



OU Students  
Association

# OU Student

Edited by

Roz Evans

Roz Evans

The official publication of the Open University Students Association

## OUSA's exciting future

**B**Y the time this article is published the Executive Committee will be working hard to fulfil the instructions that Conference 2010 gave us with regard to OUSA Futures. I am so very happy that all the hard work, consultation and preparation paid off and we have a very firm direction in which to lead the Association.

Some changes will be easy to instigate, others are going to take a lot more thought and we will be consulting with the membership again to ensure that we understand what is required.

I sincerely believe that the OUSA that will emerge after Conference 2011 will be much better at representing the needs of its members, will be more visible and will allow students to become involved in their Association without having to take on responsibilities such as chair or treasurer.

So, what can you do to help? Well, you can respond to any consultation that is set up and you can bring to the attention of your Executive Committee member anything that is specific to your own situation or that of students within your region or nation.

But it is important to realise that we will not be able to consult all the way up to Conference 2011, there will need to be plenty of time to finalise the constitution that needs to be accepted by Conference in order for the changes to be official. Please get involved as soon as possible, so we can use your feedback.

Apart from Conference, the highlight of the past few weeks has been attending two graduation ceremonies at the Barbican in London.

It is very hard not to be impressed by the feeling of achievement and satisfaction that fills the whole venue – every student hav-

ing their own story of how they managed to succeed against the odds. OU Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean gave an inspirational speech in which he urged the new graduates to go out 'and make a difference'.

It occurs to me that I don't know an awful lot about what students do after they graduate and I would like to take this opportunity to ask for some feedback from those of you who have graduated from the OU and who still receive this magazine. I would like to include some graduate stories on the OUSA website.

So if you have any stories about how you have made a difference, no matter how small, I would be glad to receive them to my mailbox. I'm not looking for world-changing differences, maybe getting a better job or inspiring family members to study – something that will inspire fellow students to consider continuing their study after graduation.

For me, graduating has given me confidence in my ability to learn, to prove to myself that my brain is not withering away (even though at times I don't seem to be able to absorb a single extra bit of data).

This confidence has spread to the rest of my life – and for me, this is a wonderful difference. So please let me have your own stories, I can be contacted through my mailbox on FirstClass or via email [ousap2@guest.open.ac.uk](mailto:ousap2@guest.open.ac.uk)

### STOP PRESS

BELIEVE IT or not, I'm going to try my hand at 'new' technology and will be attempting to keep you up to date with events from my diary on the OUSA website.

Although this will not be updated as reg-



ularly as a proper blog, I aim to give an insight into some of the interesting things that happen to OUSA President – some of which are important and some of which have simply made me giggle.

I have quite a variety of meetings booked over the next few weeks so I should have plenty of topics to write about – from graduations to OU committees and also a Regional picnic and a National Student Forum meeting. I suspect the latter to be very interesting as the new, complicated government structure finds its feet.

I look forward to feedback, but as it will probably be written on the hoof (probably on a train or in a hotel room) please don't expect too high a standard.

This is an experiment and will very much be a work in progress – so please visit the website and have a look.

**ROZ EVANS**  
OUSA PRESIDENT

# OUSA Annual Conference

## Busy Conference a big



THE 2010 OUSA Conference took place over the weekend of 16-18 April on the Jubilee Campus, University of Nottingham.

Although many things had been factored in to the plans for the weekend, nobody had foreseen the eruption of a volcano on Iceland, which caused considerable disruption to the travel plans of delegates from Europe, Scotland and Ireland as well as a number from England who were out of the country immediately before the event.

While a number of these delegates were able to make alternative arrangements, around 30 were unable to do so and so missed the event.

Despite reduced numbers those who did attend were treated to a Conference that had much more than just the formal business. Much of the formal business was centred on the group of motions taken to Conference by the Executive Committee as a result of the OUSA Futures consultation.

These motions gave delegates several choices as to what a new OUSA might look like. Thankfully, the many months of consultation and debate paid off with Conference accepting the changes suggested, including biennial Conference, two year terms for Executive Committee members, the creation of a Board of Trustees, new assemblies in regions and nations and less formal groups and networks in place of branches.

