what the OU offers, not to be replacements.

Various Meetings

I have attended various meetings at the OU including one about TMA extensions and another about recording online tutorials.

Please forward any parts of this report elsewhere. If you would like to contact me please email oustudents-support@open.ac.uk

Future Commitments

July 19 th	Service Review Meeting
July 19 th to 21 st	Central Executive Meeting
July 30 th or 31 st	New Peer Supporter Training
October 16 th	Senate Reference Group and Senate

Alison Kingan
Vice President Student Support

REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT STUDENT VOICE

Since my previous report I have made two trips to the O U Campus, the first of which was for the JISC Change Agents' Network Conference at the end of May. This is an annual event, hosted by the O U for the first time this year, where staff and students host and take part in workshops surrounding the theme, "Students as Partners." I hosted a discussion named, "Feminist Pedagogy in the Digital Classroom," where myself and 17 participants talked about how to effectively integrate student-led learning with distance-learning programmes, software and practices. Whilst we did not find any easy solutions, it was a very interesting opportunity to hear about what other universities are doing, and link pedagogical theories with practice.

My second trip encompassed a few different activities, beginning with a meeting regarding the upcoming Student Ideas feature of the Association website. This will build on the student ideas card which were offered at consultation, which I am currently in the process of collating, and provide an opportunity to improve on the previous student ideas website trial, to enable students to share and vote on ideas in a familiar setting and with anonymity if desired. The exact format will be discussed at the upcoming C E C meeting and hopefully finalised and launched ready for the Autumn semester.

Then on 22 June the Student Voice Team hosted the third training event for student reps of the academic year, in the format of a seminar. C C Rs and S R G and C E C members met to hear updates from the last year, including the representation review, and consultation process, to meet with Liz Marr, P V C students, and to input to the development of the new Students Association strategy. The students who attended contributed much to the activities and feedback for this event was very positive. Following this, I joined a small group of volunteers to work with staff from the O U library, giving feedback on different digital tools which are currently offered to students, discuss which digital skills new students might need, and making short films to promote the assistance and training which the library offers in this area. I attended Senate Reference Group on the following day before leaving Milton Keynes, and before returning I will be working on a summary of the student consultation meetings which took place earlier in the year.

It was disappointing that I was no longer able to attend the April C E C Meeting and Strategy Weekend, due to work commitments, but I have followed the discussions that took place by keeping up to date with the minutes and forums and talking to my fellow reps, and am looking forward to attending the upcoming meeting in July.

Meetings attended

29-30 May 2019	JISC Change Agents' Network Conference
21 June 2019	Student Ideas Platform Discussions
22 June 2019	Student Voice Seminar
24-25 June 2019	Digital Capabilities Student Workshop
26 June 2019	Senate Reference Group

Upcoming meetings

8 July 2019	Student Consultation Management Group
18 July 2019	Student Voice Steering Group
19-21 July 2019	C E C Weekend
22 July 2019	Student Ideas Platform Discussions

Amelia Gackowska
Vice President Student Voice

REPORT OF STUDENT OU COUNCIL MEMBER

Since my last report I have attended meetings of Council and the Governance and Nominations Committee, been involved as a member of the student panel in the Appointment of the new Vice Chancellor and am currently involved in the appointment process for a new Head of the School of Languages and Linguistics in WELS (interviews taking place on 5 July). I am also a member of the OU's Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group and the CEC Strategy Working Group.

Council Meeting 3 May 2019

At a special meeting on 3 May, Council approved the recommendation of the Joint Committee for the appointment of Professor Tim Blackman as Vice-Chancellor of the Open University from 1 October 2019 for a term 5 years. We look forward to welcoming Tim back to the OU and working in partnership with him in the future.

The appointment process included input from a wide range of stakeholder groups and students were fully represented at all stages of the process. Cath was present as an observer at all meetings of the Joint Appointment Committee and was involved in their discussions. A student panel, which included CEC members, a PhD student and a Central Committee Representative met all the candidates, asked a range of searching questions, listened carefully to their answers and fed back views on the candidates' strengths and weaknesses to the Appointment Committee. It was generally agreed that the appointment process was comprehensive and inclusive and had facilitated engagement from across the university.

