


# The Central Executive Committee's Report to Conference 2022 - 2024



 /OUStudents

 @OUStudents

 @OUStudentslive

# Table of Contents

---

<b>Membership 2022 - 2024 .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Governance .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Staffing .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Finance .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Strategy .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Schedule of Meetings 2022-2024 .....</b>	<b>13</b>

# Membership 2022 -2024

- **President:** Margaret Greenway
- **Deputy President:** Gareth Jones (until March 2024) and Mark Walker (from March 2024)
- **Student Member of Council:** Kara Dique (from November 2022 until February 2023) and Matt Porterfield (from September 2023)
- **Vice President Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** Oakley Monk-Owen (until October 2022) and Natalie Baker (from November 2022)
- **Vice President Administration:** Michael Bryan
- **Vice President Community:** Cazzandra Flowers
- **Vice President Engagement:** Lou Robinson
- **Vice President Education:** Laura Marulanda-Carter (until September 2023)
- **Vice President Academic Student Voice:** Eli London (from September 2023 until November 2023)
- **Vice President Student Representation:** Kelly Coker (from September 2023)
- **Vice President Student Support:** Nicola Boffee (until January 2023)
- **Vice President Student Welfare:** Mark Walker (from September 2023 until March 2024)
- **Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies:** Nichola Connolly
- **Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences:** Tommy Rowlands (from November 2022 until March 2023) and Jack Flaherty (from September 2023)
- **Faculty of Open and Access:** Kaz Murphy (from November 2022)
- **Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics:** Yasmin Fitzpatrick (until October 2022) and Nigel Patterson (from November 2022)
- **Faculty of Business and Law:** Benjamin Mansell (until July 2023) and Pauline Robinson (from September 2023)
- **International Area Representative:** Mohai Eddine (until July 2023) and Isabelle Hoyet (from September 2023)
- **Area Representative for Ireland:** Stephen Hughes
- **Area Representative for England:** Elizabeth Scully (until March 2024)
- **Area Representative for Scotland:** Paul Reid (until September 2023)
- **Area Representative for Scotland:** Samantha Ferguson (from September 2023 until January 2024)
- **Area Representative for Wales:** Raed Townsend (until December 2023)

# Introduction

## Reflecting on Progress and Growth

Dear Members of the Open University Students Association,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Student Leadership Team Conference Report for the bi-annual conference of 2024. This report serves as a reflection on the progress, challenges, and highlights of the 2022-2024 term, during which we have been steadfast in our commitment to making a positive difference for all OU students.

Over the past two years, our focus has been on implementing our new five-year strategy, which underscores our dedication to being adaptable, sustainable, bold, welcoming, and accountable. Guided by these principles, we have endeavoured to increase engagement and awareness among our student body, fostering a sense of belonging and community where every student's voice is heard and valued.

Our efforts have yielded promising results, with increased participation at our Freshers' events, annual student membership survey, and recent student elections. These milestones are a testament to the growing enthusiasm and engagement of our community, as well as the impact of our initiatives in building a more inclusive and vibrant environment for all students.

As President, one of my key priorities has been addressing the needs of students with undiagnosed special education needs. I am pleased to report that after much hard work across all areas of the Association, we are now able to present a policy to conference focused on Undiagnosed Special Educational Needs, marking a significant step forward in our commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

This report highlights our achievements but as a team we have also been through many challenges and learnt lessons together along the way. We are a team of 90% volunteers, which brings its own challenges in workload and availability but as a team we have faced Union action which impacted students, been working to understand the impact of advances in AI for students, and as a Union we are facing reductions to our funding as the University looks to build a financially sustainable model for their future. As we look ahead, my hope is that our work will serve as a foundation for continued progress and innovation, inspiring future

teams to build upon our successes and uphold our values with the same dedication and passion.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to all members of the Open University Students Association for your unwavering support, dedication, and commitment to our shared mission. Together, we have made significant strides in advancing the interests and wellbeing of OU students, and I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a lasting impact in the years to come.

With warm regards,

**Margaret Greenaway**

President, Open University Students Association



# Changes to how the Student Leadership Team works

To support students to understand our role and what we are doing for our student members, we (your Central Executive Committee) made the decision to be publicly known as the Student Leadership Team (SLT).

For the 2022-24 term, significant changes were introduced to enable the Student Leadership Team to function more effectively, deliver on their priorities, and work as a team. Additional changes then followed to complement this approach.

