

OUSU

reports to council

1st week hilary term 2010

Stefan Baskerville

President

Submitting separate report

Kat Wall

V-P (Women)

Hello Council,

Happy New Year!

Springboard for Undergraduates:

Having had such success at Cambridge when this personal and professional development programme for women was expanded to undergraduates we have decided to try and pilot it here. Springboard covers a range of skill development from networking, team building, time management, assertiveness, self-confidence and self-evaluating. Many of these skills would be useful to undergraduate women. I have been working very closely with the Equality and Diversity Unit, the Oxford Learning Institute and the Careers Service to make this project come about. We have a confirmed trainer from Cambridge and the use of the Cambridge undergraduate workbook (which will help save considerably on start up costs), the promise of workspace, refreshments and admin support from the Careers Service, and already interested students. We have now won funding from the University so this pilot will be going ahead in Trinity Term this year.

Assertiveness Training Pilot:

Working with Dr Peggy Frith in the Medical Science Division, we are piloting an assertiveness training scheme next term – this will take the shape of two sessions, one in 2nd and one in 3rd week. It will address some students concerns about the tutorial system and hopefully equip them with the skills that will make interactive learning, as well as a host of other life experiences, more accessible for them. We have decided to pilot this scheme for both men and women and see in the feedback if this is an appropriate model to follow.

Gender and Occupation Research:

I have undertaken a research project with Jonathan Black, Director of the Careers Service, to attempt to unpick why men and women go into certain professions and the perceptions students hold of those professions. Of over 400 students who have answered the survey so far there have been some interesting results – indicating that law, accounting, banking and management consultancy are all perceived to be rather discriminatory on grounds of gender. We are going to be undertaking more detailed research in the New Year and then creating a report of our findings and our recommendations as to what can be done to rectify matters.

Women in Science Open Day:

This is taking place on 12th March. In the morning there will be a series of workshops put on by Maths, Chemistry, Engineering, Material Sciences and Physics of which the pupils can select two – one from a subject they know a lot about and one from a subject they have yet to discover. This is an access day for pupils in inner city London schools who have students with good potential but who rarely come to Oxford.

Women in Politics Open Day:

This is taking place on 20th March. In the morning there will be a series of seminars and workshops which the pupils will be able to choose from, followed by a packed lunch, followed by a panel discussion with Q and A in the afternoon. Confirmed speaker include Baroness Jay of Paddington, Emily Thornberry MP and Jane Hill (BBC News24 Presenter).

The open day is for lower-sixth form female students.

Finals Forums for Women:

I am in the process of organising 10 finals forums for women in a variety of different subjects. Female tutors are confirmed for the majority of these and publicity for them will begin next week. They will be taking place in 5th and 6th week of this term.

Well-Being Week:

In 3rd Week this term, Dani Quinn (VP Welfare) and I are organising a series of events about different elements of well-being – physical well-being, emotional well-being, sensual well-being, mental well-being. The events are as diverse as country walks to a doctor talking about dealing with sleep difficulties, via a sensuality evening with aphrodisiac cocktails, and tai chi classes. For more information check out the face book group.

Student Parent Consultation:

Having undertaken a student parent consultation over the Christmas Vac, I have found five key areas of concern for student parents in the University: funding, cost of childcare, childcare provision, social exclusion and the lack of flexible learning. I am writing a report with input from the Assessor (who I met and is very on board with my proposals), Keith Zimmerman (Director of Student Services) and Louise Edwards (Head of Childcare Services). I have also won representation on the newly formed Childcare Steering Group which will be considering, among other things, the creation of a fourth University Nursery and the Maternity/Paternity Policy going to Education Committee.

Night Safety:

Night safety has been a great concern, both in terms of people getting home safely but also what happens while they are out. I am working with the Police to co-ordinate our night safety programmes, continuing to work with Brookes to make sure the safety bus is running a good service, looking into areas of the city where people feel most unsafe and lobbying the city council for better lighting, PCSO support and so forth. We are also running an awareness raising campaign next term about going out at night and ‘safety tips’ to bear in mind – like not leaving your drink at the bar while you go for a smoke and coming back to drink it after a period of time has passed.

