**Officer Report**

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| **Name:** | Nicholas Harris |
| **Role:** | Vice-President  Postgraduate Access and Education |
| **Council meeting:** | 21 November 2023 |

# Section One | Manifesto Updates

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| **My Pledges** | **Progress** |
| Increase Graduate Student Representation | The proposal to increase postgraduate divisional representatives from 1 to 2 has successfully passed the general purposes committee and is now awaiting final approval from the university council. Pending this approval, the change will be implemented across the university, marking a substantial win for students. This enhancement in representation reflects our commitment to a more inclusive and diverse decision-making process, ultimately contributing to an improved student experience. I look forward to updating you further as we move towards the final stages of approval.  This project has been ongoing for over a year, and I want to send special thanks to divisional representatives, past and present, and the former Vice-President Graduates for their hard work in making it possible. |

# Section Two | Projects

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| **My Projects** | **Progress** |
| Graduate Accommodation | In the ongoing efforts to address graduate student accommodation challenges, collaboration with the Graduate Accommodation Board has been a focal point of my initiatives from summer until present. Together, we've developed a project aimed at efficiently allocating unused college rooms to graduate students, particularly those who would otherwise be left to navigate the competitive open market. Notably, this isn't the first attempt at such a project; a prior initiative faced challenges, primarily related to funding constraints. Despite the evident benefits—both financial gains for the colleges and a significantly improved student experience for a considerable number of students—the project encountered setbacks.  The current undertaking has advanced through its planning phase, and the next crucial step involves garnering support from stakeholders to secure the necessary funding. This project stands as a meaningful solution to the pressing issue of graduate student accommodation, and I am optimistic about the positive impact it could have on the housing challenges faced by many in the student community. |
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# Section Three | Events

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| **Events/Media** | **Date** | **Outcomes / Impact** |
| Meet the Sabbatical Officer | 11 Novmeber | The "Meet the Sabbatical Officer" event held on Saturday, November 11 at the Radcliffe Camera witnessed a modest turnout, with only a handful of students in attendance. In light of this, I suggest that the Student Union reassess the sustainability and resource allocation for such events. Thorough evaluation of the effectiveness of these gatherings for student outreach and consider alternative, more resource-efficient strategies to engage with the student body. I want to ensure that Student Union resources are optimally utilized while still maintaining meaningful and impactful communication with students. |
| DPHIL Drinks | 29 November 6-8PM | The Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford is organizing a drinks night specifically tailored for DPhil students. This event serves as a unique opportunity for DPhil candidates to come together, fostering a sense of community and providing a platform for them to share experiences. |

# Section Four | Committee meetings

Please give a summary of your committee meeting attendance and detail key outcomes/impacts.

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| A meeting with the ***Vice-Chancellor*** provided a platform to discuss overarching university policies and strategic initiatives, with a particular focus on sabbatical projects and officer wellbeing. ***The Quality Assurance Subcommitte***e sessions allowed for a comprehensive examination of academic program quality and standards, fostering discussions on continuous improvement in education quality. In the context of the ***Research Degree Panel***, our conversations centred around matters pertinent to postgraduate research programs, seeking ways to support and enhance the research experience for graduate students.  ***The Graduate Admissions Committee*** gatherings were instrumental in deliberating on admission policies and procedures for graduate programs, with a specific emphasis on strategies to attract a diverse and qualified pool of graduate applicants. Meanwhile, the ***Graduate Access Committee*** and its ***Working Group*** counterparts focused on promoting inclusivity and accessibility in graduate education. Discussions centred on initiatives aimed at supporting underrepresented groups and addressing barriers to entry for diverse student populations. Additionally, participation in the ***Joint Student Number Planning Group*** contributed to planning discussions related to student enrolment, providing insights into managing student numbers while upholding academic quality.  Throughout these diverse forums, my active involvement aimed to ensure that graduate student perspectives were effectively represented, underscoring our collective dedication to quality, inclusivity, and strategic planning for an enriched graduate student experience. |

# Section Four | Future Plans

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| **Event/Project** | **Date** | **Anticipated outcomes / impact** |
| University Council | 27 November | At the upcoming University Council meeting, I anticipate the approval of divisional representative changes. This development underscores a commitment to amplifying the voices of graduate students and fostering a more inclusive and diverse decision-making process within the university structure. |
| Education Committee | 30 November | At the upcoming Education Committee meeting, I anticipate the University to signpost education priorities for Hilary term. |