Rather than working towards 19 separate sets of manifesto pledges, the Student Leadership Team brought our manifestos together to develop a set of shared team priority areas. These are:

- Representation
- Association Awareness
- Communities and Engagements
- Equality, Diversity, Inclusion (EDI) and Accessibility.

Subsequently, the focus of the quarterly executive Student Leadership Team meetings has been on making progress in each of these priority areas. This means that these meetings have been much more focused on student issues and introducing changes to benefit students, than on operational matters.

With these changes in mind, the way that the Student Leadership Team's quarterly reports are structured also changed. Instead of a report for each elected role, a single team report is now published on the OU Students Association website that provides an overview of the team's activity and progress in the priority areas. This makes the information much more concise and relevant to our fellow students. You can view these here: [Student Leadership Team reports \(oustudents.com\)](https://oustudents.com)

The additional benefit of these changes is to create real clarity in the difference in focus between the roles of the Student Leadership Team, and the Board of Trustees.

Overall, this series of changes to the way the Student Leadership Team functions is a major achievement of the 2022-24 term, and has made us more representative, and more focused on student issues.

- Referring publicly to our elected team as the Student Leadership Team instead of the Central Executive Committee - this aimed to 'demystify' this team and what they do, allowing us to appeal to more students. Since the name change, we have seen a marked increase in awareness of the Student Leadership Team and what they do in our Annual Membership Survey.
- Schedule of Work and Schemes of Delegation established to ensure clear differences between the Trustees (the head of the organisation) and the Student Leadership Team (the face of the organisation).
- Graphics developed to support understanding of our governance structure.
- Talking regularly about our Student Leadership Team and publishing regular 'news stories' sharing information, wins and opportunities.
- Creating more engaging Student Leader updates in line with their Quarterly meetings.
- Making all meetings of Student Leadership Team and Trustees Hybrid, to open attendance opportunities to more students.

# Priority Areas

The Student Leadership team elected for the 2022-2024 term quickly set to work on coordinating our manifesto pledges, aligning these with the overall strategic plan to agree shared priorities. These have helped inform the Association's strategic planning for the period of 2023-2027 and are outlined below:



1

## REPRESENTATION

Increase the influence of student views and experiences at all levels of the University and beyond.

2

## COMMUNITIES & ENGAGEMENT

Enhance the student experience by creating more spaces for students to engage with each other.



3

## ASSOCIATION AWARENESS

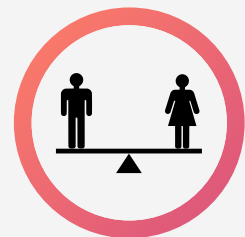
Increase the awareness of the Association, its services, and opportunities through timely and relevant communications.



4

## EDI & ACCESSIBILITY

Promote equality, diversity and inclusion with the Association, and alleviate barriers in accessing University services and support.



The priority areas help to guide the Student Leadership Team in identifying student issues to address, spotting opportunities for change, and developing projects, campaigns and events.

As Faculty Rep for WELS the most enjoyable part of my role has been meeting students in person and online and working with the team collaboratively to achieve the priorities we set out at the beginning of my term.



# Representation

Outlined below are the projects and goals that the group focused on Representation set out to achieve and the progress in achieving them:

## **Make changes to Senate Reference Group**

Several changes were made successfully to the Senate Reference Group to improve the way it runs. These included the name change from Senate Reference Group (SRG) to Student Senate Reference Group (SSRG), changing membership so students can nominate themselves as well as Groups being able to nominate representatives and meetings now being conducted online which has seen an increase in attendance.

## **Campaign on Student Finance**

The Students Association coordinated an open letter to the Department for Education calling for changes to the student finance system to broaden eligibility for part-time and distance-learning students. Over 50 elected student leaders from 26 different students' unions signed the letter.

The President subsequently met with the Minister for Universities at an Open University event in December 2023, and has continued to correspond with the Minister since on the issue.

## **Engage with students around the General Election**

This project involves two strands:

1. A comms campaign to encourage OU students to register to vote and raise awareness of the new law around voter identification
2. The development and publication of an OU Students Association manifesto for the UK General Elections

Over the month of February and into March 2024, the Students Association ran a comms campaign to encourage OU students to be registered to vote and to raise awareness of the need to bring a valid form of identification to polling stations in order to be allowed to vote. The campaign involved social media posts across our platforms, blogs on The Hoot, and asking all of our Freshers event hosts to include a slide covering the topics as part of their introductions.

