OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Central Executive Committee (CEC)
15 – 17 July 2022

OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION TUTOR AWARDS 2022

The CEC is asked to:-.
  i)   **Note** this update on the 2022 Tutor Awards.
  ii)   **Comment** with any known reason for the winners or runners-up to not be acknowledged as such.
  iii)   **Approve** the OU Students Association Tutor Awards reoccurring in 2023.

---

1. Executive Summary

1.1.   This paper provides an update on the Open University Students Association Tutor Awards 2022 since the proposal to run the initiative was approved in March 2022. Despite a compressed timeline to get the initiative running for approval, the Tutor Awards has seen a positive reaction from students, AL's and the OU in general. It has generated a higher-than-expected number of nominations, as well as increased engagement opportunities with students. Panels for each faculty met in June 2022 to determine who should be the winner and runners up for each faculty respectively. These are presented to you below for comment.

2. Background

2.1.   This initiative was originally proposed during March 2022 due to a recognised gap in our engagement with our members and the OU. Approval was gained from the CEC and Board of Trustees during March 2022 via the forums, with the approval subsequently noted at the April 2022 CEC weekend (CEC 04/22/7).

3. Timeline to date

3.1. Nominations open – April 5th – May 9th, 2022 – During this time, the Tutor Awards were advertised through our website, social media campaigns and through word of mouth.

3.2. Expressions of interest for shortlisting panels – 26thApril – 20th May 2022 – During this time, current volunteers and those who had submitted nominations were encouraged to express an interest in being a member of shortlisting panels.

3.3. Shortlisting panels decided – 27th May 2022

3.4. Briefing with other Panel Chairs – 31st May 2022 – During this meeting, panel chairs were advised of what was required of them, as well as the accompanying paperwork that would be used during the process.

3.5. All paperwork sent to panel members – 1st June 2022

3.6. Panels meet – 13th June – 17th June 2022

3.7. The timeline was designed to consider conflicting Association and student priorities (elections, final assignments etc.).

4. Nomination Process

4.1. To nominate a tutor, students were required to provide the following information:
- Tutor name
- Module
- Explanation of how tutor has gone above and beyond their normal responsibilities to support the student.
- Examples of how this was achieved (extra study skill sessions, extra support etc.).
- How this has helped the student.
- A testimonial (maximum 200 words) to be used if their nomination wins.
- Nominator's name.
- Nominator's email address.

4.2. Nominators were also asked whether they wished to hear more about being part of the shortlisting panels, as well as whether they would like to hear more about volunteering opportunities at the Students Association.

4.3. Consequently, a total of 175 nominations were received for 136 different tutors. Additionally, 80 expressed an interest in being part of the shortlisting panels and 94 expressed an interest in hearing about further volunteering opportunities.

4.4. A full breakdown by faculty can be found in Appendix A.

5. Shortlisting

5.1. As per the agreed terms of reference, each Faculty Association Representative chaired a panel. Due to Access only receiving 3 nominations, the decision was taken to combine the shortlisting with another faculty, with one panel being co-chaired by two Faculty Association Representatives.

5.2. The decision was taken for each panel to consist of members, including the chair, who were not students within the respective faculty for which they determine the winner and runners-up.

5.3. To make the meeting efficient, with time for a more focussed conversation on who should win, panel members were asked to compile a shortlist of 8-10 tutors ahead of the meeting and were given a scoring grid and anonymised nominations to assist with this.

5.4. The winners and runners-up for each faculty, including the reasoning of the panel, can be found in Appendix B. The CEC is asked to provide, if any, objections to these winners based on knowledge of the individual. Objections cannot be based on the process used or attempt to overturn the panels decision and must be based on information that would not have been available to the panel.

6. Lessons Learnt

6.1. Please see Appendix C for lessons learnt, and any corrective recommendations

7. Next Steps

7.1. If the winners and runners-up are not objected to, the winners will be notified and invited to an event as part of Freshers in September/October 2022 to receive their prize. Runners-up will receive a certificate informing them of being a runner-up.

7.2. Discussions are ongoing with the Community Team to discover the best event for the award to be presented. One possible consideration being explored is whether this could be a segment of the usual OU Students Association Student Hub Live event.

7.3. All of those nominated will be informed that they were, with the testimonial that supported their nomination included. You can see the planned messages in Appendix D.

7.4. Additionally, line managers will also be informed that their staff were nominated for an OU Students Association Tutor Award 2022.

7.5. As part of the approval process in March 2022, it was noted that intention was for OU Students Association Tutor Awards to become an annual programme. Based on the success of the programme this year, most notably the positive engagement from students, including interest in wider involvement, the CEC is asked to approve the OU Students Association Tutor Awards continuing for 2023 (subject to Board of Trustee Approval). Discussions are ongoing on where this will fit from a lead CEC representative and staff team perspective.

Gareth Jones
FBL Faculty Association Representative