

Reports to Council

1st Week Council Hilary 2015

Sabbatical Officers

Louis Trup – President

Things to report to council that council asked for:

- Trustee report - Given the new arrangement whereby student trustees will report to OUSU council after trustee board meetings, I will provide a quick overview of what the trustee board has been up to, but allow for the student trustees to give a more complete report.
 - o Work on improving the complaints procedure
 - o Implementation of the results of the consultation on our Articles of Association through the constitution review group
 - o Identification of key areas of risk to OUSU and trying to mitigate these. Most notably with regards to student media.
 - o Finding new external trustees (more info on this will come to Council later in term.)
 - o Considering impacts of the lobbying act on the work of OUSU in the build up to the general election

If you have any questions about any specific part of these areas of activity, please get in touch with me or a student trustee (Will Neaverson, Eden Tanner or James Elliott).

- ‘Suggestion Box’ follow up
 - o Adding a ‘suggestion box’ to the OUSU website using the current website providers would cost around £240. This would include functionality such as online submission, allowances for moderation, rating out of 5 stars and commenting on ideas.
 - o The function of having moderation is key as OUSU is responsible for what is on the website, and so needs to ensure no submissions are offensive or break the law (are libelous etc).
 - o This exact function has been purchased by University of Nottingham SU and can be seen on their website: <http://www.su.nottingham.ac.uk/make-the-change/changeit/>
 - o At the current point in time, there are other areas of the website that are being worked on, but this is something that is in the pipeline.

Things I’ve been working on since we last met:

- Student awards – Encouraging people to nominate, shortlisting, finalising logistics for the awards themselves, secured £100 of prize money from Santander for society of the year, which they anticipating continuing for future years – somewhat inspired by last term’s concerns with funding for clubs and socs.
- IT Innovation – worked on the launch of the student IT Innovation Fund. Please submit ideas to be in with a chance of getting £20,000 to work on your project over next summer.
- Trying to negotiate with the University for OUSU council to decide on how it sets policy – as part of the review of OUSU’s top level governance, our Articles of Association, we are negotiating with the University on ensuring that the process by which policy is set is defined by council. I will keep you all updated, but at the time I sent this report off, there were still some meetings yet to happen.
- Voter Registration – With Ruth, been gearing up for Voter Registration week! We

made a video and have some other cheeky plans in the pipeline, all to be revealed soon.

- Trying to make Bye-Laws that work – a never ending task. Later on in this term, I, alongside the other sabbatical officers will be bringing some proposed changes to OUSU's bye-laws that have come as the result of work such as the campaigns governance review, the accessibility summit, and wider consultations with students about how OUSU works.
- Rethinking how we do the weekly email – its been different this term. Its been shorter, had more links in it, and less of my tongue out. It may be our most important form of communication to the student body, so getting it right is crucial. Please do let me know any thoughts you have on it.
- Working on Castle Mill lobbying – at 7th Week MT 14 council we approved a statement which was against spending loads of money and reducing the capacity of the Castle Mill accommodation. Now that there will be a debate on this in Congregation, the university's sovereign body, I have been collecting data and working with the team to shape a campaign to ensure that we prevent this waste of money and the negative impacts it will have (see the council motion this week too).
- Having further discussions on work we plan to do on Clubs and Socs – with Will, the new Clubs and Socs PTE, we are working on ensuring that OUSU provides increased support for clubs and societies. This term, there will be training open to all clubs and socs about getting sponsorship and managing finances.
- Started work on the careers guide – I will be putting out a call for free advertising. Look out for it.
- International students orientation – this is a really fun thing I get to do, which is just nice to tell you all. If you are international student, please get involved with the international students campaign!
- Picking up some of Yasser's stuff – mainly on graduate accommodation. I have been reading up on and forwarding negotiations which Yasser started.

I just want to say again here that Yasser will be sorely missed. He was a great colleague and did loads to further the experience of Graduate students in the University. His departure also highlights that there may be a need to make his and the other sabbatical positions more manageable for those with research, family or other commitments. But this is a longer conversation which we will hopefully look into. Thanks again Yasser.

James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council! Happy New Year! I hope you've all had restful vacations. I had about a fortnight off and went slightly out of my comfort zone and did a lot of mountain biking, since you ask.

I've been busy since we last met getting ready for this term, and I want to use this week's Council report to give you a sense of the major happenings for me over the term to come:

- Access Showcase – I'll be fulfilling a big manifesto commitment and hosting a showcase event to engage current students in the full and exciting range of access projects running around the University. This will be on Friday of 3rd week at Merton, and will include guest speakers, workshops, and presentations by many different projects.

