



## reports to 1st week council michaelmas 2005

**Emma Norris**

**President**

**Dear Council,**

Apparently the summer is renowned as being a relaxing period for the president. Whilst it certainly wasn't as busy as the past few weeks have been, quite a lot has been done, as discussed below. Freshers' Fair itself went fantastically; all three days were full, including the new 'Refreshers' Fair' aimed at those students who might have missed it first time round. Huge thanks to everyone who helped both in organisation and on the campaign and committee stalls. Now on to what's happened so far:

1. **OUSU central grant:** For those of you that don't know, OUSU is seeking a HEFCE grant from the university. All other SUs get them, but because of Oxford's collegiate structure, money goes to common rooms but not the central SU. Thus we have to find other ways of funding. As you know, our commercial funding is by nature unstable, so to ensure we are able to continue the current level of service and representation, stable money is being discussed with the University. I have submitted reports on how OUSU currently spends its HEFCE grants and costings of all the services we provide. Discussions seem positive at the moment, and we have been granted attendance rights at a meeting of the Project and Resource Allocation Committee when we will make our case further later this term.
2. **Legal advice over OSSL:** I met with Jonathan Anelay, the University lawyer we have contact with, in mid-August to talk about some of the concerns Council had over the roles of shadow directors in particular. Attached to this report is the advice I received.
3. **The policy book** has been updated to include all policy passed last year, and excluding all the policy that has now expired. My predecessor had the idea of arranging the booklet by date, but this made it impossible to find anything (oh John..) so I've reverted back to "thematic" order. Copies are available from me. They will also be sent to every JCR committee next week.
4. **Charities Law.** Another admin/ technical issue. You must be finding this very exciting. You probably all know that the charities law is changing so student unions will either have to be incorporated into university structures, or register as normal charities and be governed by the Charity Commission. Neither is ideal so we're seeking further advice for the NUS. I have produced a quick 'guide' to Charities Law and Student Unions for those that want it.
5. **Oxford Students Scholarship.** This is the scholarship that OUSU runs with the International Students' Office (ISO). It works to have colleges and JCRs subsidise the fees and living costs of a student accepted from a financially or politically difficult background. In recent years the scheme has been a bit neglected, as no colleges accepted an OSS student last year. So I worked with the ISO to revise the letter sent to colleges, and create a small "pack" on what the OSS is about. Having sent that out, we have already had 3 replies from colleges wanting to take such a student.
6. **Elections.** Although we've only just started, soon it'll be time to elect our successors. Nominations open Thursday of 3<sup>rd</sup> week. The Returning Officer Daryl Leeworthy has been doing a fantastic job contacting common rooms about ballot boxes and election rules, to try

and avoid the problems of last year. This year's election regulations will need to go through council today.

7. **College Inequality.** This is going to be a headline campaign this year. This term's work will be research-based, and should have a new 'college inequality report' written by Christmas. I need JCR representatives to provide all sorts of information to make this happen, so please be prepared to spend a few hours getting figures from your college when I ask... You'll see new postcards around advertising the fortnightly meetings of College Inequality Campaign – Thursdays at 5.
8. **Socially Responsible Investment** is another headline campaign this year. We're in discussion with the University, through JCC, about their investments. We're coming to a bit of a deadlock in terms of information at the moment; certain university figures seem unwilling to expand on the rather short answers our questions have received. But we're hopeful that with committed activists and excellent research by Tom Dale and others, our concerns will not be ignored. The next University Council is in 5<sup>th</sup> week, and this may well be something we take for discussion.
9. **OUSU Cards** are something I expect many of you will be asking about. Chris and I have been working hard to get these out on time, so I'm very sorry that there is a delay. To produce the cards we need the names of all undergraduates; this is what has proved difficult. The University does not obtain a list of names and colleges until 3<sup>rd</sup> week, which is obviously too late for us. Instead we tried to get the data that OUCS has for the creation of herald accounts. We are still in negotiation with them, but hope to come to an agreement soon. I will keep OUSU reps updated once I hear from them.

I'm sure there's lots I've left out, but I hope this provides an overview of what I've been up to this summer. Ask me questions on anything you want, and otherwise enjoy the first council of term...

