

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**Central Executive Committee (CEC)**

25 - 27 October 2019

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **note** and provide feedback

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Over time the Students Association has supported effective ways that the Open University students can engage with their academic community. Part of this work has been completed in The Student Engagement Standard; this has been presented at the C E C already. As a result of attending and presenting at the CAN conference held at The Open University in May 2019, and attending the RAISE Conference in September 2019, I have been increasingly aware that as a Students Association that supports distance learning we have so much good practice we can look to share with the wider H E community. For example, how we connect with students who study at a distance and making them feel part of a community. To this aim, I am hoping to write a paper on the behalf of the Students Association to go in the Journal of Education Partnership & Change and to look at a Student Staff Scholarship partnership in this.
- 1.2 In the initial stages, I plan to bring together some ideas on what students, members of Association staff and members of staff from the university, all think of the question "What does student engagement mean to you?" I will achieve this by running a workshop in Student Voice week to collect some of these ideas. I also plan to run a similar workshop with the W E L S extended leadership team.

2. Idea for the Workshop

- 2.1 It is a 90-minute workshop to be held in Juniper and Medlar on November 22nd at 12-1.30pm.
- 2.2 It will consist of 15 mins reviewing posters to provide background and context, 15 minutes considering initial questions and then 45 minutes Lego Serious Play to be performed in groups, culminating in 15 minutes of round up discussion.
- 2.3 I have chosen Lego Serious Play as I have a background in Lego Therapy and I have seen how this can be used to help unleash the potential of your imagination and unblock your preconceived ideas with the hope that new thinking can take place and experiences shared within the group; in other words you think with your hands and not with your brain.

2.4 Ideas will be captured on flip charts and photos will be taken of any Lego built.

3. Who will be invited?

3.1 The aim is to have students who are on campus for Student Voice Week attend, some Association staff and some staff from the university.

3.2 The invite will be sent around to various people so they can sign up along with consent forms so that we can make use any information that we gather.

4. Aims

4.1 The benefits for those taking part – I am hoping that, by taking part in the workshop, ideas will be shared and challenged and views either cemented or changed.

4.2 I am hoping that the priority of what student engagement is will be increased.

4.3 Benefits for us – I am hoping that there will be plenty of views captured that can be reviewed and incorporated into an academic paper, to be submitted to the Journal of Education Partnership & Change, and linked in with the culture review and relevant parts of the new strategy.

4.4 I will also be doing some Scholarship work on this project.

Sarah Jones
WELS Faculty Representative