

Student Leadership Team (SLT) Meeting Minutes

Date: Saturday 25 April, online.

Attendees:

Name	SLT role	Initials
Natalie Baker (Chair)	President	NB
Abigail Cornea	STEM Faculty Representative	AC
Andrew Wilson	Deputy President	AW
Aimee Prior	Disabled Students Representative	AP
Charon Gates	WELS Faculty Representative	CG
Isabelle Hoyet	International Representative	IH
Jack Flaherty	FASS Faculty Representative	JF
Jessica Hannington	VP Student Welfare	JH
Loz Harris	FBL Faculty Representative	LH
Michael Jones	Wales Representative	MJ
Name	Staff role	Initials
Beth Pacey	CEO	BP
Ciara Linehan	Project Officer	CL
Dan Moloney	Director of Strategy & Democracy	DM
Jazz Simpson	SLT Liaison Officer	JS

Apologies:

Name	Role	Initials
Julie Catterall	England Representative	JC

We did not receive apologies from the Student Member of Council, VP Admin, Sustainability Representative, Ireland Representative, LGBTQ+ Representative, or BAME Representative.

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Priority Projects Updates
3. Preparing for Handover (swapped with Risk Register feedback)
4. AI & Assessments – position statement development
5. Student Issues Reporting Tool – Discussion
6. Risk Register feedback (swapped with Handover session)
7. Any Other Business

1.	Welcome and Introduction	
1.1	NB opened the meeting and welcomed attendees. NB noted that Ross has stepped down from his role as VP EDI. The SLT thanked Ross for their work whilst in post.	

	<p>NB highlighted the Investing in Volunteers feedback session that is taking place soon, encouraging attendance.</p> <p>NB highlighted there are some outstanding actions from the last meeting but noted the time constraints at this point in the SLT term are impacting progress. Including some regarding academic misconduct and wait times. NB Informed attendees about work the OU is doing in this area, and that this is a large piece of work likely to be continuing for some time.</p>	
2.	Priority Projects Updates	
2.1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wellbeing Weeks – AW noted the attendance at recent events and outlined future activities. Praised CG for their work on this. 2. Apprentices – Coming to the end of the project; 2 outcomes- building student awareness and OU awareness. 3. Neuro Diversity project – Good attendance at ND week, ND drop ins have different students attending which is great to see. 2 documents were approved by SLT – next steps are to disseminate this. 4. Student Community – 2 surveys, we now have recommendations to review, will be shared in SLT Teams space soon. <p><i>What We Believe In</i> hub</p> <p>Collates following SLT priority projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Academic Student experience - Student Support - Protecting the Curriculum <p>Shared in numerous spaces including the Newsletter and presented at committee meetings across OU Governance. The OU Senior Team were presented a workshop on the <i>What We Believe In</i> hub. Leafleting also took place on campus for the Senate meeting 25 March.</p> <p>Open SU have received overwhelmingly positive feedback on this work from OU colleagues!</p>	
3.	Handover Workshop – Jazz Simpson	
3.1	<p>Objectives for the session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss why a handover is important • Discuss what we wish we knew coming into the role • Review the template for 2026 Handover 	
3.2	Action: JS to collate feedback gathered, edit the Handover document to reflect this and post in the Teams space.	JS
3.3	Action: All SLT to complete Handover (crib sheet) documents by the end of June	All SLT