**Emma x**

**Chris Allan**

**V-P (Finance)**

My summer was dominated by preparations for Freshers' Week: Fourteen Zoo events, the busiest Freshers' Fair ever, 15000 Oxford Handbooks and Welfare Handbooks distributed, 80000 flyers distributed, hundreds of academic gowns sold, the radio station relaunched live at Fair (with a set from Radio 1's Mikee B), and the Freshers' edition of the OxStu going out in time for Fair. All of these projects ran with very few problems, and when put together have come in under budget.

Over the summer we also transformed the Freshers' Guide to full colour, an investment which not only made it more attractive but should also lead to greater advertising income in next year's edition.

I'm in the process of redesigning OUSU's financial tracking systems, which will lead to greater efficiency in the office and reduce the admin burden of controlling the budget and running our invoicing systems.

Similarly, I'm continuing the overall of OUSU's IT infrastructure that was started last year, with the aim of ensuring that OUSU's IT network functions properly for at least the next few years.

The Alternative Prospectus is now several months late, but is looking fantastic and will be available in the next couple of months for next year's round of applications.

I'd also like to thank the following people, without whose effort and commitment none of the above would be possible:

Rich, Morwenna, Rob, Kiran, Tom and the rest of the pubs team for the summer publications, which are all looking better than ever. Matt and Nick for a very smoothly run Freshers' Fair, and stepping in to help with everything else at the same time.

The exec, in particular Iain, Lorna, Alice and Helen, who have done so much for OUSU/OSSL projects over the past weeks that it's difficult to see how we could have survived without their bizarrely high levels of dedication. I know your efforts often went without recognition at the time, but don't think we're not all incredibly grateful. Also to those sabs involved in publications who made my job as publisher so straightforward this year. And to everyone else who's helped out, there's far too many of you to list here.

**Aidan Randle-Conde**

**Vice-President (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)**

Well, what a summer it has been. After collapsing on Trinity's lawns following the end final finals I was given a day's respite. This was very much appreciated. Handover went a mile a minute as the former sabs imparted their expansive wisdom upon us, then left for sunnier climes. This was interrupted only by the two day seminar on students with disabilities which Charlyne and I attended. It was good, and gave much food for thought.

After that things got off to somewhat of a rocky start, and I'm infinitely grateful to the exec, business team and office staff for their understanding and patience. Of course, when things get difficult it is no excuse to start getting slack about things. After mastering InDesign I got the Welfare Handbook written, with a shiny new front cover and easy-read design. I couldn't have done this without the support of so many people: Chris, Ellie, Ollie, Charlyne, housemates, University Officers, my own ego. There were many late nights and many weekends, but I'm just glad that not all the welfare issues in this place fall to me- without the other three SAS sabs I'd have had a nervous breakdown! Free ice-cream to whomever spots the most entertaining typo. (The thanks is at the back of the book, so do read!)

Publications are, in general, ongoing, moreso than I had anticipated. I am very sorry for not having the Rough Guide to Welfare ready for the start of term, but I have rewritten almost all of as the original copy had been lost for quite some time. It is in the final stages and should be out very soon. Rough Guide to Equal Opps needs some more work and I'll get onto that as soon as is humanly possible. Luckily most of the copy is still hanging around so it won't need quite the rewrite that I gave the Rough Guide to Welfare. I'd like to get the editors for the Anti-Racism Handbook, LGBT Handbook and Disability Action Guide appointed sooner than usual, so if you have time to spare in Trinity Term, and would like some extra cash then get in touch and I'll write your name down so that I can remind you nearer to the time. I've helped out as best I can with other publications too, ranging from the Oxford Handbook to the Eating Disorders Guide, Student Parent Handbook, Graduate Guide, Alternative Prospectus and Freshers' Guides. It's also entirely possible I rewrote the Oxford English Dictionary (short edition) too, I'm not entirely sure.