Dani Quinn Opportunities	V-P	(Welfare	&	Equal
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Hello Council,

Welcome, to those of you who are new to Council! I hope you had a good break over Christmas. Since last November, we’ve all been up to many different things – please excuse the excessive length of this report! Let me know if you have any questions, or would like more details. Suggestions are always welcome, too: welfare@ousu.org

Take care,
Dani x
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Student Representation

Committee for Student Health and Welfare: Gained support for the establishment of working groups on Sexual Health provision and college procedures for approaching problems with disordered eating. Expressed strong support for the Counsellors on-site programme, which is to be expanded.

Sexual Health Working Group: This is the group that we (Kat and I) asked the University to establish, in response to disparities amongst Colleges. We had the first meeting in 0th Week, and discussed options for making sure the morning-after pill is available in all colleges (as it requires additional training and qualifications), what best practise is in terms of college-level provision of contraception, what college policies should be on the impartiality of medical advice given, how to ensure students don’t get false negatives (or positives) when they take pregnancy tests, how to raise awareness around Chlamydia (it’s prevalent!) and lastly how we increase nurses’ awareness of the sexual health needs of LGBTQ students. We’re next meeting in 4th Week.

Fitness to Study Working Group: Jonny and I wrote a Student Submission for this (very important) working group. This was based on focus groups with Common Room Officers and individual responses to the policy. In a happy move, Jonny and I will now be on the group.

SpLD working group: The purpose of this group is to review provision for students with Specific Learning Difficulties. The first meeting of this group was in 1st Week, and we discussed what the working methods would be, what questions should be addressed, and how best to get student input into the process.

I also had meetings/attended meetings with:

The Proctors and Assessor

Peter Quinn (Disability Advisory Service)

Leyla Okhai (Race Equality Officer)

Elsa Bell (Head of Student Welfare and the Counselling Service)

Alda Porter (The Mill)

Common Room Support

Advocacy Training: This was successful, with a good attendance and lots of positive feedback (and really helpful constructive feedback). The catch-up session was held in 0th week, for those who hadn't been able to attend. I hope this session will be held again next year.

LGBTQ Officer Training: This was led by volunteers from Oxford Friend, and was really helpful. We (Jasper and I) have contacted different people and organisations for this term's training – it will probably be sexual health-related (ooh!).

Training this term: In addition to the 'Advocacy Catch-Up' (with Jonny), we are also holding training on listening skills/student support (with Kat), Equality and Diversity training (with Leyla Okhai), dealing with tragedies (with Elsa Bell), a mental health workshop (with Kat), and chair training (with Kat). Phew! There's been a brilliant response for Common Room Committees wanting student support training (as well as the Islamic Society) – please get in touch ASAP if you want to join in!

EO Survey: Kat and I did a survey of CROs (Common Room Officers) who have equal opportunities in their portfolio. It was really helpful for knowing how best to support them, and also included some really inspiring responses!

Welfare Committee and Equal Opps Committee: Had the final meeting of the term for each of these, but I think the fact that it was 8th Week was a problem for many people (understandably). I have cut down the number of meetings this term to 3 for each committee, in response to comments in the Equal Opps survey.

Meetings with Common Room Committees and Officers: I met with the Trinity JCR and Balliol JCR Committee, and well over a dozen different individual CROs (can't remember how many!). If you would like to meet up, please get in touch. Similarly, I am always available by email!

Mailings to CROs: The welfare emails are now themed, and will hopefully be a good source of info for reps. Topics so far have included collections, living out and night safety. Imminent topics are disordered eating, depression and alcohol awareness. Let me know if there's a topic that you think should be covered.

Student Advice Service / Student Support and Welfare

Update on numbers: From the time we took office, to Friday of 8th Week, Michaelmas, we had 86 cases (more serious and ongoing problems that needed more complex support and advice) and 114 information requests (which include, for example: re-sits, seeing scripts and accommodation problems). That number is a lot more than in previous years – this is both exciting and challenging!

Student Advice Service Feedback: There is now a feedback system! The link to the form is on the OUSU website. All the feedback so far has been very positive – whaaay!

Student Advice Service manual and policy: We are making one – this is a Good Thing, and it's bizarre that it hasn't happened before. It will – hopefully – make the job much easier for our successors. We are also writing up policy for specific issues, to ensure that all clients are being treated fairly. This should be completed by 5th Week (estimate).