- Congregation Meeting & the Graduate Scholarship Matched Fund – A group of academics have submitted a motion demanding that the University take the top floor of the Castle Mill accommodation to improve the view of Port Meadow from Jericho. The cost of this, £30m, is not only more than knocking the building down and starting again would be, but it is also a huge sum of money. My view is that the only currently available pot of money that could be diverted to such a project is the money that Yasser & I have been fighting to obtain for graduate scholarships, which is also £30m by an unfortunate coincidence. So a major project for me this term is going to be encouraging members of Congregation to vote against the motion and save the graduate scholarship matched fund.
- Education Vision – My biggest project of this term is probably the education vision process. We'll be running a major set of focus groups, an all-student survey and other hopefully **innovative** ways of gathering student views, and then creating for the first time an all-round strategic vision for an Oxford education and a basis for OUSU's campaigning on education issues for the next five years. It'll also give us a clear evidence base for our written submission to the Quality Assurance Agency, the University's regulator.

Some other stuff that is coming up:

- The Access Agreement – the University has to get an annual agreement on its access work (including bursaries and other forms of support) approved by the Office for Fair Access on behalf of the government. I'll be involved in the debate about this year's agreement and will be seeking to run a student focus group on it, probably with JCR access reps.
- Departmental Reviews – each academic department in the University gets jointly reviewed by the University & the division. This term I'll be part of the reviews of History and a monster hybrid set of medical departments (orthopaedics, obs&gyn, surgical sciences, and paediatrics). I'll also be part of the PPH Supervisory Committee review of Wycliffe Hall (this week) and in Trinity on the review of PPE, which I imagine is close to the hearts of lots of Council members. Get in touch if you have any views you want to share on any of those institutions.

Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

Hi Council –

I hope you're all had restful breaks, and are feeling ready for Hilary. There are lots of exciting things going on this term, and I for one am excited. As always, if you have any questions about anything below, get in touch with me at women@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

xAnna

Sexual Health & Sexual Violence

Consent Workshops

I've run a couple of training sessions for Consent Workshop facilitators who are running workshops this term, and am gearing up to run trainings for the Queering Consent Workshops, which I have finished drafting. There are a couple of bits of consultation and feedback still to come in, but have no doubt that they will be all set to go for LGBT History Month in February.

I am meeting with Lindsay (Disabled Students Officer) and Marie Tidbull (a student who has done work around this area) to start thinking about a consent / SRE programme that could be offered to disabled students.

I'm also starting to prep for strategizing how the next six months of this work will go, as continuing to expand the Freshers' Workshops is a manifesto priority of Aliya (Women's Campaign Officer), and Lucy (VP (Women)-elect).

I have run a mock Sexual Consent Workshop and discussion session with members of the Thames Valley Police team, working towards thinking about better Sex and Relationships Education in the Thames Valley.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will ... expand and develop the programme ... [and] introduce compulsory freshers' workshops in 1/3 colleges by the beginning for next year.'

Other Training

I have run a number of First Respondent Training sessions, and the response has been really positive. I will be running more throughout term – so if you'd like one in your college get in touch!

Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.

Harassment Policies

This has been probably the biggest win since last Council – the University has updated its Harassment Policy and Procedure! This has been a major piece of work for a number of years of people in my position, and I am so proud to have brought it this far.

We have appointed the chair of the inter-campaign Harassment Policy Working Group, Alice Vac, and are gearing up to run Equipping Sessions for colleges this term. WomCam is hosting the first on Monday of 1st.

Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.

Free Periods

I have started to get information from other student unions that have successfully absorbed the tax on sanitary products (5% as they are a "luxury" not a "necessity"), and met with students about partnerships that OUSU will hopefully be forming with MoonCup.

Academic Attrition

I have set the date for the Humanities and Social Science Ask-a-Grad panels, and planned their promotion with the OUSU Communications team (this was the only major issue with the panels we ran last term). I have had really positive responses from the Divisions, who will be hosting them in department buildings and are recommending some of the panelists.

Editing the videos from last term has been a little stalled, but will happen in time to promote the new ones. I also have agreement from three Divisions (Humanities, Social Sciences and MPLS) to run the panels as partnerships in Michaelmas of next year, which should make the panels better and more sustainable.

I am preparing to launch an OUSU Women's Mentoring Scheme in 8th Week of Hilary, and have agreement from three Divisions (Humanities, Social Sciences and MPLS) to run pilot programmes of the academic stream of the Mentoring Scheme. This means that they will provide the academics who will mentor students, and OUSU will provide the framework, resources, and students.

With WomCam, I have submitted a motion to NUS Women's Conference that, if passed, will see the expansion of the NUS's 'I Will... Lead the Way' mentoring scheme to women in STEM.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will work closely with the Graduate Women's Officer to hold events that encourage undergraduate women to consider further study, including open nights in STEM departments, and Ask a Grad events in colleges.'

Women in Leadership

I have selected all of the participants and facilitators of the OUSU Women's Leadership Development Programme, and am preparing for the first large training session of the programme, on Thursday 22nd. I am training the facilitators on Friday 16th, and trained the facilitators of the St John's College MCR micro-programme on Thursday 15th.

Three of four trainers are confirmed, and the fourth is on the way! (Hopefully confirmed by Council...)

Manifesto pledge: 'I will make the continuation and expansion of OUSU's Women's Leadership Development Programme a priority. I want to enable facilitators to run parallel events in colleges and departments...'

