

## Reports to Council

1<sup>st</sup> Week Council Micheltmas Term 2013

Tom Rutland

President

Evening Council,

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Tom, your Student Union President for this academic year. I graduated with a degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from Jesus College in June and started working with the other sabbatical officers in 9<sup>th</sup> Week of Trinity Term - so we've been hard at work all summer! Here are some of the things I've been working on:

### OUSU Funding and Strategic Priorities

My key campaign pledge was to increase OUSU's funding and improve the situation whereby the University provides us with less than 25% of the Russell Group average funding for a student union (400k vs £1.6m). I've held meetings with the University to agree a timeframe for discussions and I am confident that the University is waking up to the fact that they are depriving their students of proper representation through the under-resourcing of OUSU.

### Oxford Guide to Careers

I have worked in partnership with the Careers Service to produce the second, much-improved 'Oxford Guide to Careers' which provides students with general advice regarding careers and job applications, specific information for individual fields, and what student societies to get involved with if you're interested in a career in a particular field. It'll be pidgeed to all penultimate year and final year Oxford students this term.

### New Website & Communications

It's been promised for years and we've delivered it - crucially, in time for when Freshers received their 'welcome to OUSU pack' in September. I've written pages and pages of text for the website and spent hours testing it and getting it ready for launch. Soon there will be a blog section where you can read much more about what we've been up to. You can see it for yourself at [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org). [We're trying to be the most communicative team OUSU's seen - we know OUSU has previously done a poor job of communicating with the student body, and we're aiming to change that.](#)

### Elections

You'll see the reworked Nominations Pack is ready for Council approval today, and if you approve it, we'll be ready to roll with this year's elections. I've been working with Nick Cooper, OUSU's Returning Officer, to make that that these are the most accessible elections OUSU's ever held and doing more than ever before to promote participation - both in terms of running for election and voting in the contests - through an extensive publicity campaign.

### Freshers' Fair and JCR/MCR Introductions

I worked with OUSU's permanent staff to run the biggest and best Freshers' Fair yet and have co-ordinated the visits by sabbatical officers to each JCR/MCR early this term to introduce OUSU to new students.

### Appointment of 2 Student Trustees

Two of our Student Trustees graduated over the summer and thus ceased to hold office. In accordance with Bye-Law 20.1 the Board agreed and published a procedure for the co-opting of Student Trustees to serve the remaining portion of the term of office. Two student trustees were appointed to serve until

the end of Michaelmas Term: James Blythe (Brasenose) and Margery Infield (St. Edmund's Hall). Details of the procedure can be found on Trustee Board section of the website.

A big thanks to all of OUSU's permanent staff - without their patience and support we'd have found it much harder to settle in and not had such a productive summer.

If you have any questions for me about this report or anything else, you're always welcome to get in touch at [president@ousu.org](mailto:president@ousu.org)

Have a great Michaelmas Term,  
Tom

Galen Lo

VP (Graduates)

### Graduate Funding

1. I attended the University's £3m HEFCE bid meeting and contributed with oral and written suggestions and support. I am in the process of writing my support for the Oxford bid to the NUS who are on the bid decision committee.
2. I have begun discussions with the Graduate Admissions and Funding department about strategies in persuading the University to adopt a 'phase 2' of the Oxford Graduate Matched Scholarship Fund.
3. I have an on-going collection of graduate funding, money-making, and money-saving resources that will, by the end of my term, be collated into a document and/or webpage.

### Academic Representation

4. I have communicated the importance of the JCCs and GJCCs with the University, especially with the external Quality Assurance Agency in 2015-16. I have promised the University I will conduct research on every department's online information regarding GJCCs, and I will submit this research for their inspection on completion.

### Common Room Support

5. I have met with 14 MCR Presidents and noted their concerns. I have explained the support and resources OUSU can offer. I have also outlined to them my own goals for my term.
6. Charlotte (VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities) and I conducted listening skills training to 7 graduate students, including 1 MCR President and 1 welfare rep.

