

OPEN STUDENTS' UNION

Student Leadership Team (SLT)

06 - 08 February 2026

Report of the Affiliated Societies

The SLT is asked to:-

- i) **Note** the information provided in this report and appendix

Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the members and the financial position of each Open SU Affiliated Society.

1.2 The appendix provides information on the state of Open SU's Affiliated Societies, showing the number of societies affiliated, the position of their membership and financial information regarding their accounts and grant payments.

1.3 The data included on this report is taken from information held on the Open SU database and financial information provided by the Finance team within the Association office.

1.4 In the event of any inaccuracies, omissions or errors being noted, you are asked to advise the Open SU office through oustudents-belonging@open.ac.uk

Society Committee Meetings

2.1 The Societies Committee last met on 15 November 2025 at 10:00 AM in an online general meeting format.

2.2 During the meeting, the committee:

- Discussed the review of Open SU community activities.
- Reviewed and accepted the minutes of the previous meeting.

- 2.3 Societies shared reports about their recent and planned activities including:
- Arts and Humanities Society: They have also launched an Instagram channel. Recent trips to Hadrian's Wall and Pompeii. They held a Welcome Week online lecture and history talks in person. Future upcoming events include literature study days, a Turner lecture and a Roman wall walk. Their next study tour will be at Roman Durham.
 - OU Law Society: Membership number is as 650 with healthy funds and a strong committee. Events have included guest speakers, advocacy workshops, and competitions. There has been an Inner Temple tour, a visit to Stormont and they planned a careers networking event in March.
 - OU Music Society: Membership increased from 57 to 60 with finances healthy. AGM was held in Oxford with upcoming events include Horniman Museum and Brentford Musical Museum. The society is also now considering a sea shanty cruise.
 - Write Club: Membership is growing and they are continuing with their monthly book club and read-along sessions. Acknowledged a strong sense of community despite not having a financial revenue model present. The society raised issues with event promotion on OU Students website.
 - OU Geological Society: Currently at 1,252 members with healthy funds. They held their AGM in May which took place online and in Coventry. They had a symposium in Nancy in July. The next AGM and symposium will be held in Edinburgh in 2026. They have a variety of active trips happening across the UK and noted the positive engagement at the Welcome Week Clubs and Societies Fair in October.
 - OU Environmental Sustainability Society: Their new Instagram account has been launched with over 50 sign ups coming through via Linktree. Events have included a Welcome Week panel and an author talk. They are planning their AGM, with it being potentially occurring between April – June. Discussions occurred during the meeting about the best timing for AGMs.
 - Fusion (Physics & Astronomy): The society newsletter has been published and new physics sweatshirts made. A process is in place to amalgamate with Alchemy to form Physics, Astronomy & Chemistry Society. Their AGM has been postponed to the new year.

Society and Club numbers and membership

- 3.1 As of February, there are 15 societies currently listed as affiliated on the Open SU website with a membership totalling 7577.
- 3.2 There are also 29 clubs with a total membership of 15,424.
- 3.3 The creation of new clubs and societies has been paused during the review into Open SU community activities. However, have received interest from Open University faculty members in co-creating societies with students strong links to modules.

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Student Belonging Officer