



O U S A in the South Pre-Conference Newsletter
(Including Executive Election information)

Fellow Open University Students welcome to this Pre-Conference News Sheet. Firstly let me introduce myself, my name is Don Bastin and I am the current OUSA Executive Committee Member (E C M) for the Open University (O U) South Region. You may or may not be aware that in the South Region we are conducting a trial of a new structure for the Association. As part of this trial most local branches have become de-formalised and will no longer be electing delegates to the Association's Annual Conference.

As a result of this the new Regional Assembly will be responsible for appointing delegates from within their ranks and also opening up 40% or more of their allocated Conference places to the wider student body. This year the Conference will be held at the O U's Milton Keynes campus over the weekend 15th to 17th of April. All meals and accommodation are free of charge and travel expenses will be reimbursed. Should you wish to attend, with full voting rights, and be involved in formulating the Association's policy and practices as well as meeting up to 200 or so other students socially, please email me, by 28th February, at ousao22@quest.open.ac.uk giving your name, O U PI Number and contact details. It would also be useful if you could give us a little information about yourself and your O U studies.

Did you know that any currently registered O U student may stand for election as an Officer of the Association i.e. President, Deputy President or one of the Vice President posts? Full details of the posts can be found on the O U S A website at www.ousa.org.uk

Similarly any registered student in the South Region (approx 19,800) may stand for the post of Executive Committee Member (E C M) to represent the region's students at the centre of O U S A. Also they are entitled to vote in the election of the E C M. Again details can be found at www.ousa.org.uk You may not wish, or do not have time to get involved but I would encourage you to exercise your right to vote in this election. To do this just sign up to the O U S A South electoral register, by Emailing a request to r.mccormack@open.ac.uk c.c. r.l.lambert@open.ac.uk with your name, University P I number, O U computer user name and your preferred email address by the 18th February. You will then be able vote in the forthcoming O U S A South Region ECM election.

Widening the franchise to all registered students has been a long time coming so please do exercise your right, register and vote. If you require further information do not hesitate to contact me at ousao22@quest.open.ac.uk

Best Regards.

Don Bastin
O U S A South E C M
For O U S A South Assembly Executive