STUDENT CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The CEC is asked to:

i) note the update.

1. Background

1.2 This paper is a regular update to the Central Executive Committee for information purposes.

2. Online consultations since last meeting (23 July 2016)

2.1 The last consultation of the previous academic year ran between 5-18 July on the topic of module and qualification information. There were 78 posts, with 13 students making at least one post. The summary of this consultation can be viewed here.

2.2 The first consultation of the new academic year opened on 28 September on the topic of how the University presents itself to students and potential students and this will run until 11 October 2016. This is receiving a great deal of interest and comments from student volunteers at the time of writing which we hope will provide a good foundation to build upon for upcoming consultations.

3. Consultative meetings in 2017

3.1 An outcome of the annual effectiveness review carried out earlier this summer was an action to change the way that these meetings are scheduled in 2017 and to change the way that venues are selected.

3.2 The following schedule has been agreed for the meetings taking place in England in the Spring:

- Saturday 4 March 2017: Jury’s Inn Hotel, Exeter
- Saturday 11 March: Student Central, London
- Friday 17 March: The Open University, Milton Keynes
- Saturday 25 March: MacDonald Hotel, Manchester
• Saturday 1 April: Jury’s Inn Hotel, Newcastle

3.3 We are currently awaiting confirmation of dates and plans for the meetings taking place in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland and the online international students consultation process. It has been agreed that the online international students consultation process should last two weeks in 2017, rather than just a week.

3.4 We will be working with the University to set the agenda and schedule for these meetings.

3.5 A second set of meetings will take place in Autumn 2017 in five locations. A schedule has not yet been proposed for these.

4. Outcome of annual effectiveness review 2016

4.1 The full report from the annual effectiveness review was presented to the CEC and observers at the last meeting on 23 July 2016 (paper 7/16/5).

4.2 A number of key actions were agreed as a result of the recommendations of this review. This included increasing the number of student volunteers for the Student Consultation Forum to 200, which has been fulfilled in the recent recruitment process. Some consultations will be expanded to a three-week duration to better enable student contributions and we have secured commitment for an increase in the number of student-suggested topics for consultation that will be used by the process over the next 12 months. In addition, the Student Consultative Office are exploring the possibility of using qualitative analysis software to add another layer of sophistication to the analysis and presentation of consultation summaries.

4.3 The next meeting of the Student Consultative Executive on 13 October will be considering a proposal to pilot student moderators on the online consultative forums.

Rob Avann
General Manager