These will now be turned into a new constitution and taken to Conference 2011 for approval. All the Conference documents, including Conference minutes, are available on the OUSA website [www.ousa.org.uk](http://www.ousa.org.uk)

The Conference started with an address by the Vice Chancellor, Martin Bean. His speech appeared to inspire many of the delegates and the atmosphere became quite animated for

the rest of the weekend.

As usual, Friday evening brought hustings, the time when Officer candidates get to address the electorate and the electorate get the chance to question those standing. As in previous years questions could be submitted beforehand but in addition this year, questions were taken from the floor. This proved to make it a lively event.

Saturday morning dawned bright and Conference business got into full swing with the collection of the ballot papers and the first debates of motions. Mid-morning there was a pause in the debating for a fraternal greeting from Paddy Alton, Vice-Chair of the Associate Lecturers Committee. Although he hadn't been

looking forward to delivering this his light hearted approach proved to be popular with delegates.

Then back to the motions, this time those to change the Constitution. These are the group of motions that generally fill delegates with dread but thankfully there were few of them so the morning passed reasonably

quickly. Next John Zarnecki, Open University Professor of Space Science, gave a talk entitled *Moments in Space and Time* about the information gleaned by the lander on Titan. This was a fascinating insight into how much can be learned in a very short space of time.

The morning ended with an address from Will Swann, Director, Students about *Facing the Future*.

Lunch time gave an opportunity for delegates to mingle, look at the many displays by OU departments and Affiliated Societies, as well as to eat. There were workshops on Independent Learners and Digital Futures, e-Portfolios and a presentation by AOUG. However, the highlight was the OUSA Challenge where members of the OUSA University Challenge team took on a

**Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean's speech appeared to inspire many of the Conference delegates**

# OUSA Annual Conference

# success!

group of OU academics (see separate article).

Saturday afternoon saw remaining motions brought as a result of the OUSA Futures consultation. However, the best part of the afternoon had to be talk by Captain Lawrence Richards entitled *What deadlines? Confessions of an OU Student*. This was an extremely entertaining account of his life as an OU student stationed overseas on oil platforms, and included an evacuation from the Gulf of Mexico to the USA due to a hurricane and his (and the rest of the crew's) capture by pirates in Africa. Can you imagine the poor Associate Lecturer's face when he had an extension request because the student had been kidnapped! Needless to say he made other students feel a bit inadequate.

Saturday evening brought another chance to network and socialise, an extremely important part of Conference. There was the New Attenders reception where the Executive Committee meets delegates new to Conference, followed by a disco and Abba tribute band.

Sunday morning and back to the debate. Mid morning saw a very enthused President of the NUS in Scotland, Liam Burns, encouraging further co-operation between OUSA and the NUS particularly in the challenging times ahead for the Higher Education sector. We were then given an insight into the various places that OU programs appear by Andrew Law, OU Director of Multi-Platform Broadcasting, showing the huge steps in broadcasting taken since those early days of late night T V.

Conference finished at lunchtime with weary but enthusiastic delegates beginning their journeys home, although some didn't know how they going to get there as flights were still disrupted.



Liam Burns, President of the NUS in Scotland, addresses Conference

## An ode to the joys of Conference.....

BUTTERFLIES bubble – taxis approach,  
First day of conference, Nottingham hosts.  
Arriving in droves, OUSA members attend,  
For a weekend of motions they plan to amend.

Apologies accepted from those meant to fly,  
Suitcases packed, hands waving goodbye.  
The blowing volcano puts paid to their plans  
As cosmic dust chaos means UK flight bans.

Straight down to business, right from the off,  
Martin Bean's speech, what a kick-off!  
Inspirational words spoke with passion and pride,  
Here for the student, not just the ride.

Saturday brings the main motions debate,  
Points of info and order – discussions create.  
Yellow card in hand delegates represent your vote,  
Defeated, agreed – new policy promote.

And in between sessions – our President's fav thing,  
Honorary awards, that pull on the heartstring.  
Then there's EC elections and various reports,  
Guest speaker lectures – rapt audience supports.

Mealtimes are busy, though portions are plenty,  
School custard requires the lick of lips gently.  
And evenings provide a chance to unwind,  
A Celtic Fringe, the cheeseboard did find!

New friends, old friends, present and past,  
Bond of the fraternity students will last.  
The only recommendation I have is to say,  
I wish conference was granted an extra full day!