Linking Women

I ran a termly conference for women's officers and other people involved in working for women in Oxford. Attendance was not as hoped, but otherwise it went really well – I have thought seriously about how to change this for Hilary Term and will be working make sure that it is better publicized further ahead of the time.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Women's Campaign Officer to formalize a termly conference for college women's officers and campaign reps...'

Campaigns

WomCam

As I've written above, I will be running an Equipping Session with WomCam for students who wish to change their colleges' Harassment Policies on Monday 19th. I am also working closely with WomCam to plan a Reproductive Justice Week (3rd Week), in particular organizing the Monday meeting event with Abortion Rights.

It Happens Here

It Happens Here has elected two new co-chairs (Eden Tanner and Tiana Dias), and I have worked closely with them to plan and start working on Anti-Violence Valentine's and another event earlier in term. Anti-Violence Valentine's will be a full afternoon event for about 100 participants, which includes a panel, workshops, and a keynote speaker. It's going to be great.

We're also doing some exciting work with an organization called Code 4 Rights – more info to come as things get firmed up.

Team Projects

I have been working with Ruth and Louis on the OUSU Student Awards, and with Ruth and James on Negotiation Training, both of which are coming up in the next couple of weeks.

I am going to be covering the International Students' Campaign as part of covering for the VP (Graduates), and will also be taking full sub responsibility for Student Parents.

Events and Committees

- Meeting of Full Time Women's Officers at UK Student Unions (15th December)
- NUS Women's Campaign Activist Network meeting (12th January)
- Joint JCR and Grad PresCom (13th January)
- WomCam: Harassment Policy Equipping Session (19th January)
- Make Change Happen! Negotiation Training (20th January)

Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council! I hope you all had lovely vacs, and are #ReadyforHilary.

Over the vac, I have been:

1. Mostly on holiday, and now very excited and ready for this term

2. Booking speakers, and rooms for *Make Change Happen!*, my new campaign leadership programme, and training facilitators. The programme is modelled on the *Women's Leadership Development Programme*, and has sessions on relationship building, negotiation and measurable impacts.
3. With Anna and James, creating a negotiation training, which currently has 50 participants signed up.
4. With Louis and Anna, organizing the new OUSU Student Awards happening in 3rd week, which is going to be great. It's been really inspiring reading the nominations – particularly those for Outstanding Individual Contribution.
5. Organising a Voter Registration Week for 3rd week. If you want to get involved, email me! We're going to be running stalls, and generally telling people how they can register and why they should. I'm also going to help put on college-based events.
6. Reading many insurance policies for RAG, and working with the exec to recruit a new RAG Co-ordinator, which is going to make such a huge difference to RAG and to everything else in my portfolio! This term, we have Jailbreak, Blind Date, RAG Run, #smash500 week and lots more college-based events. We're also going to collaborate for the first time with clubs and socs on fundraising events!
7. Lobbying members of General Purposes Committee to adopt the list of recommendations from E&E on divestment
8. Working with the whole sab team and with the Community Wardens on getting in touch with Castle Mill residents
9. Meeting with the University about getting them to accredit as Living Wage employers, and celebrating that Hertford College became the first ever Oxford College to accredit.

Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Hey comrades, I hope you had a fab Christmas vac! Here's some of the things I've been working on (and will be working on) this term. Get in touch with queries on any of them, or if you want to get involved!!!

Introducing liberation reps: In 2nd week (date/time/venue to be confirmed) there will be a big meeting to support anyone (common room officer or not) who wants to introduce BME reps, disability reps and LGBTQ reps in their common rooms. Come along for advice, guidance, useful documents, and the chance to meet others launching the same campaigns in their colleges.

Disability Awareness Week: 7th week of this term will be Disability Awareness Week: a week to celebrate disabled students in Oxford. I will be organising events (and encourage other groups to organise events too, e.g. intersectional events), but the biggest campaign of the week will be to create video testimonials of students talking honestly about what it's like to be a disabled person and to be a disabled student. Get in touch if you'd like to participate!

LGBT History Month: February is LGBT History Month. I will be organising events and campaigns in conjunction with the relevant people to ensure that February of this year focuses on those parts of 'LGBTQ' which are often ignored, with a particular focus on ace and trans people.

Supporting officers: I will be providing a training session to welfare reps at the end of the term, as well as forums for both welfare reps and LGBTQ reps later in the term.

Sexual and mental health: I will be focusing on providing posters, leaflets, cards etc. to common rooms with information on mental health, sexual health, welfare etc. services within the university and Oxford generally, so that students are always aware of the multitude of services available for them.

Thanks Council: once again, get in touch or ask questions!!

Part-Time Executive Officers

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hi Council!

