

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)

3 - 5 December 2021

CEC POSITION STATEMENTS PROCESS PROPOSAL

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **Discuss and approve** the proposed process for agreeing and publishing position statements on behalf of the OU Students Association.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper is put to the CEC by the Position Statements Working Group (PSWG).
- 1.2 This paper will propose a membership, regularity of meeting and a process for approving position statements on behalf of the OU Students Association.

2. Position Statements Working Group Membership

- 2.1 *Fixed membership:* The Association President and Deputy President, along with the Director of Engagement are to be fixed appointments within the PSWG, with responsibility attached to their roles.
- 2.2 *Non-fixed membership:* 3 additional CEC members will be non-fixed long-term members of the PSWG. Appointment of these positions will be determined by expression of interest among the CEC.
- 2.3 *Subject Matter Expert membership:* Temporary membership of the PSWG will be offered to 'subject matter experts' where appropriate. I.e. if the PSWG are developing a statement regarding an issue related to EDI, the VP EDI would be invited to temporarily join the working group.

3. Meeting regularity

- 3.1 The PSWG will arrange to meet once per month.
- 3.2 If there are no positions to discuss, meetings may be cancelled.

3.3 If an issue arises that necessitates a response from the OU Students Association, an 'emergency' meeting may be scheduled at the soonest possible time.

4. Proposed process for agreeing OU Students Association position statements

4.1 The purpose of this proposal is to achieve a process that is dynamic and responsive, whilst maintaining the democratic nature of the Association. With this in mind, the PSWG is proposing a process for events that can be planned for, and an emergency process for unanticipated events that involves a holding statement followed by a formal statement within 7 days.

4.2 In the first instance, the role of the PSWG would be to plan for forthcoming circumstances that we are aware of, i.e. a strike ballot. The process for this scenario is (process flow in appendix 1):

- 1) PSWG consults the CEC for opinions on the issue via MS Teams space.
- 2) PSWG proposes a position statement, which will be open to comments via MS Team for a limited period prior to publication.
- 3) PSWG takes on board comments and publishes finalised Students Association position statement on the website.

4.3 In the case of an unanticipated urgent issue, this paper asks the CEC for delegated authority to publish holding statements in response to emergency events. This would involve a short statement advising that the Association is aware of an issue and will be publishing a more substantial position statement once a consultation of the student leadership team has taken place.

4.4 The process for this scenario is as follows (process flow in Appendix 2):

- 1) PSWG publish holding statement.
- 2) PSWG consult CEC via MS Teams space for views on the issue for 48 hours.
- 3) PSWG have 48 hours to take on board comments from and develop OU Students Association position statement.
- 4) Position statement is shared on MS Teams for a further 24 hours to obtain a 'yes' or 'no' decision on publishing.
- 5) If 'yes', position statement is published on the website.
- 6) If 'no', PSWG take on board comments from CEC and have a further 24 hours to amend and re-share the statement with the CEC.
- 7) Revert back to point 4 until position statement agreed.

Sarah Jones, President

Ian Cheyne, Deputy President

Matt Porterfield, VP Admin

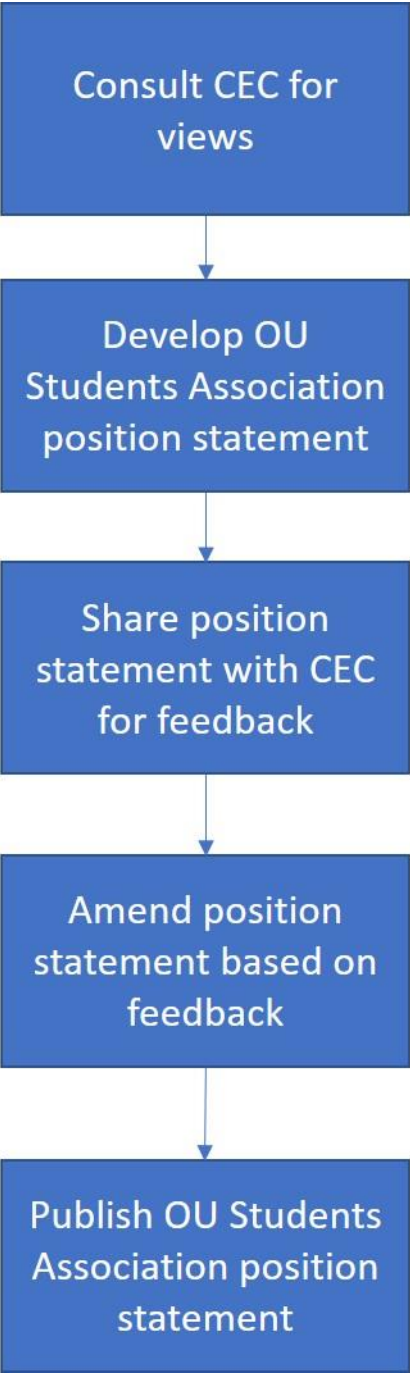
Cinnomen McGuigan, VP Education

Gareth Jones, FBL FAR

Dan Moloney, Director of Engagement

Appendix 1

Proposed PSWG process for forthcoming circumstances that we are aware of:



Appendix 2

Proposed PSWG process for unanticipated urgent issue:

