

# Reports to Council

1<sup>st</sup> Week Council Michaelmas 2014

## **Sabbatical Officers' Campaigns Review Update**

### Background

In 7th week TT 14, the incoming sabbatical team were mandated to conduct a review of the way in which OUSU campaigns work - both in terms of governance and their wider operation. This report outlines what has so far happened and the next steps for this piece of work.

The report is structured by individual campaign, written by the sabbatical officer with responsibility for working with that campaign. For each campaign there is information about its current state and potential routes forward. For more information about a particular campaign, please contact the sabbatical officer who works with it. For more information regarding the overall nature of this consultation, please contact [president@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

### Overview

So far, an online consultation alongside sabbatical officer knowledge of and contact with campaigns has informed much of the understanding we have. The differences between the campaigns is of note (and can be seen in more detail below), meaning that each campaign will face different issues.

A good solution that is proposed to help tackle the diversity of issues encountered by some of the campaigns is the drafting of a clear campaign constitution, with understanding of how the campaign finances work, in order for campaigns to take ownership over their governance and thus their overall direction. Going forward, close work with OUSU's external trustees and OUSU's accounts manager will ensure that the governance and finances for each campaign is as effective as possible.

### Target Schools - James Blythe

A draft constitution for Target Schools has been drawn up, with help from Richard Jackson, one of OUSU's External Trustees. We intend to settle on a Mission, Vision & Values at the first Committee meeting of term. The campaign are happy with a short and clear summary of their purpose and structure. In particular, we all see a need for a clear guide to elections, since Target Schools introduced elections for co-chair last year and there is a strong chance they will be contested this year. It's also very important, given that Target Schools has the biggest budget of any campaign, that its financial structures are clear and robust. A meeting with OUSU financial support staff has been scheduled to discuss best practice.

### Mind Your Head, the LGBTQ Campaign, the Disabled Students Campaign, and the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality (CRAE) - Chris Pike

Mind Your Head has a well-established committee but is divided into working groups. I would like the opportunity to meet with the committee as a whole to get thoughts from a variety of different perspectives, as I will have the opportunity to do during full term.

The remaining three campaigns all either had small committees already or have had a high student turnover over the summer (due to students leaving etc.). I would like to work with these campaigns to build up a high involvement so that it is not solely the chairs I am consulting in

deciding how to go forward with the review.

During our online consultation over the summer we had around a dozen responses regarding these four campaigns. Similar themes came up for the three 'equal opps' campaigns, mainly around more continuity over the years. As they are equal opps campaigns and therefore the OUSU sabbatical officer cannot provide this continuity as much as they could with a 'permanent' campaign. Supporting the campaigns in creating constitutions or equivalent documents would be a worthwhile step forward.

For Mind Your Head continuity is not as much of an issue, but there is a clear theme that OUSU (and the sabbatical officer in particular) needs to be better engaged with Mind Your Head supporting them as a whole campaign. This is something I, as current VP (WEO), must prioritise.

#### WomCam - Anna Bradshaw

WomCam is a very active campaign with a strong committee and a lot of great plans for this year. However, the governance is fairly messy. WomCam has a lot of different documents produced over the last few years that outline different things. I plan to use these different documents to draft a short and clear constitution, with appendices as necessary, which I will take to a committee meeting for discussion and alteration as needed.

All of this work is being informed by a small number of useful and detailed responses to the online survey that we put out. I will also meet with Lucy Delaney, the Women's Campaign Officer, and other members of the committee to talk in more depth as I put together the draft constitution.

The campaign is also taking a number of steps to reform itself currently, and I will be eager to see how this goes. It is introducing feedback forms, changing committee meetings to be more careful of difficult or triggering issues, and working to make both the committee and the campaign more generally inclusive and intersectional. These feedback forms will be mechanism through which I hope to involve members of the campaign in the review.

