**Student Member of Council**

The Student Member of Council has primary responsibility for supporting the University’s Council, which is the governing body of the University, exercising control of University affairs including strategic planning, monitoring effectiveness and performance, finance, audit, estate management and human resource management. They are a member of the Central Executive Committee (CEC) to ensure that both the Council and CEC are aware of issues impacting both the University, Students and Association.

The student member of Council must, as with all Council members, put the needs of the University first; they are not there specifically to advance the interests of students.

The Student Member of Council:

- Is a member of Council and may also be required to take part in working parties/groups established by Council.
- Has the opportunity to ensure that the Student Voice is heard by Council on any matter of concern to students.
- Is a full voting member of the Central Executive Committee and is required to produce regular reports informing the Central Executive Committee of matters under discussion at Council meetings (except for matters deemed confidential). There will also be opportunities to feedback to students through a range of platforms.
- May also be invited by the President to join in any aspect of the Association’s work.
- Is a member of the Senate Reference Group and Senate.

**Key skills and attributes**

The post-holder will need to possess, or be prepared to develop rapidly, the following:

- Understanding of academic governance within the University.
- Committee skills, including challenging appropriately and close reading of papers.
- The ability to consider issues from a strategic perspective, question intelligently, debate constructively and decide dispassionately.
- A broad understanding of the UK Higher Education sector, including the role of regulatory bodies.
- An understanding of finance issues.
- Commitment to develop further skills and knowledge appropriate to the role.
- A broad understanding of the Students Association and the Open University.

Training and support will be offered to any successful candidate, by both the Association and the University.
Role Specific Essential information, including time commitment
This is a voluntary role which requires on average 10 hours a week, but is busier at some times.
It is important to also read the shared responsibilities document, which lists shared aspects of the roles which elected student leaders all commit to upon election to the role.

Examples of meetings attended by Student Member of Council
The nature of our Student Leader’s roles is that there are always additional Association and OU working groups and committees that they will attend, as well as a range of one-off activities. We are therefore providing the most comprehensive list we are currently able to.

The list specifies scheduled meetings; additional work is typically required between these through online discussions and/or reading papers. In general, where there are face to face meetings these often take place in Milton Keynes, however, we are embracing blended working and so many meetings are able to be attended online.

Association meetings
- Senate Reference Group – four times a year, usually Wednesday mornings. The President or VP Education chairs this (First meeting 14 October).

OU meetings
- Council – five times a year. One meeting each year will be face to face outside of Milton Keynes. Members of Council also attend one-two sub-committees which meet up to 4 times a year.
- Senate – four times a year after Senate Reference Group, usually Wednesday Afternoons, including a lunch meeting for the six Senate Student Delegates. (First meeting 14 October).

Association Staff Support Link: Chief Executive Officer