Student Advisor Review: Lisa and I did a review of the role of Student Advisor. Apart from the glaringly obvious fact that the Student Advice Service has far too much to work compared to the number of people on it. We are looking into slightly extending Lisa's hours (by approx 2 hours per week). In the long run, we need something a little more sustainable, as we haven't been able to deal with casework as quickly as we'd like to.

Debriefs: These are the meetings of the Student Advice Service members, where we discuss issues that have come up. These have been more regular this term, and continue to be quite fun, although sometimes sobering. Awesome team☺

Data protection policy: There now is one. So much shredding to be done!

Disordered Eating – evaluation: Kat and I sat down to do an evaluation of the support and services offered to students with disordered eating. With what's already on offer, the escalation of some services (e.g. weekly sessions of 'Enough!') and our other plans for this term, I think we are close to having covered all possible ways in which we can support students in this respect.

Welfare Team (exec): We had a meeting last term of the 'welfare team' within the OUSU exec – I intend for these to be more regular this term.

Equal Opportunities

Equality and Diversity Training: This has been set up in response to feedback about the implications of the equality bill (as well as general concern to have an inclusive Common Room!). You should definitely, definitely come to this – it's being run by Leyla Okhai, from the Equality and Diversity Unit.

Queer History Month: February is Queer History Month (QHM) – Jasper and I are working on a few different events for this. In addition to the Careers event (see below) there will also be a RAG LGBTQ Blind Date and an Amnesty Letter Writing event to support LGBTQ people who are persecuted across the world. A few other things are still being developed – you'll hear more soon.

LGBTQ Careers: Jasper and I have organised an event at the Counselling Service, in response to questions and anxieties that were raised by LGBTQ students. We've got really good speakers – please send out the messages about it!

LGBTQ library: We now house the LGBTsoc Library – come in for a browse!

LGBTQ Handbook: We have a new editor for the handbook, as Milan is on his year abroad. Get in touch if you are interested in writing an article, or have any opinions on what should (or shouldn't!) be in it.

LGBTQ Council: We have a new Executive for LGBTQ Council, with a host of new ideas for campaigns. To find out about meetings, join the mailing-list – email me to be added (welfare@ousu.org).

Students With Disabilities Access Guide: This was started with Ben, the last SWD Officer, and is in response to the poor quality of information in the undergraduate and graduate prospectuses. It is intended to give prospective applicants more information about Colleges and their capacity (and willingness) to accommodate difference and disability. This project has a lot of support from the DAS (Disability Advisory Service) but, unfortunately, is quite tedious to complete. More on this later, I expect!

SWD Focus group: In 3rd Week there will be a focus group for students in the University who have disabilities. It will be an opportunity to network, to share experiences, identify projects on which OUSU should be working and to discuss the way in which OUSU should be working on issues. Venue is tbc.

Buddying Scheme & interviews: The Freshers' Week buddying scheme that was set up for students with Aspergers Syndrome was extended to the interview period.

CRAE (Campaign for Cultural and Racial Awareness and Equality): Attended two more meetings of CRAE. Emailed 'national' societies to let them know about CRAE and its role.

Hate Crime Seminar: Attended a City Council Hate Crime Seminar, which had some really helpful ideas and case studies. It led me to...

...*Anonymous Reporting and Mapping:* I've been getting feedback on a pilot project to enable students to report incidents, both minor and major, that have occurred as a result of them being part of a minority group. The purpose of this is to be a mapping exercise that will identify places that are more likely to be hot spots, and groups that are more likely to be targeted. The feedback so far suggests that it should be a survey (similar-ish to the British Crime Survey), followed by a reporting system.

Welfare and Other Projects

Well-Being Week: WBW will be in 3rd Week. It will be brilliant – you should come to the events and encourage your committee and members to do the same. I have attached the timetable at the end of my report. Contact Kat or me if you have any questions.

Survival Guide: Bane of my life – it's nearly done and will be distributed to Freshers in the middle of this term.

Night Safety: Night Safety is a serious issue in Oxford but many students seem to underestimate the risks and engage in very risky behaviour. Accordingly, Kat and I are currently surveying students' attitudes and behaviour, and will choose an appropriate campaign based on this.

Living Out Guide: This is nearly done – I am so happy! Please get in touch to order copies for your Common Room.

