OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 October 2016

FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES (FARs) REPORTS

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C E C is asked to:-

i) receive the reports

ii) note that unless this paper is starred for discussion prior to the meeting, printed copies will not be supplied

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Reports submitted by:-

FAR for Business & Law

FAR for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)

FAR for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS)
Business School MBA (Masters of Business Administration) Programme Residential School 2nd August 2016

The Business School MBA Residential School opened on 2nd August 2016 in Manchester. I attended with the STEM (Science Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) Faculty Association Representative, Cath Brown, to meet and greet students as they registered. The Residential School was a compulsory part of the module and as such was very well attended. Feedback from the attending students was positive.

In addition to this, both Cath and I spoke to the Residential School Director who was very supportive and suggested that an OU Student's Association presence at future Business School Residential Schools would be invaluable to help provide social activities during the evenings and to help strengthen the student community.

Social Media

The FBL FAR Facebook page has been set up and is slowly but steadily growing. It currently has 47 followers. In addition to the Facebook page, a Linked In group has been set up for those students from the faculty with Linked In accounts. Use of social media by students within the faculty appears to be more popular than the VLE forums although I do attempt to monitor both as often as possible.

Online Freshers event

I, like many of the other CEC members, participated in an online Freshers event via Facebook. This was in my view, a resounding success and I was able to promote my social media page and introduce myself and my role to students who were both new and returning to the Open University.

Activities since appointment on 1st August 2016

2nd August 2016  Business School MBA Programme Residential School
9th - 11th September 2016  OU Student's Association Induction Weekend
26th September 2016  Online Freshers event

Jamie Slater
Faculty Association Representative for Business & Law
An apology/ warning: I appreciate that this is specifically for items that concern my role as a FAR and more generally a CEC member – however, I have included some items that have an overlap with other things I do because they are relevant to the FAR role. I am not trying to claim “double credit”!

Social/community / engagement

- Attended inaugural Manchester area coffee morning (at which I had the chance to talk to some new students in my faculty, as well as existing students/students in other faculties etc)
- Met up with other STEM students at New Scientist Live (originally conceived as an Alchemy trip, but advertised to all STEM students via social media and VLE)
- When residential school repping at Bath for the Engineering residential this summer, took the opportunity to introduce myself to students in my Association role, and to tell them how to get in touch
- Attended Manchester Business School Residential on the OU Student Association’s behalf (with Jamie)

Social Media

- Continued to use my STEM Faculty Rep Facebook page and Twitter account. Uses include:-
  - Alerting students to Association matters (e.g. new magazine)
  - Alerting students to Faculty matters (e.g. a new free course available)
  - Alerting students to opportunities of interest to them outside the OU (e.g. work experience, events of interest (such as free lecture)
  - Asking student opinions (e.g. on the idea of open days at MK, or the personal tutor idea)
- Joined Facebook groups for the key introductory Level 1 modules in my faculty, to get a feel for how new students are finding things, and be able to offer support on general OU matters if appropriate
- Helped promote (and joined as admin) new Facebook group for OU Women in STEM

Student Queries and Concerns

- Obtained answer from Faculty concerning print on demand for S111 in response to query
• Obtained answer from Faculty about future opportunities for physics students to develop programming skills
• Dealt with various queries directed to me on factual matters (e.g. how resits work)
• Passed on a couple of issues to VP Student Support and VP Education

Other CEC-related

• Following discussion during a talk at induction, read through, and made several suggestions on, the new consultation newsletter
• Wrote article for OU Student

Forthcoming

• In “Student Hub Live” – Weds 28 Sep
• Doing Periscope – Weds 28 Sep
• Meeting other OU STEM students at Andre Geim lecture in Manchester – Thu 29 Sep

Cath Brown
Faculty Association Representative for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
WELS Faculty Update

The first meeting of the WELS Faculty was the Teaching Committee on Wednesday 21 September. The Central Representative attending the meeting reported that it was ‘a brief meeting focusing on membership, terms of reference and the way the committee will operate in future’. There was also a ‘presentation on the university's academic strategy’. The first Boards of Study will take place on:

- 20 October – Heath, Wellbeing and Social Care
- 27 October – Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport
- 1 November – Languages and Applied Linguistics

The WELS Faculty Assembly will be held on Tuesday 8 November.

Social Media

The Twitter account that I have set up, Jan Thompson WELS @WELS_OUSA, has a purple OU Student Association logo as the profile photo and images of module books and prospectus’ for the three Schools. To date the account has gathered 86 followers; a mixture of OU faculty accounts, OU qualification accounts, OU staff and a small number of students. I retweet items of interest regularly during the week and will be working on gaining more student followers during Freshers Week and over the coming months.

Senate Reference Group

The first meeting of the Senate Reference Group for this academic year will be on Wednesday 19 October 2016.

Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ)

LENZ is the new set of forums that will be for the sharing of information and ideas related to the student learning experience. FARs, Central Reps, VPs and other interested students will be involved.

Any other meetings

I will be meeting Nicky Thomas who is managing the Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport Board of Study on 18 October. This meeting is to discuss how the Boards of Studies (BofS) and its members will work together.
List of activities since last meeting

Saturday 23 July
CEC Meeting, Milton Keynes

List of future commitments

Tuesday 18 October
Meeting with Nicky Thomas, School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport, Milton Keynes

Wednesday 19 October
Senate Reference Group, Milton Keynes

Tuesday 8 November
WELS Faculty Assembly, Milton Keynes

Saturday 12 November
Societies AGM, Milton Keynes (optional)

Wednesday 25 January 2017
Senate Reference Group, Milton Keynes

Jan Thompson
Faculty Association Representative for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS)