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| **Name:** | | Guohao Ni | |
| **Division:** | | Division of Medical Sciences | |
| **Undergraduate/Postgraduate:**  **(ContEd: Matriculated/non-matriculated):** | | Postgraduate | |
| **Meetings Attended** | | | |
| **Meeting** | **Issues Arising** | | **Div Rep Response** |
| GSC meeting - **Tuesday 14 November 2023** | 1. **Oxford Student union Representative Expansion**: We are pleased to announce an expansion in our representation at the Oxford Student Union. Starting soon, we will have two additional representatives: one focusing on taught courses and the other on research courses. This change will ensure more comprehensive representation and support for our diverse academic programs. 2. **Graduate Admissions Fee Update**: In a significant development for future students, we will eliminate application fees for all graduate programs starting September 2024. This decision aligns with our commitment to making higher education more accessible and affordable. 3. **eVision System Implementation**: We are in the process of implementing the eVision system to replace our current application system. This transition is aimed at streamlining the application process, enhancing the efficiency of administrative tasks, and improving the overall experience for both applicants and departmental staff. 4. **Part-Time DPhil Program Availability**: We have identified a need for increased part-time options in certain departments, particularly for DPhil programs. Recognizing the diverse needs of our student body, we are exploring ways to expand these offerings to accommodate students who require more flexible study schedules. 5. **International Student Visa Sponsorship**: Currently, the university does not sponsor part-time student visas for international students. We acknowledge the challenges this poses and are actively seeking solutions to support our international student community more effectively. | | 1. **Council Decision on GSC Representation**: The GSC is awaiting a decision from the council regarding the addition of representatives for taught and research courses. There is a positive expectation that the council will approve this proposal. 2. **Impact Assessment**: A dedicated team is currently evaluating the potential impacts of this change, which may include a significant increase in applications and a subsequent rise in HR requirements to manage the additional workload. 3. **eVision System Advantages**:    1. **For Departments**: The eVision system facilitates the sharing and assessment of applications, eliminates the need for bulk downloading and uploading of documents, and automates the notification of decisions, thereby reducing administrative burdens.    2. **For Applicants**: Enhancements include the ability to view the latest decision updates, manage offers (acceptance or rejection), withdraw applications at any stage, and complete necessary steps such as criminal conviction disclosures and ID photo submissions for Bod cards. 4. **Part-Time DPhil Program Considerations**: The GSC is actively evaluating the feasibility of allowing students to transition from full-time to part-time study, especially in clinical departments. This initiative aims to accommodate non-traditional students, such as parents and part-time workers, and not exclude them from pursuing a DPhil. 5. **Visa Sponsorship for Part-Time International Students**: There is a recognized need for further discussion with the GSC regarding the university's sponsorship of part-time student visas for international students. This matter requires urgent attention to support our international community better. |
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| **Student / Course Rep Issues** | | |
| **Issues** | **Actions Taken** | **Actions Planned** |
| MSc Clinical Trials (Year 2) cohort of 25 people is divided between 4 colleges. They are a tight unit and will prefer to graduate together. | Reported the situation in the council report. | Will aim to explore possibilities with the student union and the university. |
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| **Any other comments? (e.g. projects you’re working on, particular challenges etc.)** |
| I have established a WhatsApp group to facilitate direct communication with all course representatives. My intention is to convene semesterly meetings through this platform, which will serve as a forum for gathering comprehensive feedback from each representative. This collective insight will be instrumental in shaping the reports I present to the student council, ensuring that they reflect the breadth of perspectives and experiences across our courses. |