Living Out – drop in sessions: Lisa and I will be holding two of these this term – tentatively in 2nd and 5th Week. The latter one will have a special focus on International Students, but is open to all.

OUSU

Strategic Review Group: I have been attending the meetings of this and been publicising it to under-represented groups, to make sure their views are fed into the process.

Equal Opportunities Policy for OUSU: I was mandated to update it, as the last one was of mixed quality. It's in the agenda – please amend to improve, and then approve!

Other meetings attended:

JCCSM (Joint Committee of Council with Student Members)

Appointments Board (to appoint Editors and Deputy Editors for the OxStu)

Pubcom (Publicity Committee)

Had a few meetings with my successor, Tom Perry, to update him on different aspects of the job. This shall very much be an ongoing process!

Training

Management Support Training: Attended this with Stefan, at the Oxford Learning Institute.

Mel Lonsdale: Mel, our regional rep from the NUS, ran a day of training for us. It was more like 'team support' and I found it very helpful.

Domestic Abuse Champions Programme: I've signed up for this – don't know how soon it will mean I'm trained, though! Updates to come...

Miscellaneous

CUSU: Had a long and productive conversation with my counterpart in CUSU (Cambridge SU). We now have a shared database of welfare, graduate and equal opps information, which is brilliant. She is lovely.

Had *meetings* with lots of other individual students who had suggestions for projects, which are being addressed (albeit, at varying paces!). I *attended* the Counsellors' Christmas Reception with Eorann (and brought up night safety with the Lady Mayor and our local Counsellor). I also helped out with writing *Christmas Cards* to our (too) many contacts in the University and beyond. Good to keep them sweet.

As always, there is the usual stream of *casework* (which takes up a huge amount of time), dealing with *media requests* (strangely time consuming) and giving *comments and feedback* on each others' reports and projects.

Sarah Hutchinson	V-P (Graduates)
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I've had relatively few meetings since my last report, which has given me the opportunity to catch up on things and start to plan ahead for this term.

A few highlights from meetings however include:

- MPLS Joint Consultative Committee – discussed the Graduate Supervision Scheme and online reporting amongst other things
- Centre for Excellence in Preparation for Academic Practice – although the funding for the training provided to research students for these activities is coming to an end the intention is that the divisions will aim to continue the work they and their departments are doing. Each division provides a wide range of practical skills and development training for doctoral students and it's worth asking what is available if you haven't already.
- Points Based Immigration monitoring working group: one element of the new visa system that has been introduced over the past few months is the monitoring of students. The university is working to ensure that this is not intrusive and I have been stressing that departments should be maintaining regular contact with all students, including research students, so that a separate method of monitoring should not be required. Although it is very much a work in progress at the moment, it is hoped that this will be the case. So far the switch to PBI appears to have gone smoothly, with relatively few students experiencing major problems, and the systems introduced by the University appear to be working. I'll keep you up to date with developments.
- Graduate supervision system: we had a meeting at which the feedback from the focus group was discussed. Efforts are being made to incorporate suggestions, in particular to fine tune timings, although this may take time due to the financial constraints in place at the moment. The introduction of a reminder, and the publicity carried out appears to have been effective however, as there has been an increase in online reporting by students.
- I met with a couple of Domestic Bursars to discuss vacation residence and storage for international students, as this had been raised with me as a problem by some students. It appears that most colleges provide storage at the very least, but if you know that this is not the case at your college, or you know of students having had problems, please do let me know. I hope to raise this as something students need to be aware they have to take into account as early as possible. We also expressed our concern that many international postgraduates still experience difficulties finding accommodation when they arrive and we will be looking into ways to ease this, including finding a space online to advertise college rooms and to help new students find roommates.
- I met with Professor Adrian Smith, who is carrying out the government's review of postgraduate education, as part of the University's Humanities and Social Sciences delegation. I put forward the views that MCR Presidents had that funding was a key access point, and that humanities and social sciences are valuable and should not be neglected for the STEM subjects. Although Professor Smith accepted these points, he was very clear that there will be very limited resources available and difficult decisions about what to prioritise needed to be made, and alternatives to government funding explored. Given the funding cuts across HE at the moment, and the fact that this review will be feeding into the HE Fees and Funding review, I think we all need to be aware that we may need to fight to preserve the education system we're benefiting from.

