

OUSA CONFERENCE APRIL 7-9th 2006, IN MILTON KEYNES ENGLAND.

This year's conference was held at Walton Hall in Milton Keynes. Many new attendees from both northern and southern Europe regional forum attended the conference this year.

Most of us arrived on the 7th of April; got ourselves registered and OU bus took us to our respective hotels which OUSA booked for us.

At about 4:30pm, we had our regional meetings, which were chaired by an elected ECM for Northern Europe Regional forum Mr Stephan Woodard. We discussed about our motions and how to present it.

As Frankfurt branch had many motions, some of our other delegates from northern Europe volunteered themselves to help in moving some of our motions, for instance, Mr Eric Hall from Belgium.

However, the motions were presented together with our elected observer Beverley Tkalcec who played a very fantastic role in moving our motions despite her tight schedule.

Election Results:

All candidates standing for position of Executive Committee Member in their respective geographical areas were declared duly elected by Trudi de Haney, general manager of OUSA, among them Marianne Ewart Mitchell as E C M for southern Europe Regional Forum.

General election; Rebecca Anne Rosenthal was elected as president, followed by Lisa Carson as deputy, Julie Rains was re-elected as vice President of finance, Christina Bell as student support, George Macferlane as student member of OU council, Keith Anthony Ward as vice president Representative etc.

Motions:

The following Motions were presented by Frankfurt Branch to the conference.

73 M (PO)

(carried)

Motion relating to OU, asking new students upon their first registration to tick a box as to whether their names and email address may be given to their local OUSA Branch, so that they may receive information or local OUSA events. This was grouped, and carried.

115 M (PO)

(Withdrawn)

Association proposes that all assignments should be submitted via E-Mail. This motion was withdrawn *because it was presented to conference and carried last year and is already in the register of decisions.*

116 M (PO) (Carried)

Motion relating to replace CMA by computer forms on the respective course website.

117 M (PO): (Carried)

Motion relating to making End of Course Assessments available electronically on the closed course website so that all students can begin work on their ECA at the same time.

125 M (PO): (*referred to ECM*)

Motion relating to certificates that can be gained by completing a number of short courses be offered alternatively as a tutorial course. *This was referred to the ECM because it was deemed a good idea but the ECM want to work on this proposal to present it in a way that would have realistic chances of being accepted by the OU.*

128 M (PO): (Withdrawn *in favour of 129 M (PO)*)

Motion relating to course materials on videos and tapes to be replaced by modern electronic media, like DVD and CD, since nowadays many people no longer own video recorders or cassette players.

*This motion was linked by the Steering committee with motion 129 M (PO) (same motion with slightly more realistic chances of succeeding with the OU because it didn't ask for the videos and tapes to **be replaced** with DVD and CDs but that students could **have a choice as to which media** they preferred) so the Frankfurt office withdrew motion 128 M (PO) and urged the conference to vote in favour of motion 129 M (PO) - which was carried (Carried)*

135 M (PO): (Withdrawn)

Motion asking for better and more personal feedback after exams.

This motion was presented and carried previously and already exists at 2001/80.

151 M (PO): (Carried)

Motion asking for reduced fees for overseas students and more financial pressure (or stricter ruling) to be imposed on those who drop out of courses without turning up for the exam.

152 M (PO): (Defeated)

This Association proposes that overseas course fees (including those in the Rep. of Ireland) be shown in Euros on the OU website and that payments in Euros be allowed, instead of having to pay in pounds (e.g. set up a Euro account).

156 M (PO): Loans (Withdrawn)

This Association asks that short courses could also be paid via Open University Student Budget Account (OUSBA).

This motion was presented and carried previously and already exists at 2004/105&107

158 M (PO): NERF&SERF. (Defeated)

This Association calls on the OU to give all its courses a valuation in terms of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation Scheme, in addition to the existing scheme, so that its students overseas can demonstrate to potential employers or educational institutions the significance of their studies with the University.

General Comments:

Mr Will Swann the director of the students commented on increase of school fees by 7% in two years' time.

Honours and prizes were awarded to the duly students.

Northern and Southern Europe Forum worked together before and during conference in presenting their motions. The conference was well organised and ran smoothly.

The Conference stands adjourned at about 1pm by the general manager Trudi De Haney with closing remarks.

From my personal experience, I can only recommend to fellow students to participate actively in OUSA.

It is a good opportunity to make a difference on behalf of all students and above all, one gets to meet a lot of interesting people as well.

God Bless you all.

Faustina Madukanya
Delegate OUSA Frankfurt Branch.

May 10th 2006