

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**Central Executive Committee (CEC)**

22 – 24 April 2022

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The C E C 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 CEC at each meeting. This report is intended to provide the following:
 - a) a formal opportunity for CEC 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 CEC or report on progression of any non-routine matters.
2. The Board met on 3 February 2022 via Microsoft Teams. The meeting minutes will be published shortly.
3. The Chief Executive outlined the results from the Conference business voting and Trustees were asked to approve the amended articles based on the Conference outcome and agree the next steps of the Governance Review. Trustees had no questions regarding the articles and therefore approved the revised set of articles.
4. Discussions were thorough around the next steps, with a range of opinions on what should happen next following the outcome of the Conference vote. It was proposed that it would be useful for the Board of Trustees to meet with the CEC to discuss Governance Reform further and that this would inform the Board regarding the best way to move forward.
5. Many Trustees emphasised the importance of analysing the reasons behind the low levels of participation within the business aspect of Conference. The Head of Strategy and Insights confirmed that a survey was being sent out to students who didn't vote, and this analysis would come to a future BoT meeting.
6. Alan Measures joined the meeting to introduce the remuneration policy review. Market research within the sector concluded that the Presidents pay at the

Association is consistent with the pay at other institutions and as such the FRRC had no concerns. All Trustees voted and approved the five recommendations.

7. Trustees approved the dates for the 2022 elections. They were also very happy with the format of the elections and removal of mandatory videos.
8. The Head of Finance and Resources updated Trustees on the Association's financial situation, which is continuing to point to a likely underspend against the budget plan overall. She further outlined that there has been no call to use the BoT discretionary fund, which indicates a possibility for an increase in the reserves.
9. The Trustees received the regular Strategy Performance Report. The Chair acknowledged the vast amount of progress that has been made and all the positive achievements within the Association.
10. Trustees responded to the Chief Executive's report, asking for the Association's position towards face-to-face events. The need for the announcement to volunteers on the website to be updated was raised, so they can understand what the situation is. The Board were advised that a working group will be coming together to draft the updated announcement for the website, and that the Association needs the University's confirmed position before making its announcement. The position for staff was also explained to Trustees; the blended working trial was paused due to the rise in Omicron but following staff consultations, staff are expected to return to the office end of February.
11. The Chair queried whether the next BoT meeting in May could be in person and on campus. The Chief Executive agreed to this proposal and the Head of Executive Support and Staff Welfare will facilitate this.
12. The forums have been quiet this quarter, with the majority of posts being updates about the staff recovery planning. Trustees were also asked if they would like to participate in the student led projects working group, however no Trustees have signed up yet.
13. Staffing matters: The last quarter has been a busy one with various inductions and changes within the team. At the beginning of January, Sammi Wright left for maternity leave and has since had a beautiful little girl named Florence. On the 11th January 2022, Tom Mitchell joined as Sammi's maternity cover and is now working in the EDI team as Projects Officer (EDI). Shortly after, Charlotte Stone was successfully appointed as Admin Assistant (Student Advice and Individual Representation Service) and will be working alongside Amy Undrell. On the 14th February, Pooja Sinha left us to start her maternity leave. A week later she also had a baby girl, Maya. Rebecca Coster was successful in her application for Pooja's maternity cover role and started her role end of January to allow a handover period with Pooja. Samantha Smeraglia started her role as Strategy and Insights Assistant on the 8th March, covering Rebecca's part time role in the Strategy and Insights team. Magda Hadrys began her maternity leave on the 18th March. Gemma Dorrity was appointed as her maternity cover and has settled in well to her new role and the Association. In the Operations team, Keith Minter and Mandy Turner's contracts as Projects Officers have been extended until the end of June. In Digi Comms, Hannah Prue and Gabby Willis' contracts have been extended until October. Finally, after several rounds of recruitment,

both in house and through a recruitment agency, the Senior Policy Advisor role (previously titled Head of Policy and Public Affairs) has been successfully recruited for and Adnan Rahman will be joining us at the beginning of May.

11. The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

Rob Avann
Chief Executive