- David Bowe and I met with the Graduate Admissions and Funding team to discuss improving the process of appealing when those applying for graduate studies miss their grades and concerns students have raised with the rates of some scholarships, in particular the Commonwealth Scholarships. On the first issue a paper will be drafted and taken to Graduate Admissions Committee. With the second the situation is more difficult given the overall reduction in funding available at the moment, but they will be monitoring the situation.

Looking forward to this term, we will be holding a graduate consultation in the form of a survey, asking about graduate opinions of everything from supervision, to college accommodation, to OUSU's services. I hope to use the results to take a paper to Graduate Panel, and will be able to raise any concerns students have. Please encourage your graduate students/friends to complete it – it will be going out to all graduate students in the next week or so. I will also be continuing to work on improving access to accommodation, looking at the possibility of introducing a form of graduate collections for students who have never sat an Oxford-style exam before, holding a postgraduate forum to give graduate students the opportunity to tell us about their experiences in Oxford, and getting more graduate-specific information up on the website. Any questions, contact me on graduates@ousu.org

Jonny Medland

V-P (Access & Academic Affairs)

Good to see everyone back, and I hope you all enjoyed the break! It feels like ages since we got back even though it's only two weeks – here's a summary of what I've been up to since week 7 last term. Before getting underway I should thank the Exec which left office at the end of last term, especially Tom Perry who was a great Academic Affairs officer and will be returning as VP (Welfare & Equal Opps) next year. And as importantly – welcome to our new, very exciting Part-Time Exec. Particularly from my point of view Hannah Cusworth and Nathan Jones who have already been incredibly helpful to me in working out what we're going to do this term.

Common Room Support

Probably the most visible event was Advocacy Training, run by Dani and myself on Saturday of week 7. In spite of being 7 hours (!) long, this was really well attended and received very positive feedback. Myself, Dani and Hannah Cusworth have organised a catchup session which is weighing in at a mere 2 hours for this Thursday. It's going to be awesome so sign up if you haven't already. Near the end of last term I turned our academic reps meeting into a focus group on draft 1 on the proposed 'Fitness to Study policy' which is working its way through the University system – the feedback which we got was really useful and made its way into the final version of our response on this issue. More on Fitness to Study below. Other than that the main areas have been tailored support for some Common Room reps looking at areas including increasing their CR budgets, bringing papers on access to their SCR and looking at introducing new bursary programs in their college. If you're looking at taking something forward in your college and want a sounding board/someone to bounce ideas off then please do get in touch – we can provide general information but we can also provide tailored advice to your specific situation if you ask us for it!

Representation

This has been pretty big. As you'll all have seen from Stefan's e-mail we have been added to a range of committees of University Council. This is a huge victory for students – step 1 is always being included in the discussion and we'll now be able to put student views forward into the university decision-making process. Here's what I've been up to in chronological order:

Joint Committee of Council with Student Members: The major item of business at the last meeting of JCC was approving the series of changes to the OUSU Constitution which Council has approved. This happened, and so everything which was approved last term is now going ahead.

Curators of the University Libraries: There was quite a sparse agenda for the last meeting of this – the main thing to flag up is that the next meeting of this body in week 2 will likely be receiving projected budgets etc for the University Library Services, which given the funding environment may be harsh. I will report back at the next meeting, but it is clear that higher education funding will be a major area of work in more ways than one over the next year.

Gender Equality Scheme Steering Group: Main area was the committee hearing about everything Kat has been up to, as well as considering how best to take forward the University's efforts to be recognised for its work around gender equality in science. A group looking at this has now been set up.

Education Committee: A very mixed agenda looked at areas ranging from the Government review of postgraduate education, all the way through to Student Representation on University Committees. Ask for more details.

University Council: We looked at areas including a report on the future of visiting students, reform of the elections to the Professor of Poetry Position and the University response to the Research Excellence Framework. This is an area which hasn't got much attention but which is hugely important to the University as a result of the range of quality research which takes place here.

Student Number Planning Committee: Following discussions at the last MCR Prescom, revisions to the University Student Number Planning Process are now in the works which explicitly note the concerns of MCR Presidents about the impact of lots of 1 year taught masters students on MCR cohesion. This is a very complex area but there is a feeling, particularly among colleges, that there can be unintended consequences to the student number planning process, particularly as regards student welfare.

