OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 October 2016

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

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. Before the end of the 2014-16 term, the Trustees considered the feedback on the proposal of payment for the President and Deputy President both from the student consultation held in May 2016 and the outcome of the vote on the principle of implementing payment which was held at Conference in June 2016. A series of 16 recommendations and supporting information were put to the Trustees for their consideration with much deliberation. The Trustees agreed, to implement payment for the President and Deputy President on a part-time 0.6 FTE basis. A fuller statement about this will be made in due course.

3. The BoT held its first meeting of the current term on Thursday 22 September. At the time of writing, the minutes of the meeting are being finalised and will be uploaded to the OU Students Association website in due course.

4. At the meeting, Trustees approved the Association’s budget for 2016-17. Tom Murdoch from Stone King was in attendance to present a proposal on the implications of the Association becoming incorporated. Trustees also discussed updates to the Association Risk Register.

5. Trustees have considered and approved a number of staffing proposals since the last meeting, mainly due to the implementation of the Regions Review which has been able to proceed due to the successful outcome of our funding bid to the University. However the first decision to report on was not due to this, but in fact due to a departure in the existing team. The 2014-16 Trustees before the
end of their term agreed a proposal from the Deputy General Manager to provide a temporary salary upgrade for Admin Assistant Beverley Woodbridge for three months to cover the key work created by a vacancy for our Representation Officer, particularly during the induction and handover process and whilst we advertise for a new Head of the Student Voice team of which both roles are a part. Trustees approved the establishment and advertising of four brand new roles, three on a permanent basis and one on a fixed-term contract: a Head of Student Voice; A second Projects Officer for the Student Community team; a Digital Communications Officer (Technical); and finally a temporary Project Lead for the Regions Review implementation on a six month contract. Interviews for these posts are scheduled for the beginning of October. In addition, Trustees approved a request from the General Manager to establish the permanent role of Head of Student Volunteering and recruit our temporary Project Lead for Student Rep Inductions to this post. There are several further roles that will be scoped and proposed over the new few weeks/months including a new Student Support team (3 staff roles), a proposal on what to do with the Representation Officer vacancy in the Student Voice team, and a proposal for a staff role to support the Head of Student Volunteering.

6. Trustees commented on the Charity commission consultation on new power to disqualify from acting as a Trustee and a formal response was submitted to the Charity Commission.

7. Trustees approved a request from the General Manager to stand for election to the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)'s Assembly. A nomination form was submitted which was approved by NCVO’s Nominations Committee on 16 September. This will now be presented for ratification at NCVO’s AGM on 21 November 2016.

8. The next scheduled face-to-face meeting of the Board will be held on 22 November 2016.

Rob Avann
Secretary to the Board of Trustees