



CEC 04/22/9

## OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

### Central Executive Committee (CEC)

22 - 24 April 2022

### OU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP

---

The CEC is asked to:-

- i) **Receive** this update on the OU Students Association Sustainability Working Group and **approve** the direction of travel at this initial stage

#### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. This group has been convened to work on the process, policy and actions related to social and environmental sustainability within the OU Students Association.

#### 2. Background

- 2.1. Sustainability is a core strategy principle within the Open University, set out as the Social and Environmental Sustainability goal in the OU Strategy (2022-2027).
- 2.2. The Students Association recognises the importance of embedding an ethical and sustainable working process, policies, and achievable actions, led by both Students and Staff members; in line with the University's sustainability goals.
- 2.3. An initial 'Association Sustainability Working Group' has been created to begin the planning, activities and work involved with embedding sustainability within the organisation.

#### 3. Purpose

- 3.1. Focus on the important issues around sustainability and work together to help reduce environmental impact through Association staff and student working practice.
- 3.2. Work out ways to embed sustainability in Association student events, projects, and activities.

- 3.3. Provide students with the opportunity to engage in sustainable practices.
- 3.4. Raise awareness of the importance of action on sustainability.

#### **4. Goals**

- 4.1. Update the way the Student Association operates as a sustainable organisation and ensure this is done in a sustainable way.
- 4.2. Involve students in our sustainability work, to empower them to embed sustainability into their lives.
- 4.3. Drive sustainability within Association decision-making, creating an accountable action plan.
- 4.4. Ensure our staff and volunteers have the knowledge, skills, opportunities, and training to influence sustainable practice
- 4.5. Create a Students Association sustainability strategy with SMART goals and specific pledges that can be shared with the student body
- 4.6. Link with the work of Strategy Project 10, Lifelong Learning Manifesto.

#### **5. Conclusion/Recommendation/for approval**

- 5.1. This working group has just been formed, and future updates will be given to CEC Quarterly meetings and/or within CEC workspace when necessary.
- 5.2. The CEC is asked to receive this update and approve the direction of travel at this initial stage. Any comments or suggestions for this work are welcomed.

**Sarah Jones - President**

**Stephanie Stubbins - STEM Faculty Association Representative**