Council Meeting 14 May 2019

Agenda items at the March meeting of Council included consideration of the OU's refreshed strategic plan and proposed success measures, updates on institutional performance, strategic risk and Core Systems Replacement, and reports from a number of Council sub-committees (Governance and Nominations Committee, Remuneration Committee and Finance Committee). There were also confidential items on the AL Contract and FutureLearn.

Points to note:

- **Updated Strategic Plan.**
VCE has identified three key focus areas:
 1. Improving Student Success through:
 - supported open entry for all undergraduate provision
 - improved communications with continuing students
 - the introduction of a robust model for flexible study intensity
 2. Core Systems Replacement (CSR)
 - the intention is to implement the core operating HR and Finance requirements simultaneously in March 2020
 - the new Student Life Cycle management system will be introduced at around the same time, via a 'model office' in which students registering on Sport and Fitness modules from March 2020 will form a pilot group. The 'model office' approach will enable the system to be assessed and adapted as necessary

before being rolled out across the university

3. Implementation of the new AL contract
 - Following the successful ballot in January 2019 to agree the terms and conditions for a new contract with ALs the university has begun a collective bargaining process with the union.
 - The risk register identifies a number of 'high level' risks but does not adequately reflect the risk to students that may occur during implementation. The University Secretary has acknowledged that more work is required in this area.

Governance and Nominations Committee (GNC) 12 June 2019

Appointments

As usual, a number of permanent and interim appointments to Council and its subcommittees were discussed and recommendations made to Council.

Other items for discussion included the need to increase ethnic diversity on Council and its sub-committees, reflections on the new process for the evaluation of Council member performance, an assessment of GNC's effectiveness in meeting its terms of reference and managing governance issues in accordance with external best practice guidelines.

It was noted that this was Julie Taylor's final meeting as Secretary to the Committee before she leaves the university at the beginning of July and thanks and appreciation for her hard work were formally recorded before the meeting was closed and committee members joined Julie's colleagues in the Governance team for a celebration lunch.

Some of the meetings and activities I have attended since my last report

23 April	Charter Day celebrations
26 April	Campaigns and External Engagement Strategy Group meeting
26-28 April	CEC weekend
3 May	Extraordinary meeting of Council
14 May	Council
21 May	Strategy Project Steering Group
22 May	Celebrating 50 years of 'Open' curriculum event
28 May	'Influence and Transform' Strategy Working Group meeting
29 May	CAN Conference
30 May	CAN Conference
5 June	Academic Governance Review Group meeting
12 June	Governance and Nominations Committee
25 June	WELS Faculty Assembly (as observer)
25 June	Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group
26 June	SRG and Senate

Future Meetings

5 July	Interviews for LAL Head of School
16 July	Council
24 July	OU TEF Panel meeting
5 Sept	Academic Governance Review meeting
23 Sept	Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group
24 Sept	Council Development Day

16 Oct SRG and Senate (if continued membership is approved)
23 Oct Governance and Nominations Committee
23 Oct Strategic Planning and Resources Committee
25-27 Oct CEC weekend

Barbara Tarling
Student Member of OU Council

REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR ENGLAND

This is the quarterly report for the Area Association Representative for England from April - June 2019.

Due to working out my notice with my previous employer and starting a new job in the last couple of weeks, I have unfortunately not been as active as I would like as I have not been able to take time off to attend any meetings or events either face to face or remotely due to these being usually held on weekdays during the working day.

I anticipate that this will pick up again going forward as we head into September/October.

Please see below a brief summary of my activities as AAR in the period since my last report.

- Charter Day celebrations / OU 50th – 23rd April 2019
- Took part in a student panel interviewing VC candidates (Please note these were not the formal interviews) – 25th April 2019
- Took part in interview as part of the volunteer accreditation work being carried out for The Open University Students Association – 26th April 2019
- Attended CEC weekend 26th – 28th April 2019
- Attended the OUPS (Open University Psychology Society) DE200 revision weekend at Warwick University in Coventry as a representative of the Students Association/ running merchandise stall – 10th – 12th May 2019
- Attended digital skills capability workshops as student panel member, organised by The Open University Library (more information to follow soon!) – 24th & 25th June 2019

Social Media and Forums

I continue to maintain a presence on social media, both via my A A R page on Facebook, where I share updates and Association opportunities, in addition to tweeting regularly about all things #OUstudents. I have access to all the regional forums as well as the Talk to Your Students Association forums, reading and replying to posts regularly.

