OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 July 2017

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES

The CEC is asked to:-

i) receive an update on the Student Engagement Projects

1. Background

1.1 The Student Engagement Manager, Natalie Read, attended the April meeting of this Committee to provide an overview of the new initiatives that she has been charged with taking forward as part of the Student Engagement Project.

1.2 The new initiatives under discussion were as follows: Student Shadowing where a student is given the opportunity to shadow a member of OU staff for the day; Student Partnerships where groups of students or student/staff teams are provided with up to 15 days of rewarded time to complete a project which improves the student experience; Student Ideas a crowd sourcing platform to collect student-generated ideas for progress including OU Students Association led campaigns and Graduate Internships open to OU graduates who are just about to graduate or who have graduated within the last three years.

1.3 Following the meeting, a number of CEC members volunteered to be part of ongoing discussions as the projects develop and access was provided to dedicated online forums for work to take place.

2. A report on progress

2.1 Since the last meeting, a business case for the running of pilot projects for the above initiatives was presented to the University’s Major Change Board in May to confirm that funding was available. Funds were confirmed for the projects with the exception of the Graduate Internships for which a more detailed business case was requested and this paperwork will be submitted to August’s meeting.

2.2 Student Ideas: The Student Ideas Platform has been in development and will be ready to launch in August. Promotional articles calling for student
volunteers to be part of the pilot were published across our media and over 400 students have already registered to take part. A workshop was held in June to which a number of CEC members and Student Association staff were invited to understand some of the potential around the platform and to consider how it could be used to the best effect. A follow up of this meeting takes place on 5th July to further explore how the Students Association will be involved in this pilot.

2.3 Student Shadowing: Guidance documents were created in conjunction with the project manager and Association representatives. The first student shadowing experience took place on Monday 3rd July with the Director of Strategy being the first staff member to volunteer to be shadowed. A report back from this experience will be available in due course. A communication will be sent to OU staff shortly asking for further volunteers to take part in this initiative. There is currently a call out for a student member to host a member of staff within their personal environment but no volunteers have come forward for this experience as yet.

2.4 Student Partnerships: Documents are in development to support staff or students submitting projects. A conversation is currently taking place about what any remuneration should look like and if it should be in the form of a financial reward or other form of incentive.

2.5 Graduate Internships: A further business case is currently being prepared for submission in August.

3. Student Voice Website

3.1 The Student Voice website is an ongoing initiative that is part of the Student Engagement project and is expected to launch in September. Initial designs will be available for consideration on 11th July for the group of team working on this project.

4. Student Engagement Project Team

4.1 The overarching Student Engagement Project Team, which includes a number of CEC members and Association staff, is due to meet on 6th July following which any further verbal updates will be provided to the Executive at their meeting.

Wendy Burrell
Deputy General Manager