**Jacqui Withington**  
Derby Branch

## Conference was a most rewarding experience

THIS WAS the first time I had attended conference, so I was really unsure at first what to expect.

It was an interesting and rewarding experience – both the opportunity to be involved in the decision making and the chance to meet fellow students.

I'm glad I went and would encourage others to go in future if they get the chance.

**Joshua Brumpton**  
Yorkshire Region

# OUSA Annual Conference

# Meet your new OUSA



## President – Roz Evans

I HAVE achieved many of the goals set out in last year's election address, but I was always aware that to achieve some would require a second year in office.

A lot of my goals were achieved through the expanding relationship between the officer team and various departments of the OU and I intend to build on this relationship in the coming year.

I have also represented distance and part-time students in the National Students Forum – presenting our issues to government ministers, funding bodies and fellow students. I aim to continue to represent our membership wherever there is a platform – within and outside the university.

OUSA Futures has taken up much of my year – the consultation process and the motions for Conference have concentrated and formalised the way in which students want their association to proceed. Being involved from the beginning I would like the opportunity to bring the wishes of Conference to fruition. The opportunity is there for OUSA to focus on what it was set up to do – represent students – and I will do my best to ensure that this is to the forefront of everything we do in 2010/11.

## VP Communications – Tracey Dagg

I'VE STUDIED with the OU in various faculties including science, technology and social science since 2007, initially for my own pleasure, but I am now focusing on my chosen career path.

I do have experience in communications as I have held that role in two other volun-

tary situations; once in my Regional Forum and I am currently the Communications Officer at my son's primary school. Despite my previous experience I am under no illusions that there will be many challenges thrown at me and whilst confident in my own abilities I am not afraid to ask for help when it is needed. I want as many as students as possible to take a part in the association in a way that suits them, and I believe effective, accessible communication is key in facilitating this.

## VP Constitutions – Sandy Gibson

IN THE last year I have worked with others on the OUSA Futures project, which plays a large part of Conference, but it doesn't stop there. I have been working with OUSA's General Manager and OUSA President this year to take the NUS model constitution and amend that to form our new constitution, which will meet not only the needs of our association, but also of the requirements of the Charity Commissioner.

This no easy task, but I am committed to completing it. I will also continue to offer all units the assistance they require to ensure that they fully comply.

## VP Education – Marianne Cantieri

I HAVE, over time, learned the value of quiet discussion; so over the past two years and a bit that I have been in office as Vice President Education, I have been building the bridges needed to facilitate the discussion of student relevant issues with the University.

I have made a point of mingling (networking is the modern term) with OU staff in the coffee and lunch breaks while attending the committees on which I sit, talking to and getting to know people from all over the University. The dividends from this are reaped when I need to find the answer to a student's query, as it is so much easier to communicate in writing with someone you have actually spoken to face-to-face.

Some of the bridges have resulted in OUSA being invited to participate in new projects or to give an opinion on projects prior to their going public, so the time spent in building them seems to have been well spent. I welcome the opportunity to build a few more.

## VP Equal Opportunities – Celia Weeks

I HAVE spent the last six months, as VP Equal Opportunities, laying the foundations, making contacts within the OU, ensuring both OUSA and the OU materials remain in compliance with our Equal Opportunities Policies, and working towards enabling 'equality for all'.

I want to continue my work promoting equality within the OU policy making committees, furthering and addressing issues directly as they occur. Removing barriers, and increasing awareness, representing students in a manner that promotes equality in all policies and protocols, to look at how students are received and facilitated at events, day schools and residential schools through consultation with the students concerned.

# OUSA Annual Conference

## team

### VP Finance – Carole Radcliffe

FINANCE COVERS many different areas of OUSA which is why I believe that it is a challenging role within OUSA; it is also one that I enjoy. Supporting and providing advice is important whether, for an individual or for branches and Regional/ National forum's, all are equally important.

There are many perceived mysteries surrounding the role of treasurer for some people, but this is not really the case, so over the past two years I have tried to dispell the myths and hope to continue to do so. One solution is for experienced treasurers to provide advice to a new treasurer. I have found that at times treasurers find it easier to speak to an experienced treasurer rather than always contacting Vice President Finance. This is the style of teamwork that I believe in; everyone has ideas and should be listened to.