Danielle Smith
Area Association Representative England

REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR WALES

Since my last report I have continued to engage in contact with the President and Vice President to ensure Wales is at the heart of policy decisions.

During the recent exam period I became aware of several problems with Welsh exam venues. I was extremely pleased to see these picked up independently by the relevant officers. I also carefully monitored the problem with part time finance applications in Wales, to make sure any direct impact on Welsh students was minimised.

OU at 50 Celebrations

I attended charter day at Milton Keynes campus. Back in Wales I attended the OU in Wales open event 50th, which consisted of a talk about the archive, and 50 years of learning. In the evening there was then the OU in Wales 50th birthday reception. I was very pleased to be accompanied to this reception by Cath Brown our president.

This was well attended by both people from the higher education sector in Wales and assembly members, and included a happy birthday speech by Kirsty Williams AM Wales education minister.

Strategy

I continue to engage with building the new strategy, and am currently assigned to one of the project working groups

Working Groups

I continue to be part of the election review working group and the student led projects group.

Admin

As ever I continue answering emails, checking and contributing to forums.

Open University in Wales office

I continue to engage with a few contacts across the office to ensure the student voice is heard. I also am continuing to raise the Association's profile and continue to make us relevant partners to decisions made in Wales.

Meet-ups and social media

I am delighted we have several meet-up hosts in Wales now, and a number of upcoming, if not yet announced, meetings.

And finally I attended the CEC meeting in April

Lucy Richardson
Area Association Representative Wales

REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR SCOTLAND

This report covers my activities since I last reported to the C E C in April.

Social Activities and Meet Ups

As with my previous report, I continue to encourage meetups and social activities via the forums and my social media channels, as well as dropping in on the regular Community Drop In sessions on Adobe Connect when I can. The coffee morning held in Dunfermline by my predecessor in the role continues also, and continues to do well.

O U in Scotland and external meetings

As mentioned in my previous report, I attended the O U 50th Scottish Parliamentary reception at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on the midweek of the C E C April weekend along with my predecessor in the role, Patricia Gray, and we were fortunate enough to be joined in Edinburgh by senior O U staff from Milton Keynes, as well as those from the Edinburgh office. Speeches were given by Susan Stewart, Director, Scotland, as well as the First Minister for Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon M S P.

Patricia and I to our surprise were approached by B B C Radio Scotland whilst at the event (they had been sent our way by someone within the O U I S – we don't know whom!) who were at the event as part of a programme they are airing later this year around the 50th year of the Open University. Patricia and I were interviewed for it giving our experiences of our study journey and also, I felt it important to shout out loud about my journey with the Students' Association and what it has done for us – I think we covered as much as we could given we were rather put on the spot! Radio Scotland are keeping in touch with us both and tell us that the programme is due to air sometime in the autumn, most likely in October, so I will keep the C E C posted on this.

The following morning, I met with Viki Soper in the Edinburgh office. Viki is one of the managers within the S R S S teams in Edinburgh and met with me following student concerns raised at the Glasgow consultation back in March, detailed in my last report. I was able to find out more about support for students via the teams in Edinburgh and also visit them whilst there to find out more about what they do and what they do for students with the various and complex queries and needs that they have when they contact Edinburgh in the first instance. The work they do is excellent, and I am due to have a follow up visit on the Friday morning of the July C E C weekend to see more of the work that the teams do and how they link together.

I have had to pause the student led project outlined in the previous report, temporarily, whilst alternative ideas are sought at my request – I feel the initial idea may have been too complex to explore in the short time that I had, but there will still be a student led project going ahead as part of the work on the Q A A Enhancement Themes with the team in Edinburgh. I'm due to meet with them later in the summer to explore ideas further with a view to getting the ball rolling in the autumn. I'm also due to attend the annual "That's Quality" event run by SPARQS (Student Participation in Quality Scotland) in Dundee on the midweek of the July C E C meeting. Members may recall myself and others in the role having attended this event previously. It's now evolved into a two-day event compared with the one-day format in which I remember it previously. It is aimed at senior student officers and staff in Scotland, but also those who have quality enhancement in their remit. It does cover the Enhancement Themes work as part of the

two-day event so is really helpful in aiding the work that we alongside the staff team in Edinburgh do on the Themes. I have always found it a worthwhile event in the past and look forward to it again.

