OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
21 – 24 April 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)
21 – 23 April 2017

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

Social/community events

- Attended West Midlands social event in Birmingham
- Represented the Association at on-campus laboratory residential school

Social Media

- Attended Facebook Live Chats
- Continued to use my STEM Faculty Rep Facebook page and Twitter account. Uses include:
  - Alerting students to Association matters (eg bye-elections, opportunities to be Residential School Rep)
  - Alerting students to Faculty matters (eg new residential school)
  - Alerting students to general student matters (eg the degrees eligible for ELQ STEM loans)
  - Alerting students to interesting STEM-related events.
- Participating in Facebook groups relevant to the Faculty.

Other engagement with students

- Facilitating students engaging with the Faculty (eg in the promotion of the “Women and Girls in Science” day, and in getting students involved with the pilot faculty-level social media presence
- Attended Manchester Student Consultation
- Attended Newcastle Student Consultation
- Frequent contributor on Matters forum, STEM qualification forums, STEM OUSA forums
- Contributing to discussions on consultation forums
- Picking up issues and taking forward issues arising – eg the “letters in transparent envelopes” issue
- Working with 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
- Discussed feedback for Physical Science Board of Studies with Central Reps
- Discussed feedback for Maths & Stats Board of Studies with Central Reps
Meetings

- Attended the STEM faculty event “An Internet of Laboratory Things” which gave an update of new technologies, activities and even modules in the Faculty, and provided an opportunity to meet key staff
- Attended (remotely) three meetings of the group for Academic Review of Group Tuition Policy and commented on documents put to us between meetings
- Attended Group Tuition focus group run by KPMG
- Attended STEM Faculty Assembly as an observer, and emphasised the importance to students of blended learning rather than digital as a default
- Attended Online Rooms Advisory Group meetings – one remotely, one face to face; contributed extensively to forum discussions regarding the technology, and experimented with trial rooms
- Attended Strategy Roadshow in Cardiff
- Visited Manchester (STEM) Student Recruitment and Support Centre
- Attended Senate Reference Group
- Meeting with new STEM Executive Dean
- Attended Skype/OU Live meetings for the Elections Review Working Group and the Grassroots Working Group

Student Queries and Concerns

- Dealt with feedback and communicated as appropriate with module teams regarding, the following modules: SX*390, SMT359, TM351, T207, S111, S201, T216, S309, TM470, TM356, S295
- Communicated with faculty members concerning future plans for Computing and Communications and Physical Science curriculum
- Discussed issues with progression rules and changing degrees with SST
- Highlighted further issues relating to GTP and fed back as appropriate to staff, VP Student Support and VP Education
- Highlighted further issues regarding alternative formats and communicated these to VP Equal Opportunities

Other CEC-related

- Part of the following working groups:-
  - Forum Guidelines Review
  - Grassroots
  - Elections Review
  - Matters Redevelopment
  - CEC Round Robin
- Wrote blog post about the FAR role for the benefit of those considering standing for election to that role
• Attended Trustees meeting as part of a CEC group

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

The second WELS Faculty Assembly was held on Tuesday 28 March 2017. The Executive Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a verbal update of staffing changes and information on formal announcement on OU Redesign. There followed updates from each of the three Heads of Schools, Student Success, Research Excellence, Retention Strategy, WELS Business Planning, a presentation and workshop. The three Boards of Study have had meetings since the January CEC meeting. CEC members can access the full reports of the Assembly meeting and Boards of Studies meetings on the OU Students Association Central Representatives forum. The dates of the next WELS meetings are as follows:

26 April – WELS Teaching Committee
11 May – Heath, Wellbeing and Social Care Board of Study
16 May – Languages and Applied Linguistics Board of Study
18 May – Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport Board of Study

The next WELS Faculty Assembly will be held on Tuesday 27 June.

Social Media

The OU Student Association WELS Twitter account is growing. To date the account has gathered just under 170 followers; a mixture of OU faculty accounts, OU qualification accounts, OU staff and several students. Interaction with followers on Twitter is a daily activity. I retweet items of interest regularly; notifying followers of OU Student Association activities, University and Faculty information and articles, plus education matters that may be of interest to students.

Senate Reference Group

The second meeting of the Senate Reference Group was held on Wednesday 25 January 2017. Papers on the following subjects were discussed; Single Qualification Rule, Group Tuition Policy, Academic Performance Report, Academic Strategy and Council Governance Review. Next Senate Reference Group meeting is Wednesday 5 April 2017.

Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ)

There has been a small amount of activity on the WELS LENZ forums.
Other activities

- At the beginning of February, I emailed all Central Representatives who attend WELS Board of Study meetings. I formally introduced myself and let them know that if there were any issues from the LENZ forum or wider WELS student community that were appropriate for their next BoS I would contact them in good time.
- Over the last few weeks I have been in email contact with Linzi Morris, Head of Student Support for WELS, about student support.
- Regular overview of OU Student Association study support forums.
- Volunteered to be on an OU Student Association working group - Student Engagement.

List of meetings attended since last report

Weekend 27 – 29 January  CEC Meeting
Tuesday 9 February   ECYS Board of Study Meeting
Tuesday 28 March  WELS Faculty Assembly (remote attendance)

List of future meetings/commitments

Weekend 21 – 23 April  CEC Meeting
Monday 24 April University Students Consultative Executive
Wednesday 26 April  VP Rep and Research, FAR STEM (via Skype)
Thursday 18 May ECYS Board of Study Meeting
Wednesday 7 June Senate Reference Group
Thursday 8 June  WELS Scholarship day (to be confirmed)
Tuesday 27 June  WELS Faculty Assembly

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