OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14-16 July 2017

UPDATES FROM VOLUNTEER TEAM

The CEC is asked to:-

i) note completed, ongoing and future projects for the Volunteer team.

ii) receive update on the status of the volunteer recognition event

1. Background

1.1 The Volunteer team was established in September and now has two full time members of staff and a temporary Admin until July 28 2017. Following the recruitment of the Student Support Administrator, this role will be shared between the Student Support and Volunteer teams to provide these teams with administrative support.

2. Updates to ongoing projects

2.1 Updates and improvements to Volunteer Handbook have been completed. All current volunteers and new volunteers will receive this handbook over the summer. Only minor changes will be made until the handbook is reviewed June 2018.

2.2 Production of Volunteer Policy in line with relevant legislation and law which affects volunteers is in progress having discussed best practise with NCVO and other Student Union volunteer managers

2.3 Volunteer training, networking and recognition event planned for Saturday, 15 July 2017. The project is currently running to budget and to time scale with seven staff members from the office working on making this event a success. Feedback from CEC and the volunteer steering group have been taken on board and so online activities will take place following the event for those who could not attend, goody bags to also be sent out for current volunteers not attending.
2.4 Radio Host recruitment was a success, first radio show will take place Friday, 14 July with four of the new hosts.

2.5 The Honorary Life Members (HLM) project was approved by CEC in April and a champion has volunteered to support the project from within current membership. Stuart Wilson has agreed to support the office with the HLM newsletter and communications. Gold pins for the HLMs have been ordered and will be sent out over the summer.

2.6 Supporting Grassroots project implementation. The Volunteer team will be involved in the recruitment and induction of the Community Champions.

2.7 Supporting the implementation of a greater marketing campaign for OUSET, including the recruitment and training alongside the Operations Team for OUSET ambassadors (as approved by OUSET trustees Feb 2017). Role to be announced at Volunteer event and then run as a pilot for current volunteers to apply to. Training to take place October 2017.

2.8 Following discussions around community volunteering at the April committee, a student consultation is underway to establish student’s thoughts on this topic. Results of this will be shared at the October executive committee, alongside suggestions for how to proceed. These items will be open to vote on in October, and ahead of the central executive meeting, there will be an opportunity to discuss and bring ideas to the forum for how we might trial or pilot community volunteering opportunities in a way that students have expressed interest. If you would like to be involved in this work in the future, please speak to Beth Metcalf, or contact the volunteering team.

2.9 The Volunteer team continue to support the ‘Enhanced Employability and Career Progression’ steering group, who are working to ensure students know what the OU and Association can offer to support career aspirations and progression.

Beth Metcalf
Head of Student Volunteering