OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 July 2017

THE BIG JUNE MEET UP

The CEC is asked to:-

i) note this report from the BIG June meet-up

1. Background

1.1 On the 25 February 2017 we held ‘The Big Feb meet-up’ in 20 locations throughout the country following pledges made by student hosts at conference 2016. Overall the meet-ups were well attended and helped greatly by the combined publicity for one big event. Our feedback suggested there was demand for a BIG summer event.

1.2 A nationwide event, The Great Get Together, inspired by Jo Cox’s statement that we have ‘more in common than that which divides us’ took place between 16-18 June. We decided to hold our summer event ‘The BIG June meet-up’ on Saturday 17 June in the spirit of this nationwide event.

1.3 Our host recruitment campaign had 56 responses and of these 38 hosts held a meet-up in their area. Each of the nations was represented and there was a meet-up for research students on campus. We also held online meet-ups on OU live hosted by our VP Community. This included three in February and two for the June event.

1.4 We advertised for both hosts and attendees on studenthome, by email, and on Facebook where 192 respondents selected either ‘attending’ or ‘interested’.

2. Feedback and Next Steps

2.1 At the time of writing 25 hosts filled in our feedback form. In total over 120 students are confirmed to have attended a BIG June meet-up. Many of these hosts and good number of attendees were completely new to the Association. Events took place in a range of venues from coffee shops to bars, museums, galleries and outdoor spaces.
2.2 Regular meet-ups reported a 50% increase in turnout with meet-ups in completely new locations having 2 or 3 attendees. Three meet-ups reported turnout of more than 10 students.

2.3 We would expect the next BIG meet-up to include over 50 events given there was greater demand from hosts as publicity increased towards the event. We are also seeing an increase in the number of regular meet-ups taking place as a result of the BIG June campaign.

2.4 We are continuing to collect and collate the feedback from hosts with a view to forming a long term meet-up strategy to make the most of this important area of our activity.

2.6 Finally some comments from hosts are included below:

“This was a very well attended meet up in Dunfermline, it had been well publicized, I had double the attendance this time ten compared with the Big Feb meet up which was five, and different students mixed and chatted well, the meeting actually overrun this time.”

“More regular meet-ups.”

“In total, 9 students came along… another 6 new faces. We all had a lovely time and our next date is set for the 29th July.”

“The three that attended were myself co-host and his wife who is also an OU student. Not sure how I get Glasgow area people to come, but will persevere.”

“2 New Students (Oct 2017 start) would like meet ups for General Study Support instead of Social ones.”

“I’m very excited to be hosting The BIG June meet-up in one of my favourite places! I’ve realised how genuinely important events like this are. They bring out the building blocks of community: compassion, solidarity and understanding.”

Stephanie Stubbins
Vice President Community