

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

19 – 21 October 2018

### CEC EFFECTIVENESS REVIEW

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The C E C is asked to:-

- i) **discuss** the feedback from the CEC effectiveness review
- ii) **agree** any actions to be taken forward for this term (2018-20)

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 In July 2018, members of the 2016-18 Central Executive Committee were asked to complete an online survey to give feedback on their experience and comment on improvements that could be made.
- 1.2 8 members of the 2016-18 Central Executive Committee completed the survey.

#### 2. Findings for discussion

- 2.1 Regarding CEC meetings and papers, members felt that they had been prepared for meetings and were able to contribute to discussions. Members felt that more papers should be produced by CEC members rather than staff, but were grateful for the contribution and assistance of staff. Some papers were not following the common template which made it difficult to follow or appreciate what should be discussed. However it was felt that they were long enough, relevant and informative. There was a split opinion on whether papers were given enough time at the meetings, with consensus that timekeeping had been a frustration. There was a general feeling that CEC members wanted to be more involved in setting the agenda for the meetings.
- 2.2 The venue for CEC meetings was generally felt to be effective, but comments were made about the layout of the room, use of mics and some general accommodation issues.

- 2.3 It was commented that not having the Officer Team meetings this term had meant a real loss of focus on the agenda moving forward and a loss of opportunity to hear the staff perspective. Relationships between members and staff had been fractious at times in the term and it was felt important to build a much better understanding and shared direction.
- 2.4 Feedback on the CEC forums included the need for more members to be present and active but also that the forums were a supplement to the face-to-face meetings and shouldn't be used instead of the meetings.

### **3. Suggestions made in the feedback**

- 3.1 Some suggestions made around papers and meetings included producing an additional PDF which collated all the papers in order to make downloading them easier; better timekeeping for the meeting; questions on whether papers should be published earlier; greater use of the common template; more time for workshops and roundtable discussions; more updates from the President on key business items within the University; CEC to shape agenda; ensuring that OU presentations were truly consultative and engaging; more time to meet in small groups to include staff and keeping the Friday evening session at CEC to be informal and include the open house sessions which had been a welcome addition during the term.
- 3.2 On the venue, members suggested that perhaps a boardroom layout may help to formalise the meeting and having mics for each table was appreciated.
- 3.3 Suggestions made regarding the forums included making use of online meetings via Skype for discussions; having a deadline for items which required feedback by a given date; mixed views on whether more or less business should be handled online outside of face-to-face meetings.

### **4. Next steps**

- 4.1 Some of these suggestions have already been incorporated as we begin the term, but it would be helpful to receive feedback on what more we can do to continually improve.

**Rob Avann**  
**Chief Executive**