Activities and meetings attended since last C E C

24 April	O U in Scotland Scottish Parliamentary Reception (as part of the O U 50th celebrations), Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
25 April	Meeting and visit to S R S S team in the O U in Scotland office, Edinburgh
26-28 April	C E C meeting, Milton Keynes
June 25	W E L S Faculty Assembly (as a student observer), Milton Keynes
June 25	O U S A Strategy Working Group meeting, Milton Keynes
Plus Online Community Drop in sessions via Adobe Connect (regularly)	

Future Commitments

July 6	Volunteer celebration event, Milton Keynes
July 17–18	Sparqs “That’s Quality”, Dundee
July 19	Follow up visit to S R S S teams, O U in Scotland, Edinburgh
October 9	S & S E G Scotland Meeting, Edinburgh
October 25–27	C E C Meeting, Milton Keynes

Mark Cameron
Area Association Representative for Scotland

REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Open Day 16th May

As Area Representative I attended the Open Day event at OU offices in Belfast city centre. This event was very successful with an increase on previous years in numbers of potential students attending and registering their interest. I was very encouraged to speak to many in the 18-21 age group who were considering the Open University as their first preference option for degree study. I directed their attention to the OUSA page and to the Northern Ireland FB page for their specific enquiries.

Meet-Ups

Regular meet-ups have become a feature of the student diary in Northern Ireland. Meet-ups are arranged on twice-monthly basis where we have meeting space available in head office in Belfast. These generally attract up to six to eight students each time, they are held during the lunch hour break, and they are always productive and well-received. Students have indicated they want them to continue. The attendance at these meets to date, in 2019, have been disappointing and as a result the meets have been re-scheduled to Mondays instead of Thursdays. Feedback taken at the student consultative event in March indicated that Belfast location is not practical for those students who are interested but live too far from the city to attend for 90 minutes. I am looking into organising meet-ups at other locations (Londonderry, Newry, Enniskillen) for the future.

Student Finance NI

Issues regarding SFNI have largely been resolved and successful enrolment at Kilcooley Womens Centre in K101 module was recorded in June. I am monitoring the situation regarding the applications from these new registrations to SFNI to see if the process runs smoothly. Classes for this module begin at the centre in October and I will be maintaining contact and offering support to the ladies who have enrolled.

YASS (Young Applicants in Schools)

This initiative remains a prime focus for me as AAR and I feel this will be able to move forward once the Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly is restored.

Community Link-Ups

I have been working with community groups, such as Kilcooley Womens Centre, and have begun engagement with Ards Peninsula Young Womens Group regarding a connect with the OU in Northern Ireland. This community group offers advice and support to young women who left school with few to no qualifications towards employment and educational achievement. I feel this will be an important and constructive partnership once established that will benefit young women in a rural area.

This concludes my report for this period.

Wendy Reid
Area Association Representative for Northern Ireland

REPORT OF THE AREA ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (AAR) FOR EUROPE

This is a report about my activities as the Area Association Representative (A A R) for Continental Europe. In this role, I am responsible for representing and reporting upon the views of students living in Continental Europe to the C E C and informing the C E C about Association Activities within Continental Europe.

Social Activities

There were no targeted social activities for European students, however they were promptly informed about the O U Students Association community drop-ins (i. Thursday 16 May 2019, ii. Thursday 2 May 2019, iii. Thursday 18 April 2019). There has been some interest for face to face meetings from students at the O U S A V L E forum 'Meet Students' (Northern Europe, Stockholme, Sweden). Students were prompted to seek support by the Community team.

Social Media

As administrator for the Facebook groups for Southern and Northern Europe I have kept students up-to-date with major O U and O U S A news (e.g. the Hoot, the OU's 50 years celebration, the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor etc.). Only the Greek national group had some new posts about degree recognition and professional rights. I continue to I use my personal Facebook and Twitter accounts for the role, but most news are shared through posting at the Southern and Northern Europe Facebook groups. The current number of group members are as follows: Northern Europe, 334 and Southern Europe, 255. V L E forums were silent as usual.

Other Activities

I participate at the Student Led Projects Approval Panel and I have been appointed as a C E C member of C A P. I participate also at the current C E C project about O U Students Association strategy. I also collaborate with VP Media and Campaigns in relation to issues affecting international students studying with the OU, and UK and international students wishing to use their OU qualifications for further study or employment outside of the UK.

Activities since last report

14 May '19 Messenger phone call with OUSA VP Media and Campaigns

Future Commitments

Participate in the redesigning of the V L E forums.