#### It Happens Here - Anna Bradshaw

*Content note: mention of sexual violence*

It Happens Here is roughly the opposite of WomCam: it has quite tidy governance, but the actual campaign is struggling to sustain a committee from year to year. I will be working with the few people from last year's committee who are still in Oxford to try to build a stronger committee this year, and to produce a document to smooth handovers. I have also met, over skype, with Mary-Dan Johnston, who was chair last term and has since left Oxford.

The campaign is thinking seriously about some of its activities, and I will be consulting with Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre (OSARCC) as I go about asking some necessary questions. These questions mostly concern the online publication of anonymous accounts of sexual violence.

### Oxford Living Wage Campaign - Ruth Meredith

The Living Wage Campaign currently doesn't have a constitution, although it does have a reasonably strong and well-defined committee and elections structure. Its interaction with the Vice-President (Charities & Community) has been consistent over the past two years, which has meant the campaign has been well able to form termly and yearly strategies.

Over the coming term, I will be working with Fergal O'Dwyer and Sam Couldrick (the Living Wage Co-chairs) to introduce a minimal constitution which recognizes the strength of the current system, and that the campaign has a dual focus – colleges and the central University. It will also recognize that committee roles need to be fluid depending on the campaign's particular focus in any given year.

### On Your Doorstep - Ruth Meredith

On Your Doorstep is a very new campaign, and as such has very little campaign governance. The past few months have been focused on a successful recruitment and awareness drive for the campaign, and establishing relationships with relevant community stakeholders. Much of On Your Doorstep's focus until 3<sup>rd</sup> week will be on finalizing their Homelessness Awareness Week events. A side focus will be deciding upon On Your Doorstep's next strategic goal. As such, Emily Silcock (COC PTE/Chair) and I will after third week, work with the committee to set measurable long-term goals for the campaign, and introduce a concise constitution. I intend that On Your Doorstep will have a constitution in place by the end of term.

### Raise and Give - Ruth Meredith

It is important to note that RAG is unlike other OUSU campaigns, in that it does not lobby. RAG seeks to fundraise, and in that sense RAG's end is not social or University-wide change, but increasing profit, and student participation in fundraising. As such, the governance necessary is different.

RAG's previous governance has been in the form of several One-Year-Plans drawn up by their executive committee and the Vice-President (Charities & Community). There are also supplementary documents for RAG, most importantly a financial procedures document, and charity selection rules.

The inconsistency which has arisen from successive One-Year-Plans has not yet caused significant problems due to the exceptional quality of RAG Committee members. However, as RAG continues to grow, it is important that there is a long-term plan. As such, I will be working with the RAG President, Molly Gilmartin, to draw up a One Year and Three Year Plan for RAG, rather than a constitution. An important part of that will be changes to the General Regulations, so that RAG can enable fundraising across Oxford, alongside its core work of fundraising for centrally selected charities. We hope to bring those to Council in 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> week of Michaelmas, and launch the changes in Hilary 2015, if approved.

### Environment and Ethics - Ruth Meredith

Environment and Ethics has for the past few years gone through cycles of strong engagement and success, and then relative quietness. It is not clear why that has happened, whether due to

its governance, choice of campaign objectives, or recruitment (either student members or Sab support). There is no obvious governance, but there does seem to be consistency in non-hierarchical leadership and openness to running new projects under the 'E&E banner'.

Ellen Gibson, E&E Chair, and I have briefly discussed the option of a working group structure for the campaign. I intend to consult much more widely within E&E over the coming term about the plausibility of such a system (and corresponding governance). I will also work with Xav Cohen (E&E PTE) and Ellen to establish some kind of summary of the division of responsibility between future E&E PTEs and E&E Chairs. At the very least, I intend to entrench the practice of committee members creating handover documents for their successors in order to help smooth out the cycles of excitement and quietness.

