OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
14 – 16 July 2017

FACULTY ASSOCIATION REPRESENTATIVES (FARs) REPORTS

---

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

Face to face events involving meeting students

- Represented the Association at the M500 Revision Weekend
- Attended Women in Engineering conference on campus (for female engineering students) - invited by organiser in my role (and have been encouraged to contribute to discussions about planning next year’s event)

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)
  - Alerting students to Faculty matters (eg module choice events)
  - Alerting students to general student matters (eg the new “Combined STEM” degree)
  - Discussion of issues relevant to students (eg OU Redesign)
- Participating in Facebook groups relevant to the Faculty.

Other engagement with students

- Frequent contributor on Talk to Your Students Association forums, STEM qualification forums, STEM OUSA forums
- Contributing to discussions on consultation forums

Meetings

- Monthly meetings of GTP (Group Tuition Policy) Academic Review Group
- Monthly meetings of Online Rooms Advisory Group
- Online meetings of Elections Review Group
- Meeting with Head of Student Success, STEM Faculty to discuss strategy for retention and progression
- Central Reps Seminar
Student Queries and Concerns

- Communicated with faculty members concerning availability of specific STEM modules to students on specific degree programmes
- Raised student concerns regarding assessment inconsistencies in two modules
- Raised several issues of misinformation being given out by SST with a senior manager in SST

Other CEC-related

- Part of the following active working groups:-
  - Elections Review
  - VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) Restructure
  - Ideas
  - Engagement Website
- Contributed to Senate Reference Group discussions online
- Wrote blog post about studying and bereavement
- Wrote the seven quizzes for the Bath residential schools
- Wrote something about the FAR role for the student representation guide
- Ongoing discussions in CEC forums and Strategy forums

Cath Brown
*Faculty Association Representative for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM)*
Wellbeing, Education & Language Studies (WELS) Faculty Update

The second WELS Faculty Assembly was held on Tuesday 27 June 2017. The Executive Dean welcomed everyone to the meeting. There followed an update from Associate Dean Research Excellence, a presentation by Director of Business Development on diversifying income, question and answer session on OU Redesign and an update Teaching Excellence and OU Redesign workstreams. The three Boards of Study have held meetings since the April CEC meeting. CEC members can access the full reports of the Assembly meeting, Teaching Committee and Boards of Studies meetings on the OU Students Association Central Representatives forum. The dates of the next WELS meetings are as follows:

- 12 July: Heath, Wellbeing and Social Care (HWSC) Board of Study
- 28 September: WELS Teaching Committee
- 19 October: Education, Childhood, Youth and Sport (ECYS) Board of Study
- 31 October: Languages and Applied Linguistics (LAL) Board of Study

The next WELS Faculty Assembly will be held on Tuesday 7 November.

Social Media

The OU Student Association WELS Twitter account is growing. To date the account has gathered just under 200 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 fourth meeting of the Senate Reference Group was held on Wednesday 7 June 2017. Papers on the following subjects were discussed; Group Tuition Policy, Academic Performance Report, CDC Report and Annual Effectiveness Review. Next Senate Reference Group meeting is Wednesday 18 October 2017.

Learning Experience Networking Zone (LENZ)

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

Other activities

- Reading and posting in the Talk to Your Students Association forum
• Following up issues with the Languages and applied Linguistics (LAL) Board of Study Consultation Forum (open for posting 14-26 June) highlighted by students in the Talk To Your Students Association forum
• Email communication with Student Consultation office regarding the LAL Board of Study Consultation Forum plus email communication with LAL Central Reps about this forum
• Contact with Associate Head of School, Student Experience LAL
• Consultations with Education, Childhood, Youth and Sports (ECYS) School on their Board of Study Student Consultation Forum (open for posting 22 June – 3 July)
• OU Student Association working group - Student Engagement
• Reading and posting in CEC, SRG and Central Reps forums
• Regular overview of OU Student Association study support forums
• Posting in Student Consultation forums

List of meetings attended since last report

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21 – 23 April</td>
<td>CEC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 April</td>
<td>University Student Consultation Executive meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>ECYS Board of Study Meeting (remote attendance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>SRG meeting (attempted remote attendance – failed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>VP Rep and Research, FAR STEM (via Skype)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 June</td>
<td>WELS Faculty Assembly (via Stadium)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Future meetings/commitments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 July</td>
<td>Student Engagement meeting (via Skype)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 – 16 July</td>
<td>CEC Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 July</td>
<td>University Students Consultative Executive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 – 17 September</td>
<td>Informal CEC Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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