Michael Kasoutas
Area Association Representative for Europe

REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR BUSINESS & LAW (FBL)

Since the last Central Executive Meeting I have been getting into my new role, meeting people both to get myself and the role known and embarking on a steep learning curve to catch up on the understanding I need to properly contribute to the Association.

Library Orientation

I had a very informative visit to the library which included a briefing by Caroline Barratt on engagement and insight, Cheryl Covney on resources and training and then sat at the Enquiries desk to observe some interaction with students which included two enquiries from Business and Law students. Finally, I met with Guy Lavender who has a team of lawyers dealing with licencing and copyright infringements, apparently a common occurrence. I would recommend a visit like this to any representative who has the opportunity.

“Inspiring Students” Conference

A large amount of my time since 3rd May has been spent on weekly working group planning meetings, and the associated work, for FBL's "Inspiring Students" Conference on 19 July, where 100 students will be invited to campus on Thursday 18th July for a full day of events the next day. A further 40 students will join them on the 19th as day delegates. The students have been randomly chosen from all levels, Undergraduate and Postgraduate, in both schools and as most will never have visited campus, they are invited to campus tours and a fun evening on the Thursday before the busy event on the Friday which has over 20 individual sessions for them to choose from, as well as stands and informal meet ups. This is being fully supported by FBL staff and ALs, with the suggestion that next year the student and AL conferences are combined.

Scholarship Day

8 May saw the first Faculty of Business and Law Scholarship day held and unfortunately, they had not thought to invite any student participation, probably due to the invisibility of a FAR in the faculty previously. Having, in effect, gate-crashed, I was invited to remain and was able to comment on all projects, most of which have some student impact. My contribution was praised by a lovely Curriculum Planning Manager, but I then found out she was only attending to receive a gift on her retirement.

Faculty Introduction

I had a very good introductory FBL meeting with Marcus Crawley, Faculty Assembly Secretary and Louise Clipson, External Engagement Manager. This was a valuable initial meeting as they were not aware what the role of FAR was about, confusing it with the CCR role. They agreed that faculty level Association representation would be of mutual advantage and have now put up a news article about the role on their intranet site as well as a short profile in the internal staff magazine. A short presentation at the upcoming Faculty Assembly was also agreed.

e-Portfolio Demonstrations

The OU is putting together a business case for funding to procure an e-portfolio solution across EECF (Enhanced Employability and Careers Progression) and Apprenticeship

which will provide a platform for the student to record both on and off the job training/learning, allowing input and assessment by academic staff as well as employers, and can be used by students as an ongoing record of their PDP (Personal Development Planning) for future careers. I attended demonstrations from the two leading international suppliers on 2nd and 9th May, emphasising that it is the student who must have complete ownership of the content and who grants permission to view or add any element. One supplier already has this and the second said this is possible with some minor development.

Associate Lecturer Conference

The faculty is holding an AL conference on 5th July and I received a late invitation to attend and give a pre-dinner speech together with the President when the Deputy President's attendance was thrown into doubt by a sudden illness.

Key meetings since the last Central Executive Meeting

26 April	Visit to the Library to find out about resources, enquiry desk and copyright lawyers.
28 April	Heather Allen Interview for Investing in Volunteers accreditation.
2 May	Attended 'PebblePad' e-portfolio demonstration.
3 May	First meeting of FBLs 'Inspiring Students' conference working group, weekly thereafter.
7 May	Middle States Accreditation meeting with David Hollowell, Chairman.
8 May	FBL Scholarship Day.
9 May	Meeting with Faculty Assembly Secretary and External Engagement Manager. Attended 'Mahara' e-portfolio demonstration.
15 May	CAN training online as a volunteer for JISC Change Agents Network Conference.
28 May	First meeting of the Influence & Transform Strategy Working Group.
29/30 May	Attended the CAN Conference as a volunteer 'Conference Maker'.
5 June	FBL Faculty Assembly, including OU Students Association presentation with Fanni Zombor.
13 June	Participated in online "Exemplary Tutorial".
17 June	PQR Training.
22 June	Attended OU Meet Up in West Sussex.
24/25 June	Library 'Digital Capabilities' workshop.
26 June	Senate Reference Group meeting.