I'm Marina, and I'm really excited to be starting as your Graduate Academic Affairs Officer. I was sorry to hear that Yasser had resigned, and I wouldn't get the chance to work with him this term and next. As a result, I've been thrown in at the deep end somewhat! I'm currently helping to cover some of Yasser's portfolio – I will be sitting on lots of University committees this term until a new VP (Grads) comes into office, and I am in close contact with the other sabs to ensure that graduates are properly represented in all OUSU's work. All this means that my manifesto pledges will probably take a bit of a back seat this term, but the main areas I want to investigate over the course of the year are: the gender gap at Master's and DPhil level; the quality of taught Master's courses; and greater support for graduates, especially in terms of standards of supervision and the role of college advisors. If you want to chat about anything, drop me an email on gradacaff@ousu.org :) Happy Hilary!

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Support Officer

- 1) Met with President Trup, Monday 12th, to discuss plans and designs for upcoming term.
 - a) Student awards
 - i) Nominations; short-listing process; event and presentations.

- b) Website
 - i) Discussed how best to improve OUSU's online organisation and presentation of the university's clubs and societies.
 - ii) Trup agreed to organise a meeting with Katie Law (Digital Communications), to discuss further.
 - c) Start-up 'handbook'
 - i) Discussed drafting a handbook guide to clubs and societies and how to start them, working alongside Clare Brennan (University Clubs Officer) to finalise and publish it.
 - d) Raising money - considered how best to go about it; needs further thought.
 - e) 'Inter-collegiate exhibitions / fairs'
 - i) Mentioned idea to run semi-regular fairs at colleges, wherein a college exhibits its societies, runs events/concerts/talks/meetings etc. open to all university students – by way of encouraging wider social interaction between colleges.
- 2) Contacted Joe Reason (Common Room Support) with regards '1)e)i'

Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer

Last term I had my handover meeting with Adam, the previous LGBTQ Officer, and he went through protocol and the projects he's done, as well as giving me some useful advise.

So far, I've sent out an email to all LGBTQ Reps asking them to get in touch detailing what they do in their role at their college, and what welfare support is available for queer students. I've heard back from half-two-thirds of JCR Reps and no MCR Reps as yet. This term I want to work on reducing the disparity of LGBTQ provision across different colleges and between JCRs and MCRs. This may involve creating a buddy system to pair up colleges with lots going on and ones without an established queer community, or creating a regular meet-up for Reps. I will also work on finishing the guide for Reps so that they have a better idea of what their role is and how to do it. I also want to create a clear database which is regularly updated of all the Reps, both undergraduate and graduate.

I went to the Grad Women's meeting which was useful for me to meet some MCR LGBTQ Reps as well as hearing what sexual health provision and other projects Zuleyka has planned.

This term I also want to work on planning the Transition Fund which I mentioned in my manifesto, which I will discuss with Chris (Welfare Officer) soon. I will also get in touch with some Oxford based queer charities to see how we can collaborate.

Aliya Yule – Womens' Campaign Officer

Over the holiday, I have worked with the WomCam committee to prepare a term card for this term (see below). Most of the events have been finalised and speakers have been confirmed for this term. Please can college Women's Officers / Gender Equality Reps share the term card with their JCRs and MCRs. An email will be sent to the WomCam mail list with all this information – if you'd like to join the mail list please email womensofficer@ousu.org.

We have also selected a Zine editor and a theme (Irrationality), and have begun accepting submissions for the WomCam zine which will launch in 8th Week.

The liberation working group chairs have also prepared a liberation 101 handbook, which I am editing and will be finalised and available online within the next week.

I have also been working with our Publicity Officer to get the WomCam website updated. WomCam is back on Twitter, using the handle @womcam – follow us to see what we’re up to and stay up to date with events!

I have had meetings with the new International Women’s Officer to create a working group, and have been working with the Women with Disabilities Working Group chairs to expand the group and publicise it more widely. We also held elections for new positions on the WomCam committee, and I look forward to working with the new members of committee!

I also attended the meeting of Graduate Women, LGBTQ and Welfare Officers in 0th week, organised by the new Grad Women’s Officer. I hope to work with more graduates over the year.

Monday Event	Title
1 st	Harassment Policy & Elections
2 nd	Sex Workers & Uni
3 rd <i>Reproductive Justice Week!</i>	Monday – Abortion Rights w / Anna Bradshaw Tuesday – History of Reproductive Justice & women of colour working group Wednesday – Sexpression Workshop Thursday – Women with disabilities and reproductive justice Sat – Action for Trans Health workshop; Screening & discussion of Obvious Child?
4 th	Making WomCam Zine
Sunday 14 th Feb	Anti-Violence Valentine’s Day – art event collaboration w/It Happens Here
5 th	Somerville Equalities Week – Bystander Intervention Training
6 th	Queer Women’s Group Event
7 th	Invisible Illnesses & Spoon Making – Women with Disabilities Workshop
8 th	Celebration of Women – spoken word, music, open mic night, ZINE LAUNCH

David Parton – Health and Welfare Officer

Hi Council,

I'm David, your new part-time Health and Welfare Officer. As you probably know I've only just started my role and so have not really had much time to effectively begin working on my manifesto pledges.

