

CCR Impact Report – June 2022

Central Committee Representatives act as the voice of OU students on **36 different OU committees** ranging from representation at individual school level all the way up to Senate, the academic authority of the OU. Between them, they represented students at **more than 45 committee meetings** between March and June 2022.

This report outlines some of the achievements and advances made during this period.

VP Education – Cinnomen McGuigan

Academic Representation falls within the portfolio of the Vice President Education, Cinnomen McGuigan; here are some of her highlights from the last quarter relating to Central Committee Reps.

Quality Monitoring and Enhancement (QME)

As Co-Chair of the Peer Review Group, to be able to share the esteem with which VP Education has been held during the drive to embed student voice as standard in the QME process is another huge achievement for representation. One member of staff commented *“The work you’ve done to embed student voice in the QME process has been the most innovative use of student engagement I’ve seen in all my years at the OU...while we ought to be proud of the way that the university and the QME group have supported this, I think so much of that improvement and innovation has come from your very able and terrific leadership”*

Furthermore, student rep contributions have now been incorporated into the QME process as a formal requirement for the self-evaluation document.

Supporting and Improving Academic Representation

As VP Education, I have chaired or co-chaired a number of groups focussed on supporting and improving academic representation, working closely with other reps, the OU, and the Volunteering and Representation Team. We have created a Student Voice Toolkit, implemented agreements for expenses and accommodations, produced guidance for OU staff on academic representation, created guidance on communicating for academic reps, and laid the foundations for many other projects.

Within the Association, I introduced the monthly Student Voice Forum for CCR and SRG members. All student representatives are invited, and it is a platform that encourages discussion about matters impacting students. Reps have provided feedback that it has enabled them to build a sense of community whilst working online.

Definition of a Student

I have finished work alongside the OU to create a new, solid definition of the terms ‘student’ and ‘learner’ and agree the differences between them. This has helped resolve uncertainty about what learners/students are entitled to, particularly around library and Students Association access.

Central Committee Representative Recruitment

Recruitment opened for Central Committee Representatives and Senate Reference Group Representatives on 20 May and will close 20 June. The Volunteering and Representation team, and VP Education are working closely with OU stakeholders and the Associations Digital Communications team to promote vacant representation roles, with a view to encouraging more students that are new to the Association to volunteer. Onboarding and training will take place in September and will be delivered by the Volunteer and Representation Team and newly appointed VP Education.

CCR Impact Report – June 2022

Teaching and Learning, and Research Plans

There has been significant Central Committee Rep involvement in developing the new Teaching and Learning Plan and the new Research Plan. In particular, the representatives on Teaching Committees and Senate Reference Group have worked to shape the future of taught provision and strategy whilst our reps on Research Committee have also worked hard to ensure that post-graduate research students are fully included in plans for the coming years.

Consultations

Student reps on Boards of Studies are becoming increasingly more involved at every step of the consultation process. The past quarter has seen a large number of consultations across a wide range of subjects and reps have helped shaped the questions/topics, analysis, and outcomes of consultations. Many of our reps also get involved in consultations as moderators/facilitators and observers to help ensure that the student voice is heard.