Forthcoming meetings

5 July	FBL Associate Lecturer Conference
6 July	Association student volunteer celebration
18/19 July	FBL Student Conference

Matt Porterfield

Faculty Student Association Representative for Business and Law (FBL)

REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR WELLBEING, EDUCATION AND LANGUAGE STUDIES (WELS)

The last few months, as ever, have been busy. I have managed to finish both of my modules on time!! I am excited that they are over but really excited to get going on my final two modules of my undergrad degree. Time seems to pass so quickly. I have enjoyed going to some of the OU's 50th celebrations not only in Milton Keynes but in Glasgow as well. I have had the opportunity to talk about culture change at the JISC CAN conference and from that I am doing some research into student engagement within the student association. I am hoping that this will feed into the piece of work we are doing on culture change within the association. I am looking forward to spending some time with my family over the summer and getting to watch some cricket, weather permitting, before we get back into the swing of things with Freshers events.

Faculty

6 June 19	Planning for AY19/20 Dasha Ivkina-MacDonald
6 June 19	EC and Primary Staff meeting
13 June 19	PRAXIS Steering Group
14 June 19	Phone call with Sue Creed about E214
17 June 19	Meeting with James Nicolson
17 June 19	Filming with Fary Cachelin for W E L S social media
25 June 19	Faculty Assembly – 10 minute talk and 3 extra students attended.
25 June 19	Filming with Joan Simons
26 June 19	Dasha – 5 tips planning
26 June 19	Anhha Chowdhury – discuss students use of social media
27 June 19	Filming 5 top tips
27 June 19	Students Awards Evaluation Panel
18 July 19	WELS Social Media Event
18 July 19	ECYS Bring and share lunch

Staff and C E C

2 May 19	Member wise conference London
21 May 19	Strategy Steering Group
28 May 19	Skype call with Steph about CAN Conference
13 June 19	Student Engagement submission meeting with Sam Harding
13 June 19	Catch up with Cath Brown
22 June 19	Student Voice Training and filming
26 June 19	Senate Reference Group
26 June 19	Culture change meeting
6 July 19	Volunteer Recognition Event
19-21 July 19	CEC

Other Meetings

7 May 19	Middle states Accreditation meeting
8-9 May 19	EsTem Conference
22 May 19	Social Partnerships Network (for Cath)
22 May 19	Celebrating 50 years of the Open Programme
29-30 May 19	Presenting at JISC CAN Conference

30 May 19	Our Journey Pilot
5 June 19	Scholarship Steering Group – skype
10 June 19	Discussion over skype about DSA experience
13 June 19	Fake Tutorial recording
24 June 19	Meeting with Scott Hayden BCOT
19-21 June 19	OU Psychology 50th Celebrations Glasgow
25 June 19	Student Satisfaction Improvement Working Group (for Steph)
25 June 19	Inaugural lecture – If school if the problem what is the solution?
2 July 19	Esploro Discussion – scholarship
5 July 19	Draft Scholarship and Innovation Communication Strategy Meeting

Future Plans

26-28 July 19	Bath Residential School
8 August 19	Meeting with Steve Hutchinson
8 August 19	Scholarship Steering Group

It has been a busy few months and I am getting to learn so much about not only the student's association workings but the workings of the university. I am going to start to embed what I have been doing within the faculty so that whoever takes over from me next term will have more that they can take forward and work with. I am relieved that my second year is done, and I am looking forward to getting going with my third year. I am really loving working with the students and staff within my faculty and very grateful as always for the support I receive from the C E C and staff of the association.

Sarah Jones

Faculty Association Representative for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS)

REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES (FASS)

List of Meetings Attended (# indicates further information in main report)

