

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

14 – 16 July 2017

CEC 7/17/11

### CEC OBSERVERS TO MEETINGS

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The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **discuss** the paper

#### 1. **Background**

- 1.1 It has been a longstanding feature of CEC meetings that student observers are invited to attend CEC meetings as full participants (save for voting and attendance for sessions where confidential matters are discussed unless otherwise agreed to by the CEC). It is a good tradition and observers have often gone on to be elected to the CEC.
- 1.2 In the past observers have been selected by National and Regional Assemblies. As a result of the changes due to the Grassroots project and with increased Faculty representation it is, perhaps, time to review who the observers are and how should they be selected.

#### 2. **Observers and Selection Process**

- 2.1 I am proposing that observers be selected as follows:

##### 2.2 **Regional and National**

One each from Continental Europe, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland and Wales (5)

*Selected by the appropriate AAR and VP Community who may invite others onto the selection panel if necessary. These others should be studying in the Region / Nation they are selecting for*

Five from England (5)

*Selected by the English AARs and VP Community plus others as above*

##### 2.3 **Faculty**

One from each Faculty plus one from the Open Programme (4)

*Selected by the relevant Faculty, VP Representation and Research plus others who must be studying in that faculty*

## 2.4 **Others**

One each from the Disabled Students Group, Plexus and the Societies (3)  
*Selected from inside the Groups and Societies*

Two Trustees (no more than one at a meeting) (2)  
*Selected by the Trustees*

## 3. **Frequency and Process**

3.1 No student may be an observer more than once.

3.2 Observers shall be invited to either the January or April CEC meeting with roughly equal numbers of observers allocated to each

3.3 A call for volunteers to be considered should be made 2-3 months ahead of the meeting they are to attend. I do not propose to limit who can be an observer – it should be open to any student fitting the necessary criteria – but would suggest that students already active at some level in the Association be given priority.

## 4. **Non Student Observers**

4.1 It has been suggested that we invite observers from outside the student body to the CEC in order to widen knowledge of our activities. I have mixed views on the merits of some of the suggestions, however, the CEC's opinion may differ.

4.2 Members of Council – as the Student Member of Council has mentioned in other meetings there is a move to increase the visibility of Council and for Council members to have more opportunity to engage with students. I feel it would benefit the Association if Council members could attend at least part of a CEC meeting. The logical time would be to invite any Council member attending the Annual Dinner where we host senior University Staff to attend all or part of the Saturday session. I would not rule out inviting one to other meetings if the opportunity arose.

4.3 Senior University Staff – we are more used to seeing these giving presentations and being questioned by us at meetings. My feeling is that should be the default position but I do feel there may be some benefit in inviting newly appointed senior staff to sit in on part of a meeting as part of their induction process in order to see what the CEC does and also to meet members informally during the breaks / over lunch.

4.4 Associate Lecturers (ALs) – this has been mooted but I am not convinced that there is any benefit to the Association regarding inviting ALs. My feeling is that we would probably get ALs attending who are already well aware of what we do so it would not advance the aim of increasing awareness of what we do among the AL community.

**Peter Cowan**  
**Vice President Administration**