Regionalisation Working Group: I've been added to this, and we looked at (in our first meeting) how to incorporate OUSU into regional development of outreach activities within the University, how best the policy can be communicated and how quickly it can be implemented.

Admissions Executive: Main areas of work included changing University policy to state that at the undergraduate admissions level, students need to be taught in the English language for a longer period of time (or demonstrate English language skills) to be admitted. This is really important – a lot of cases we get on the Student Advice Service involve students with inadequate language skills to study here. We also considered how to improve Open Days, and it looks like Exam Schools might be used as a central venue for now on, which would be a big improvement on the status quo.

College Complaints and Appeals Working Group: This is a group considering how best to improve procedures relating to complaints & appeals in colleges. I can't give you much detail as it's confidential for the time being, but the direction of travel is encouraging and should result in some clear good practice guidelines being transmitted to colleges for their consideration. This is a hugely important area for literally hundreds of students every year, so do ask me about it!

Contextual Data Working Group: This is looking at how the University uses contextual data as part of the undergraduate admissions process – we are likely to recommend some comparatively minor changes, including greater weighting being given to students who have been in care, and less weighting being given to students who have been on Sutton Trust Summer Schools. We're also asking the government to collate more data on certain areas which could be useful.

Working Group on the OUSU complaints process, University Council, Undergraduate Panel. All of these are happening between Friday of 0th week and Wednesday of 1st week and so I will update you in my next Council report.

Other representation: I wrote responses (with my colleagues and on behalf of OUSU) to University consultations on the proposed Fitness to Study policy, the review of Degree ceremonies and the initial stages of the Browne Review into Higher Education Funding. I also have been added to the working group looking at taking the Fitness to Study policy forward.

Meetings with University officials

Met with:

- Nancy Braithwaite, Principal Administrator of the Conference of Colleges about student representation on Conference of Colleges. Stefan is drafting a revised paper on this issue, taking into account comments from JCR & MCR Presidents.

- Jared Hutchings & Victoria Wilson to talk about promoting the National Student Survey (which is going well) and the Reach Oxford scholarship (which is seeing a lot of interest from among Common Rooms).
- The PVC (Education) before Education Committee where we went over the agenda and particularly discussed issues relating to student numbers and developments in postgraduate provision within the University and nationally.
- Nancy Braithwaite (again), this time to talk about developments in college complaints & appeals procedures, particularly with regard to the paper that I wrote for the group laying out a student perspective on existing procedures.
- Mike Nicholson, Director of Undergraduate Admissions to talk about what's happening this term, future developments with regionalisation, student involvement in outreach and the Browne Review.
- Richard Hughes, Head of Education Policy Support, to talk about student representation in Divisions, student understanding of marking criteria and university complaints procedures.
- Stephen Goss, Director of the Learning Institute to talk about tutor training, a paper on which will be going to Senior Tutors later this term.
- Keith Zimmerman, Director of Student Administration & Services, to talk about complaints/appeals procedures and how best to take the issue forward this term.
- Peter Robbins, member of University Council to talk about taking the issue of HE funding forward this term.
- Heather Bell, Director of International Strategy, for a broad-ranging meeting about international student issues and the work that her office does.
- Julia Richardson to talk about student involvement in outreach, especially regional teacher conferences.

Student Advice Service

Slowed down a bit towards the end of last term, has restarted this term. Dani will be presenting details of what we've been doing later this term, but we continue to be getting a larger number of cases than was the case last year.

Target Schools

We elected a new and dynamic committee at the end of last term, and are now working on taking forward two main projects:

- An effective way of organising school visits.
- Our Shadowing Scheme in weeks 4 and 6 of this term.

Both of these are on course, thanks largely to phenomenal student volunteers. Particular thanks to Caitlin Weeks and our Shadowing sub-committee who have already put in huge amounts of effort, and also to Dave Legg, our new IT officer who has completely redone our website.

