



OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

8 – 10 October 2021

REPORT OF THE AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

The C E C is asked to:-

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

The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the members and the financial position of each Affiliated Society.

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.

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.

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.

Following on from the Society Committee AGM on 19 June 2021 a plan was put into place to 'audit' all societies as some had been identified as struggling and unresponsive. Many were deemed to be in good health however a few were in need of extra support and this was provided by the Association's Resources Team in assisting societies who had fallen behind on financial reporting. Sadly as part of this process we have now disaffiliated Dr Turing, Business Associate, Development and Environment, Entrepreneurs, Philosophers, Students For Ethical Science and Technology and Innovation. All seven of these were approached on a number of occasions and offered extra support, the chance to make the change to the less demanding status of 'Club' or the option of merging – which was the case with the BUssinss Associate Society who are now a part of Commercial Awareness. All of the disaffiliations were undertaken according to both the Association's Bye-Laws and also the individual constitution of the society concerned – as a result the coffers of OUSET have been boosted by several thousand pounds.

None of the disaffiliations were taken lightly and it is with a heavy heart we lose these societies as some have been with us for many years, however if they had been inactive for some considerable time they simply weren't doing the Association or the wider student body and good by remaining on our books.

Happily three new societies have appeared on the State of Societies document, these being the Christian Union, Space Science and People and Planet. There is a total of 17 societies now affiliated to the Association.

A similar process was undertaken with Clubs and this once again resulted in the loss of a small number: Unity in Diversity, Debate Union, Video Games and Esports and Anime and Manga. All of these had become dormant or had lost their student 'club leads' and so weren't viable any longer. Since last reporting we have added four new clubs to the list as follows: World Heritage and History, Google Developer, Data Science and Drag Fans. Total club membership now stands at 11,732 students of 77 Clubs.

There was a great deal of interest in the Clubs and Societies Fair at Freshers held on 21 Sept with 125 students in attendance.

Anca Seaton
VP Community

Pete Turner
Head of Student Community