However, I have met with Jamie, the previous Health and Welfare Officer, to help with the handover and he's told me of the work he has been doing in the last year and what work I could continue with, alongside my own ideas.

I also went to the meeting of Grad Women, LGBTQIA+ and Welfare Officers organised by Zuleyka, our fantastic new Grad Women's Officer, where the feedback from the discussions has given me a strong idea, of the people I can work with to meet my pledges and of the sort of areas I can help other Officers with.

I've planned a meeting with Chris Pike in 1st week to further plan my work and focus for the rest of the term, and hope to make quick progress on beginning to effectuate my manifesto pledges.

David

Nikhil Venkatesh –Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer

I have already begun working on my manifesto pledge of increasing the number of common rooms with their own BME Officers, having been in contact with students who would like to introduce such roles in their JCRs. I am also planning to meet with the only MCR to currently have such a role (Balliol) to understand what BME Officers can do for graduate students across Oxford. I have also drafted the Executive's statement deploring the planned expansion of Campsfield Immigration Removal Centre.

Julien Coyne – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

At the end of last term I met with James (VP AcAff) to discuss my plans for my time in this role. My main personal project is to create some kind of way for student academic representatives across the university to share what they've been doing with each other, so that there's generally more knowledge amongst representatives about what's going on, and more knowledge of avenues to address issues they might care about (feedback on exams, for instance.) If you're interested in this I would love your help/opinions! Send an email to academicaffairs@ousu.org.

This term, besides that, I'll be working with James and others on the OUSU Education Vision document, which will be a document to say what students expect from an education at Oxford. (It will be useful to have this in order to lobby the university for things. This is especially relevant because there's a review of the university as a whole happening in 2016: it's my understanding that we're kind of preparing this document for that.) Writing this document and making sure it doesn't forget about anybody will involve lots of research and talking to students this term!

It is always useful to have more people involved, so do email me if any of this sounds interesting to you. (Mere curiosity is a fine reason to inquire.)

Zuleyka Shahin – Graduate Womens’ Officer

Hello All,

I am excited to be able to provide my first ever report:

Just to reiterate my manifesto pledges:

Represent anyone who identifies with, experiences, and/or personifies the term(s) *woman* and/or *women* however they choose to interpret those terms. I seek to foster dialogue, create access, secure opportunities and make voices heard.

- ✓ Start **WEEKLY OPEN ‘DROP-IN’ CLINICS**: one-on-one and circulating across MCRs. INVITE ME!
- ✓ Ensure easier access to **condoms, sexual health** advice, **contraception** and/or **reproduction rights/options**.
- ✓ **Dialogue** with those who do and do not identify as *women* who may wish to speak about their needs, questions, worries or issues.
- ✓ Start monthly **forums** exploring bodies, art, sex, gender and sexuality open to any sex, any gender. Masturbation and my body.
- ✓ Secure better access to **childcare**. Provide support for any **sex workers** amongst the student body.
- ✓ Represent the rights/interests of *women* with **financial difficulties**: payment, tuition and college fees.
- ✓ Combat **misogyny, transphobia, homophobia and racism** as experienced in MCRs and beyond, through lobbying for stricter recourse and a better implementation of a ‘no-tolerance’ policy. REPORTING.
- ✓ Working with existing community groups and organisations to ensure well-funded, well-supported **events**. Bridging between undergraduate and postgraduate *women*.

- ✓ Strengthening alumni networks for *women* to ensure more opportunities for entering the workplace.
- ✓ Continuing to combat **sexual violence** and the victimisation of *women*. CONSENT WORKSHOPS
- ✓ Work with the **Disabled Students Officer** to better serve *women* who may be service-users

Things achieved so far (Week 0):

1. Meeting of Women's, LGBTQIA+ and Welfare Officers [13 Jan 2015]

- I have been working since the election results to put together a meeting of Graduate Women's Officers from across various MCRs for Hilary Week 0.
- On Tuesday 13 January 2015 I hosted a meeting in which all colleges were asked to send a delegate to the meeting. Where there was no Women's Officer, a Welfare Rep (sometimes Female Welfare) was sent. Where there was an LGBTQIA+ Officer, they too were invited. **In total 21 colleges sent delegates, totaling 27 representatives.** OUSU LGBTQ, Women's Campaign and Health and Welfare PT were also present and spoke at the meeting.
- Meeting was a big success as I start to now put in place a new working structure across MCRs. They have now met me, and each other, so this should help with several projects, with providing support, with rolling our new initiatives and strengthening links to both the college reps but also grad women/non-gender binary individuals.
- Colleges are currently filling out a googledoc of practices relating to supporting women, sexual health, and other general projects they are working on so we can compare and contrast across colleges and so I know what kind of things they are doing.
- I have put a reporting system in place where colleges can inform me of incidents including prejudice experienced by women in their MCRs.
- All manifesto points discussed with provisions in place to get all aspects moving.
- Officers are now contacting me with various ways I can better support them and women across MCRs.
- I am also now assisting a few colleges with how to go about installing new positions for Women's Officers.
- Emails have been sent out to all delegates asking them to sign-up for Negotiator Training as many expressed a desire for such training!

