

U0837_2: Nominations Form

Role Category* Vice President position

Preferred name* Mark Walker

Candidate Question 1: What attracted you to stand for this role

Having served as the former Vice President of Student Welfare, even for a brief co-opted time, I've witnessed the significant impact the Student Leadership Team can have on the student body. This experience has ignited a deep desire within me to pursue a full term in this role. My aim is to build upon the groundwork laid during my interim period, and to extend my efforts further in catering to the diverse needs of all Open University students. My commitment lies in breaking down barriers and ensuring equitable opportunities for every individual, thereby facilitating the realization of their aspirations and academic goals. With your support, I aspire to foster an environment where every student can thrive and succeed. This is supported by my knowledge, skills and experience of 20 years in Local Government management and graduating from the Open University with a BA(Hons) in Leadership and management. This is what attracted me to stand for the role.

Candidate Question 2: Meet the needs of ALL students

What are the top two issues that you would want to address as part of the 2024-26 Student Leadership Team?

I am committed to actively listen to all students' needs, aiming to reduce barriers and ensure equity for everyone. While existing support groups focus on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) such as BAME, PRIDE, and Disabled, there's recognition of the need to expand this network. This expansion may include creating spaces for Veterans, Care Leavers, and other marginalized groups to provide safe environments where students can connect and receive support. Every student should have their needs listened to!

Getting students through their OU journey avoiding or removing the barriers

The student withdrawal rate from modules is high despite most students successfully completing their modules. To tackle this issue, a comprehensive guide in the form of podcasts will be developed. This guide will cover the entire student journey from registration to degree ceremony, focusing on tips and advice contributed by students themselves rather than content from the University or Students Association. Together we can succeed!