Other things that have happened have included the installation of a hearing loop in the OUSU offices, both portable and permanent. I'm very happy about this as it means that students with hearing impairments can now participate in OUSU activities. Unfortunately this won't work for Council, but I'm looking into what to do there. Work for students with disabilities is continuing in other areas too- I'm investigating all the alternative formats for publications and with the help of Emma Jones and Claire Chalmers this should be concluded presently, and this should not pose a major problem any time in the near future.

Perhaps highest on the list of priorities is the condom machines. I'm making a great deal of progress here. All the Common Rooms who have responded to the original correspondence have been sent more details and the final orders should be arriving soon. Thank you to all the Welfare Officers for the collective patience with this, it has taken a long time to sort out but it's worth remembering that Oxford works on different time, and as far as termtime is concerned it has only been a few weeks!

With condom machines come condoms, and despite a few outstanding payments everything seems to be fine there. If any Common Room Welfare Officers haven't picked up their 288 free condoms they should do so as humanly possible, for what is welfare without a few condoms? Very big thanks go to Maria and Gill for their tireless and faultless efforts with the distribution of condoms. It's a big job and I am glad that the workload is spread among those with the know-how (Maria and Gill) and those with the unhealthy fascination (myself). I am looking into a new supplier of condoms for the condom machines. They're called Safex, they were found by Sophie McDonnell from St Hilda's, and they are excellent. Thanks also go to Sophie and Safex!

Casework has come in steadily. Some days have been more hectic than others, but that doesn't stop the Student Advice Service continuing the good work. Thanks so much to Ellie, Ollie and Charlyne for working so hard, I think we've made a real difference with the help we've offered. The work of the Student Advice Service team often gets overlooked, but without the time and dedication of the VPs (Welfare and Equal Opps), (Women), (Graduates) and (Access and Academic Affairs) so many issues would get left unresolved. We've also taken part in training with Anne Ford, the Peer Support Coordinator, so Welfare Officers can rest assured that we have at least basic listening and communication training. I'll look into the feasibility of doing this next year too, but I for one think it went very well.

OSSL has been doing great work and I've helped out when I can, even if it's just moving boxes for them. I'd like to thank them for all the hard work the Business Team have put in over the summer- without your contribution I wouldn't even be able to begin my work properly.

The campaigns are a mixed bag at the time of writing, so I'll say more in Council. Disabilities Action is continuing to build on the good work from last term and it should be a really exciting term for the campaign. Boundless thanks to Leo and Jamie for that! I'm expecting to see many bright, shiny new people at the Queer Rights meeting and the Anti-Racism meeting this week. Hopefully there will be many enthusiastic people.

Health and Welfare has big plans, perhaps bigger than I had anticipated, and although this is rather daunting I really can't wait to get started. We should have someone talking about condoms sometime next week. It's going to be short and fun. Come to the OUSU Offices on Thursday at 12:15 for condom exploding hilarity!

Accommodation is one of those things that people always want to do something about. This year I have had the pleasure of working with Sue Jacobs, the new University Accommodation Officer who has lots of ideas about support for students who are living out, including a new website with a housing bank and free legal aid for students. Also, the Living Out Guide is being properly rewritten for the first time in many many years. This may mean that I will need to form the Accommodation Committee again to keep up with all these developments.

Freshers' Week was, as ever, hectic, exhausting, confusing and lots of fun. When I wasn't managing 3 stalls (and micromanaging 2 others) I was running errands, talking with stallholders and attending welfare teas. I would have liked to have spoken at more Common Room introductory

meetings (or at least been offered more tea!) but thanks go out to the Keble, Hilda's and St John's crew. And sleep in Freshers' Week is a good thing. I didn't get enough of it.

The sabs, Business Team and Office staff have all been lovely over the summer and the part time exec and ABMs who came back have also been great, as have the editors of all the publications. The lovely, friendly atmosphere made the summer much more manageable.

I would also like to thank Nicky for being Nicky, in only the way that she can. She has been a wonderful source of support, and though I have not been in touch as much as I should have she has been there for me whenever I have needed her. From what I can tell she is doing her best to stay out of the world of OUSU politics, but I won't let her! Thanks too to Lynsey and Bex and the rest of the old sab team- handover was a blast!

And if you get a chance to spend a week in Tuscany then do, it is a good place.

