STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PROJECT TEAM AND WORK STREAMS

The CEC is asked to:-

i) receive details of ongoing Open University Student Engagement project

ii) approve membership of the Project team and work streams

1. Background

1.1 The Student Association has been working with the University as part of the OU Student Engagement Project which is currently taking forward a number of student engagement initiatives through three individual work streams. These are:

A. Student feedback and communication

B. Student engagement in curriculum design and learning design

C. New models of student engagement (including student internships, student fellows, work shadowing)

1.2 The Students Association has been represented on the main Project team and the work streams by teams of CEC members and Association staff. Following the recent change in membership of the CEC, there are now a number of vacancies on the teams and volunteers are required to fill these spaces.

1.3 Meetings of the Project team take place twice a year and work streams three times a year on Campus but attendance at these can be arranged remotely. In addition to this, between meetings there is a further contribution that can be made, commenting on or even drafting proposals or reports.

1.4 There is a suite of Forums in the Student Association Business area to facilitate conversations amongst teams in order to discuss issues raised at meetings and to keep others informed as the different pieces of work progress.
2. The Work streams

2.1 The current teams, showing vacancies are shown in the chart below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Team</th>
<th>Work stream A</th>
<th>Work stream B</th>
<th>Work stream C</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Nicci Simpson</td>
<td>Peter Cowan</td>
<td>President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Cowan</td>
<td>Alison Kingan</td>
<td>Wendy Burrell</td>
<td>Rob Avann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claire Smith</td>
<td>Pooja Sinha</td>
<td>Helen Janes</td>
<td>Jess Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Avann</td>
<td>student vacancy</td>
<td>student vacancy</td>
<td>student vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Burrell</td>
<td>staff vacancy</td>
<td>student vacancy</td>
<td>student vacancy</td>
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<td>student vacancy</td>
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2.2 Below is an overview of the original objectives for the teams and work has advanced on a number of projects and further proposals for future initiatives have been made.

2.3 Work stream A - Student Feedback and Communication

a) To propose a mechanism for linking up the various channels from which student feedback is received in order to recognise key messages from students where they are coming through various channels (e.g. through OUSA, SEAM survey, NSS survey, module reviews, student consultation), to evaluate the feedback, facilitate joined up action, (including the necessary changes to policy and practice) and messaging on these issues, and to co-ordinate feeding back to students on action taken as a result of feedback.

b) To develop principles on the handling of ad hoc student feedback, with guidelines to units to reflect the following approach: that where students submit comments outside of normal feedback channels staff should acknowledge receipt of it, stating that attention will be given to it but to reiterate that the student voice is best heard through use of standard feedback channels. This will build on work already started under the Review of Complaints and Appeals Project to address the absence of a framework for routing and responding to ad hoc feedback consistently and the considerable variations in current practice; and

c) To respond to changing requirements of funding councils and the QAA with regard to student feedback including developing a more structured approach to new HEFCE requirements to identify and address early signs of student concern about the quality of the student experience.

d) To improve the communication of student engagement opportunities and outcomes with the aim of:
• Promoting The Open University to future students as an institution that values student engagement.
• Involving greater numbers of students in quality improvement assurance and governance.
• Enhancing the sense of the University as a community for current students.

2.4 Work stream B - Student Involvement in Curriculum Design and Learning Design

a) To assess the extent to which students are currently engaged in curriculum design and learning design.

b) To develop policies for student engagement in curriculum design and learning design where they do not already exist.

c) To develop standard mechanisms for engaging students in curriculum design and learning design.

d) To further develop student societies as a mechanism for deep learning, community building and student-faculty engagement.

e) To identify barriers to student involvements and mechanisms for overcoming these.

2.5 Work Stream C - New Models of Student Engagement

a) To investigate the feasibility of offering recognition for student engagement through payment, reward or other means.

b) To investigate and report on the feasibility of student internships and/or student fellow opportunities at the Open University.

c) To investigate and report on the feasibility of offering one-off work shadowing opportunities for students.

d) To develop a fully costed proposal for a pump-priming scheme for new faculty or student-led student engagement initiatives, with submissions for funding to be approved by a joint student-staff panel.

3. Next Steps

3.1 Agreement is now required to approve further members to fill the vacancies in the Student Engagement project team and work streams.

Wendy Burrell
Deputy General Manager