



OPEN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Student Leadership Team (SLT)

14 – 16 February 2025

Report of the Board of Trustees

The SLT is asked to:-

- i) **Note** this regular report from the Board of Trustees

Introduction/Background

1.1 There is a requirement under the Articles of Association for the Board of Trustees (BoT) to provide a report to the Student Leadership Team (SLT) at each meeting. This report is intended to provide the following:

- a) a formal opportunity for SLT members to raise any questions arising from the minutes or other matters relating to the role of the Trustees, and
- b) the opportunity for Trustees to raise any specific items with the SLT or report on progression of any non-routine matters.

1.2 The Board met on the 22nd October 2024 online via Microsoft Teams and in-person on the OU campus. The meeting minutes are available on the website [here](#).

Discussions and outcomes from the BoT meeting

2.1 The President presented the Officer Trustee update, outlining that SLT members had been relatively engaged, despite some turnover occurring with the FBL rep and VP Student Welfare being the members to step down most recently. She then confirmed the priority areas; Student Support, Student Wellbeing, Academic Experience and Neurodivergent Student Experience.

2.2 The Chief Executive gave an overview of the financial accounts, acknowledging that a small portion of the total income had been received from the OU due to

them releasing funds quarterly. She further considered other investment options for the Association's funds. The Director of People and Finance will be taking research on this forward. The Chief Executive will also be looking to recruit an external member with financial expertise to fill the current vacancy.

- 2.3 Sioban Holmes from Haysmacintyre then presented the financial statements for Trustee approval and outlined that the audit was successfully completed. Trustees approved the audit with some amendments to be made following discussion on the pension disclosures.
- 2.4 The Director of People and Finance outlined the need for a commercial review which will focus on streamlining operations, introducing new tools and improving stakeholder engagement. A review of the financial processes will be undertaken by the Director herself internally. It was agreed that Matt Porterfield will sit on the tender panel and both the President and Deputy President will sit on the Shop Working group.
- 2.5 The standing papers were received.
- 2.6 With regard to the schedule of work and scheme delegation, minor amendments were put forward and confirmed to be edited, resulting in the Schedule of Work and Scheme of Delegation to be approved.

Staffing

- 3.1 We have seen quite a lot of changes in the last quarter, many which have stemmed from the restructure. We said goodbye to Tracey Bates, Pourush Dixit, Peter Turner and Charlotte Stone who resigned for a variety of reasons such as temporary contract finishing, personal reasons. As part of the restructure, we have agreed voluntary redundancy for the following colleagues: Jess Smith, Tazneem Gardner, Diane Woodford, Pooja Sinha, Sandra Carter, Allan Musinguzi, Hannah Prue and Anna Mahon.

Taina Nicolicin continues to settle in well and make a big impact already. We have also started our first external recruitment for the first time since the recruitment freeze, for the role of Student Belonging Officer which is due to close on Monday 3rd February. We aim to have someone in post by mid-March.

Beth Pacey
Chief Executive