The OU Students Association General Election manifesto has been developed over the last twelve months and contains several 'asks' of the next government, which run across two broad themes: Student finance, and inclusivity. The manifesto will be published in the near future.

## **Consult on changing name to ‘Union’**

Following feedback from Students, the Association has consulted more widely with OU students on the question of whether being more obviously identifiable as a students’ union would make a difference to students’ likelihood of discovering and engaging with us. Consultations occurred both as part of the Student Voice Festival, where sessions took place across the UK, and online, using the Student Consultation Forum.

There were a variety of opinions expressed across the students that engaged in the consultation, but a significant majority (in particular newer students who had little knowledge of us) indicated that being called a ‘Union’ would have a positive impact on student awareness of the organisation and their likelihood of finding us and understanding what our offer to students is.

At the time of writing, options have been presented to the Board of Trustees on potential courses of action to pursue this work, which may result in a vote at Conference 2024.

# **EDI and Accessibility**

Outlined below are the projects and goals that the team focused on EDI & Accessibility set out to achieve and the progress of the SLT in achieving their goals.

## **EDI Newsletter**

The Students Association’s EDI newsletter was launched in October 2023. The EDI newsletter exists for students to learn about the work of the Student Support Groups, raise awareness of ways students can get involved and receive updates on EDI-related work at the Association. More than half of each Student Support Group membership has engaged with this newsletter.

## **Assessment and support for Neurodivergent (ND) students**

The Association is proactively engaging with neurodivergent students to better understand their needs, and also what we can do to provide better support. We are running a series of focus groups and surveying students to inform our next steps.

The Students Leadership Team are proposing that students vote on a Policy related to support ND students with assessments. This aims to encourage the University to take this issue seriously and look at actions they can take to support students who are struggling to achieve a diagnosis.

## Action plan for General Accessibility training

All staff at the Association have received Accessibility training to give staff the skills they need to deliver accessible content and services. The charity that provided the training, [Ability Net](#) delivered three courses to various staff members at the Association:

- Accessible social media: this course highlighted the importance of creating accessible social media content, the benefits to doing this and the key barriers created by inaccessible content.
- Embedding Accessibility at Every Stage of Your Project: this course covered establishing an accessibility policy and integrating this within all aspects of development and delivery.
- How to Create Accessible Documents with Word and PDF: this course covered creating accessible documents and how to check them for accessibility issues.

The Accessibility Standards Working Group will work on an action plan to further our work in this area.

## Action plan for Trans Students

We have engaged constructively with our trans, non-binary and intersex students throughout a challenging period within the Open University. In April 2024 we published a Transgender and Gender-Diverse Inclusion Statement, which set out our commitment to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment that values and supports trans and gender-diverse students. To ensure that we provide as much support as possible, we will also be holding focus groups for Trans, Non-Binary and Intersex students to better understand how we can ensure safety in Association spaces.

## Present at Conferences on EDI/Distance-Learning issues

This is a work in progress, but we have been in touch with several external conference organisers with a mind to presenting our Library study Volunteer Service or our Sustainability work. Alongside this work Margaret is presenting at a Westminster Insight event: Graduate Employability Conference, taking place in London in May 2024 focused on Improving Inclusion through Student Empowerment.

“My role has been challenging at times however I have been able to be involved in conversations that will ensure that there is support for all of our students and a place for them at the OU, this has included working with OU Pride to support our Trans and Non Binary students, working with the OU to help lessen delays to learning adjustments and alternative module material formats, helping with the Race Equality Charter work, accessibility considerations and wider EDI work at the OU.”

# Association Awareness

## Association Awareness

Outlined below are the projects and goals that the team focused on Association Awareness set out to achieve and the progress in achieving their goals.

### **Increase Association presence on module websites and OU study app**

The Association posted about the Annual Membership Survey (AMS) on module websites via OU staff. The news consequently also appeared on the OU study app. This activity resulted in an increase of 1,300 visits to the survey. Since then, a procedure has been created to continue using this platform to share priority Association messages. We now have either a contact or contact list for each Faculty to help us reach more students and will be working to integrate this into how we communicate opportunities with our members.

### **Update ‘Being an OU student’ OpenLearn course and add the Association links to the Study Planner**

The President introduced the Association in a video filmed by the OU which was repurposed for an existing OpenLearn module aimed at new students: “Being an OU student”. Key messages outlined in the video included “the Association is like a Union” but for OU students and that every OU student is automatically a member. Following the February 2024 SLT meeting, the OU announced a new induction module on the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and they have since agreed to promote the Association as part of this. They were also open to feedback and updates from us. This is a great opportunity to reach new students as they first join the OU.

