

Notes of Student Consultative Committee – 28th July 2016

Present: Teresa Lanham – OCASA

Gareth Dent – OCA

OCASA Budget for 2016/17

Given the current underspend in the 2015/16 budget of approximately £1,500 it was agreed the £5 per student would remain as the basis for funding OCASA and student activities for the next the academic year. However, there are two important points to be aware of:

- The current academic year will be shortened to 11 months to bring us in-line with UCA's academic year
- Due to this the number of enrolments to 30/07/16 will be 1193 (i.e. lower than last year's 12 months of enrolments)

As a result the OCASA 2016/17 budget will be £6,000 and with the addition of the underspend from this year will provide approximately £7,500. TL agreed this would be sufficient based upon this year's spend to date.

GD to update Malcolm Thompson - now completed.

OCA and UCA Merger Update

GD advised both the OCA and UCA Boards have agreed the merger in principle and further detailed work is ongoing. An early win agreed by both is that OCA students will have early access to all of the on-line libraries and journals that UCA students currently are able to access.

Project 2016 Update

GD provided an update on the first step in improving personal student data which will be available earlier than expected next week. The new data for each student on courses, tutors and marks will be held on personal records and will also be available to tutors aiding handover between courses. The changes are being made as the direct result of input from OCASA representatives on Project 2016 and this will be made clear on the WeAreOCA post when it is published aiding the visibility of OCASA activities.

Issues Arising from the June 2016 OCASA Committee Meeting and Facebook Groups

TL gave an update on the following issues:

- The OCASA Committee representatives will be keeping an eye on incidents of late tutor feedback reports that are sometimes evident in the Facebook student groups. This is not intended to replace any part of the normal reporting of such incidents to OCA and students will always be advised to report such delays through the normal routes. GD re-affirmed incidents of this nature are taken very seriously.

- There had been a request by a tutor asking two students to replicate their WordPress blogs in PDF format for reading off-line. TL explained this had caused the students considerable extra work in trying to do this. The issue appears to have been resolved now but GD agreed it was not acceptable that students were being asked to create this additional output for the tutor.
- Both the OCASA funded Creative Writing workshops had been successfully completed and OCASA now have a new rep for the subject area, Amy Crosbie. It is hoped more workshops will be held in the next academic year.
- As a result of feedback in the 2016 Student Survey the OCASA committee had discussed ways of highlighting what OCASA do through the following:
 - OCASA funded events being highlighted on WeAreOCA with a link through to the articles on the OCASA website. GD agreed this was a good way to highlight events with a short item on WeAreOCA linked to the full article on the OCASA website.
 - A quarterly newsletter covering student events, articles, feedback/stories from students. GD warned against using the newsletter route as OCA had tried this on many occasions and it had never taken with the students. It was agreed that it would be better to create articles that would have gone into the envisaged newsletter but highlight them from WeAreOCA as mentioned above.
- We currently have Student Rep vacancies for Creative Arts, Textiles, Fine Art and Art History and these would be advertised in September 2016.
- A review of the OCASA constitution had been undertaken by TL and discussed with the OCASA committee. Once finalised with the committee, approval will be requested from Cathy Baxendale as part of the OCASA Supervisory Committee. TL to progress early next week.