Some of the projects discussed and initiatives taking place:

- ✓ Working with Chris Pike to improve sexual health/reproductive justice issues. This was the main project discussed at the meeting. We used the session to hear from various colleges about their practices. This project has been off the back of calls by graduates (women and LGBTQ) for access to better sexual health. This currently culminates in two projects

1. Helping colleges install a more efficient and extensive system of having sexual health provisions available, favoring having open boxes including condoms, lube, dental dams, info on contraception/PEP/Prep/sexual health
2. Sexual Health packs to be given out in Week 0 Michelmas 2015 to each and every grad.

I can provide emails that have been sent out should anyone wish to see. VP Women and VP Welfare & Equalities are CC'd on everything and are up to date with all developments.

2. Answering emails, dealing with queries

3. Attended Week 0 WomCam meeting.

- ✓ Week 2 I am hosting an event on student sex work and we have invited outside speakers to a panel. I will be there in my capacity as Grad Women's Officer. Currently planning this.

4. Weekly Clinics

I have asked for an invitation from colleges to do my 90 minute clinic sessions, open to anyone to come talk to me about women's issues. Week 1 will be in Balliol and currently I am gathering all my invitations from other colleges and responding. Each week I will be visiting one college.

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Dear all,

I'm Henna the new Access and Admissions Officer. So far I've just been getting settled into my role but I have plenty of plans for the term ahead, including organising a reception to the REACH Scholars, getting more involved with Target Schools and beginning to work on improving the resources available to and sharing of information between JCR Access and Outreach Officers across the University. Hopefully this should all get underway very soon so that by the next couple of Council meetings I can update you on the progress I've made.

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hello Council,

I'm Joe, your newly elected Common Room Support Officer. First off, Will (previous CRSO) ran his handover meeting with me last term and took me along to the final President's Committee (PresCom) of last term. I have since attended the large undergrad and grad PresCom held last week.

By the time you read this I will have updated the contact details for all the OUSU Reps and made contact via email with all of them. I will have held my first drop-in session before this council (hopefully with a good turnout) and had the chance to meet some of the OUSU Reps face-to-face. If you are an OUSU Rep and have not made contact with me, please send me an

email just to say hello on commonrooms@ousu.org. I look forward to working with you all over this term ☺.

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students’ Officer

One of the biggest things I want to focus on as Disabled Students Officer is lobbying for disability initiatives to be given more of a focus in the university budget. I’ve built a survey which I’m sending out to disabled students so that they can offer their feedback about what it’s like to be at Oxford while disabled, and then I plan on taking this information to the administration, including the new Student Services Director and the head of the Disability Advisory Service. Hopefully we can have the development office begin to fundraise specifically for disabled students, which will become more and more important as austerity measures cut the UK disabled students allowance.

I also would like to run some awareness campaigns, and host a “Disability Husting” with local candidates for the upcoming election.

Divisional Board Representatives

Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate

Hi Council! I'm looking forward to an interesting and productive term. I'm going to attend the NUS Course Rep Conference later in the term in order to pick up tips about how I can better serve students. I've also joined the Social Sciences Divisional Library Committee which I will attend along with all the others necessitated by part of my role. In the last few committees of last term I discussed issues raised by the NSS survey and hopefully this term will be able to work on getting some improvements particularly regarding mark schemes. I'll also be working on fulfilling more of my manifesto pledges. As always if there is anything at all I can help with, then please get in touch - it's what I'm here for!

Raj Dattani – Medical Sciences – Undergraduate

Report to First Week OUSU Council

1. My apologies for not being to attend in person: I am away at a Symposium I founded in London.
2. I last reported by way of written report at 7th Week Council, here I detail events which have occurred in the intervening period.
3. The Divisional Undergraduate Studies Committee met on the 21/11/14 and considered changes to Clinical School Admissions. This matter had last been formally considered at meetings in Trinity Term 2012/13. In the meanwhile an internal Review of the of the Standard Medical Course had been underway and this had considered the matter. The proposal for changes was due to go to the Divisional Education Committee in a matter of weeks and then to the Board at the end of term for decision.

4. I was concerned that I could not reasonably represent student views on the matter and I felt there had been insufficient consultation with students. As such I liaised with the VP AcAff (James Blythe) and the President of Osler House Club and we decided to send out an e-survey to all medical students. I also informed the President of our plans.

5. The said survey received a response rate of 42.7% of medical students in less than a week. These results were presented to the Head of Division and the Associate Head (Education) at a meeting on the morning of 02/12/14. This resulted in the results being presented to the Education Committee and also to the Board.

6. I feel that the result of this process is analogous to the sentiments of Robin Cook's famous epitaph. I am glad that we were able to ensure student opinion was gathered in a short period of time. This would have not been possible without the strong support of James and the President; I am very grateful for this. I must also thank the Head of Division for granting permission for the survey to be presented to the Board and the Associate Head (Education) for granting permission for the survey to be presented to the Divisional Education Committee.

