

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

25 September – 6 October 2020

### REPORT OF THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

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The C E C is asked to:-

i) **note** the information provided in this report and appendix

1. The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the members and the financial position of each Affiliated Society.
2. The appendix provides information on the state of OU Students Association's Affiliated Societies, showing the number of societies affiliated, the position of their members and financial information regarding their accounts and grant payments.
3. The data included on this report is taken from information held on the OU Students Association Office database and financial information provided by the Resources team within the Association office.
4. In the event of any inaccuracies, omissions or errors being noted, you are asked to advise the OU Students Association Office of these as soon as possible following the CEC Meeting.
5. The Society Committee AGM was held on 25 July with representatives of thirteen of our societies in attendance. This was the first time an AGM has been held remotely and there were very few glitches with the technology, attendees being used to this style of meeting in part due to the on-line conference a few weeks earlier.
6. At the AGM Cin McGuigan stepped down as Chair of the Committee and there were some really lovely compliments to her for her service as Chair for the last two years. Nigel Patterson of Fusion was elected as the new Chair. Nigel comes with a great deal of energy, experience and ideas for taking societies forward in the coming months.

7. In attendance at the AGM were representatives from the Christian Union Club as they are looking to make the step up from Club status to becoming a Society.
8. It transpires that the Association used to have a Christian Brotherhood Society back in the dim and distant past. Having spoken to VP Admins past there seems to be no constitutional reason why we can't have any overtly religious or political societies, I suppose it's just a matter of how we want to manage them and are we ok with funding for their activities?
9. Many Student Unions have political and faith societies so this is not an unusual thing. Their current status is as a club and they have been compliant with the (albeit very light) requirements we have of them, they have also worked with our Interfaith Club so as to be inclusive and are also a member of the national body for University Christian Unions – so seem well placed.
10. We have been working with the proposed new Chair of the Christian Union and he seems to be working through the requirements of his constitution very carefully so there's clearly a lot of thought going into this.
11. At the AGM Societies reported an increase in membership numbers as a result of Conference and are keen to continue with promotional events (on-line in the near future) to keep getting the message out there to students. Societies were very keen to be involved in Freshers in Sept/Oct 2020.
12. We currently have 56 registered clubs with a membership of 9784 students.

**Peter Turner**  
**Head of Student Community**