OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

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

STUDENT CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The C E C is asked to:-

i) **note** the updates provided

ii) **note** the dates for the upcoming selection of topics for the English regional consultative meetings 2016

1. **Online Consultations since last meeting**

1.1 In September, a consultation was held on financial information provided to students by the University. This received 400 posts and 200 ratings from 74 students who contributed.

1.2 In October, a consultation has been held on the vision and strategy for the University’s library services. At the time of writing, this consultation has just ended and is currently being summarised.

1.3 A new Disabled Students Consultation forum was launched in September. The first consultation was on the Disabled Students Allowance (D S A) and the general support offered by the University. This received 636 posts from 125 students.

1.4 We are using the main online forum for our first online consultation on the future of our regional structure. This will be running from 4 to 18 November.

2. **Recruitment**

2.1 The main recruitment window for the main forum, which we helped promote, resulted in more than 300 applications for 89 places. A waiting list has been initiated.

3. **Planning for English Regional and Nation Consultative meetings 2016**

3.1 The agenda-setting sub group which is considering the organisation of these has now been widened to include representatives from the Nation offices as per our request. Our reps are the Deputy President, General Manager and Representation Officer.
The schedule for 2016 English regional consultative meetings has been set as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Area covered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 27 February</td>
<td>The OU in London</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The OU in the South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 12 March</td>
<td>The OU in the West Midlands</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The OU in the North West</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 9 April</td>
<td>The OU in the East of England</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The OU in the South East</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 16 April</td>
<td>The OU in the East Midlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The OU in the North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 23 April</td>
<td>The OU in the South West</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The OU in Yorkshire</td>
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</table>

We understand that the meeting in Dublin will be held on 14 May and Belfast on 21 May 2016. We are awaiting confirmation of the dates for Wales and Scotland.

The OU will be assisting us with the recruitment of students to attend and participate, which is particularly helpful around our obligations to organise Conference 2016. This is likely to be via an electronic tool such as Eventbrite.

The process to gather topics for consultation is underway. All University units were written to in mid-October with a final deadline for suggestions of the 25 November. A parallel online forum for student suggestions will be open from the 11 to 25 November on the main student consultation website, with all students being invited to contribute via a post on StudentHome. Students who participated last year will also be emailed an invitation to make suggestions.

Once all the suggestions have been received by the Student Consultation Office, they will all be passed to us and the Central Executive Committee will be asked for your feedback in our online forum from the 27 November to the 7 December. Please note this date and make comments on the suggestions.

A further meeting of the agenda setting sub-group will take place on the 8 December which will make final proposals for which topics get selected in liaison with the relevant University units.

**4. Agenda for the English regional consultative meetings**

After much debate, it has been agreed by the Student Consultative Executive that the agenda for these meetings should be lengthened to
include an afternoon session. This means our session will likely need to take place over the lunch break.

4.2 It is intended that there will be three consultation topics, depending on the quality and volume of suggestions. In any case, it will not be fewer than two topics and there will be scope for much longer and more detailed discussions than was possible with the condensed agenda used in 2014 and 2015.

4.3 Finally and again after much debate, a question and answer session with OU staff at the beginning of the meetings will now be incorporated into the agenda. This is likely to take the format of a panel question and answer session, with a varied panel covering a number of different specialisms where possible.

Rob Avann
General Manager