OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
23 July 2016

STUDENT CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

The CEC is asked to:-

i) note the update and the Annual Effectiveness Review Report contained as the appendix.

1. Background

1.1 The CEC receives an update at each meeting on the University's Student Consultative Process, for information.

2. Online consultations since last meeting (18-20 March 2016)

2.1 A consultation on the Student Charter took place 1-14 March 2016. At the time of the previous meeting, a summary had not yet been posted but has subsequently. There were 97 posts, with 29 students making at least one contribution. A response from the University was posted on 24 June 2016.

2.2 A consultation on Academic Freedom occurred over 8-21 April 2016. There were 43 posts, with 21 students making at least one post. A response was posted on 20 June 2016, after the documents had been amended and approved by Senate.

2.3 A consultation on the implementation of Student Recruitment and Support Centres happened over 14-27 April 2016. There were 56 posts, with 18 students making at least one post. No response has yet been posted.

2.4 A consultation on online/on-screen learning took place 22 April to 8 May 2016. This featured 272 posts, with 23 students making at least one contribution. We await a response to this consultation.

2.5 We undertook a second consultation of the year on 18-30 May 2016, asking students for their views on our proposal to implement payment for the President and Deputy President roles. This received 154 posts, with 22 students making at least one post. The summary of this consultation was featured at Conference 2016 and we also allowed students to email in their
thoughts on the proposals (2 emails received) as well as leave us suggestions in a box on the Conference stand (7 comments received).

2.6 A consultation on Academic Strategy occurred 13-26 June 2016, resulting in 183 posts with 21 students making at least one post. No response has been posted yet.

2.7 A consultation on module and qualification information is running at the time of writing and is due to end on 18 July. A summary will be posted soon afterwards as this is the last consultation of the academic year and there will now be a break until at least September.

2.8 All consultation summaries and responses can be viewed in the archive at [www.open.ac.uk/students/consultation/archive](http://www.open.ac.uk/students/consultation/archive). Students will need to log in to view these.

3. Region and Nation consultative meetings

3.1 Attendance at this year's consultation events has been down on last year. More than 2000 students applied for places to attend consultation events across the English regions and the Nations. 557 places were granted, with 432 students expected to attend the meetings (the remainder cancelled their places in advance). Unfortunately turn out on the day was 180, an average attendance level of only 46%. It is difficult to draw a comparison for the Nations this year, because there were changes to how these were organised and run that make straight comparisons difficult. However, across England there were 31 less students attending the meetings than last year. There are several changes proposed for the 2017 meetings following the annual review.

4. Online International Students Consultative meeting

4.1 This event took place over 20-27 April 2016, with 60 students participating and making 309 posts between them.

4.2 This meeting took a different format this year, replicating the topics from the face-to-face meetings.

4.3 Attendance has declined over the three years with 87 students attending in 2014, 73 in 2015 and 60 in 2016.

4.4 There are proposed improvements to this element for 2017 following the annual review.

5. Annual effectiveness review

5.1 The full final report from this review is contained at the appendix. It make very interesting reading and it has certainly been a very thorough review. We have worked closely with the University on this review and the recommendations were agreed with us before presentation to the Student Consultative Executive on 21 July 2016. We hope that new members of the CEC will take time to read through this review, which gives a good overview of the issues and possible changes.
Rob Avann
General Manager