**Officer Report**

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| **Name:**  |  Nick Harris |
| **Role:** |  Vice-President Postgraduate Access and Education |
| **Council meeting:** |  October 24, 2023 |

# Section One | Pledges

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| **My Pledges**  | **Progress**   |
| The creation of a graduate student union (now, increase representation for postgraduate students).  | * Since pledging to explore the feasibility of an Oxford Graduate Student Union, extensive research and deliberation have been conducted. As of the present, the proposal faces notable challenges that render its immediate implementation unviable. Namely, the financial implications pose a significant vulnerability to the existing Oxford University Student Union.
* Furthermore, the process of effecting such a fundamental change necessitates an extended timeline. The implementation of these changes requires thorough consideration and integration within the University's committee structures, a process which demands careful attention to ensure comprehensive representation and adequate support.
* The upcoming external student union review presents a strategic opportunity. This review will serve as a platform to highlight the systemic underrepresentation of postgraduate students within the University's current student union framework. This critical examination will provide valuable insights and recommendations to address the pressing issue of postgraduate student representation.
* The commitment to advancing the interests of postgraduate students remains steadfast. While the immediate establishment of an Oxford Graduate Student Union may not be feasible, this initiative has spurred a valuable dialogue, shedding light on the complexities and opportunities surrounding student representation at the University.
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Feel free to adjust any details to better align with the specific context and progress of your efforts.

# Section Two | Projects

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| **My Projects** | **Progress**   |
| Doubling postgraduate representation at the division (splitting postgraduate divisional representative into postgraduate research and postgraduate taught)  | * Unanimous Divisional Approval: All four divisions have enthusiastically endorsed this initiative, recognizing its potential to enhance the quality of academic representation and enrich the student experience.
* Quality Assurance Working Group Alignment: The project has received unanimous approval from the Quality Assurance Working Group, underlining its alignment with the University's commitment to maintaining and enhancing academic standards.
* Endorsement by Education Committee: The proposal has earned a resounding endorsement from the Education Committee, attesting to its potential to fortify educational excellence and promote inclusivity.
* Submission to General Purposes Committee: The initiative has now been formally submitted to the General Purposes Committee, signifying a critical step towards its integration into the broader institutional framework.

The extensive support garnered thus far underscores the recognition of the importance of academic representation in fostering a vibrant and inclusive educational environment. The collaborative efforts of all stakeholders involved have propelled this initiative forward, paving the way for further advancements in the realm of student representation at the divisional level |
| Increasing available rooms for graduate accommodation | * Over the summer, a collaborative effort with the Graduate Accommodation Board successfully initiated a project to make vacant college rooms available to students from other colleges. This endeavor addresses a critical need by providing affordable accommodation options for students who might otherwise face the higher costs of the private rental market.
* Currently, the project is advancing through the established Oxford University committee structure. This process ensures thorough evaluation and integration within the broader institutional framework, setting the stage for its potential implementation.
* The collective efforts invested in this project exemplify a proactive approach to alleviating accommodation challenges, showcasing a commitment to fostering an inclusive and accessible living environment for all students at Oxford University. As the project progresses through the committee structure, there is optimism for its positive impact on student housing and affordability.
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# Section Three | Key Events and Meetings

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| **Event, Meeting or Media**   | **Date**  | **Outcomes / Impact**   |
| Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group (JFSSAG) | October 23, 2023 | * At this meeting, increases to student tuition were discussed. I championed the perspective for the minimal impact on students, outlining how increases will limit the number of academic scholarships. In addition, I outlined how these increases, if approved, had to be communicated to students for financial planning.
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| Finance and Risk (Vice-Chair, interim Chair) | Summer 2023 | * Outlined my concerns with the current model of Oxford University Students Union funding model with the university. It is my hope, these concerns become reflected in the incoming external student review.
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# Section Four | Future Key Events and Meetings

* The position of Vice-President Postgraduate Access and Education is slightly different from other roles and has a substantial committee workload. Please refer to Annex A for more details.
* There are several upcoming meetings, including the University Council on October 30th. At this meeting, I intend to argue against proposed tution increases.

Annex A: Committee Overview

In order to provide a comprehensive understanding of the extensive workload and multifaceted responsibilities associated with the role of Vice-President Postgraduate Access and Education, I have included below an itemized list of the committees and working groups I have actively engaged with throughout my tenure. These committees are instrumental in shaping policies, programs, and initiatives that directly impact the postgraduate student community at Oxford University. This committee load is unsustainable and I am investigating opportunities to create more sustainable structure.

Oxford Students Union Committees:

1. Trustee Board
2. OSSL
3. Finance and Risk (Chair)
4. MCR Presidents Committee (Co-Chair)
5. Postgraduate Committee (Co-Chair)
6. Postgraduate Consultative Group (Chair)

University Committees

1. University Council
2. Education Committee
3. Student Number Planning Working Group
4. UNIQ+
5. Research Degrees Panel (RDP)
6. Taught Degrees Panel (TDP)
7. Graduate Recruitment and Access Strategy Working Group
8. Committee for the Language Centre.
9. Selection Pilot Working Group
10. Education Portfolio Committee
11. Research and Innovation Committee (RIC)
12. Graduate Recruitment and Access Strategy Working Group
13. Graduate Accommodation Project Board
14. Quality Assurance Subcommittee (QASC)
15. Curators of the University Libraries (CUL)
16. Joint Supervisory Committee for Visiting Students (JSCVS)
17. Student Survey Strategy Working Group (SSSWG)
18. CTL Project Advisory Group (PAG)
19. Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group (JFSSAG)
20. Selection Pilot Working Group 2023/24
21. Exam Paper Archiving - Project Board
22. ITS955 PGR Outcomes System Changes Project board
23. ICT Steering Committee
24. CLiPS-Humanities
25. Academic Futures Management Group meeting
26. Graduate Access Working Group

Conference of College Committees

1. Graduate Committee
2. Graduate Admissions Committee
3. The Officer’s Subgroups of Graduate Admissions Committee
4. The Application Fee Working Group
5. Quality Assurance Working Group (QAWG)