### VP Student Support – Tania Rogers

THE OU offers everyone the chance to widen their interests and enhance their capabilities, an opportunity which they may have missed in the past, or, because of their personal circumstances are unable, or, unwilling to access through a conventional university.

It is by no means an easy option, and to undertake it and to persevere with it can present many challenges. We all need well-presented courses, sympathetic and appropriate teaching, user-friendly, reliable communication systems, technical aids where necessary and above all, the organised support and encouragement of others.

Lack of any support with my dyslexia when I was at school prevented me from achieving the qualifications to gain a place at a conventional university, but when the OU was launched I discovered that the distance learning model suited my learning style and so I was able to achieve a degree and this in turn opened doors for me in the world of work.

I want to give something back to the organisation that helped me and by taking on the role of VP Student Support I can help others achieve their full potential.

- Other members of the EC elected by postal ballot: ECM London – David Humble; ECM South – Don Bastin; ECM South West – Alison Kingan; ECM West Midlands – Jim Mordue; ECM East Midlands – Peter Crowther; ECM East of England – Carey Shaw; ECM Yorkshire – Jacqui Blackburn; ECM North West – Matthew Ball; ECM Wales – Adrian Weeks; ECM Scotland – Susan Beech; ECM South East – Sue Felix; ECM Northern Europe – Pat Knight; ECM Republic of Ireland – Dermott O'Rourke.

## Viewpoint from a first-time delegate

I AM A first year, disabled student studying for an environmental studies degree. I was offered the chance to go to Conference 2010 as a delegate for the south region.

I made my travel arrangements and booked tickets, conference was still a fair way off at this time but I was already feeling excitement at the prospect of meeting a lot of fellow-students and elected members of OUSA. A couple of weeks before Conference I received the final documents. I briefly flicked through them and put them aside. I had a TMA due just after Conference, so needed to get some work done before I went. However these three documents sat on my desk and kept calling to me to look at them again, so I did in depth. I was now armed and ready to go to Conference, I knew who I was voting for in the elections and I knew what motions I was going to vote for and against.

The Nottingham University Jubilee Campus is impressive, set on reclaimed industrial land; it has been well designed and looks good, even though a couple of buildings look like they are built of

Lego! Formal registration was quick easy and painless with the OUSA staff doing a great job. I then went to my room and dumped my bags I was in desperate need of a cup of tea. I had two meetings to attend one for the Disabled Students Group (DSG) and one for South region, so the next few hours would be busy. Meetings and greetings over, it was time for dinner, now I'd get the chance to see what the catering was going to be like.

No queuing as such, the catering staff opened up three serving points all offering the same food. Food was good at all meals and a good choice offered.

No time to sit and digest, off to rough guide to Conference, then the address by Vice-Chancellor Martin Bean, a great talker. I enjoyed his speech no end. Hustings was next, I didn't actually stay for that, and I have to confess I had some socialising to do which just happened to be taking place in the bar.

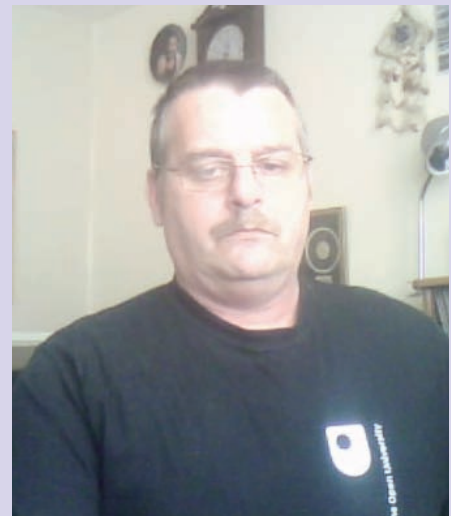
Saturday morning up at stupid o'clock for breakfast, then a bit of time to relax and prepare for a full days conference business, they fit so much in, not a lot if any room for adjustment, so everything starts (well almost) at the designated time. It was very interesting to see the process in action, the morning session went surprisingly quickly.

The afternoon session of business got a bit lively with some of the motions, but all went well and time went even quicker than the morning session. Time for dinner – this was relaxed, sitting with fellow-students and activists from the south region, talk was mainly about conference. At 8pm I had the new attendees wine reception to attend, more socialising and a chance to talk to our President Roz Evans and Trudi de Haney, OUSA General Manager. I met some nice people and enjoyed the wine too! Time for a cup of tea and get changed before the entertainment began, disco and ABBA tribute band – everyone let their hair down and enjoyed themselves, I imagine a few delicate heads in the morning! I know I had one.

