

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee

19 - 21 July 2019

### REPRESENTATION REVIEW

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The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **note and comment** on this report..

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The representation review is being undertaken as part of the 2017-20 strategy and as detailed in the OU - OU Students Association Relationship Agreement approved by Council in March 2019:
- 1.2 “Review of Academic Representation  
The OU Students Association and University will work together to review academic representation at the OU with the aim of improving the student voice and effective representation of the OU’s student demographics...”

#### 2. Survey Findings

- 2.1 The first stage of the review was to gather data from the various stakeholders and the following groups were surveyed between January and April 2019.
  - Committee members
  - The wider OU staff
  - Central Committee Representatives (C C R)
  - The wider student body
- 2.2 The findings are attached.
- 2.3 One highlight is the view held by committee members that student representatives play a valuable role and do make a difference. C C Rs themselves generally felt that student views were sought and listened to.
- 2.4 Otherwise there are a series of diverse views across all the stakeholders as can be seen. Some of these may be useful in other projects as they reflect

wider issues than just those of academic representation which is the scope of this review.

- 2.5 In terms of representation one key feature was around how reps can get information from the wider student body and the reverse process of feeding back to it. This is likely to require the support of the Consultation Office and the Student Voice Steering Group as well as the Schools and Faculties.
- 2.6 Another area to be considered is the need for training – both the representatives themselves and for staff so they can understand what the student role is or can be.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 Now that the data has been obtained and analysed the working group will be able to make a series of recommendations. These will provide the base for drafting a Code of Practice for Student Representation which will underpin all aspects of academic representation. It will provide guidance to representatives and committees regarding the role of student representatives. It will support Section 2 of the OU – OU Students Association Relationship Agreement which is the basis for student representation.

**Peter Cowan**  
**Vice President Education**