Meeting		Discussion
<i>British Psychology Society (BPS) Student Panel Meeting</i> 2 nd April 2019	Ben Duncan Jones (OU) Face to Face	To make arrangements to set up a student panel for the BPS reaccreditation in June 2019. It was agreed that we would aim to find 15 students to take part. I would lead the panel and become the main point of contact for the students.
<i>Senate reference group</i> 3 rd April 2019	OUSA	Attended SRG
<i>QAA student led project – Scotland</i> 17 th April 2019	SKYPE	Discussion was had around the possible setting up of 2 student discussion days in Scotland. One would be related to tutorials and the other analytics. Both days are now in planning by Cath Brown and Myself.
<i>Careers Forum meeting</i> 24 th April 2019	OU Face to Face	Discussion with careers team around possible FASS based activities. I joined in an online forum chat with students over 2 days.
<i>SST Meeting Julia Proser</i> 25 th April 2019	Face to Face	Met with Julia to discuss some issues raised by students as well as looking at further working between myself and FASS SST.
<i>VC Interviews student panel</i> 25 th April 2019	Face to Face	I attended as part of a student panel meeting the final candidates for the V C position
<i>CEC Weekend</i> 26 th April – 28 th April	Face to Face	Attended C E C weekend
<i>Meeting with Cherry Day – JISC Planning</i> 26 th April 2019		Met with Cherry to start the planning for our presentation on Diversity as part of the JISC conference
<i>Meeting with Cherry Day – JISC Planning</i> 1 st May 2019		Follow planning and presentation meeting for JISC conference
<i>SVSG</i> 7 th MAY 2019	Face to Face	Attended SVSG meeting on campus
<i>Middle State Accreditation</i> 7 th May 2019	Face to Face	Was part of a student panel meeting the representative for the USA middle state accreditation. A discussion was held around what it was like being an O U student. A follow up meeting planned for November 2019.
<i>BPS Planning – Ben Duncan Jones</i> 8 th May 2019	Face to Face	Had a meeting with Ben to start the process of recruiting students for the B P S reaccreditation
<i>Meeting Psychology students Edinburgh</i> 14 th May 2019	Face to Face	Met with some Psychology students in Edinburgh to discuss issues with tutorials.
<i>Met with Sheila Cameron</i> 25 th May 2019		Met with Sheila to run through both presentation for the JISC conference. One was about the D S G journey and one about accessibility.
<i>Meeting with Cherry Day – JISC Planning</i>		Final run through and planning with Cherry.

<i>28th May 2019</i>		
<i>JISC Conference 3 presentations 29th to 30th May 2019</i>	Face to Face	Attended and presented 3 presentations as part of the JISC conference on campus.
<i>Student Led Projects catch up Scotland 4th June 2019</i>	Skype	Catch up meeting to discuss the planning, budgets and recruitment of students for a workshop on Tutorials
<i>Fastest Conference Milton Keynes 10th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Attended the first full seminar for the FASTEST scholarship school. Presentations in regard to staff promotions, possible new scholarship projects and accessibility for BAME students where part of the days events.
<i>Interview panel Head of School Psychology 11th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Participated as the student rep for the heads of school in psychology interview panel. Jean McAvoy has now been appointed as the new head of school.
<i>Meeting with Cherry Day – Bloomberry Planning 11th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Met with Cherry to discuss and prepare our presentation as key note presenters at the Boomberry Institution for Teaching and Learning annual conference. This invite is a follow up to our presentation at the JISC conference
<i>Faculty Assembly 18th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Attended with 4 F A S S students the faculty assembly. I also delivered the first of a, planned regular 30min slot for student reps to present to the assembly. The presentation was a brief overview of the association and current discussions/issues by students.
<i>50th Celebration event Scotland 20th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Attended the F A S S 50 th celebration party in Glasgow. This event was open to all O U students and I also did a short presentation about my O U Journey and being involved with the Association
<i>BPS Accreditation Meeting 24th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	I led the student panel as part of the B P S reaccreditation in psychology. We had a total of 12 students attending. I arranged an evening workshop the night before to allow students to meet each other and reflect on their O U study journey.
<i>Meeting Tina Forbes Fass New schools set up 24th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Met with Tina to talk over the process of school merges in F A S S. They are going from 4 schools to a new format of 3 schools.
<i>Meeting Stefanie Sinclair FASS – FASTEST 24th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Met with Stefanie to discuss some ongoing scholarship proposals, as well as research being done in the Association.
<i>CEC Strategy Group Meeting 24th June 2019</i>	Face to Face	Our strategy group met to talk over the work we have done so far and how to move forward to the next stage.

Other activities

- Reading/posting in C E C, S R G and Central Reps forums
- Reading and responding to emails from colleagues, OU Student Association Staff and OU staff

- Reading and posting in student forums

List of future meetings/commitments

Possible workshop on tutorials in Scotland
Presentation at Bloomsbury institute in London with Cherry Day
Meetings with Hayley Ness in regards to psychology in Scotland
Meeting with Roger Knowles to discuss speakeasy event
Student voice steering group meeting in July
CEC weekend July

Billy Docherty

Faculty Association Representative for Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)