**Ellie Cumbo**

**V-P (Women)**

## **Publications**

This year, five publications have been produced as part of the VP (Women) portfolio, two of which are new, and all of which contain new information

### **The Women's Officers' Handbook**

This has been adapted for 2005-06, with a completely re-written section on justifying the existence of Women's Officers in Common Rooms, and updated information on Childcare and the structure of Women's Campaign (see below).

### **Unplanned Pregnancy: A Guide to your Options**

This has been completely redesigned, and I have also changed significant areas of the content, in the interests of clear and well-presented information. It is now explicitly stated at the beginning of the guide that it is for both men and women to read, although it is addressed to women, and the importance of being tested for STIs after unprotected sex has been more prominently highlighted.

### **The Student Parent Handbook**

For the first time, this has been produced as a glossy, outsourced booklet. The content has been thoroughly updated, with particular emphasis on the funding section, to reflect the enormous and complicated changes that the University has made in recent years. The creation of the Childminding Network in January 2005, highly welcomed and already making a big difference to the lives of Student Parents, is announced on the very first page, along with news that there will be further changes to University childcare this year. I have already received very encouraging feedback from CR officers on the usefulness of this publication.

### **The Eating Disorder Guide**

All credit must go to my predecessor, Bex Wilkinson, for the creation of this new and much-needed publication. It contains clear and accurate medical descriptions of all recognised eating disorders, as well as general eating distress, as well as full details of the resources available to sufferers, both within and outside the University. Importantly, the publication also provides full and frank personal accounts written by Oxford students who have direct experience of this kind of illness. It was Bex's belief that this a large and currently insufficiently addressed problem in Oxford, and the casework and information requests that I have already had serve as confirmation of this, and so I believe this publication is a crucial addition to OUSU's services.

### **The Women's Handbook**

For the first time in several years, this will be distributed to female students this year. Originally conceived in the 1980s, the Handbook was produced for over a decade as a blend of female-specific welfare issues and issues of gender inequality in the University. The content has been changed for the 2005-06 edition to reflect the existence of the Welfare Handbook: the Women's Handbook is now an honest appraisal of gender relations in academia, clubs and societies, within colleges, and all other areas of Oxford life, written as a positive and empowering guide. Huge thanks must go to the Business Manager for securing sufficient sponsorship to give the Handbook not just to every female fresher, or even to every female undergraduate, but to every female student in the whole University. I believe that OUSU can be very proud of this addition to its list of regular publications.

### **Women's Campaign**

It has long been problematic that Women's Campaign is both a resource for Women's Officers to discuss the details of their jobs, and share ideas, and a forum for all women to discuss the issues they believe need to be addressed. To reflect this, the structure of Women's Campaign has been changed so that the first half hour of every meeting will be devoted to Women's Officers, and from half past five onwards the agenda is open to all. In line with this drive to reinvigorate the campaign, I have had four thousand flyers produced to publicise the meetings, with a brand new, image-based black-and-white design, and an explanation on the back of what Women's Campaign does and how it works. At Freshers' Fair alone, two thousand of these were picked up, and the mailing list increased nine-fold to over two hundred names, in just those three days. The first Women's Campaign of the term last Monday saw a significantly higher attendance than at any time last year, and I am confident that this trend will increase when the flyers are distributed in individual colleges.

### **Pro-Choice Campaign**

New leaflets have been produced to publicise this campaign, and in the region of two hundred were picked up at Freshers' Fair. A mailing list has also been set up which has already attracted a large number of names, male and female. The first co-chairs' meeting took place in first week, after submission of this report.

### **Casework and the SAS**

There has been a steady flow of casework on female-specific issues even before the start of term, and the four members of the SAS have established a co-operative and mutually supportive professional relationship to deal with all cases that could conceivably fall to more than one person's portfolio.

### **NUS and Oxford Brookes**

I have been in close contact with Jo Salmon over the planned campaign to raise awareness of the pay gap faced by women leaving University. I have also made contact with my part-time counterpart at Oxford Brookes, and we will in the future be discussing the issue of street safety in the city.