DM joined the meeting		
4.	AI & Assessments at the OU – Natalie Baker	
4.1	<p>NB presented the current work in this area; Senate are investigating AI policy and exploring changes relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical AI literacy: teaching students to use and critically assess AI; likely to be assessed. • Assessment optionality: flexible formats (e.g., presentations, podcasts) to reduce cheating and build skills. <p>Challenges in this work include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring consistency across faculties • Managing impact on student experience • Slow, uneven institutional change <p>Attendees then split into breakout rooms to discuss the questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the risk to the Student Experience? – When adopting new ways of assessing students what should the OU consider? 2. Who are the key stakeholders? – Who are the most affected by changes and who can we engage with on the matter? 	
4.2	Action: Create a shared document or a chat thread where SLT can share what they have heard on what is happening across the OU, in relation to best practice with AI & Assessments.	NB JS
5.	Student Issues Reporting Tool – Discussion	
5.1	<p>Slides in advance of tutorials/sessions (Score 10, 10 voters)</p> <p>Summary of this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This student is requesting that slides are sent to students ahead of tutorials to be the norm, and not something that individuals have to request. <p>Discussion on this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SLT queried if this is noted in the best practice document for academic experience. • SLT reflected on the practicality of this on an operational side: how can we ensure this is happening? NB noted that that would be the University’s responsibility to explore. 	
5.2	Action: JS to review the best practice document on the What We Believe In hub and confirm if slides in advance of tutorials is explicitly referenced or just alluded to.	JS
5.3	Action: Consult student representatives on what happens in their subject area, so that we have evidence to take to PVC Students on best practice.	Student Voice team
5.4	Equal access to study materials (Score 7, 9 voters) Summary of issue:	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student feels that they have been put at a disadvantage due to tutorial recordings not being available as early as for other students. • They note the added obstacle of having caring responsibilities, making access to recorded tutorials even more necessary for their learning. <p>Discussion on this issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the SLT discussed how module wide tutorials work in their faculties. • NB noted that with this issue and the previous, there is a problem of timeliness, and the OU abiding by their own policy. Open SU should be holding the university to account with the relevant policy. • Open SU should be lobbying for the OU to reduce inconsistencies in the way modules are done between different faculties / subject areas. 	
5.5	Action: SLT to continue to lobby the OU to work towards consistency across faculties, referring to their policies.	SLT
5.6	Action: Get back to the students that submitted these issues, providing an update.	JS
<p><i>NB left the meeting</i></p> <p><i>BP joined the meeting</i></p>		
6.	Risk Workshop – Beth Pacey	
6.1	<p>Beth explained that Chris Roach, the new Chair of the Finance, Resource and Risk Committee, has reviewed the risk register and identified scope for improvement through more regular reviews and broader input. A workshop is being held to gather views from trustees, staff and student leaders, ensuring risks are identified collaboratively across the shared leadership model.</p> <p>Beth then ran a workshop to compliment this ongoing work, where SLT were able to submit risks for consideration.</p>	
7.	Any Other Business	
7.1	<p>IH raised AOB regarding the action buttons on the Hoot. There is an increase in the number of ‘disagree’ reactions to articles, including lots of older articles</p> <p>Lots of disagrees present as broken hearts on posts. Query was raised whether people could be misunderstanding the emoji icon. There appears to be no clear trend with this, IH noted this could be discouraging, and lead to disillusionment with the purpose of the Hoot.</p>	

	IH questioned whether removing the disagree reaction, or the reactions all together, would be beneficial. SLT agree this is a concerning trend that should be investigated.	
7.2	Action: Raise this with the Marcomms team and request an update in the Teams space.	Marcomms
7.3	LH raised AOB regarding affiliation to the National Union of Students (NUS). NB clarified the situation with NUS, and why due to the scale of the OU it is not practical for Open SU to be affiliated.	

The meeting concluded at 3.02pm.

The next meeting will be held **in person (hybrid) 18 July 2026.**

ACTIONS:		Action holder:
3.2	JS to collate feedback gathered, edit the Handover document to reflect this and post in the Teams space.	JS
3.3	All SLT to complete Handover (crib sheet) documents by the end of June	All SLT
4.2	Create a shared document or a chat thread where SLT can share what they have heard on what is happening across the OU, in relation to best practice with AI & Assessments.	NB & JS
5.2	JS to review the best practice document on the What We Believe In hub and confirm if slides in advance of tutorials is explicitly referenced or just alluded to.	JS
5.3	Consult student representatives on what happens in their subject area, so that we have evidence to take to PVC Students on best practice.	Student Voice team
5.5	SLT to continue to lobby the OU to work towards consistency across faculties, referring to their policies.	SLT
5.6	Get back to the students that submitted these issues, providing an update.	JS
7.2	Raise the Hoot react buttons issue with the Marcomms team. Update on this requested in the Teams space.	Marcomms