OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 July 2017

RULES REVISION

The CEC is asked to:-

i) note, discuss and approve this paper

1. Background

1.1 Under the terms of the Education Act 1994 Student Unions must regularly review their constitutions. The Association decided that from 2014 onwards this review would occur every four years at Conference and is scheduled for Conference 2018 where it will form the bulk of the Business section.

1.2 A key process of this review is consultation with our membership about any proposed changes and to seek their views on changes they might wish to propose. This process of consultation with the membership will have two components; an online forum via the V L E to be followed by a face to face convention which will be held weekend of November 24th – 26th. This will be advertised through our usual channels and students will be invited to apply for a place.

2. Proposed Timeline and Process

2.1 I propose that the online forum run from mid-September through to the end of October which will then allow reasonable time for the Agenda of the Face to Face component to be set.

2.2 It will require two volunteers – one to assist me in moderating the forum which will include administrative tasks such as keeping thread lengths to a reasonable size and splitting discussions if they start to wander so that each individual thread deals with a single topic.

2.3 The second volunteer will collate and produce a summary of the discussion in each thread at intervals through the process and then at the end. This will help people keep abreast of discussions without necessarily having to trawl through the individual threads.
2.4 The forum will open with some topics already identified as needing to be considered to start off discussion but students will be free to add others as the period the forum is open.

2.5 The face to face convention will consist of a mix of small group and plenary sessions and the whole will be chaired by me as VP Administration and the business section will run from 9am on Saturday 25th through to 1pm on Sunday 26th November.

2.6 Delegates will include:

- Central Executive Committee Members
- Members of the Board of Trustees
- Representatives of Groups and Societies
- Students who have applied – in the past there would be a nominated student from each English Region, the Nations and Continental Europe. I propose we replace this by a quota system with each of the four Nations, the Republic of Ireland and Continental Europe having a set number of delegates based on their student population. Any places unfilled will be reallocated to the general pool of applicants.

2.7 After Rules Revision the proposed changes will be drafted as amendments to the Constitution and brought to the January meeting of the CEC by VP Administration for discussion and then passed, amended or rejected. Any which are not rejected will be set to the Board of Trustees for approval in February 2018. They will then be presented to Conference during the Business session of the Saturday morning for debate and voting. Successful amendments will be incorporated into the Constitution, approved by the Board of Trustees at which point they come into effect and then sent to the University Council for final approval (probably at the March 2019 meeting).

Peter J Cowan
Vice President Administration