OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (C E C)
13 – 15 November 2015

FACULTY REPRESENTATION

The C E C is asked to:-

i) **note** the background to this paper

ii) **discuss** the proposal

iii) **agree** next steps

1. **Background**

1.1 Conference 2014 approved changes to our Constitution, including the introduction of faculty representation on the Central Executive Committee as per paragraph 70.2 in the extract below:

**The Central Executive Committee**
70. The Central Executive Committee shall include:
70.1 all Association Officers; such Officers to number at least 6 but no more than 10 and to be elected by a secret ballot of all members as defined by clause 12.1 or 12.3
70.2 elected Central Executive Committee members for Nations and Regions and/or Faculties; and
70.3 the second student member of the Open University Council.

1.2 At the Central Executive Committee in November 2014, V P Administration secured agreement for 9 Faculty Representative positions: one each for the Faculties of Arts; Social Sciences; Health & Social Care; Business & Law; Science; Education and Language Studies; Maths, Computing & Technology; Educational Technology; and finally a specific place for Open Programme studies to be recognised in their own right.

1.3 All 9 roles would be voted on by all OU students, rather than restricting voting to only those within a certain cohort.

2. **Role Description**

2.1 At the May 2015 Officer Team meeting there was discussion over what the role of a Faculty Representative should entail and the outcome of those discussions is captured here for discussion and consideration:
➢ To provide a Faculty-based student perspective to discussions at the C E C
➢ To provide reports to the C E C on Faculty-related matters
➢ To share information with relevant Central Reps, either directly or indirectly via V P Education Policy.
➢ To be an active member of the Student Support Team consultative forums for their Faculty
➢ To regularly use the Association’s Faculty forums
➢ To actively use a new Faculty Representatives forum on the Business suite to support each other and interact with their lead officer

2.2 It was felt that working with and supporting the Faculty Representatives may best sit with the remit of V P Educational Support & Research.

3. Proposal for discussion
3.1 It has not been possible to run elections for these roles to date. However, it is now important to bring on board a Faculty input prior to Conference 2016 and try to involve other student representatives in the workings of the Central Executive Committee.

3.2 It is therefore proposed for discussion that we approach existing Central Representatives, who have Faculty links and are active on policy-based issues, to see if those operating at Faculty Committee level would be willing to take on the additional commitment of joining the C E C for our next two meetings in January and March 2016 to help us trial the role.

3.3 The role description, numbers, support arrangements and requisite knowledge could then be re-visited prior to the preparation of the 2016 election process.

Rob Avann
General Manager