7. In my last report I mentioned an issue with regard to the funding of the Bodleian Health Care Libraries. Whilst I made very strong representations to the Board on this matter, they declined to grant further funding at the moment. The Division makes larger contributions than others to the Bodleian under the new 123 mechanism and I can see understand the Board's reluctance. I am liaising with James to try and bring this matter to Curators or failing that to PRAC.

8. In relation to the above I have managed to secure a trial of the resource that I have been campaigning for: BMJ BestPractice. Should this be successful then an application to the Nuffield Oxford Hospitals Fund (NHOF) can be considered.

9. In relation to the Bus Pass Discount scheme proposed by the outgoing VP Graduates, I managed to steer a paper through Education Committee and the Board providing Divisional support. I understand that the UAS have now agreed to including students and are in the process of setting up the necessary online systems to administer this. I feel this would be a concrete "win" in terms of tangible benefits secured for students via OUSU.

10. In the coming term I will continue to attend Board, Education Committee, CLiPS and JCC meetings and will keep Council updated in due course.

RS Dattani
17/01/15

Hilary Chow – Social Science – Postgraduate

Achievements:

1.

I have consulted academic representatives on several issues I have highlighted from the Graduate Studies Committee, namely the support for minority students, the merit classification, and application fee.

2.

I have identified the issue of overcrowding and have consulted the relevant representatives and administrators.

3.

I have attended a divisional board meeting.

4.

I have consulted people on the English support non-native speakers has after feedback from teaching assistants.

5.

I have completed the mailing list for all academic representatives.

6.

I have met with the Vice-President (Graduates) and Academic Representation Officer on my next moves after my consultation.

7.

I have discussed with the Language Centre upon receiving feedback from teaching assistants on the level of English of some master's students.

Reports:

1.

In the latest divisional board meeting, we have discussed several issues. The issue that's the most relevant to students probably is graduate employment statistics. You're very welcome to talk to me about them although I only have gotten the data for bachelor's graduates.

2.

I have consulted you on whether you would like the libraries to extend their opening hours, and how it should prioritise. The result is a 100% yes, and 45% for weekend hours.

3.

The general results of my consultation on several issues are that: there is no support for an application fee raise but much objection and that there is a general support for having a standardised merit classification in taught master courses.

4.

I have drafted a motion on application fee to be debated in council.

5.

I now also sit on the library committee meeting for social sciences.

Plans:

1.

I shall be presenting a paper to the GSC on the application fee issue.

Julien Coyne – MPLS - Undergraduate

In the second half of last term I went to the second of the twice-termly MPLS Divisional Board meetings, and heard about what issues are being faced in the division. A staff member of MPLS, Jared Hutchings, takes me through the agenda of these meetings beforehand so that I can follow the discussions that are happening - this is extremely useful and hope that other divisional representatives get this kind of support. (If some don't, maybe someone should ask particular people to give it to them?)

I also attended the Undergraduate Joint Consultative Forum for MPLS. This is a meeting of the division's undergraduate department reps. It's a useful meeting for finding out who the other department reps are, and for letting them know what's going on in the division. It's not so good for sharing information between departments or with me. (And I'd quite like to know more about their work.) I am going to try to think of ways to improve this kind of communication this term.

(Email me if you have thoughts; ug-mpls@ousu.org)

I'll also be wearing my div-rep-hat when working on the Education Vision document (See my report as Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer) this term. I'll be gathering information from MPLS department reps, etc. I will also be serving on a committee this term to discuss the future of the Radcliffe Science Library.

Kristina Carney – Humanities – Postgraduate

Since we last met I attended a Finance Induction meeting held by the Humanities Divisional Board (HDB). This meeting went over the various costs, expenses, and funding of the Humanities Division. On Tuesday I will be attending the HDB Graduate Studies Committee. One issue that I plan to bring up is the classroom and lecture space available for graduate students (something I also brought up at the last HDB meeting). After that I will be meeting with the HDB education officer to set up the Humanities Graduate JCC group for this term. This will allow me to meet with the representatives of each department within the humanities. I have finally received the contact information of these representatives and I look forward to working with them.

Student Trustee Report

James Elliot, William Neaverson and Eden Tanner

January 17th, 2015

Student Trustee Meeting, January 2015

Eden, William and James met in 0th Week of Hilary 2015 to discuss how they would approach their terms as Student Trustees. It was agreed that the following portfolios would be taken up by each trustee:

James: Personnel committee, Quinquennial Review Working Group

William: Finance committees and the Complaints Working Group

Eden: Risk committee, Deputy Chair of the Trustee Board

It was also agreed that William would give the Council Report in Hilary Term 2015, James in Trinity Term 2015 and Eden in Michaelmas 2015. We agreed that we would report discussions from both the Trustee Board and our own smaller meetings.