### **Breast Cancer Awareness**

The VP (C and C) and I have begun discussions of a charitable event to mark Wear It Pink Day on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October, with tentative ideas including a pink raffle, and the a cappella group In The Pink already booked. Wear It Pink T Shirts have already begun to sell.

### **Attack Alarms**

These have been ordered in and widely publicised, and around seventy have already been sold to colleges at £1.60 each.

I hope that this provides a clear idea of what has been done so far, and a useful indication of how I plan to fulfil the great potential of this important job over the coming academic year.

**Oliver Russell**

**V-P (Graduates)**

Since taking up office in July I have attended 21 hours of University Committee meetings including University Council, Proctors, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education), Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Preparation for Academic Practice (Steering), Curators of the Bodleian library, Education and Policy Standards Committee Graduate Skills Advisory Panel and the University Club Management Committee.

Furthermore I have written 56 pages of copy for the Graduate Guide 2005; assembled, edited, proof-checked, printed, and distributed 3,020 copies of said publication to Graduate Freshers.

I have dealt with 14 graduate students in my capacity as a member of the Student Advice Service.

I have used up 20 days of my annual leave allowance.

I have visited 19 Common Rooms at the invitation of the CR President and spoken to various assemblies of Freshers on the subject of OUSU and my role as VP(Graduates) for approximately 190 minutes.

If you want to know more then ask me a question.

In the next fortnight I anticipate (in addition to my SAS and committee duties):

- 1) meeting with and briefing the nice new Grad Exec members who you will be electing,
- 2) working on the continuing resuscitation of the International Students Committee,
- 3) visiting a further 3 Common Rooms to inform Freshers about the existence and work of OUSU.
- 4) joining the President and a delegation of about 50 Oxford students at a summit organised by the Franco-British Student Alliance on "*Student Perspectives on Corporate Responsibility to International Development*"
- 5) attending an NUS joint lobby of Parliament on the subject of the governments proposals to remove the right to appeal for international student visas.

**Charlyne Pullen**

**V-P (Access & Academic Affairs)**

Personal crises aside, it has been a long long summer and I want to thank everyone in the office who made it bearable (well almost). But having recovered from freshers' fair it's the start of my job properly, so here's a summary of what I've been doing up to now.

### **Access**

This has been the busiest part of my job over the summer, with open days and all. Target Schools ran two open days this summer, one on the 26<sup>th</sup> September at Oriel College and one on the 27<sup>th</sup> September at Somerville College. These both took large chunks of my time over the summer, not least organising the mailing. We sent letters to 2800 schools (that's all the state schools in the country). I'm not sure we will repeat this alone, but I will report more on that when anything is definite. I'd like to extend thanks to all those who helped with the envelope stuffing, which all in all took about a week, and was massively helped by the cricket being on tv!

The open days themselves saw approximately 180 students (some schools booked and then failed to arrive) being provided with an open day. The days were very successful, but the problems that arose such as lack of volunteers and disparity of school level will be addressed by Target Schools this term and brought to council in motion form. Target Schools meetings this term will be held on Wednesdays at 5pm as they were last year, but will hopefully continue the policy focus that was seen at the end of last term.

Connected to this work, I have attended a meeting of Admissions Executive and given the opportunity to sit on an Access Steering Committee which has its first meeting next week. This committee is to try and organise widening participation responsibilities across the University in a coherent fashion, to make up for the current disparity in provision across colleges and departments. To further coordination a new email list is in the process of being set up for OCAO and Target Schools together, hopefully with agreement from the Access Scheme as well soon. This was pushed at Freshers' Fair and we have got loads of signatures so well done to my co-chairs and let this be the beginning of better coordination in access work across the University.

## **NSS**

I have spent a lot of time over the summer trying to sort out what we think about the NSS, and how Oxford University Student Union can have an impact on what's being improved about it. I have been to an NUS conference about Quality Assurance and student feedback, an Education not for Sale conference, and an Aldwych conference. Working with Emma, we have written a press release on the NSS, and met with the VP Education and the NUS Student Feedback Officer to discuss the issue. There will be a review of the NSS held in 2006 once this year's survey is completed and I would very much like OUSU to be able to engage with the review even if we stay out this year. I have been trying to gauge student opinion on the NSS and will be holding an "NSS: a re-assessment" meeting of Academic Affairs Committee in 3<sup>rd</sup> week on Thursday at 5pm in the OUSU offices.

