

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

25 September – 6 October 2020

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT REVIEW

The C E C is asked to:-

- i) **note** the information below
- ii) **approve** the Student Submission to the Quality Enhancement Review (QER).
- iii) **note** that the status of the appendix to this paper is confidential to CEC members only.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Open University will be undergoing a Quality Enhancement Review in March 2021. This is being carried out by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The last review was in 2015.
- 1.2 The OU has to produce a Self Evaluation Analysis (SEA) and a Change Report.
- 1.3 The Students Association is expected to produce a separate submission to the review and also be involved in the SEA and Change Report.
- 1.4 The purpose of the Student Submission is to inform the Review Panel of the student experience at the OU. It is an opportunity to highlight how student experience can be improved and enhanced. It is not a report on the Association's activity, nor is it a marketing document.
- 1.5 The Students Association are required to provide a Lead Student Representative (LSR) for the review, to co-ordinate the student submission and liaise with the University and the Review Officer.
- 1.6 Barbara Tarling and Sandra Summers have been appointed as Joint Lead Student Representatives.
- 1.7 The LSRs and Cath Brown contributed to the OU submission, as did some Central Committee Representatives (CCR) through their OU Committees.

1.8 An Association Working Group was formed, initially comprising Cath Brown (2018-20 President), the LSRs, Nigel Patterson (Appointed Student) and Association Staff, Rob Avann (CEO) and Beth Metcalf (Head of Volunteering and Representation), to produce the submission. Following the CEC elections Sarah Jones (2020-22 President) and Cinnomen McGuigan (2020-22 VP Education) joined the Working Group. In addition, some of the Association's Communication team have recently joined to provide Communications support.

1.9 The OU chose three themes for their submission:

- Student Success
- Open Access
- Student Voice

The Working Group used the same three themes as the OU submission, with an additional section on Covid-19.

1.10 The Working Group has produced a submission (appendix).

1.11 A draft of this was circulated to the CEC, CCRs and Senate Reference Group (SRG) members. The Working Group members thank those who commented. Comments have been reviewed and incorporated when possible.

1.12 The submission has now been shared with the OU, as agreed by the Working Group.

2. Next Steps

2.1. The CEC is asked **to approve** the submission.

2.2. The submission will go to the next meeting of the Trustees for approval.

2.3. The final document will be formatted and proofread by external professionals.

2.4. The submission has to be submitted to the QER by December 20.

2.5. The Working Group is also considering submitting a short video (<5 minutes) with students describing their experience as an OU student. The Association Communications team are working on this and a call has been made for contributions. If submitted, this would also need to be submitted in December 20.

2.6. The QER will visit the OU (in person or virtual tbc) in February 21.

2.7. The Review visit is scheduled for the week of 21 March 21.

Barbara Tarling
Sandra Summers
Joint Lead Student Representatives.