### **Grow the Hoot and introduce Module Reviews**

Last summer, a Hoot Working Group was formed to focus on the Hoot’s design and look. Ideas from the group were amalgamated by staff leads after the meeting into ‘suggested improvements’ we want to make to the site.

We have since pinned an introduction from the VP Engagement to the home page and amalgamated the Association logo into The Hoot logo. Other suggested improvements were as follows:

- Changing the categories (possibly to reflect the website)
- Create a video tutorial on how to submit an article
- Use Association branding (possibly one of our pastel colours)
- Archiving old content
- Recruiting Hoot student content creators
- Creating a calendar of awareness days

- Finding a more interactive way to display the articles
- Including collections of articles (like the Advent campaign of 2022) throughout the year
- Raising the profile of The Hoot by creating a comms plan

The group has since been looking into the categories which appear on the Hoot and will be suggesting changes for these over the next few months.

### **Build Tutor Awards and Volunteer Recognition Events into the Association Cyclical Calendar**

We know that Tutors and Student Volunteers make an important difference to the experience of OU Students. Our 2023 Tutor Awards received over 738 nominations, which represents huge growth in this area of work. To recognise this, we are building dedicated recognition events for both Tutors and Student Volunteers into our annual calendar. These events will be student driven, allowing students to nominate and acknowledge the impact made.

“I am proud of being involved in the tutor awards again as Faculty rep for WELS and working with the other Faculty Reps and Community Team on the tutor awards and that is now part of business as usual”

**Association Volunteer**

# Community and Engagement

Outlined below are the projects and goals that team working on Community and Engagement set out to achieve and the progress in achieving their goals.

### **Student Chat Platform Development and Pilot**

The Student Leadership Team have been working closely with the Association staff team to develop a community space for students in the form of a ‘Chat app’ which will be fully integrated within ‘single sign-on’ (this means using your OU login to access the app which ensures only OU students have access!).

The student Chat Platform will be piloted with the Student Support Groups in May 2024 and if successful, and depending on any fixes required, we hope we will be able to launch the platform to all students during September Freshers.

This is an exciting opportunity to grow student communities in a safe and fun environment and offer students an alternative to joining unofficial and unmoderated spaces on platforms such as Facebook and WhatsApp.

## **Isolation Awareness Month**

In November 2023, the Association ran a campaign titled #AtHomeButNotAlone in support of the Isolation Awareness Month. It was created for students who may be feeling isolated as distance-learners. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness of the support services available at the Association which can help combat feelings of loneliness. Several events and sessions ran including the 'Big at Home but Not Alone Quiz', a community drop in and an Individual Representation twitter takeover as well as relevant articles posted on the Hoot.

## **Student Issues**

In February 2023, a 'Student Issues' reporting tool was set up on the Students Association website, to enable students to report on issues that are affecting them. The page has a voting feature whereby other students can vote posted issues up or down depending on how those issues are affecting them as individuals. The top issues, as voted on by students, are then discussed at each quarterly meeting, with agreed actions being reported back via the website.

Some of the issues reported on and dealt with are listed below:

### **Reachability in case of problems**

Students told us international students are having difficulty accessing student support due to opening hours. The International Area Representative has been in touch with the Student Support Team about the 'Call back' option. The International Area Representative was informed that it is available for international students, but that this functionality is not routinely placed in all areas of the Help Centre. Instead, it has been embedded within specific types of queries, such as struggling with studies, cancelling,

deferring, withdrawing and mental wellbeing. We are continuing to raise this issue with the hope of the University increasing open hours as this would help other groups of students too, including those working during the opening hours.

### **Online tutorials and day schools**

The Chief Executive followed up with Josie Fraser on the progress of online tutorials and using Adobe Connect as a platform. We have created a shared document to record any feedback Student Leaders have had on online tutorials and day schools. This will be collated and shared with the University, please get in touch if you have had issues you would like to report: [ousa@open.ac.uk](mailto:ousa@open.ac.uk).

### **Languages used in TMAs and EMAs**

The SLT pushed the OU to adopt the plain English policy.

# Noteworthy Moments

## 2022-24 Student Leadership Team term

### TEF Gold

The Open University won an overall Gold rating on its first entry into the Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF), having received a Gold for student outcomes and a Silver for student experience.