Together we decided to consult, in line with our manifesto pledges, Amelia Foster and Louis Trup on the extent of confidentiality of agenda items of Trustee Board meetings. We hope to be able to consult students more widely on our actions as Trustees, and therefore having a clear statement of the extent to which we can discuss details of agenda items and papers will be useful in carrying out our work.

Trustee Board Meeting, November 2014

The Trustee Board met 28th November at 2:30pm, and minutes were circulated on Monday, 19th January 2015 in advance of First Week Council.

There were no substantial issues with the minutes of the previous minutes, and all items below the line were kept that way.

CEO Report

Amelia Foster (OUSU CEO) gave a report on her work.

Report from the Finance Committee Chair

James Hunt (External Trustee, Chair of Finance Committee) gave an update on the work of Finance Committee. It stated it was happy with the state of the OUSU accounts and was expecting a report from auditors, to be approved by the Trustee board in January, in the coming

days. A slight surplus was reported due to a technicality surrounding property cost. He expressed that the Finance Committee was largely unhappy with the work completed by auditors, Critchley's, and as such would be moving to hire a new auditor in time for the next financial year. Finalised accounts would be presented on 4th December, 2014.

Student Media

Louis Trup (OUSU President) informed the board of the activities of OUSU's Student Media. We were told that the student radio service, Oxide, had borrowed a computer from OUSU since their University-provided computer had broken. It was stressed this was a temporary measure.

Report from Chair of Council

Louis Trup gave a report on behalf of the Chair of OUSU Council (Anna Bazley) on its work in Michaelmas 2014. The board were expecting a fuller report, perhaps with a submitted paper from OUSU Council. We expressed our disappointment that the Chair of Council was not available, and a written report was not sent in place. We request that given the attempts the Trustee board has made to reach out to OUSU Council, a certain degree of reciprocity is expected. Louis provided a brief run-through of the Free Education Motion and its fallout, as well as the accessibility, executive and governance motions.

Complaints Procedure

Following a paper presented to the board by **Nick Cooper** (Chair of Complaints Committee), a series of short-term fixes to the complaints procedure were made. These were to delete the list of possible offices about which a complaint could be made, to remove the references to Council in the Complaints Procedure and to standardise wording between Bye-Laws 27 and 32 and the Complaints Procedure.

Following discussion on several other proposed long-term amendments, it was also decided that the board would rebuild the complaints procedure from 'first principles', by forming a **Complaints Procedure Working Group**. The volunteers for this group were **Chris Pike** (VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities), **Richard Jackson** (External Trustee), **William Neaverson** (Student Trustee) and **Ruth Meredith** (VP Charities and Communities). Their paper is due for submission by the end of January.

Quinquennial Review

Margery Infield (Ex-Student Trustee) updated board positions on several key topics. It was agreed that:

1. The board would anchor policy in the articles of association with the University, but try not to be over-prescriptive.
2. Sabbs should be automatically elected as Student Trustees
3. The issue of the University being a corporate member of OUSU was agreed to not be overly important, given its minimal impact and how difficult it would be to negotiate.

Louis explained the paper regarding Student Trustees, suggesting several modifications to the position of Student Trustee.

The first suggestion was to *increase the number from 3 to 5*. This is to increase the balance of non-remunerated Trustees from just over 50%, the legal limit, to a slightly safer number, such that the board remains legal even if one non-remunerated Trustee steps down. The board was in large agreement that this is a good idea.

The second suggestion was to *allow Trustees to run for two terms*. The board believed this would be a good idea, as Trustees could then gain more institutional knowledge, and have continuity of projects over longer periods of time.

The third suggestion was to *move the election for the Student Trustee positions to Hilary Term*. This received mixed feedback. The logic was that by running the election simultaneously with the other elected positions, the position of Trustee becomes 'politicized' and otherwise-competent candidates would be deterred from running. This fits in with a view of Trustees as apolitical entities, whose skill should be in impartially overseeing the work of the political union. The new Student Trustees *disagree strongly* with the idea of attempting to depoliticise the role, and, moreover, point to the excellent Student Trustees we have seen over the past few years. James Elliott believes trustees will only be 'depoliticised' over his dead body. We believe that Oxford University students when voting are capable of choosing candidates that fit the role well. Moreover, we are confident that apolitical candidates can still run independently, and become Trustees.

Deputy President

The final paper, presented by **James Blythe** (VP Access and Academic Affairs), detailed a procedure for deputising the role of President of OUSU in the event that they are suddenly suspended or unable to fulfil the office. The paper resolves that the full-franchise sabbatical officers of OUSU (VP Access and Academic Affairs, VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities and VP Charities and Communities), will draw lots to decide when each officer is this 'deputy' President should such an eventuality happen, and 'serve' for one term each. The board was in broad agreement with this principle, and praised James for planning this contingency.

Telephone Conference on the Auditor's Report, December 2014

As required, the Trustee Board entered into a telephone conference in December 2014 to approve the Auditor's Report presented by Critchley's. The conversation was very short, and the board unanimously agreed to approve the report, which had previously been circulated by email.