As education becomes more accessible, the world has seen a rise in the amount of people who have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD) this includes diagnosis of dyslexia, ADHD and Dyspraxia. I, myself have dyslexia and have often struggled in the world of academia. However, I don’t feel that it is right, no student should feel disadvantaged or unable to achieve due to their disabilities, whether these disabilities be SpLDs, mental health or physical. The Open university has a wonderful student support team who have always done their best to help their students, yet there are some simple things that could be done to improve the experience for students with disabilities. For example, all students work is graded in the same way, regardless of the disabilities of the student. Does this seem fair? If a student with dyslexia is unable to structure their thoughts as clearly as someone without dyslexia should the dyslexic student be penalised or should there be a marking system in place that takes the students dyslexia into account and levels the playing field for all of its students. Equality is not the goal. Equity is. Equality means that everyone is given the same resources and treated the same, whereas Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. I would work to implement different grading systems for different disabilities to ensure that the playing field is level and that all students can reach equal outcomes.

Equity over Equality. Changing the Grading system to level the playing field for all students.
Every voice matter and will be heard. I will work with you and the Open University to find a solution wherever possible.

Roles*  
VP Student Support