### International Students

7. I have worked with the International Students Campaign in presenting our PowerPoint at International Orientation and the organisation of Freshers' Fair. The ISC have collected the email addresses of nearly all of the national societies, which we will use to create the first OUSU national societies mailing list.
8. I have been constant communication with the ISC regarding government plans on international NHS charges and identity checks for private accommodation.
9. Discussion has begun with the University in organising the International Festival on 9 March 2014.

### Student Advice Service

10. I have been busy over the summer handling several cases that came in to the Advice Service - remember you can always get confidential advice by emailing [advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org).

## Living Wage

11. I have discussed the Living Wage with the Director of Conference Secretariat and having emailed a LW report (which I wrote last year), I am awaiting his response as a representative of the Conference of Colleges.
12. Dan (VP Charities and Communities) and I have discussed strategies for the Oxford Living Wage Campaign.

## University Duties

13. I have attended several University committees. Of note, the Joint Supervisory Committee on Visiting Students is currently forming University policy on visiting students.
14. I was on a 2-day review panel of the Nuffield Department of Medicine and the Radcliffe Department of Medicine.
15. I was on the Humanities Away Day, which discussed the plans for the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter.
16. I presented PowerPoint presentations: 2 to the PGCE students, 1 to university staff, 1 to supervisors, and 3 to international students.

**Charlotte Hendy**

**VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)**

Hey everyone! I'm Charlotte- I've just finished a Theology degree at Pembroke and I'm really excited to be working for OUSU this year, and seeing just how much we can achieve together ☺ Here's some of the stuff that I've done so far:

### Campaigns:

Over the Summer I met all of the campaign chairs and officers from my campaigns (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality, Disabled Students, LGBTQ and Mind Your Head) to discuss their plans for the year and how I can help with these. Dan, Sarah and I have planned campaign training in response to this, focusing on attracting new members, and setting and achieving goals.

### Meetings:

I've set on several committees, including one aiming for a consistent provision for disabled students across colleges, and another on access to facilities based on student status. Both are looking positive- so watch this space!

### Freshers:

Meeting them has been great fun- I've loved being on the OUSU stall at freshers' fair, talking to JCRs and MCRs, and speaking at the international orientation.

Best of all though, I worked with some students from the Preview Show over the Summer to plan and create a freshers video. If you haven't seen it already, do watch it on the 'ousunews' YouTube channel, and share it with your Common Rooms!

### Training:

I ran Listening Skills training for MCRs- more of this to come in the year ☺

### Student Advice Service:

We've rebranded the Student Advice Service, had a busy Summer with lots of casework, and now have a new Student Advisor, Cate. We're here when you need us is the slogan, and the email is still [advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org)

### King's Arms Crossing:

Following a previous Council motion, Dan and I have been looking into plans for the King's Arms crossing in order to make it safer, and have had several meetings with the leader of the County Council, and Oxford Preservation Trust.

#### **Safe Zones:**

One of my manifesto goals is Safe Zones, and I've spent the Summer looking into these, and contacting other SUs that already have the scheme in place. Contact me if you want to know more!

#### **Twitter:**

Many of us now have Twitter- yay! I recently tweeted #toptips for moving in, and next week I'll be tweeting #toptips for tackling homesickness. Follow me: @OUSU\_WEO

<b>Rachel Pickering</b>	<b>VP (Access &amp; Academic Affairs)</b>
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Hello Council 😊

I'm Rachel your Vice President for Access and Academic Affairs. I just graduated with a degree in Geography from Hertford College. I started working along with the team in 9<sup>th</sup> week Trinity Council, it's so nice to have you all back - working in and for a student union when no students are here is really odd! Here are some of the things I've been working on:

#### **Back to School Week - Partnership with Future First**

OUSU are now in partnership with Future First for their Back to School Week, which is running from the 12-19<sup>th</sup> October. Future First are an educational charity who are aiming to create alumni networks in state schools, providing role models for current students and encouraging former pupils to #gobackgiveback. If you want to sign up then follow this really catchy and not at all too long a link: <https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/former-student-search?t=ousu> and please get people in your common room to sign up!

#### **UG Fees and Bursary Package from 2015/16 onwards**

I've been working over the summer towards University discussions regarding the undergraduate fee and bursary package from 2015/16. A few big meetings are coming up on this so I'll make sure to update Council as they go along!

#### **Student Status and Access to Facilities**

Along with Charlotte I've been working with the University on the issue of access to facilities (libraries, email, the Counselling Service) for students who have suspended status. At present the University denies students who have suspended for non-disciplinary reasons access to many vital services. Negotiations are going well and we both hope to be able to report back on this soon with a positive conclusion to these talks.

#### **Target Schools - Roadshow and Shadowing**

Target Schools is growing, and this year we'll be piloting Shadowing in MT as well as HT. Following a pilot roadshow in the summer we'll also be rolling out Roadshows partnered with Common Rooms over the next year. If you want to find out more then read the report here: <http://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/student-ambassadors>.

#### **Extra Course Costs**

Many of us face extra course costs during our time here, whether that be in the form of compulsory field trips or extended terms in subjects such as Chemistry, Materials and Biochemistry. I've begun conversations with the University about how we go about reducing these extra financial burdens placed on students. If you are facing an additional course cost as part of your course then do let me know. The more I know about the more I can bring to the discussion table!

#### **Student Advice Service**

I am one of the Sabbatical Officers who work in the Student Advice Service. Over the summer I have been busy with case work and lots of information requests and of course our REBRANDING! Check out our new logo online and also to find out a bit more about what we do. Remember, if you have a question no matter how big or small then come to us; we offer free confidential advice to all students. Just email us as [advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org).

If you have any questions for me about this report or anything else, you're always welcome to get in touch with me at [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org). Also you can add me on twitter (@OUSU\_AcAff) and I'll make sure to keep tweeting about access and academic affairs issues and events and that you might be interested in :D.

Rachel

Dan Tomlinson

VP (Charities & Community)

I've never been so happy for summer to be over. Now you are all back in this fine city and I'm finally getting to meet students my job has been transformed from an office job, emailing hundreds of people about countless things, into this really fantastic job where I meet with passionate and intelligent people all the time and work with them on the things that matter to them. This is going to be a great year.

#### One number

3.

Oxford has the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest incidence of cycle crime in the country, after London and Cambridge. Read on to see what I'm doing to make that number change.

#### RAG

I've helped the RAG Ball get ready for the big event, the Neverland Ball, on Saturday of 6<sup>th</sup> week. Get your tickets from [oxfordragball.co.uk](http://oxfordragball.co.uk).

I've helped RAG shift the fantastic naked calendars - check out the OUSU website for details, go to 'shopping'.

#### Community

I've been in 16 local community meetings over the summer, representing students to everyone from the Oxford Police Chief to a resident from St. Barnabas St in Jericho. I've just trained the 6 new community wardens and am in talks with the university to make the funding for this programme more secure.

I'm in conversation with Brookes about our continued partnership on the Safety Bus, more to follow later in term.

#### Environment and Ethics

The E&E Campaign and NUS are launching the Student Switch Off Campaign this term and I've been contacting lots of students about it to encourage them to sign up - and we now have 20 colleges signed up, which I think is more than Cambridge managed

#### Living Wage

I've sat on the Living Wage Working Group over the summer and it was confirmed to me there that we are currently paying the Living Wage to all of our directly employed staff. The focus of the Living Wage campaign this year is all about getting indirectly employed staff paid the same as their colleagues.

#### Sorting stuff out for students

I said on my election leaflet that I had three priorities; one of them was to get cheap locks out to students. Happily I can now tell you that if you pop into the OUSU building during normal office hours you can grab a 'gold sold secure' D-lock for only £15. Bargain.

A national cycling charity will also be putting on, through OUSU, a cycling training course in a couple of weeks time. Contact me if interested.

Charlotte and I have met with the Leader of the County Council, the Oxford Preservation Trust and are soon to meet with the University to discuss the King's Arms crossing. We did this because OUSU Council

mandated us to do so last term, once we have met with the University we'll hopefully have some good news to report!

I also wrote lots of text for the new OUSU site, this took a long time.

Does anyone even read this far?

**Sarah Pine**

**VP (Women)**

This summer has been great! Here's a summary of what I've been doing. Please do email me any questions, or if you think I should be doing anything differently!

#### CONSENT

The Consent Discussion Groups are now in their third year - to continue this project I've trained 45 students as consent facilitators with Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. I've gone to help out in common rooms too!

Gave welcome talks about consent to Lincoln JCR freshers and MCR freshers.

I spoke about the structural support available to Pembroke JCR freshers.

In the process of developing a workshop with Brookes that better fits inter-university groups.

In the process of developing a Queer-focused workshop for St Anthony's Queer Pride Week.

Will be working Pembroke MCR and JCR for other consent-focused events in their college.

Got a gazillion consent beer mats out into college bars. (do you want some? Ask me - I got another delivery of 1000 or so).

#### SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Worked with the local council group to develop the Love Without Chains resource, for students who may in be in violence and abusive relationships.

Have worked to plan training for Common Room Officers on stalking and harassment, rape and relationship abuse so they can better support students through these problems.

#### UNIVERSITY PROVISION FOR SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HARASSMENT

(This was a specific manifesto goal, so it has got a section all to itself! Hurray!)

I've been in conversations with the Student Advisors and the Equality and Diversity Unit to push for specific training for Harassment Advisors, which will be opened up to other staff members (i.e. chaplains, tutors etc, who student may already have a relationship with, so may feel more like they can speak to them). This was a scary hole in university support previously, so it's great that it's moving forward!

I have met with the Assessor and Assessor-elect to discuss the need for best practise development for colleges to support their students, and will be working with the It Happens Here campaign to push this. I've also had discussions with a Pro-Vice chancellor and the Secretariat of the Conference of Colleges so the project looks like it will be going forward. Yay!

#### WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP/NUS

Been to an NUS masterclass on Women in Leadership to better prepare myself for the Leadership Development Programme running next term, and to better understand what Student Unions could be doing to tackle this dimension of inequality.

Have started advertising the Leadership Development Programme to students.

#### HANDBOOKS

Updated the Student Parents Handbook

Developed the Women's Officer handbook into a useful campaigning guide with the help of college women's officers.

Have distributed sexual violence resource and incident guides to some colleges.

#### STUDENT PARENTS

Continued the work with the Equality and Diversity Unit for the university to be able to identify student parents when they arrive, so that we can better support them. For this year, I set up a a Student Parent Freshers' Fair stall so that we could meet a lot of incoming students parents, and better reach them throughout the year.

Am bringing together student parent focus groups

Am working with a student parent to run socials together, so student parents can feel involved in the community.

### WELCOME TO NEW STUDENTS

Ran sessions in the international orientation about 'Women and the Graduate World' with the outgoing Graduate Women's Officer to welcome incoming international women graduates.

Had a great time meeting incoming students in their common rooms.

Ran a session at the spouses and partners' induction to highlight the ways that OUSU can support students with families.

### GRADUATES

Garlen Lo and I have been planning focus group sessions to tap into the student experiences of graduates to better understand the gender equality issues here. Lots of graduate women seem to have specific problems within their departments, but lots of the university will not move without statistics and report. So, in order to push for the support that some graduate women need (particularly because of the disproportionate amount of harassment that seems to go on within their cohort) we're planning comprehensive focus groups.

Worked with Oxford Females in Engineering, Science and Technology and the Graduate Women's Officer to plan a graduate women's showcase: a networking with substance event to support graduate women looking for academic careers. We have our own section in the Athena SWAN strategy document for this!

### HANDOVER

All the sabs now know a LOT about governance. We've also been trained in Listening Skills, Negotiation, how to train other people and general 'how to be a sabb' skills. The NUS has also been particularly helpful with this.

### CAMPAIGNS (I love campaigns)

Worked with It Happens Here and contributed to their Zine. Also have worked with and supported their work with Channel 4, highlighting the prevalence of sexual violence for students. We're still unsure of how much we want to commit to this project though.

WomCam - am putting together 'Feminism for you College' session with their Common Room Liaison Officer. These are to support students who want to bring specific projects to their college or common rooms by keeping them in touch with each other, and helping them develop the skills they might need to push things through their college.

Dan Tomlinson, Charlotte Hendy and I are putting together a campaigns training programme to empower students who are making change in Oxford.

### CONTRACEPTION AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Lovely Charlotte Hendy and been talking to women's officers and welfare officers about how contraception works in their common rooms. We are having to change a lot of the ways that OUSU does contraception because the local NHS system is changing *and* one of our suppliers has gone into liquidation. So, for this, we've spoken to student about what they want from their Student Union on this, and are working with the NHS to make their new scheme more student-friendly.

I am working with Oxford Feminist Network and Brookes Feminist Society to deliver Education for Choice training, so that students are empowered to lead conversations about reproductive rights in their communities and common rooms.

### CLUB NIGHTS

After JCR PresCom raised some concerns about club night themes, Tom Rutland and I strengthened the contractual obligations of our club night partners to include our Zero tolerance Policy on sexual violence and harassment, as well as other clauses that affirmed our commitment to our club night partners to provide a friendly and welcoming atmosphere for **all** students.

### KARAOKE

Obvs lots of that too. I <3 1D.

## PART TIME OFFICERS

**Henry Chong**

**Mature Students Officer**

Dear All,

Welcome to all the new members of Council, and welcome back to everyone else!

The start of a new year is a great time for you to get in touch with new mature students at your respective common rooms. Mature students have a unique set of issues and challenges facing them, and it can be daunting to navigate Oxford as a fresher who is coming back to school after some time away. As a reminder, a 'mature student' is any undergraduate over 21 upon matriculation, and any graduate who feels, well, 'mature'.

Tell your mature students to 'Like' our Facebook page for information and updates about events:  
[www.facebook.com/ousumaturestudents](http://www.facebook.com/ousumaturestudents)

As always, feel free to email me at [maturestudents@ousu.org](mailto:maturestudents@ousu.org) if you ever have any questions/comments/problems/jokes.

Yours Sincerely,  
Henry Chong  
OUSU Mature Students Officer

**William Neaverson**

**Disability Officer**

Over the summer, we managed to finish the 3rd Edition Disabled Students Guide, which will be designed and sent to print hopefully in time for 6th Week of this term. I will make sure to send the final copy around the Exec, and I will be looking to make it accessible on the new OUSU website in the near future. Thanks so much to everyone involved who made it a possibility.

As the Disabled Students Campaign chair, Dwight Kelly, has now returned to study in the US, I shall be temporarily taking over his duties starting from this week. If anyone is interested in coming along to our meetings or would like to put themselves forward to be chair of the campaign, please send me an email at [disabledstudents@ousu.org](mailto:disabledstudents@ousu.org).

This term, my main focus will be the 6th Week Disability Awareness Week. We're planning a whole host of exciting events in conjunction with the Disability Advisory Service (DAS), and I will keep everyone up to date with what's going on. If you would like to get involved with that, please do contact me on [disability@ousu.org](mailto:disability@ousu.org).

**Nick Cooper**

**Academic Affairs Campaign Officer**

Evening Council,

Hope you've all had a lovely summer, and for all the Freshers, welcome to Oxford and OUSU! My role involves representing graduate students on academic issues (clue's in the name) so anything you want to ask about, please drop me an email.

The summer has not meant my work has been over: I have been in discussions with Garlen about priorities for the year, and have looked into changes to Confirmation of Status. I've also had the rollercoaster ride that is being on the Exam Regulations Expert User Group, looking into the long-awaited conversion of the Grey Book into a usable online facility, which only gives you the pages you need.

Finally I'm also Returning Officer for this term's elections. You'll be hearing about this in Council but please stand for election, or at least vote!

Over and out, Nick