

MINUTES OF OU STUDENTS ASSOCIATION BIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2024

A Record of the Proceedings

Conference Business

Conference voting took place from May 17 to June 7 2024, prior to Conference day on June 15 where results were presented live during the Business session. All student members of the Students Association were able to vote. Casting a vote in Conference Business was a pre-requisite for attendance at the weekend programme.

Conference 2024 Business Resolutions

Voting results:

Number of eligible voters		221,298
Votes cast online:	1,828	
Total number of votes cast:		1,828
Turnout:		0.83%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		0
Total number of votes to be counted:		1,828

RESOLUTION A: Approve an official change to the name of our elected Student team from Central Executive Committee to Student Leadership Team.

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,577	93.15%
Not approve	116	6.85%
Abstain	135	

RESOLUTION B: Amend Article 26 to introduce an additional 3-5 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Representative positions on the elected team to provide better representation for the active groups of the Association

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,377	83.56%
Not approve	271	16.44%
Abstain	180	

RESOLUTION C: Implement a change to Article 20 to allow Student Leadership Team elections and Student Trustee Elections to run in alternate years.

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,426	90.77%
Not approve	145	9.23%
Abstain	257	

RESOLUTION D: Students are asked to vote on a motion to rebrand the OU Students Association to be known as the OU Student Union (OpenSU)

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,401	83.34%
Not approve	280	16.66%
Abstain	147	

RESOLUTION E: Approve a motion to support the Students Association to campaign for the University to better support diagnosis of Neurodivergent conditions such as ADHD where students are seeking a diagnosis to support their study

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,518	91.28%
Not approve	145	8.72%
Abstain	165	

RESOLUTION F: Approve a motion for representatives of the OU Students Association to campaign for the University not to reduce the existing curriculum, even when making financial cuts, but rather to find ways of preserving and, wherever possible extending, the curriculum.

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,557	93.40%
Not approve	110	6.6%
Abstain	161	

RESOLUTION G: Vote to ratify the minutes of the 2022 biennial Conference

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,156	97.72%
Not approve	27	2.28%
Abstain	645	

RESOLUTION H: Receive the report of the Trustees and the CEC on the Association's activities since the 2022 biennial Conference

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,249	97.35%
Not approve	34	2.65%
Abstain	545	

RESOLUTION I: Receive the accounts of the Association for the completed financial years since the previous biennial Conference (2021-22, 2022-23)

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,290	98.10%
Not approve	25	1.90%
Abstain	513	

RESOLUTION J: Vote to approve the re-appointment of Haysmacintyre to act as the Association's auditors.

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,222	94.88%
Not approve	66	5.12%
Abstain	540	

RESOLUTION K: Conference delegates are asked to vote to approve the continuation of our affiliation with National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO).

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,546	96.69%
Not approve	53	3.31%
Abstain	229	

RESOLUTION L: Conference delegates are asked to vote to approve the continuation of our affiliation with Charity Finance Group (CFG).

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,519	96.57%
Not approve	54	3.43%
Abstain	255	

RESOLUTION M: Conference delegates are asked to vote to approve the continuation of our affiliation with Association of Volunteer Managers (AVM).

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,487	95.32%
Not approve	73	4.68%
Abstain	268	

RESOLUTION N: Conference delegates are asked to vote to approve the continuation of our affiliation with WonkHE.

RESULT	No. votes	% of valid votes
Approve	1,298	92.91%
Not approve	99	7.09%
Abstain	431	

All resolutions met the minimum approval percentages required from delegates and were duly passed.

Conference programme

Conference 2024 was held mostly online with in-person attendance of the Business session by the current and incoming Student Leadership Team (SLT) and Board of Trustees (BoT). The programme was as follows:

Saturday 15 June 2024

10:00 – 11:00 Students Association Business

11:15 – 12:00 How to Forge Ahead – Mental resilience with Nick Elston

11:15 – 12:00 Introduction to the OU Students Educational Trust (Ouset)

12:00 – 12:30 Accessible desk yoga with Sarah Valance

12:00 – 12:30 Managing your Mental Wellbeing at University (recorded session by Emma Greenstein)

12:30 – 13:05 No student left behind: An introduction to SiSE

12:30 – 13:05 Beginning, middle, end: Author Tracy Buchanan on writing

12:30 – 13:05 Generative AI: what's in it for me?