Sunday morning, got up late, missed breakfast, final session of business went without too much controversy, but did get a little lively. Then lunch and time to say my goodbyes. I had a very good time – socially it was fantastic, OUSA staff and the Executive Committee do a great job at organising the whole thing.

Would I go again? Oh yes, most definitely!

**Les Roach, Basingstoke & Farnborough Branch**



# OUSA Annual Conference



## Rising to the Challenge!

THE INTREPID OU University Challenge team had been all geared up to take on Paxman – but alas it was not to be. Whether they disliked our looks, our accents or our intellects, we could only guess, but they didn't want us on the show.

Then – OUSA to the rescue! We were invited to a far tougher competition – against a team of OU academics at the OUSA conference. We turned up to Nottingham on a bright sunny day, relishing the chance to make fools of ourselves in public – or do I mean to show our mettle in front of a sympathetic audience?

We'd chatted via Elluminate and email before, but it was great to meet the other team members in the flesh just before the contest. We reassured each other that we had nothing to lose so we shouldn't be nervous – but the adrenalin was certainly kicking in!

Then Wendy showed us up to the lecture theatre – wow! Real

University Challenge-style buzzers and light-up names! All that was missing was our being stacked one on top of the other like on TV!

Our substitute Paxman rose to the challenge and put everyone on the spot most successfully. Fortunately we had a sympathetic audience who seemed to be on our side.

The Academics took an early lead, but – wonders will never cease – this proved to be a flash in the pan, despite the audience helping by shouting out the answers to their literature bonus questions!

The final score? 230 to 135 in our favour. Now at least I've found one use for my tendency to remember random stuff instead of anything useful!

**Cath Brown**

## Spotlight on societies

### OU Students for Ethical Science

WE AIM TO persuade The Open University peacefully to replace its harmful use of animals in research and teaching with academically equivalent or superior non-harmful alternatives.

We have been instrumental in bringing about OUSA policy to support this aim,

6 May 2010

promote transparency in the University's animal use and enable students to opt-out of harmful animal experiments without compromising their academic progress.

If you are interested in studying Life Sciences, but are worried about causing harm to animals through your studies, see the course choice information and advice on our website at [www.ouses.org.uk](http://www.ouses.org.uk)

To find out more and how to join us please visit:

The FirstClass OUSA Ethical Science forum

[www.ouses.org.uk](http://www.ouses.org.uk)

Contact details:

[membership@ouses.org.uk](mailto:membership@ouses.org.uk)

SES Secretary, 54 Sunningdale, Yate, Bristol BS37 4JA

# Dates for your diary

If you would like to see your event advertised here, please contact OUSA Office, well in advance of your event as *OU Student* has a long lead in time.

## LOCAL EVENTS

*The list below features some of OUSA branches across the regions. If you cannot see an entry for your local area, see the 'ousanearyou' website ([www.ousanearyou.org.uk](http://www.ousanearyou.org.uk)), which will contain more information and has a month by month list of events happening across all areas.*

### Aberdeen and North East Scotland Branch

Contact Rob or Jean on [aberdeen-ne@ousascotland.org.uk](mailto:aberdeen-ne@ousascotland.org.uk)

### Argyll and Bute Branch

Contact Madeleine on [argyll-bute@ousascotland.org.uk](mailto:argyll-bute@ousascotland.org.uk)

### Belgium Branch

Contact Mike Deverell via FirstClass for further details.

### Bournemouth & Poole Branch

1st Thursday of every month, 8.30pm. The Sloop, 5 Commercial Road, Poole. A second meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month at the Grasshopper, 8pm. 139-41 Bournemouth Road, Parkstone, Poole. Contact Greg on [gpoc3@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:gpoc3@student.open.ac.uk)

### Brighton, Hove & Lewes Branch

1st Monday of every month, 7.30pm. Cricketers Pub, Black Lion Street, Brighton. Contact Colin on [cp438@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:cp438@student.open.ac.uk)

### Bristol Branch

1st Wednesday of every month, 8.30pm. Horts City Tavern, Broad Street, Bristol. See [www.ousabristol.org.uk](http://www.ousabristol.org.uk)

### Cambridge Branch

1st Wednesday of each month, 8pm. For venue or further information contact [ousa.cambridge@googlemail.com](mailto:ousa.cambridge@googlemail.com) or visit <http://ousacambridge.blogspot.com/>

### Central Scotland Branch

Contact Harry on [central-scotland@ousascotland.org.uk](mailto:central-scotland@ousascotland.org.uk) for more information.

