

Governance Review Implementation – Proposal for Student Leadership and Representation Structures and AGM Format

Appendix 1: Simple list of proposals

This appendix presents a simple list of the proposals contained in the main paper. However, as a simple list it lacks the context and detail that is given in the main paper and therefore should not be read on its own as an alternative to the main paper. It is presented simply for ease of reference.

Student Leadership and Representation

Student Leadership Team

Title: Student Leadership Team

Membership: 6-8 elected Student Officer roles

8 roles proposed for 2022-24:

President (paid)

Deputy President (paid)

Academic Representation Officer

Finance and Administration Officer

Community Officer

Engagement Officer

Student Support Officer

EDI Officer

Two-year terms.

Term limits as per the Governance Review recommendation.

Role much more focused on student matters, dynamic and solution focused. The Student Leadership Team will design and implement a clear programme of work at the outset of each two-year term and monitor a rolling log of actions. The Student Leadership Team will lead on all student engagement with the Open University and the external world and will need to be strategic in outlook, focusing on the insights and feedback gleaned from students. The Student Leadership Team will own and live our values as an Association and will need to work as a close-knit group to achieve their programme of work and deliver the overall organisational strategy. The Student Leadership Team will need to combine an 'internal' (within the Open University community) focus with an 'external' focus on influencing wider policy affecting our students and on developing new partnerships and alliances with other organisations trying to achieve similar aims. An important part of their work will be to listen to and engage with the wider student body (e.g. through surgeries etc), heed the views of the Student Forum and make clear and action-orientated position

statements on the issues affecting Open University students and distance-learning students in general.

Council Member to cease to be an elected remit and become appointed instead, but to attend the Student Leadership Team as a non-voting member.

Joint meetings with Student Forum, as well as meetings just for the Student Leadership Team.

President, Deputy President, Finance and Administration Officer remain as automatic Officer Trustees. One further Officer Trustee place on the Board of Trustees will need to be filled.

- ✓ Question: How should this be decided? Would a particular remit make sense to be the fourth Officer Trustee? Should the Student Leadership Committee nominate them from within their number?

Remits for the Student Leadership Teams drafted by an independent body, but with input from the current Central Executive Committee.

- ✓ Question: How best to achieve this?

Officer roles to have some cross-cutting and shared responsibilities.

Consideration to be given around Officer roles having supporting teams of volunteers, potentially drawn from the Student Forum.

Held to account by the Scrutiny Panel and AGM.

Requirements for the Team to be transparent and accountable, engaging with the student body.

Student Forum

Title: Student Forum

Membership: 30-40 student members, representative of the student body.

One year term.

Term limits as per the Student Leadership Team.

Proposed membership for 2022-23:

- ✓ A student representative from every OU School (plus Open and Access);
- ✓ A Post-Graduate Research (PGR) student;

- ✓ Nations representatives (4 UK nations and international);
- ✓ Faculty representative for each of the 4 OU Faculties;
- ✓ A representative from each of our Student Groups (DSG, Pride and BAME), to be selected by those group members;
- ✓ A floating number of remaining places, to enable flexibility to ensure that we can be agile to cover under-represented groups and hear from key student demographics (ethnicity, age, gender, disability, full time workers, undergraduate and postgraduate taught study, carers etc etc). Some of these we feel could also be utilised to support emerging priorities/needs as very short-term roles to support for a specific length of time, specific project or a task and finish group for example (which builds on insights work, see Focus Group feedback pages 8-9).

Elected: Nations roles; Group representatives by their home group; Faculty Reps(?)
 Appointed: PGR Rep; School Reps; Faculty Reps(?); Floating places.

The function of the Student Forum would be to enable the Student Leadership Team to hear from a wider body of students in their decision making and representation work. We propose that the Student Forum's terms of reference and role remits should be very flexible, much lower in time commitment, and enable agile and dynamic discussions of the live issues affecting students. We do not foresee the Student Forum being buried in a paper-based decision-making structure. Rather, joint meetings of the Student Leadership Team and Student Forum should allow for discussions, debates, workshops on strategy, policy and position statements and be solution focused with clear actions agreed and logged.

Student Forum to use a range of methods to collate and analyse student views and input.

Limits on cross-over between membership of the Board of Trustees, Student Leadership Team, Student Forum and Scrutiny Panel.

Scrutiny Panel

Title: Scrutiny Panel

Membership: 6-8 members. Same size or smaller than the Student Leadership Team.

Membership:

At least two members drawn from the Student Forum

Three options on remaining membership:

- 3 x other student members who hold no other roles in the Association, potentially selected by fellow students as part of the AGM each year
- 1 x Lay Trustee (e.g. HR and culture skilled professional)

1 x Open University delegate (nominated by PVC-Students team)

✓ Question/area for feedback: We welcome feedback on these options.

Reporting line to Board of Trustees.

One year term.

Term limits as per the Student Leadership Team and Student Forum.

Annual General Meeting

Fully online

Half day at minimum

Core business items as per legal requirements.

Wider programme of activities to engage, consult and involve students.

AGM Steering Group created.

Quorum set as a minimum of 50 students.

All student members able to attend and vote.

Commitment to more local/regional events taken forward as a new area of strategic development work.

Governance Structure for reference (lifted from Governance Review report: *please note that the names of the various elements and the number of students on the Student Forum are changed by our proposal above. This diagram is included simply to aid context of reporting lines etc*):

