



1994 EDUCATION ACT: REFORM OF STUDENT UNIONS

Part II of the Education Act 1994 requires the Open University, like all other universities, to take such steps 'as are reasonably practicable' to ensure that the Open University Students Association operates fairly and democratically and is accountable for its finances. The Act also requires the University to make available to all students or bring to their attention information about their rights in relation to OUSA, including:

- Their right not to be a member of OUSA if they wish.
- The existence of a Code of Practice that explains how the University is meeting the requirements of Part II of the Education Act 1994.
- The availability of OUSA's annual financial report, which will include details of donations to external organizations.
- The procedures for allocating resources to groups, clubs or societies that are affiliated to OUSA.
- Details of external organizations to which OUSA is affiliated, with subscriptions, fees or donations made during the last year and, in particular, notification of any new affiliations made during the last year.

- The complaint procedure available to all students or groups of students who are dissatisfied in their dealings with OUSA or who claim unfair disadvantage through opting out of membership. This procedure allows an independent person appointed by the Council of the Open University to investigate and report on complaints.
- Information about restrictions imposed on the activities of OUSA by the law relating to charities.
- The provisions of Section 43 of the Education (no. 2) Act 1986 (freedom of speech in universities and colleges) and the Code of Practice relating to freedom of speech in so far as it is relevant to the activities and conduct of OUSA.

If you would like to know more about any of the points mentioned, please write to the Communications Team at Walton Hall, indicating which of the items is of interest to you.