### Cheltenham Branch

2nd Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm. Norwood Arms, Leckhampton

Rd, Cheltenham. Contact Chris on [ceb8@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:ceb8@student.open.ac.uk)

### Dorset Branch

Evening meetings are held in Weymouth. Contact Natasha on [nes-ims@madasafish.com](mailto:nes-ims@madasafish.com)

### Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Branch

Meetings currently 1st Tuesday of every month, 7pm. Milnes Bar – upstairs bar (not cellar bar) – off Rose Street, Edinburgh. Contact Arthur or Richard on [elb@ousascotland.org.uk](mailto:elb@ousascotland.org.uk)

### Gwent Branch

Contact Celia on 01633 483423 or [cpw73@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:cpw73@student.open.ac.uk)

### Gloucester Branch

1st Thursday of every month, 8pm. Robert Raikes's House pub, 36-38 Southgate St, Gloucester. Online meeting a week before face-to-face meeting in FirstClass branch forum. Contact Andrew on Andrew Gibbons 3 via FirstClass

### Harlow Branch

2nd Thursday every month, 8pm. The Coach & Horses, Bishop's Stortford. Contact Andy on [andydavis.23@btopenworld.com](mailto:andydavis.23@btopenworld.com)

### Hastings Branch

Last Saturday of the month, regular meeting 11am in BHS restaurant, Priory Meadow, Hastings, for coffee and chat. Families welcome. You can also get an OUSA Student card if you bring a passport-sized photo and a recent letter from the OU confirming your student status.

### Haverfordwest Branch

1st Thursday of every month, 7.30pm. Haverfordwest Cricket Club, Dale Road, Haverfordwest, Pembs. Contact Mair Kromrei via email on [gmk64@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:gmk64@student.open.ac.uk)

### Ipswich and Bury St. Edmunds Branch

See [www.ousasuffolk.org.uk](http://www.ousasuffolk.org.uk)

### Isle of Wight Branch

Branch meetings on 2nd Wednesday of each month at various venues around the island. See the branch conference on FirstClass for more details.

### Lancaster Branch

3rd Wednesday every month, 7.30pm.

Bar of Gregson Institute, Moor Lane, Lancaster. Contact Sybil on [smr456@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:smr456@student.open.ac.uk)

### Liverpool Branch

Last Thursday every month, 8pm. Dr Duncans pub, St Johns Lane, Liverpool. Contact Rathi on [rathigua@hotmail.com](mailto:rathigua@hotmail.com)

### London Branches

See the website [www.ousalondon.org.uk](http://www.ousalondon.org.uk)

### Oxford, Abingdon & Witney Branch

4th Thursday of every month, 8pm. The Dukes Cut, Park End Street, Oxford. Contact [oxford-ousa@gmail.com](mailto:oxford-ousa@gmail.com) or see the website [www.ousa-oxford.org.uk](http://www.ousa-oxford.org.uk)

### Southport Branch

1st Tuesday of every month, 8pm. Social meeting in Wetherspoons, Lord Street, Southport. Contact Bob for further details, Bob Mehew, Server 2 on FirstClass

### Stockport & Cheadle Branch

2nd Thursday every month, 8pm. The Railway Inn, Wellington Rd North, Stockport. Contact [ousa.stockport@googlemail.com](mailto:ousa.stockport@googlemail.com)

### Swansea & Llanelli Branch

1st Thursday every month, 7.30pm, The Eli Jenkins, Oxford Street, Swansea. Contact [djt292@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:djt292@student.open.ac.uk) for further details

### Tayside & Fife Branch

3rd Friday every month, 8pm, rotating between Dundee, Perth & Dunfermline. Contact David or Susan on [tayside-fife@ousascotland.org.uk](mailto:tayside-fife@ousascotland.org.uk)

### York Branch

3rd Wednesday every month, 7.30-9pm. Alternate formal meetings at St John's College, Lord Mayor's Walk, York, and social meetings at The Black Swan, Peaseholme Green, York. Up-to-date details can be found on [www.york.ousayorkshire.org.uk](http://www.york.ousayorkshire.org.uk)

# Want to represent the student view?

REPRESENTING THE student viewpoint to the University is one of the most important functions of OUSA.