The TEF encourages and recognises high-quality teaching and student outcomes in higher education, and 2023 was the first time the OU has taken part. The OU Students Association also provided a submission to the Office for Students as part of the OU's TEF assessment, which involved comprehensive consultation with students to ensure that the student voice was accurately reflected in the OU's submission.

A Gold accolade is bestowed only if a higher education institution can consistently deliver outstanding teaching and learning outcomes for its students. It was great for the Students Association to work closely with the Open University on this and strengthened our positive relationship with OU colleagues.

### UCU Marking and Assessment boycott

In April 2023 the University and Colleges Union (UCU) announced that their members would be participating in 'marking and assessment boycott' (MAB), which would begin on 20 April 2023 and impact students' final module or degree results.

Before taking an official position on the industrial action, from 28 April to 9 May 2023, the Student Leadership Team shared a poll to informally gauge the feelings of OU students regarding the UCU marking and assessment boycott.

The informal poll received 12,431 votes. 7,300 students voted to oppose the marking and assessment boycott (59%) and 5,131 students voted to support it (41%).

The Student Leadership Team made the decision to stand against the tactic of a marking and assessment boycott, which disproportionately impacts students.

The Student Leadership Team continued, both in public and in private meetings, to encourage both parties in the dispute to engage constructively to end the continued disruption to students' studies.



Each term always has its challenges, and this term was no different. I am proud of how the team faced up to these challenges and were unwavering in their commitment to putting students first. For me, this is typified by our response to the Marking and Assessment Boycott in 2023. By listening to the students, we adapted to the changing perspectives, whilst working collaboratively with all parties to mitigate the impact on the student body. Whilst students were undoubtedly affected, and I made this clear at the Education Select Committee in February 2024, I am confident that our involvement reduced our detrimental this action could have been.

## **NSS results**

The results of the 2023 National Student Survey were released back August 2023, and the data received from 15,648 student responses showed the OU Students Association in a very positive light.

We are pleased to report that the OU Students Association gained a positivity measure of 80.2% on the NSS' student union question focusing on students' academic interests, which is well ahead of the sector average across all UK student unions (71.9%). The National Student Survey (NSS) is an annual survey commissioned by [the Office for Students \(OfS\)](#) to invite feedback on the student experience. The questionnaire includes categories such as 'academic support', 'learning resources' and 'student voice'.

As a publicly funded Higher Education Institution, The Open University takes part in this survey each year. At the OU Students Association, we closely follow NSS feedback on the student union question, which helps our efforts to improve the ways in which we listen to students and communicate with them about how we represent their interests.

## **Deputy President giving evidence in parliament**

OU Students Association Deputy President, Gareth Jones, gave evidence on behalf of Open University students at the House of Commons Education Committee in February 2024.

The evidence provided was part of the Education Committee's inquiry into the impact of industrial action on students and included discussions on last summer's marking and assessment boycott.

Gareth was joined by representatives from the National Union of Students, University of Birmingham Guild of Students and the University of Oxford. They were questioned by the Members of Parliament who sit on the Education Committee on what the student experience was like for those impacted by the marking and assessment boycott, and whether the response of institutions was appropriate.



## Investing in Volunteers

The award represents the UK quality standard for organisations who work with volunteers and aims to improve the quality of the volunteer experience across the sector, showcasing the commitment a charity has to its volunteers.

The week-long assessment took place in February 2023 and required input and collaboration from student volunteers and Association colleagues who shared their thoughts, feelings and processes with an Investing in Volunteers Assessor. We want to thank every one of our hard-working volunteers who were involved in the process. We are constantly looking to grow and nourish the volunteer opportunities at the Association, and your input throughout this process will continue to develop that journey. We are very proud to be awarded the Investing in Volunteers accreditation for the second time running.

## Environment and Sustainability

Since sharing their plans back in January 2023, the Environment and Sustainability working group have made great progress. Here are some of their highlights from 2023:

- Sustainability is a core aspect of the [Association Strategy](#) for 2023-2027. It is now included in our strategic aims and values.
- We gained valuable student feedback on sustainability in our Annual Membership Survey.
- We created an [Environment and Sustainability web hub](#), including an ideas bank and resource hub, to share our work.
- We held a successful [sustainability panel event](#) as part of Freshers Fortnight Sept-Oct 2023, hosted by the Working Group's co-chair Lou Robinson (Vice President Engagement) with four OU academics. Over 50 students attended.
- We achieved a [fantastic result in the Student Union and Student Representation categories in the People & Planet University League](#).
- Our Travel and Subsistence Policy for staff and volunteers has been updated with environmental sustainability considerations.
- We have continued to build our partnership with the Open University on sustainability. Our collaborative work on Responsible Futures accreditation is ongoing and we look forward to the results of the student-led audit in spring 2024.

