

Student Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 18 July, in-person (hybrid).

Attendees:

Name	SLT role	Initials
Natalie Baker (Chair)	President	NB
Andrew Kolapo	Student Member of Council	AK
Andrew Wilson	Deputy President	AW
Charon Gates	WELS Faculty Representative	CG
Isabelle Hoyet	International Representative	IH
Loz Harris	FBL Faculty Representative	LH
Michael Jones	Wales Representative	MJ

Incoming SLT members observed the meeting.

Name	Staff role	Initials
Beth Pacey	CEO	BP
Andy Evans	Digital Platforms Officer	AE
Chan Howell-Walker	Student Belonging Officer	CHW
Ciara Linehan	Project Officer	CL
Dan Moloney	Director of Strategy & Democracy	DM
Gabby Cull	Head of People	GC
Gareth Jones	Head of Student Voice	GJ
Heather Bloomer	Director of Marketing & Communications	HB
Jazz Simpson	SLT Liaison Officer	JS
Nat�a Joseph	EDI & Belonging Officer	NJ

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - a. Actions from previous meeting
2. 24–26 Priority Project Overview
3. Project Updates
4. Student Issues Tool

1.	Welcome and Opening Remarks	
1.1	NB opened the meeting (the final one of the 2024-2026 SLT) and thanked members for their contributions throughout the 24–26 term. Key acknowledgements included: • Appreciation to Natalie for chairing the final meeting of the term. • Thanks to Jazz for organising the SLT & Staff Awards and BBQ. • Apologies were noted.	

	- Formal acknowledgement of Jessica Hannington's resignation as VP Student Welfare during the last quarter. <u>Actions from Previous Meeting</u> - Handover documents – Thanks extended to those who have completed them. - Tracking of actions with the OU – Responsibility handed to the new team; JS to pick up. - Slides in advance of tutorials – Checked; accessibility referenced though not explicitly stated. - Student Reps and Priority Work – Implementation planned. - Student Issues – JS has responded. - The Hoot refresh – Marcomms completed updates to address misuse of responses.	
2.	24–26 Priority Project Overview	
2.1	A reflective summary was provided of the four priority areas: - Student Support - Academic Student Experience - Student Wellbeing - Neurodivergent Student Experience Projects were co-designed with SLT and staff to deliver improvements across these areas.	
3.	Project Updates	
3.1	<u>Menopause Support</u> - Carried over from 2023. - A new Menopause Support Hub launched with practical guidance, tips and resources.	
3.2	<u>Community Activities</u> - Review of current activities completed. - Surveys conducted with meet-up hosts and students to understand needs and preferences. - Recommendations developed on training, support and event running guidance. - Outputs will be used by the EDI & Belonging Team and incoming SLT.	
3.3	<u>Apprenticeship Project</u> - Explored experiences of apprenticeship students. - Identified ways to embed support through Open SU. - Increased OU staff awareness of referral routes to Open SU, including onboarding changes.	
3.4	<u>Student Support</u> - Quantitative and qualitative data gathered from multiple sources. - Best practice document created covering six themes. - IH acknowledged for achievements supporting international students.	
3.5	<u>Academic Student Experience</u>	

	• Data gathered from a range of sources. • Best practice document produced. • Presented to the OU; actions now being progressed.	
3.6	<u>Neurodivergent Student Support</u> • Concerns raised by students about lack of support. • Work aligned with 2024 Conference resolutions. • Action plan and support document created. • Drop-ins delivered; regular meetings held with Disabled Students Support Team. • ND Celebration Week events organised. • ND Hub launched on the website.	
3.7	<u>Curriculum Withdrawals</u> • Work followed 2024 Conference resolution. • Identified areas for improvement in OU processes. • Developed standards for the OU to follow. • Step-by-step guidance created for Reps and staff, with training delivered.	
3.8	<u>Themed Wellbeing Weeks</u> • SLT contributed ideas; themes aligned with comms. • Topics included mental health, nature for wellbeing, mindfulness and International Stress Awareness.	
3.9	<u>What We Believe In</u> • Major showcase project for the term. • Five themed headline areas published on the website with links to detailed documents. • Strong positive reception across the OU. • Will be incorporated into the OU's new Teaching & Learning Plan.	
3.10	<u>Lessons Learned</u> 1. Clear evidence strengthens cases for change. 2. Patience is essential; change takes time. 3. Middle ground helps minimise student impact. 4. Relationships matter. 5. Change is not always loud – targeted conversations are key. 6. Speak with one voice – SLT represents all OU students. 7. Celebrate wins to maintain momentum.	
4.	Student Issues Tool	
4.1	Overview provided on how issues are captured via the website: • Launched in 2023. • Students can submit issues, comment and vote. • Highest-voted issues discussed quarterly at SLT. • SLT responds with next steps or advice. Challenges noted: • Some issues fall outside Open SU's remit. • Limited student awareness of the tool. • Escalation routes can be unclear.	

	• Difficulty assessing scale across the OU. Opportunities highlighted: • Helps track scale and trends. • Provides case studies. • Has informed process improvements. Reflections: • Context of issues/voting is important. • Archiving issues older than 12 months has helped maintain relevance while preserving history.	
5	Close	
5.1	Natalie thanked the outgoing SLT team and staff for their contributions and commitment throughout the term.	

The meeting concluded at 1.00pm.

The first meeting of the 2026-2028 Student Leadership Team will be held **online, 07 November 2026.**