

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

19 – 21 July 2019

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)

19 – 21 July 2019

REPORT FROM THE DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP (DSG)

Committee

There has been some change in committee members with the resignation of 2 officers, Chair and PR and Comms, and the co-opt of 3 more committee members.

Our thanks and gratitude go out to Sheila and Colin for all the work they have done for the Disabled Students Group.

There are currently 3 Acting Officers, and 6 other committee members.

Megan Brown was co-opted as Acting Chair with effect of 1st June 2019

Whilst previously unreported, Chris Hughes was co-opted as Acting Secretary and Marilin Salström as Acting PR and Comms with effect of 10th March 2019.

A couple of very successful committee meetings have taken place, and lots of fresh ideas have come forward, and they will be included later in this report. The last month has been a very steep learning curve for all the committee.

Participation

CAN conference, JISC. There was a presentation by Disabled Students on Accessibility and another on Diversity, presented by Billy Docherty (DSG Committee Member and FASS FAR) and Cherry Day (VP Equality and Diversity). This was particularly well received and as a result, Billy and Cherry have been invited to be keynote speakers at the Bloomsbury Institute for Teaching and Learning Conference on 8th and 9th July.

Ed ICT. Several Group and Committee Members attended this Conference, gaining more insight and picking up pointers for us to take forward.

Disabled Veteran Students Workshop. We had a Committee Member attend and present at this event.

Community drop-ins and Meet-ups. Group and Committee Members continue to attend these events helping students and promoting the Association and D.S.G.

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:

The Bloomsbury Institute Conference. July 8th and 9th. Billy and Cherry will be keynote speakers at this event.

I.A.G (Information and Guidance) Conference. July 15th. Some of the committee will be attending this day conference.

Inclusion Meeting. July 18th. Megan as Acting Chair will be attending.

Website survey. We will be putting a survey out to students asking for feedback on how they would like us to be representing them and for website content ideas and also possible ideas for merchandise, etc.

Recruitment. Committee is currently running at 4 members light, and we are going to be asking for more volunteers to join committee.

Regions. Exploring the possibilities of regional Meet-ups, or further engagement through existing meet-ups.

Training. Training for officers is being arranged, enabling us to better represent and support students.

Freshers. Discussions for Freshers events take place at next committee meeting. August 7th.

Megan Brown For and on behalf of DSG

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



Central Executive Committee (CEC)

21 – 21 July 2019

REPORT FROM PLEXUS

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

Co-Opt 2019

After our Co-opt this year we had a total number of 5 applicants for the 4 posts available. It is with great pleasure to say that the committee is currently at capacity.

The results of our Co-Opt are as follows:

Committee Member x2: Billy Docherty and Robin Prior
Secretary: Lyndsay Thomson
Women's Officer: Emma Coleman-Shaw

The Student Support team have all been extremely helpful with this process.

Engagement

LGBT Inclusion

PLEXUS is in talks with Dr Clem Herman Director of eSTEEeM, and previous co-chair for the OU LGBT staff network, and they have requested our help in doing some research regarding LGBT inclusion in the eSTEEeM faculty. We have had contact and are awaiting results on online engagement and will share this with the committee and membership.

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 our forums and how to increase traffic to this space. The forums are only available to members and is our official platform, including Annual General Meetings and elections.

The Hoot

Stephen our Campaigns officer has written two pieces for Hoot the Open University Student Association online magazine the two articles can be found at the following links:

Edinburgh Pride: <https://thehootstudents.com/the-pride-of-edinburgh/>

Fab at 50: <https://thehootstudents.com/fabulous-at-fifty-why-pride-is-still-relevant/>

Social Media

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.

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SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

May 2019 - July 2019



Facebook

Page				Group	
Views	Engagement	Followers	Reach	Members	Engagement
61	464	18	1013	4	155

Twitter

Following	Followers	Impressions	Interactions		
			Likes	Retweets	Clicks
0	0	7080	70	10	65

Instagram

Followers	Reach	Impressions
0	6	0

Coming Up

PRIDE 2019

Pride is here, we have attended Edinburgh and Dublin, we have made the decision that we will be attending Bournemouth, Nottingham, Belfast and Cardiff. Cardiff will be a big celebration as it is Pride Cymru 20th Anniversary. I am hoping that we get as many people to attend the events as possible. We are working closely with the LGBT staff network.

PLEXUS Plus

I have had an idea with the help of the PLEXUS committee regarding a new "PLEXUS Plus" membership, this will be what we would like a wider network across as many universities and cities up and down the country.

Membership

At the time of this report PLEXUS has 720 members. Our highest proportion of member remains in London closely followed by Scotland. However, following our increased engagement in the Nations we have seen significant rises in members in Scotland and Wales.

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MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



Total Number of Members	720
Full Member	618
Associate Member	31
Friend of PLEXUS	48
HLM	1
Revoked	21

Members by Region			
R01 - London	79	R09 - North	19
R02 - South	54	R10 - Wales	52
R03 - South West	47	R11 - Scotland	75
R04 - West Mids	61	R12(a) - Northern Ireland	27
R05 - East Mids	45	R12(b) - Republic of Ireland	5
R06 - East of England	32	R13 - South East	72
R07 - Yorkshire	50	R14 - Continental Europe	20
R08 - North West	71	R15 - Rest of World	6

Membership Communications			
Opted - In	386	Not-Opted In Members	333

Future Commitments

Saturday 13th July 2019
 Saturday 27th July 2019
 Saturday 3rd August 2019
 Saturday 23rd August 2019

Bournemouth Pride
 Nottingham Pride
 Belfast Pride
 Cardiff Pride

And Finally

I would just like the committee note my extreme gratitude to the PLEXUS committee and how great they have been at finding their feet after starting their roles from January 2019. Also, a massive thank you to the Student Support Team, especially Verity, Sammi and Anna for their ongoing support.

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
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