We are looking forward to continuing our progress in 2024.

“Without a doubt the impact I've had leading sustainability has been my highlight- but all credit to the wonderful team of staff and volunteers I've worked with throughout. We've lifted Association specific scores on People & Planet from 0% to 100%, built a strong partnership with the OU Sustainability team and built more ways for students to be heard into our working practices. I love how student-led this project has been and it's for this reason this stands out to me. The OU Students Association still has a long way to go but we've paved the way for a better future and with a dedicated Sustainability Representative going forwards I know this can maintain momentum.”

# How we feel

## The Student Leadership Team discuss their experiences in their role



“Since being co-opted last September, I have enjoyed the challenging role immensely. Since starting, I have ensured that FASS student voices are heard within the SLT and OU Staff. I have restarted FASS Connect, a monthly online gathering of FASS students allowing a space to talk, vent, and learn. I've been able to establish positive working relationships with the Executive Dean, heads of schools, and any other staff which has resulted in a flow of better communication.”

- Jack Flaherty, Arts & Social Sciences Faculty Rep



“I'm fortunate to have had several meaningful accomplishments during my time as VP Admin. One area I'm particularly proud of is the work we've done to streamline funding processes for student societies. This has allowed us to provide more support for student activities and events than ever before - last year we gave the highest amount of funding to societies on record.

I've also been honoured to serve on the Board of OUSET, where over the past 18 months I've played a part in securing grants for 14 students who were significantly impacted by the pandemic or are in secured environments. Raising awareness of OUSET's resources has enabled us to support more students in need.

Additionally, I'm grateful to have played a role in guiding the Association through challenging times, including the recovery from COVID-19 and navigating potential funding cuts. It's been a privilege to represent students in these crucial decisions.”

- Michael Bryan, VP Admin



"I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be part of bringing on new student rep volunteers and chairing the Appointments Committee. The most enjoyable part of my role has been to meet so many lovely people who really care about the student experience and come together to do what they can to improve things."

- Kelly Coker, VP Student Representation



"It has been great to work with an SLT that are always supportive and have the interests of all students at the heart of everything they do! I have learnt so much about myself, I have regained a confidence in myself that I had lost a long time - ago and I have gained a range of skills and training that I will be able to utilise after my term at the association.

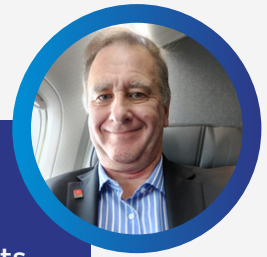
It is difficult to pinpoint just one achievement from my term as there have been many times that I have been proud of the work that myself and the SLT have completed. However I am especially proud that I have been able to represent a range of students and have their voices heard, this has included being a panel member at the Access, Participation and Success 7th International Biennial Conference, providing representation at the House of Lords Higher Education Commission evidence session."

- Natalie Baker, VP Equality, Diversity & Inclusion



"Getting to attend the graduation ceremonies and seeing people achieve things they maybe thought were impossible."

- Stephen Hughes, Scotland Area Rep



“Becoming a member of the Student Leadership Team was daunting but as the Association has the best staff anyone leadership team, in any business, have and also the best students any University has has made the role so productive and enjoyable and created an experience that will never be forgotten. However, the single biggest achievement apart from becoming Deputy President for a short time, if that is not enough in itself, was beginning the work on the Student Journey Guide that is currently being worked on and even more if the first part is completed and delivered by the time of the end of this Leadership Team.”

- Mark Walker, Deputy President



“Given the fact that the current International Area Representative has only been in the role since October 2023, her proudest achievement is the relaunch of the International Students Newsletter and the fact that two editions were sent in that short period of time (Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024) and that both editions got a high number of opens.”

- Isabelle Hoyet, International Area Rep



“I am really glad I was appointed to the role of Student Member of Council to fill a vacancy at a time when there are significant changes being proposed that will affect all students, either directly or indirectly. As the ultimate decision making body in the OU, Council is where we need to ensure we are fully represented and ensuring students are at the heart of all discussions”

- Matt Porterfield, Student Member of Council

This report was written in collaboration with the Student Leadership Team.