

**OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION****Student Leadership Team (SLT)**

26 – 28 April 2024

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

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The SLT is asked to:-

- i) **note** this regular report from the Board of Trustees

1. There is a requirement under the Articles of Association for the Board of Trustees (BoT) to provide a report to the Student Leadership Team (SLT) at each meeting. This report is intended to provide the following:
  - a) a formal opportunity for SLT members to raise any questions arising from the minutes or other matters relating to the role of the Trustees, and
  - b) the opportunity for Trustees to raise any specific items with the SLT or report on progression of any non-routine matters.
2. The Board met on the 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 online via Microsoft Teams. The meeting minutes will be available on the website soon.
3. The proposed amendments to the bye-laws were presented to the Trustees. Following trials in July 2023, there were proposed changes to the composition of the SLT. These included:
  - Change of name from VP Student Support to VP Student Welfare
  - Discontinuation of the trial for a Postgraduate Research Representative (PGR) due to absence of nominations and feedback from the PGR team
  - Removal of the England Rep, however this was decided against due to complications with subsequent article change requirements and so a focus on improved role clarity was encouraged.
  - Addition of two new roles; a BAME Representative and a Sustainability Representative.
4. These changes to the SLT will be going to the Student Leadership Team soon for approval, prior to a final decision being made. Trustees voted and approved the proposed amendments to the SLT composition in the Bye-Laws.

5. Two further changes were proposed in regard to the societies. Trustees approved both proposals of streamlining support for societies in regard to the accounting requirements and an expansion of the procedures for disaffiliating a society through the introduction of a tiered process.
6. Discussions were raised around the 2024 Conference resolutions, in order to gauge Trustees views on potential resolutions. The BoT approved further exploration of two potential SLT structures aimed at tackling ongoing capacity issues. They also approved a resolution to Conference to formally change the name in the Articles of the Central Executive Committee to the Student Leadership Team. The next recommendation approved was a wording change to allow SLT and BoT elections to be held in alternate years.
7. With regard to the name change from Association to Union, the BoT recognised that implementing this change would require a lot of effort and resources. Therefore, they approved the resolution in principle but addressed that more work is required such as working out the financial implications. The final resolution to be approved was to change the bye-law to allow the Council member to be co-opted should the position become vacant mid-term.
8. The Associate Director of Projects and Services presented the proposed Sustainability Policy created by the Association's Environmental and Sustainability Working Group. Trustees approved the policy.
9. Within the Chief Executive's report, Trustees were updated on the external recruitment for the Trustee positions, outlining that they were shortlisting end of February with recommendations for successful post-holders being presented to the SLT and Board shortly after.
10. Staffing matters: This quarter has been a quieter one with just a few staff changes. Danielle Cafearo left for her maternity leave on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. Alison Lunn sadly leaves us on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April (last official working day 22 April 2024) and we wish her well in her next venture. Unfortunately, recruitment was not successful for her replacement with only three applications received and none were deemed interview-worthy. Subsequently, we are seeking external help via recruitment agencies to fill her position. Beth will be covering the essential parts of Alison's role until someone has been successfully recruited. On the contrast, we were inundated with applications for the Media and Admin Assistant role and are pleased to announce the appointment of Jasmine Ewart who will be starting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. Internally Ciara was successfully appointed as the full time Projects Officer and has made an excellent start in her new role.
11. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**Beth Metcalf**  
**Chief Executive**