CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW

The CEC is asked to:

i) **consider** the proposals in the paper

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper contains two strands. The first is a review of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) and the remits of its members.

1.2 The second is looking ahead to Conference 2018 and the statutory review of our constitution as required under the Education Act 1994 Section 22: 2(b)

2. Remit Review

2.1 Remits were reviewed ahead of the 2016 election process, however, recent reorganisation of the Office structure, the experience of the existing post holders and the upcoming Grassroots initiative suggest that a further review is desirable.

2.2 My proposal is that this should be a radical review to ensure that elected Officer remits align with the new office structure which comprises:

Student Community, Student Support and Student Voice as the ‘frontline’ teams supported by the Communications, Operations, Resources and Volunteer teams.

2.3 It may be useful to work with the office teams in helping to define any areas of overlap and gaps between the remits they support.

2.4 As well as those Officers aligned with the teams there will also be those whose remits are more general in nature (currently President, Deputy President, Vice President Administration and Vice President Equal Opportunities) which also need to be considered as to how they fit.

2.5 As well as the elected Officers the CEC has Area and Faculty Association Representatives to be the link between the CEC and students in the Regions,
Nations and Faculties. The remits of the Area reps will be heavily influenced by any changes due to the Grassroots project. Faculty reps being a new post would greatly benefit from the insights provided by the current incumbents as to how they could best function.

2.6 The Student Member of Council is to a large extent separate to this process given the nature of the role of that position.

2.7 I suggest we go back to a clean slate and look on this as an opportunity to build a CEC from scratch rather than moving responsibilities around existing posts. In the first instance CEC members are asked to consider the following:

1. Does my remit accurately reflect what I am doing?
2. How much time do I send on matters specific to my remit and general CEC work?
3. What am I doing beyond my remit? Can this be done by someone else?
4. What parts of other remits might be more suitable to my post?
5. What parts of my remit could be done by someone else?
6. Where does my remit fit in the Association structure? Neatly within one team or spread over more than one. In particular does it overlap between Voice, Support and Community?
7. How much of the work related to my remit needs to be done by an elected student representative? In other words is it ‘strategic’ (elected reps) or ‘operational’ (staff or suitable student volunteer)?
8. What is missing? Are there things that could be done within the current structure that are not being done?
9. For AARs and FARs – do I feel I am in the correct part of the structure? If not, where would be best? What extra support do I need to perform more effectively?
10. Anything else – this need not be remit specific but could also encompass wider issues such as the CEC composition (bearing in mind that for 2018 we are still bound by the existing constitution).

2.8 If answers could be ready for the end of June this will provide the basis for a paper to come to CEC in July. The final decision on remits needs to be made by January 2018 so that suitable publicity material (as suggested by the elections review paper) for the elections in late Spring 2018 can be produced.

3. Constitution Review

3.1 June 2018 may seem a long way off but for something as important as the statutory review of the Constitution a long term view is needed.

3.2 My proposals are:

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1 Please limit this to work specifically related to the CEC – Central Representative posts (unless ex officio) and positions on working groups / committees that are not specifically related to the remit should not be considered as these are usually undertaken on a voluntary basis.
1. We ask our legal advisors to review the current constitution to see if there are areas where it could be improved both in general and as regards the censure / removal of elected officials and Trustees.

2. As with 2014 a Rules Revision suggestions / consultation forum for the wider student body to have a say. As Rules Revision is set for the end of November I suggest that this run from early September through to the mid October to allow time for the details of the Rules Revision weekend to be drawn up and circulated to those attending. It will be hosted on the Association’s forum suite.

3. C E C and Board of Trustees to agree to the proposed amendments to go forward to Conference in Spring 2018. This will allow time for Conference delegates to familiarise themselves with them ahead of the floor debate. It would also allow students who might not be able to attend Conference to express an opinion.

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