

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**Central Executive Committee**

19 – 21 July 2019

RESOURCE FOR OU STAFF REGARDING ASSOCIATION SERVICES

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **discuss** the idea for resources for OU staff regarding the services the Association offers following feedback from Regional Centres and SST (Student Support Team) visits

1. Rationale

1.1 Verity and I visited various OU Centres and Offices to share information with OU student facing staff about services offered by the Association. We tried to keep the information confined to what the staff would want to pass on to students who contacted them. Of particular interest was overcoming feelings of isolation. The initial aim was to talk about the Peer Support Service and OUSET (OU Students Educational Trust) but this expanded when we were asked to include details of what the Association offered that could help students who mentioned feeling isolated.

2. Content of the Talks

2.1 Our talking lasted for about 30 minutes with 15 minutes for questions. We had a Powerpoint which we slightly adapted to suit the Faculty or Nation Office we were visiting. OUSET and Peer Support were the main focus. We extended the talks to include Clubs, Groups and Societies; the shop; Freshers; the Magazine; fortnightly Adobe Connect and face to face Meet-ups; and we touched on various Association roles. Apart from our first visit to the STEMA S R S C (Student Recruitment and Support Centre) (which we assumed would be a one off) we invited relevant Association reps to attend as well, such as Nation A A Rs (Area Association Reps) and FARs (Faculty Association Reps). We mentioned our representatives sat on various OU Committees but did not talk about it in depth because of the audience and rationale for the talks. We did not find a way to share this talk with ALs.

3. Plans

3.1 It is beneficial to share information as widely as possible about the services and opportunities for students to meet other students available through the Association. One means of achieving that is informing OU staff who talk to students. Although the face to face visits Verity and I made were useful, and

seemed to be well received, it is not feasible to carry these out annually. I would like to find other ways to ensure the information is readily available for any OU staff who would like to access it.

- 3.2 At a minimum Verity and I would like to make our Powerpoint presentation, along with notes and a voiceover, available to all OU staff. We can, in its simplest form, make it almost a repetition of what we presented during our road trips. However, although Verity and I can talk in depth about some aspects of the Association, and can share some information about others, there are areas where our experience and knowledge is lacking.
- 3.3 Slightly connected to this is the plan for some of the Central Executive Committee to meet twice a year with OU staff from the S R S Cs which includes Student Support Team staff. One reason for these meetings is to raise the profile of the Association and share what we offer, the other is see whether we can learn from OU staff who talk to students.

4. Areas for Discussion

- 4.1 Is there is an appetite for creating a resource for OU staff? If so, is it best that Verity and I recreate the basic Powerpoint, with voiceovers and notes, or should areas within the Association create their own piece if they want to? Should Student Voice have a section, considering the audience? Are there any additional ways we should be exploring to provide this resource?

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