## **Academic Affairs**

Ok over the summer I have dealt with a lot of casework especially during the first few weeks of office and am getting busy again with it. If anyone has any academic problems they want to discuss with someone, feel free to get in touch with me via [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org) or give me a ring on 01865 288464.

I have met with various chairs of the committees I sit on and have been fairly positive about it all. Especially with respect to the finals gap issue, I think we may be able to make some progress on it this year, and I will be working with Ellie on this issue.

In terms of reps, we have spaces for divisional board reps, mainly graduates but one undergraduate space on Medical Sciences Divisional Board. We have spaces on three library committees, broadly split into sciences, social sciences and humanities, again for more information email me.

The writing workshop has been doing many good works, this year will be running it at OUSU on Thursdays 8-10pm and as a trial for this term, at a different college every week on Mondays 8-10pm. If any JCR presidents feel they could book us a room and get a few people to attend, just send me an email.

Libraries has also been a big issue over the summer and is set to consume the year. It is all changing, there was an article in the Gazette on 22<sup>nd</sup> September about the proposals. I won't go into it now, but if you have any questions, please feel free to ask.



So thanks for having me back council, thanks to everyone who helped over the summer with anything I've done or organised and feel free to ask me questions.

**Hannah Stoddart**

**V-P (Charities and Community)**

Please find below updates on a variety of projects I have been working on over the summer, and which I will continue to be involved in this term. Summer provided the perfect opportunity to lay the groundwork for a number of projects and also gave me the time to establish contact with local businesses and organisations who I will be working with over the coming year.

## **Community**

### **Funding**

The good news is that in the last week, HEFCE has indicated that there will be a continuation of the Higher Education Community Fund for 2006/7 and 2008/9, which is the fund that the post and some of the expenses of the VP CnC is supported by. The not so great news is that HEFCE has given no indication of the level of funds that will be available under this funding stream. I will be liaising with the relevant people regarding this matter and am hopeful that there will be continued support from the post. There are also other avenues OUSU can look into for funding should HEACF withdraw financial support.

### **Oxford Get Involved**

One of my main priorities this summer has been to get the [www.oxfordgetinvolved.org](http://www.oxfordgetinvolved.org) website improved. I managed to get funding from MAD (Make a Difference) and the Oxford One World Trust to re-design the website and add new facilities. Each organisation can now update their own profile. There is also an online calendar to advertise events, meetings etc, as well as discussion forums where groups can exchange ideas. Promotion for the website has included a flyer listing various volunteering opportunities, and a professionally designed poster to advertise the site in colleges. The only hitch is that a lot of the info for the site isn't up there yet, as the technical improvements were only completed recently, and there hasn't been time to upload information. This should be remedied within the next few days.

### **Future Outlook Alternative Careers and Volunteering Fair**

This will be taking place on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2006. There will be forums running alongside the fair in exam schools with a number of speakers who have experience in ethical careers. I have already established contact with a number of speakers and it looks like we might get some quite high profile names. Organisations have already started to book stalls.

The Future Outlook Committee will also be producing an Alternative Careers Guide which will be mailed to 5000 finalists. A member of exec will be editing the guide, and I aim to send it to print in 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> week.

SOAS and Teach First have already agreed to sponsor the guide, and there are a number of gap year organisations who are also interested. We should be able to cover the costs of production through advertising (with ethical companies) and we have funding from both HEFCE and the careers service for the event.

### **OUSU run projects**

Alongside co-ordinating volunteering and getting students involved in local groups, OUSU has its own initiatives that get students volunteering. This term I have re-launched a tutoring project in an inner city London primary school, and have had a number of meetings this week recruiting volunteers.

I have also been liaising with Alice Wilby (part time exec) about the OUSU Mentoring scheme, which was advertised on the Oxford Get Involved flyer at freshers fair.

### **CRB checks**

For all the volunteering projects that OUSU directly organises, we administer CRB checks. I run a couple of 'drop-in' days a term when students can come in and get info about filling them out. There is also a link on the Get Involved website that gives the relevant info about filling them in.