#### Mature Students Campaign or MSC - Yasser Bhatti

1. Received responses from current Chair and Officer
2. MSC have an active mailing list which seems will become crucial this academic year as MSC successfully planned and executed first MSC orientation which was oversubscribed by almost 50 people (120 limit, 170 registered)
3. Organizes socials throughout the year but is usually limited by funds
4. No constitution, only two officers who take on position voluntarily
5. Interesting quotes from respondents:
  - On Structure: Chair and social secretary are the key posts. The campaign will be aiming to recruit more next year.
  - On OUSU support: We could do with some branding though.
  - On Managing Finances: Spend money only when necessary. Always purchase most economic options. No treasurer as such, more so use common sense in small working group.
  - On elections: Volunteers (there have been no need for elections during my involvement). & Election mostly and then inclusion as and when an ms expresses a desire to become an active participant
  - On working with others at OUSU: Largely does not, although would like to bring in to work more closely with academic affairs and access.

#### International Students Campaign or ISC - Yasser Bhatti

1. Autonomous campaign. Vacuum in leadership as there is no Chair or International Officer or Int'l Graduate Officer
2. Organizes mainly Intn'l Festival in HT and manages and maintains the International societies mailing list, helps to give solicit welcome letters for new students, manages intn'l society grants in partnership with University International Strategy Office, and broadcasts surveys to intn'l students
3. Constitution exists which outlines membership, officers, elections but little on accountability. More to be investigated once officers take office
4. Interesting quotes from respondents:
  - On Structure: Two Co-chairs, secretary, welfare-officer, sponsorship &/ publicity officers, treasurer (rest see constitution). Co-chairs responsible for coordination, but everyone helps with everything, even outside of their responsibility, if they can.

- On working with others: It should have some overlapping points with CRAE and work more closely with them, and a clearer policy of items they want to campaign for/against.
- On elections: In principle yes, but on the last committee, the majority of committee members including the Co-chairs were American exchange students who are only here for one year (MT-MT), and as the elections are in MT this posed the problem that the majority of committee is non-existent in MT to hold elections and welcome the freshers which is one of the main responsibilities...
- Furthermore, the committee did not seem to be very close to each other personally, which was a shame. They could be better informed about training of how to run a campaign as well. I'm not sure if there are still these courses after Sara was gone.
- On OUSU support: I think there should be more courses on how to run a campaign. As soon as the new committee is elected, there should be a workshop for them similar to the one offered to part-time exec committee.
- Other: "I feel the ISC lacks a clear goal. Comparing to WomCam or CRAE for example, who have a clear political agenda, ISC seems more like a social platform, which is great, but seeing its budget, it can not offer anything particular outstanding (except International Festival which is only once a year) to attract a longstanding audience, and its political side is not strong enough either. It should either associate more with CRAE, as mentioned, or put more efforts into its events. There are other things I'd be glad to discuss, but now do not have the time to write down, sorry for that. Feel free to get into contact.

Ways forward: To improve governance of campaigns we can evaluate existing constitution or adopt Proctors constitution and recommend accounts audit system for our campaigns. We also have to think about how to avoid a leadership vacuum in summer.

## **Sabbatical Officers**

Louis Trup – President

Hello friends.

My name is Louis. I am the president of OUSU.

I ran for this position because I strongly believe that our Student Union needs to be at the heart of Oxford. I think that in the past, this hasn't really been the case for many students. I will be spending the year trying to show more people what OUSU does, and making sure OUSU is doing more for the areas of student life which fall outside of common rooms. Also, supporting common room committees to work as best as they can.

There are many things that I have been doing. Here are some of those things:

- Started organising the first OUSU student awards, taking place in February. It will be recognising the students of Oxford who put loads of effort into making the university experience better through their extracurricular endeavours. This will hopefully act as a springboard from which OUSU can better support clubs and societies.
- Started mixing up our governance. This year we are conducting a quinquennial review whereby OUSU alongside the university has to review its articles of association (OUSU's top level governance documents), which involves tackling major questions including the role of sabbatical officers, the role of the executive, the terms that officers serve and more. We will of course be consulting on this so will keep you in the loop.
- Working with Ruth and the council on voter registration.
- Trying to improve communications - alongside the rest of the sab team and OUSU staff, produced multiple videos and improved our other forms of social media to ensure that OUSU communicates what it is doing in a more effective way.
- Spent ages meeting with various members of the university to figure out how we can make sure we establish increasingly sustainable ways to ensure the student voice is heard in the university.
- Met with many common room presidents to explain what support OUSU can provide.
- With Eden, the Grad Womens' Officer, made a PTE handbook.
- Started a consultation on what we as a student body want from the next vice chancellor
- Reworked elements of the rent negotiations handbook used by common room officers to help negotiate rent with their colleges.
- Meeting with people from the NUS to understand how we can make our voice heard nationally in the run up to the general election and also to explain some of the issues we have with the NUS which has led to increased transparency from our national union.
- Other things.

