Philippa: Hi everyone, welcome back to our next session of OU Students’ Association live. Today we’re here with our Vice President Education, Lorraine Adams. Welcome to Lorraine.

Lorraine: Thank you.

Philippa: So firstly for those watching can you tell us a little bit about your role as Vice President Education and what kind of things your remit includes?

Lorraine: Yes I keep an eye on academic Interests mainly, any matters that have to do with students’ academic Interests and I oversee central committee representatives. I’m also on Senate and the Qualifications and Assessment Committee and I chair the Senate Reference Group and the Appointments Committee – I’ll explain a little bit about those later on.

Philippa: Wow! Very busy.

Lorraine: Yes. As well as about six other committees that I’ve also been invited on which covers curriculum and strategy.

Philippa: Lovely. So you mention there a couple of the volunteer roles that you work with, so Central Committee reps members on the Senate Reference Group, are there any other roles that you have within the Student Voice remit?

Lorraine: No they’re the main ones. The Central Committee representatives gather students’ views and take them to the committees so that they give the student view on these committees, give their opinions and it goes through the academic governance system and ultimately affects the students’ learning experience. It can be from faculties right to Senate.

Philippa: Okay so just on the topic of those committees what sort of committees are we talking about? What are the levels that academic Interests go through or academic issues?

Lorraine: They start at boards of studies which is module level. So they’re deciding which modules they’re going to produce and what they’re going to do with them, whether they’re going to keep them or change them. And it goes to faculties and they look over it as an overall view of qualifications and then it can go up to Student Experience Committee, Qualifications
Committee – they accept or not whether it goes through. And it goes right up to Senate and that's the top Academic Governance Committee.

Philippa
Okay great, thanks. So we've got quite a lot of volunteers involved with those roles, what kind of training are those volunteers offered to make sure that they're as effective as they can be?

Lorraine
We have an online training session and once or twice a year we have face to face on campus and they get to meet other reps because they don't really get to meet other reps very often, and there's a set of forums that they can use and discuss amongst themselves or ask any questions.

Philippa
Okay great. Thinking back over your term as Vice President Education, or even before that because you were involved with the Association before that time, what does this team of volunteers work to achieve that has directly benefited students?

Lorraine
Central Committee Representatives work in the background, in fact most students don't know they exist and probably definitely don't know what they do. They're working, as I said before, to gather information and the most important thing is their persistence – it's very difficult to change things at the university, nothing happens very quickly, but these reps persistence keep on giving the student view and eventually something happens, it may be years afterwards or months, and that's the main benefit. And of course once these decisions are made then that affects students although it's just not visible to the students.

Philippa
Okay. So coming up in the near future, obviously we've been working quite hard to offer a bit more visibility to our student reps and try and make sure that students understand more about what they do, coming up in the near future are there any things that students should be made aware of or can get involved in and that will put them in touch with those reps?

Lorraine
The positions of the Learner Experience Representatives is open all year round, so that's just coming in, looking on social media, gathering views, seeing what students are talking about, that's open all year round. We'll be advertising for central representatives shortly. So that will be open as well. There's also the online consultations that are open every now and then and everything's on the website. So if anyone is interested then they can get involved.

Philippa
Okay. And we should mention as well we have the Student Voice Symposium.
Lorraine Which is on Monday.

Philippa Yeah and you can access that via stadium, remotely, if you go through to our website and go to the Student Voice section. So lastly if anyone’s watching who is interested in volunteering with us how can they find out a bit more about the roles and how to apply?

Lorraine Our website is the main way to get involved and that's oustudents.com, or on Twitter at @OUstudentsVoice, which is a new Twitter account.

Philippa Perfect. Thank you very much Lorraine for speaking to us today. As Lorraine said you can find out more on our website. If you go to oustudents.com and our brand new Twitter at @OUtstudentsVoice. Thank you Lorraine.

Lorraine Thank you.

Philippa Bye, bye.

Lorraine Thank you bye.