The CEC is asked to:-

i) note the progress on the Student Community Tool Project

Following on from the last update to the CEC in November (paper 7/15/17) the project team met on 13th November 2015 to discuss the pilot of Yammer. Despite some reservations of Yammer meeting all the requirements outlined in the Epics proposal, there was common agreement to keep the project moving and progress to a proof of concept phase, allowing students to test the system and for the project team to gather feedback on it.

The proof of concept objective is to provide the Association with a platform to develop a vibrant and engaged online student community. This community will provide the encouragement and support, sense of belonging and opportunities for networking that would be present at a physical university. This proof of concept will test whether Yammer satisfies the basic features needed to achieve this and will inform the decision as to whether a full pilot will take place.

During this phase, the following is expected to be achieved:

- Be able to set up an online area for OU students to congregate and network.
- Be able to edit a profile relevant to the community.
- Be able to connect with other students.
- Be able to identify other students who I might like to connect with.
- Be able to access the tool across all devices.
- Be able to brand the tool.
- Check tool is usable, accessible, compatible, and generally provide a good user experience.
- Be able to use various forms of media in content.
- Check tool has an appropriate level of privacy.
- Be able to access analytics relating to the use of the community tool.
- Be able to initiate and respond to individual and group instant (synchronous) messaging.
- Be able to initiate and respond to individual and group asynchronous messaging.
- Be able to see who is online.
- Check tool allows community members to set up and manage groups.
- Be able to set up public groups.
- Be able to set up private groups.

A qualitative survey will be developed and delivered to gain feedback of suitability on an ‘engagement’ level. Initially the project team will only be inviting CEC members to join the proof of concept, so we encourage you all to participate. Invitations to join the system will be sent to your role email addresses, which is expected to happen before the end of January.

The proof of concept phase is expected to be completed by the end of the first quarter 2016. The intention is that it will inform the decision as to whether to progress to a full pilot.

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