

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

18 July 2020

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)

18 July 2020

REPORT FROM THE DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP (DSG)

Since our last report

The Disabled Students Group committee would like to put forward its thanks to the outgoing Central Executive Committee for work they have done on behalf of students and support they have given members of the D.S.G.

We welcome the incoming C.E.C members, and look forward to working alongside them in representing disabled students.

Committee

There have been no changes to the make-up of the committee. We have had 3 meetings since our last report.

Participation

Inclusion April 23rd

Unfortunately, this meeting was cancelled. Reports were circulated for discussion instead.

Chat session for Hearing Impairment. April 14th

The topics for this session were Technology, Study strategies and Isolation. It is hoped to run further sessions, and hopefully get more involvement.

Microsoft ADMINS project

Some committee members have been assisting with this project to develop a Chat-Bot, currently being developed to enhance the Disabled Student Experience.

Community drop-ins

Group and committee members continue to attend these events helping students and promoting the Association and D.S.G.

Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus there are no Meet-ups happening, but committee members will be attending as many online meets and chat sessions as possible.

Conference 2020

There were some good elements to conference 2020, however not all the committee members nor the disabled students were able to use all the platforms. Some of this was technical issues, some down to scheduling. Further, more detailed feedback will follow.

Updates

Biannual General Meeting

The Biannual General Meeting has not yet been scheduled, the committee are still waiting for policies and guidelines.

The committee is still in the process of re-writing the code of conduct for committee members.

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:

Freshers October

Initial discussions are taking place on what and how we are going to do Freshers for the next intake. It is hoped to do another D.S.A event, and other drop ins.

Megan Brown

DSG Chair

For and on behalf of the Disabled Students Group (DSG)



Central Executive Committee (CEC)

18 July 2020

REPORT FROM PLEXUS

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

Committee Update

Since our last report you may be aware that unfortunately we have lost another committee member, Billy, has stood down from his role in the committee. I personally would like to thank Billy for all his work and support provided with PLEXUS.

Engagement

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 alternatives to the forums that would allow members to interact with the committee and also the wider membership network. With global pride 2020 being the same weekend as conference, we worked together with communications and engagement team in the nations and have had a lot of interactions with one of our tweets having the wales office video being seen by 8222 people and having 1704 people watch the video which is always a great start.

PLEXUS Emails/Storage

PLEXUS now have all been merged over to the new @open.ac.uk email addresses and these have been updated on the Microsite. We now have access to the Onedrive.

The committee had a catchup with Myles, and we have come up with a plan of a weekly meeting with him to have a catch up and plan what is happening the week going forward. We have asked if Myles can get access to the PLEXUS constitution and the role descriptions for the committee as we have had two students who have expressed interest for fulfilling two of the roles.

Coming Up

PLEXUS Re-Launch

Following our sit down as a committee we had come up with a few ideas of a PLEXUS relaunch they are as follows:

- PLEXUS to be renamed, with this we are planning to get a panel together comprising of the committee, 2/3 PLEXUS members and a member of the student support team to discuss this plan.
- Renaming the current newsletter 'SOLAR' and this would again be determined by the panel.
- Reshuffle of the committee and renaming some of the positions to make them easier to fill and also giving the committee members a wider portfolio.

This is still underway, the plan will be that anything the committee make a decision on this would be put out to the members so they can have their say on the proposed changes.

Membership

Since the introduction of GDPR Guidelines the management of the committee membership has been handed over to the Student Support team. The table below is from the last CEC Report.

OU PLEXUS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



Total Number of Members	737
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Full Member	635
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Associate Member	31
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Friend of PLEXUS	48
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HLM	1
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Revoked	21
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Members by Region			
R01 - London	80	R09 - North	19
R02 - South	54	R10 - Wales	52
R03 - South West	51	R11 - Scotland	76
R04 - West Mids	63	R12(a) - Northern Ireland	27
R05 - East Mids	47	R12(b) - Republic of Ireland	6
R06 - East of England	33	R13 - South East	74
R07 - Yorkshire	52	R14 - Continental Europe	20
R08 - North West	72	R15 - Rest of World	6

Membership Communications			
Opted - In	403	Not-Opted In Members	333

Future Commitments

We have not pencilled in any future commitments due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of things have been put on hold or have been cancelled such as the pride dates.

We will continue to post on social media with the LGBT calendar dates and ensure that we hit as many as we can to keep spirits up in such a difficult time.

And Finally

I would just like the committee note my extreme gratitude to the Student Support Team, for their ongoing support.

I would also like to thank the PLEXUS Committee for their ongoing engagement especially through this difficult time.

Thank you for taking the time to read this report. If you have any questions, please feel contact me via email.

Kirean Dingley

PLEXUS Chair

For and on behalf of PLEXUS

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