General OUSU stuff

Probably not surprising that this has been fairly busy. In no real order:

- Met on several occasions with Hannah and Nathan, my two part-time Exec officers. Hannah and I are organising finals forums for later this term, plans for which are falling into place. They'll be in weeks 7 and 8. Nathan and I are working very closely together on Target Schools for this term.
- Attended a meeting of OSSL Board – we're looking at a range of options for the Oxford & Cambridge Careers Handbook, and also at moving our publication cycle earlier in the year to spread when they are produced and maximise potential income.
- Attended multiple sabbatical & Exec meetings, and also spent 2 hours with my successor in 9th week last term to go over his plans and discuss what themes for next year are already emerging.
- Attended meetings of the Strategic Review Group (which confirmed the consultative process from now on) and the newly formed OUSU Budget Committee.

Eorann Lean Community)	V-P	(Charities	&
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Happy New year all! Below is some of the stuff I've been doing recently – I've attempted to keep it short and sweet if you want to know more please just ask charities@ousu.org

Volunteering Fair

- At the end of term I sent out invites to over 30 student charities who might be interested in volunteers. OCVA and the city council also sent out invites to their own contacts.
- At the moment we have about 30 stalls booked
- I secured £200 from the careers service in sponsorship so that we can make a booklet – with blurbs about each charity and the opportunities they have.

Beyond Profit

- Stalls confirmed for OxfordHub, OxFizz, CSV, The Ethical Property Company, Kiya Survivors, Department of Education, CentreForum, Christian Aid, Vinvolved, Age Concern Oxfordshire, Overseas International Development Fellowship Scheme, Charity Works, Jesuit Volunteer Community, UNEP World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Accenture's Corporate responsibility sector ADP, Medicin du Monde.
- Booklet articles are all collated and booklet is being sent off on Wed 20th January
- Talks are being filled up – so far OxFizz, Charity works, Christian aid, Centre forum are talking

Swapshop

- Working with canalside Community Action Group to put on swapshop in the union on Sunday 4th week (7th february). Come and swap!

RAG Ball

- Raised £5,217.39

Sustainability Strategy Workshop

- Will attend this on Tuesday so will fill you in in council

Met

- Charity and rag reps in 1st week
- Went to VC community reception
- December central NAG
- Belinda Hopkins about drinking and night safety
- Website review committee

PART TIME OFFICERS

Jack Matthews

Common Room Support Officer

Hi Council,

Hope you had a good Christmas holiday and that Collections went well for those of you that had them.

Welcome to all the newly elected committee members and congratulations on your new positions, if you would like to meet to discuss how OUSU can best support you and your common rooms, please come and speak to me at council or drop me an email.

Firstly I must apologise for not having contacted the Oxford Bus Company yet as I was mandated to do at the end of Michaelmas term; it will happen in the next week.

This term we are hoping to visit as many common rooms across Oxford as possible, this is to inform students about what OUSU is doing this term and most importantly to answer any questions they may have about OUSU. If there are any particular issues affecting your common room I can arrange for an appropriate member of the Exec to attend. To arrange your visit please email me with your preferred time, date and place.

Sky TV Campaign continues, more universities are joining our campaign.

I have recently set up a mail list of Student Societies which I will use to send out information regarding the various support OUSU can provide to clubs and societies, if your club or society hasn't received an email, please email me and I will add you to the database. OUSU offers many different services to clubs and it would be great to increase participation.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact me at commonrooms@ousu.org

Jack Matthews
Common Room Support Officer
commonrooms@ousu.org

Hannah Cusworth

Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

Dear Council,

Hiya, I'm Hannah, the new Academic Affairs Campaign Officer. I thought I'd say a quick 'Hiya' to let all of you know who I am and what I've been doing since I started at the end of last term.

Mostly I've been reading the papers and reports that Jonny is working on. There are a lot of them. Many of them have quite a few appendices. They're all really interesting though so it's been a pleasure.

In other news: I'm in the process of producing a guide for common room officers on how to lobby for 24 hour libraries and what you can do if your college says 'no'; if anyone has been through this process, and wants to pass on their wisdom for the benefit of all those who get chucked out of their library into the cold at 11pm, that would be lovely.

And finally, Jonny and I are currently having a lot of fun organising finals forums (more on those to come later in the term)

Please remind your common rooms that the first Academic Affairs meeting of term is Tuesday of 2nd Week (26th January) in OUSU from 4-5pm. I will be baking something for it, probably jam tarts, so tell them to get involved.

If you have any questions, or just like sending emails, my address is academicaffairs@ousu.org
Hannah