### **Oxford Inspires**

I have been liaising with Oxford Inspires over the summer to ensure maximum student involvement, and hope to get more students volunteering at the Cowley Road carnival next year. The next Liaison group meeting will be in early November, and I am currently trying to get more support and promotion of community/student events such as the poetry slam and the arts/music night at Freud this term.

### **RAG**

#### **Events**

I have organised a number of fundraising events which you can find out about on the term-card which should be circulating at council. You can also visit the updated website [www.oxfordrag.co.uk](http://www.oxfordrag.co.uk) to find out more.

#### **Electric**

I will be trying out a number of new events, including a fortnightly electronica night at Love Bar on Thursdays. Zoo has agreed to support the night with promotion and ads, though it will essentially remain an independent RAG venture, as decided in consultation with Ossl Board over the summer. It was decided that Taboo was a difficult night to get students to go to, and that the weekly responsibility for promotion was too much effort for too little gain for RAG.

#### **Wear It Pink**

Another big project this term is the Wear it Pink Breast Cancer awareness week – the Vp Women and I are working on a joint event in Wadham JCR on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> week where 'In the Pink' A Capella will be performing. We will also have 'pink drinks' and a pink raffle with prizes donated from local businesses.

#### **Poetry Slam**

Another new venture is the Poetry Slam, held at the Vaults café, which will be taking place twice a term and will provide a forum for student and 'local' performers to come along and recite some of their writings.

#### **One-off events/ Other fundraisers**

A one-off event this term will be a arts/VJ/performance night at Freud with new Pants sales – to avoid the problems faced last year with pants orders, they will now be done centrally and merely promoted through the rag reps – cheques will be sent directly to OUSU. Raids (street collections) – there will be fewer raids this term as turnout last year was rather poor, and many charities have expressed disappointment with RAG. I think it's best to have a couple a term and get a really good turnout.

#### **Sponsorship**

Unfortunately, Thirst decided to pull its sponsorship of the term-card and the t-shirts. Fortunately, the management of the Eastgate Townhouse hotel agreed for Mertons Bar to sponsor the t-shirts.

The term-cards this term were sponsored by Make A Difference, which is a project funded by Milton Keynes Council that encourages volunteering and has funds available to support initiatives in this area.

### **Environment**

I have been working closely with Environment Committee as their representative in OUSU. I plan to do a research paper on OUSU and OSSL to try to ascertain how OUSU could become a more environmentally friendly institution. The President and I are liaising with the council about getting better recycling in OUSU – our main contacts are city councillors Tony Brett and Matt Sellwood, and we will be attending Area Committee meetings to discuss student related environment issues. I will also be in touch with the Carbon Trust who can come and do a environmental audit in OUSU.

I will also be keeping track of any new university developments, so that OUSU and the Environment Committee can submit a paper outlining how to make new developments more environmentally friendly. A particular focus will be the plans for a new library complex at the John Radcliffe.

I have been attending the Sustainable Institutions Group meetings organised by Oxford Inspires to discuss how OUSU and the student body can help in the drive towards energy efficiency.

### **Social Justice and Fairtrade**

I will continue to support the Social Justice Committee and the Fairtrade coalition. I have been doing research over the summer on various corporations that OUSU/OSSL should not really be doing business with. I will submit the findings of this research in a motion to 3<sup>rd</sup> week council

I will be attending a Fairtrade conference to find out more about how to make Oxford a fairtrade university and how to get more students involved in the campaign.

<b>Rob Vance</b>	<b>Business Manager</b>
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This Summer has seen the Student Union as a hive of financial activity. The first projects were the Freshers, Guide and Mailout, which was completed on time and on budget with over £15,000 of advertising, allowing us to upgrade the entire publication to full colour. The next big project was the Oxford Handbook, which was similarly finished on time and on budget, netting a similar sum to the Freshers, Guide. The biggest publication was the Oxford and Cambridge Careers Handbook (350 Page full colour), which was edited by Cambridge but all the advertising carried was sold in Oxford. For the first time ever this netted over £100,000 with the profit split between Oxford and Cambridge. Once again the Student Union sold gowns, setting up a secure payment website to improve efficiency and cut down on overheads. Whilst we did not sell as many as last year, this was due to the equilibrium price falling prompted by competitors response to our entry into the market which means that we have lowered the price students have to pay by £20 ^ surely a success for the student union. The gowns were sourced for a cheaper price than last year and as they are a non-perishable asset the ethical fruits of our labour this summer will blossom next year.