13:15 – 14:00 Quiet Leadership: A fireside chat with author Susan Cain

14:15 – 15:00 Genuine Mwasha: an education for change

14:15 – 15:00 OU Student Footprints – What can you do about climate change?

15:15 – 16:00 Chris Packham: Love and rage – how to change your mind to make a difference

16:00 – 16:15 Conclusion of Conference 2024

ALL DAY – Chat & Chill: Online Café chat

Presentation of Honorary Life Membership

The Students Association presents Honorary Life Membership to those students who have played an active role in the organisation and who have gone over and above what is expected to represent and support fellow students.

Cinnomen McGuigan

I would like to propose Cinnomen for a HLM award with the association. If i was to sum up what a positive and supportive rep looks like i would use Cinnomen as a prime example. In the roles she has had through my time with association, she has always given 110% to promoting student voice and campaigning for students across the University. Personally she has always been a huge well of knowledge which she has always been happy to share and support her fellow reps old and new. I have relied a lot on her wisdom over the years. Cinnomen has always been a strong voice if students and has represented students and the association positively and passionately over the years.

I wish to strongly support the nomination of Cinnomen McGuigan as an Honorary Life Member of the Association. Cin has worked tirelessly for the Association over many years, in a variety of roles including, Chair of Societies, VP Communities, Central Rep, Appointments Committee and SRG. But it is her role as VP Education which Cin is most proud. Many initiatives are now imbedded in the Association. She set up the monthly Reps meeting, the student advice service and even more importantly Co-Chaired the OU Annual Quality Review Panel. This important OU role embedded the Student Voice into OU policy processes, ensuring that Faculty and BoS Reps were automatically included in the Annual Review and other OU Programme Quality Review. I would be delighted if Cin joined the ranks of HLMs.

Cinnomen is someone who has contributed so much to the OUSA and fully deserves Honorary Life Membership. She made me feel welcome as a new volunteer and embodied the positive culture communicated from the start. She's an absolute force to be reckoned with and is the absolute best of the OUSA.

I fully support nominating Cinnomen for HLM. Cinnomen worked tirelessly at a time that was unknow to us all, during the pandemic and as a result fully from home as a member of what is now the SLT. She was always there to support others and despite not being able to travel to campus for a long time continued to be a fully supportive leader and great encouragement to others. I am sure working from home allowed her to put even more time into the role than she would of if travel time had been included and I would personally like to thank her for her support during my time as a Trustee on the AC when she was VP Ed. I hope her knowledge will continue to provide valuable support to others in the future.

I support the proposal to award an HLM to Cin. Cin and I were contemporaneous CEC and BoT members. She was a trusted, valued, and reliable colleague. Having worked closely with Cin when she was VP Education I witnessed the extensive amount of time, thought and effort she voluntarily put into that role. She led by example. She diligently chaired SRG and Senate 6 meetings. She ensured CCRs were supported. She tried to improve students' experiences. She was fully prepared for meetings we attended and regularly spoke at them. Cin would question even the most senior OU staff. I admired Cin's courage and integrity when she challenged some within the Association, even if it set her on a collision course with them. I, along with others, benefitted when she encouraged the Association to

improve the accessibility of papers, meetings, and training for the CEC. Pushing the Association to take accessibility more seriously, improved the Association and made life easier for volunteers. In my 18ish years of Association volunteering, I met few volunteers more worthy of HLM status than Cin because of her selfless dedication and her achievements for students, CCRs, the CEC, and the Association.

I would like to support the nomination for HLM of Ms. Cinnomen McGuigan. I have met Cin as a fellow rep with OUSA and have always been impressed by her dedication to the issues that affect students. She is passionate and vocal and committed in a professional manner. She was a brilliant VP Education when she served at the CEC, attending every possible committee plus supporting reps and being at every meeting with them. I wholeheartedly support her nomination for HLM.