Apart from having a student elected member of the OU Council, OUSA annually appoints 'Central Representatives' to sit as student members on Senate and the majority of the principal Governance

Committees, as well as on all the Faculty Boards.

This year, we would particularly welcome applications from students who would like to represent students to their own faculty.

You can find more information about being a Central Rep and an application form on the OUSA website, [www.ousa.org.uk](http://www.ousa.org.uk)



**OU Student, the publication of the Open University Students Association, is edited by the OUSA President. Most of the articles are written by students of the University. It is produced on OUSA's behalf by the Communications department of The Open University. Editorial enquiries and contributions should be addressed to: Als Ryan, Open University Students Association, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6BE. Telephone: +44 (0) 1908 652026 Fax: +44 (0)1908 654326 Email: [ousa@student.open.ac.uk](mailto:ousa@student.open.ac.uk) OUSA website: [www.ousa.org.uk](http://www.ousa.org.uk)**

## IF YOU WANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUSA PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM

<p><b>DEMAND EXTRA - DEMAND YOUR NEW NUS CARD</b>                  The NUS Card 'Demand Extra' is available to OU Students. Still only £10 a year plus for an extra £1 you can have the addition of the International Student Identity Card as part of the NUS Card, which is a real bonus especially for travellers. The ISIC card gives access to discounts in the UK as well as 116 countries around the world. It also provides excellent savings on travel including international flights. This is a card already valued by the student population at large. The NUS Extra Card will be accepted as valid student identification on your travels and at your OU exams. You can also enter competitions, apply for special offers and receive discount updates online. For more details of the amazing range of discounts on offer and to apply go to <a href="http://www.nusextra.co.uk">www.nusextra.co.uk</a> Important note: This card is available from 5 August 2009 and is valid until 31 August 2010. Applications are only available online. All you need is a photo to upload and your credit or debit card details to hand. Make sure you know your OU Student personal identity (PI) number for current student verification.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>SUPPORT LINKS</b>                  Tick the box for further details about becoming a Student Support Link, Disabled Student Link or Student Academic Link (circle area of interest).</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>OUSET DONATION</b>                  OUSET, The Open University Students Educational Trust, is a registered charity, administered by OUSA, and is designed to help Open University students in financial need. Its funds are almost entirely generated by donations and fundraising activities of fellow students. Any donation is welcome.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>REPRESENTATIVES AT RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS</b>                  If you are interested in being a rep at residential schools in the future, please tick the box for a recruitment pack and application form.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>REPRESENTATIVES ON CENTRAL COMMITTEES</b>                  If you are interested in representing your fellow students on Open University central committees and boards, please tick the box.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>DISABLED STUDENTS GROUP</b>                  This group is open to all those disabled students interested in helping OUSA to achieve its equality policy. Please tick the box if you are interested in receiving details of how to register with the Disabled Students Group.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>ORDER FORM</b></p> <p>OUSA information is recorded on computer. OUSA is registered under the Data Protection Act.</p> <p>Name _____ Student Number _____ Region Catchment _____ Area Number _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Postcode _____ Daytime Tel No _____</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p> <p>I include a donation to OUSET.</p> <p>Please send completed form and enclosures to:</p> <p><b>OUSA Office, (OUS22), PO Box 397, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes MK7 6BE Fax: +44 (0)1908 654326.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p><b>GRADUATION CEREMONIES</b>                  Tick the box for details of how you can represent OUSA at an OU Graduation ceremony.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>OU STUDENT MEMBERSHIP CARD</b>                  Whilst all students are automatically members of OUSA, we do provide a free membership card. This may secure discounts from some retailers and service providers, and counts as identification for OU Exams. Please send in one passport sized photograph, proof of student identity/ correspondence from the OU with your PI number on and a 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamp for return of your card (or alternatively enclose 20p). Documents will be returned with your card  <i>Please allow 28 days for delivery of all OUSA Services.</i></p>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>