The biggest coup of the summer was getting enough sponsorship for a women,s handbook to be printed for every woman in the university rather than just the Freshers. We also secured sponsorship for the Welfare Guide as earmarked in the OUSU budget. Freshers, Fair and Refresh were a great success this year, with more commercial stalls than ever before and full sponsorship for the first time, courtesy of Deutsche Bank ^ this enabled the investment in Refresh to take place which will now be able to generate further revenue next year by proving to graduate recruiters that we can secure 2000 2nd and 3rd Years on the third day ^ making it the first hit on the Milkround and the biggest careers fair in Oxford. We have secured a substantial amount of advertising for the Oxford Student this term based in part on the move to more colour on better

quality paper. Oxide Radio is increasingly a going commercial concern with sponsorship, advertising and endorsement income increasing, though it is unlikely to break even for a year or so. The OUSU card is ready to go, once the data from the university arrives. The decision was made by the OSSSL board to discontinue with the term-planner due to increased overheads, low advertising revenue and a belief that it was a costly and unpopular product ^ plans are in place to replace it with a diary or similar.

The summer was a big learning curve for me and I feel that we have secured a promising financial position for the student union, In doing this I have found the support of the sabbatical team and Chris Allan in particular invaluable in performing this task. I have been extremely impressed with the professionalism of the publication team in the office working on the summer publications and the Oxford Student ^ in particular thanks go to Rich Hardiman, Tom Rayner, Sian Davies, Rob Lewis, Morwenna Coniam, Kiran Stacey, Sarah Rappaport, the adorable Rachel Cornwall and Patrick for not being there ^ this year will hopefully see the Guardian award come home again. Similarly I am confident that Sam Evans and Tim Partridge will continue striving to make Oxide the best radio station in the country, with Tom Wrathmell helping from the shadows. In terms of purely the business team there is a long list of people to thank ^ firstly the ABM,s ^ Helen Bagshaw, Alison Kennedy, Rob Martin, Chee-Hung Chung, Huston Gilmore, Bryn Harris, Alan Strickland but also the members of the executive and the wider student body who devoted many unpaid but heavily valued hours to helping make OUSU money ^ in particular Lorna, Helen and Alice without whom Freshers, Fair would have been impossible. A special thanks goes to Iain Simpson for doing everything I tell him, including running the length of the High Street for no reason, and being an endless source of mirth all summer, particularly when volunteering for co-opted roles. I would also like to thank the office staff and Matt and Nick (you will do great things one day) ^ the Freshers, Fair organisers for their commitment, time and effort without which my job would have been undoable. Last but not least I have to thank Naz ^ who as ever made sure that everything was delivered on time and often at extremely short notice.

**Madhvi Pankhania**

**Entz Manager**

In Fresher's week there were thirteen ZOO club nights, eight of which were at full capacity (including Park End), four of which were very near capacity and there were only a couple of nights that were only half full but these were a likely result of the other clubs we were running. Overall fresher's week was a success for Zoo, about 80% of the tickets purchased have already been paid for, there are only a few that we are still waiting to receive and are being chased up.

In Freshers Fair we had people signing up to work with Zoo. We are currently trying to do a big staff recruitment because there are not enough people out flyering/postering and supervising on the nights. The new nights taken on this year have been the hardest to push but over the next few weeks we hope to see them obtain a regular following. There is a lot of work to be done with Zoo and we need a lot more people involved but the coming months should see Zoo expand and become more successful and profitable than it has over the last year.

The Zoo brand was pushed at Freshers Fair and will be even more so in the coming months. First week has already seen an electronica/alternative night at Ponana, RnB and hiphop night at Escape and a joint night with Hit and Run raising money for the access scheme.