The C E C is asked to:-

i) receive this regular report from the Board of Trustees

1. There is a Constitutional requirement for the Board of Trustees (BoT) to provide a report to the CEC at least four times per year. This report is intended to provide the following:

   a) a formal opportunity for CEC members to raise any questions arising from the minutes or other matters relating to the role of the Trustees, and
   b) the opportunity for Trustees to raise any specific items with the CEC or report on progression of any non-routine matters.

2. The BoT held its last face-to-face meeting on Monday 16 November 2016. The meeting minutes will be published in due course.

3. The OU Students Association Strategy was considered following comments received at the CEC meeting in November. With minor amendments, the Trustees approved the Strategy.

4. A number of financial matters were considered, including an update on the negotiations taking place with the OU in securing funding for the 2016-17 period. 2016-17 will be the third year of the current three-year agreement, meaning the New Year will see discussions start on securing a new agreement for the next three years.

5. Other financial matters included a discussion around the sale of exam papers and the possibility that these would be provided free of charge to students from 2017 and the implications that would have on OUSET (OU Student Educational Trust) that currently receives the profits; a proposal put forward by the OU for the OU Students Association to take on the management of student expenses, currently done by the OU’s Governance Team and; NUS card commission. Following the organisation’s annual audit meeting in early October, the auditors recommended that the OU Students Association should consider how this is treated this in the future.
6. Trustees gave approval to run a tender process for the OU Students Association to acquire a legal services provider. At the time of writing the process is underway, with the successful provider anticipated to be appointed at the beginning of February 2016.

7. Following the resignation of Victoria Clark, Deputy Operations Manager the job description was reviewed with some amendments made, one being renaming the position to Team Supervisor. With Conference fast approaching, it was decided an internal recruitment process should take place for a temporary arrangement to end July 2016 to ensure the daily workload and added pressure of Conference was not disrupted. Joel McBrearty was successfully appointed to the role, starting on 14 December 2015.

8. Two staff positions are currently being advertised. A temporary Operations Assistant, to fill the vacant role in the team after Joel being appointed to Team Supervisor and, a new position of Administration Assistant to join the Deputy General Manager’s team. It is hoped both positions will be filled by March.

9. Trustees approved the proposal to contract the Election Reform Services (ERS) to manage the 2016 student elections and the associated spend to implement one member one vote (OMOV).

10. The next scheduled face-to-face meeting of the Board will be held on 24 March 2015.

Rob Avann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees