

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

25 – 27 October 2019

STRATEGY UPDATE 2017-19

The C E C is asked to:-

- i) **note** the updates on the current strategy and progress on the new strategy

1. Background

1.1 The 2017-20 OU Students Association Strategy was approved by the CEC and ratified by the Trustees in July 2017. A number of discussions and working sessions had previously been held with the Board of Trustees, the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and the staff team to build the strategy around three major objectives:

- Listen to OU students and represent their collective voice and academic interests
- Engage students in a vibrant and supportive community and create new opportunities
- Raise awareness of our actions and the impact of our work to enhance the student experience and student success

2. Key achievements and progress since the last update to the CEC

2.1 The representation review has been completed, an action plan has been drafted and shared with the office of the Pro Vice Chancellor (Students) for feedback. Work will begin on the Code of Practice once working group membership has been agreed and will continue as part of the new strategy.

2.2 The Association was awarded the Investing in Volunteers quality standard on 31 July 2019, a huge achievement for everyone involved.

2.3 The BAME group is in the process of being formed, with an active Chair in place and a soft launch occurring during the recent Freshers period. A fuller launch will take place following updates to our website and database to allow recognition of the group.

2.4 The highly-successful library support volunteers service has been made into business as usual and has now been rolled out to level 2 students.

- 2.5 A pack for carers is nearly ready for launch.
- 2.6 The 'Your Ideas' platform has been developed and launched.
- 2.7 Work is progressing to completion on the annual membership survey with an intention to launch in Student Voice week (w/c 18 November), although we are in need of assistance from the University in allowing us to contact all of our members and not just a small sample. Discussions continue.
- 2.8 An anthology produced by a student who had been supported by OUSET has been shared with the OU Write Club and will be featured as part of their OU 50th anniversary special.
- 2.9 The culture review project has commenced, with consultants Pecan Partnership appointed.
- 2.10 Joint work with the Graduate School to support PGRs continues, with events held on employability and networking and plans progressed for induction sessions and socials.
- 2.11 The OU Students Shop will be present at the OpenFest event on 18 October, with a range of specials planned including book signings.
- 2.12 The big societies and Freshers meetup on 28 September was a massive success.
- 2.13 The disciplinary and complaints process review is nearing completion, with a final version due to come forward for approval later in the year.
- 2.14 50 new moderators have been recruited.

3. Moving forward

- 3.1 A final round up of all of the achievements under this strategy has been pulled together and a draft communication based on this will be shared on the forum for CEC comments and feedback imminently, with a view to releasing this in time to lead into the launch of the new strategy.
- 3.2 Development of the new strategy has now been completed, with endorsement from the CEC resulting in approval by the Board of Trustees. A launch event for Open University staff and other partners will take place on campus on 28 October with a launch to students expected to take place in early November. Work is also underway on setting in place performance management of the new strategy and ensuring join-up with the subvention negotiations and overall business planning.
- 3.3 A huge thank you to all CEC members, Trustees and staff who contributed ideas and feedback throughout this process and a massive vote of thanks to Sue Maccabe, Strategic Projects and Change Coordinator for guiding everyone through it and achieving an outcome we should be really proud of. It is an exciting and ambitious new strategy which will challenge and stimulate us through the coming period.

Rob Avann
Chief Executive