OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
27 – 29 January 2017

FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES (FARs) REPORTS

CEC 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

Reports submitted by:-

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

FAR for Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS)
Central Executive Committee (CEC)  
27 – 29 January 2017

REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)

Social/community events

- Helped on stand at Birmingham Graduation
- Attended STEM social event at Science Museum, London; opportunity to gain feedback on recent issues and how far they’d affected students
- Attended West Midlands social event in Worcester; opportunity to discuss how CEC could communicate better
- Attending West Midlands social event in Birmingham (14 Jan)

Social Media

- Attended Facebook Live Chats
- Continued to use my STEM Faculty Rep Facebook page and Twitter account. Uses include:–
  o Alerting students to Association matters (eg opportunity to become Learning Experience Reporter)
  o Alerting students to OU matters (eg registration deadline; consultation opportunities)
  o Alerting students to Faculty matters (eg opportunity to attend live debate on campus)
  o Alerting students to opportunities of interest to them outside the OU (eg Science Revision Weekend)
  o Asking student opinions (eg on issues faced by MSc students)
- Joined Facebook groups for the February start level 1 modules in my faculty to introduce myself to students and help support them.

Other engagement with students

- Frequent contributor on Matters forum
- Picking up issues and taking forward issues arising on “New Tutorial Arrangements” forum and on subject-specific Students Association Forum (eg Science Café)
• Working with newly recruited Learning Experience Reporters via the Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ) and elsewhere to provide feedback to module teams and to support students having specific issues

Meetings

• Attended the Associate Lecturer Assembly as the Students Association Representative. This was an excellent opportunity to build our working relationship with ALs and to get their perspective on issues affecting all of us. I had a very warm welcome and a thoroughly interesting and constructive time. I was delighted that ALs generally seem to have a real appetite to work more closely with student representatives.

• Students Association representative on the OU group doing the Academic Review of Group Tuition Policy. I have attended one face to face meeting so far, commented on the papers put to us and will be attending the next three meetings (until the end of March) remotely.

• Individual meetings scheduled with four members of OU staff later this month to discuss issues ranging from MSc students to the development of “clinic” or “bootcamp” forums.

Student Queries and Concerns

• Dealt with feedback on, and communicated as appropriate with module teams regarding, the following modules: S111, S215, S810, SX*390, MST210, T891, SK277, M343, S807, S309, S201,

• Passed on issues relating to provision of alternative formats to VP Equal Opps

• Passed on issues relating to student support to VP Student Support

Other CEC-related

• Part of the following working groups:-
  o Social Media Guidelines
  o Grassroots Project
  o Elections Review
  o Direct Digital Democracy (though unlike the others, this one has not got off the ground yet)

• Wrote article for Student Support news bulletin to encourage the building of relationships between Students Association and Student Support, and increase awareness of our new faculty-based representative structure

• Wrote article for OU Student

Cath Brown
Faculty Association Representative for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)
Central Executive Committee (CEC)  
27 – 29 January 2017  

REPORT OF THE FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVE (FAR) FOR WELLBEING, EDUCATION & LANGUAGE STUDIES (WELS)

WELS Faculty Update

The first WELS Faculty Assembly was held on 8 November 2016. The Executive Dean welcomed everyone to the first meeting. She thanked all staff for their hard work in minimizing the impact of the group tuition policy on students. There were updates on the new Faculty and research. Several Board of Study meetings have taken place in the latter part of the year; Annual Quality Reviews in December. Reports on these meetings can be found in the OUSA Central Reps 2015-17 forum. The dates of the next meetings are as follows:

18 January – WELS Teaching Committee  
31 January – Heath, Wellbeing and Social Care Board of Study  
9 February – Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport Board of Study  
28 February – Languages and Applied Linguistics Board of Study

The next WELS Faculty Assembly will be held on Tuesday 28 March.

Social Media

The OU Student Association WELS Twitter account is growing slowly. To date the account has gathered 137 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 post the occasional comment. I will continue to work on gaining more student followers.

Senate Reference Group

The first meeting of the Senate Reference Group was held on Wednesday 19 October 2016. Keith Zimmerman attended to speak to the Group about the Group Tuition Policy. Also, Kevin Hetherington gave a talk on the Academic Strategy; final version should be this month.

Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ)

The LENZ forums are up and running. There has been a small amount of activity on the WELS forums. To encourage more students to sign up a new advert has been put together and this will be distributed at Student Consultative meetings, during Student Voice week and put in to Local Community packs.

List of activities since last report

14 – 16 October CEC Meeting, Milton Keynes
18 October  Meeting with Nicky Thomas, School of Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport, Milton Keynes

19 October  Senate Reference Group, Milton Keynes

27 October  ECYS Board of Study Meeting

8 November  WELS Faculty Assembly, Milton Keynes (remote attendance)

1 - 14 December  WELS student consultation on ‘Helping you achieve your study goals’. Summary can be found in Student Consultation Forums

**List of future commitments**

- 27 – 29 January  CEC Meeting, Milton Keynes
- 9 February  ECYS Board of Study Meeting
- 28 March  WELS Faculty Committee
- 5 April  Senate Reference Group

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