Get in touch if you want to find out more about what I'm up to. [president@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

LJ

P.S. I am massively behind on emails after freshers, so I apologise to all those who have been waiting for me to get back to them. I will do so ASAP.

## James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council!

It's been a long 3 months in the job and it's really great to be able to report to Council on everything that's happened. This is going to be long-ish, but don't worry my reports won't stay this long.

### **Activity: Co-ordination of access work**

Manifesto Goal: 'better co-ordinated access work' 'access summit' 'effective, measurable and focused' work

Over the summer I've been meeting with lots of key access projects – Target Schools, Pathways, the University Admissions Office, and talking about ways to increase co-ordination. I made a small start on this by doing a Pathways day in September and plan to continue helping with their events. I've also been working on a plan to launch a co-ordinated 'Getting involved with access' weekly newsletter and a launch event that will discuss the future of access. I hope this will take place at the beginning of Hilary. I've also spoken up for co-ordinating access work in University Council and its Planning & Resource Allocation Committee.

### **Activity: Academic Representation**

Manifesto Goal: "stronger academic representation that can achieve change for students in departments"

During the summer I have been welcoming, supporting & inducting into the mysterious structures of the University the new Academic Representation Officer, Matt Tennant. With Matt & Yasser I have been preparing for OUSU to roll out rep training for department reps in Michaelmas. This is the first stage of a process that should mean reps are much better supported and can achieve a lot for their students.

### **Activity: Targeted BME Access Work**

Manifesto Goal: "to develop a proper targeted plan for encouraging BME applicants"

Target Schools will be running a specific African-Caribbean student shadowing day in partnership with African Caribbean Society & the University Admissions Office in Hilary Term, the first of what I hope to be several targeted BME projects this year.

As well as my main role, I have been doing some internal service to OUSU – I have been leading for the sab team on Nominations Committee, which nominates external trustees for OUSU to Council.

### **Activity: Supporting Target Schools**

Manifesto Goal: "A Target Schools campaign with the resources and support to deliver truly effective student-led outreach work"

I've been talking quite a bit over the summer with the Target Schools co-chairs, supporting them in relation to governance, finance and elections, as well as helping to make sure they were financially able to run the Roadshow to Northern Ireland that happened in September.

### University Committees

I thought since this is my first report to Council I'd give you a full list of my University Committees. I won't often be able to tell you what's been going on in them since they are largely covered by confidentiality agreements, but at least you'll know what sort of thing I'm spending my time on.

#### *Major*

University Council

Education Committee

Undergraduate Panel

Examinations Panel

Department Reviews: History, Geography, Earth Sciences, Obstetrics & Gynaecology.

Planning & Resource Allocation Committee

#### *Access*

Admissions Executive

Working Group on Feedback to Applicants

Working Group on Feedback to Offer Holders

Working Group on Applicant Course Choice

Admissions Committee

Access & Admissions Strategic Communications Group

Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group

Outreach Officers' Forum

Moritz Heyman Management Group

Continuing Education Working Group on Access & Widening Participation

#### *Academic Affairs*

Senior Tutors' Committee

Committee of College Librarians

Education IT Board

PPH Supervisory Committee

PPH Reviews: Wycliffe Hall (January 2015)

Joint Student Number Planning Sub Committee

Quality Assurance Sub Committee

Joint Resource Allocation Mechanism Review Group

Joint Sub Committee of Education Committee with Student Members

Quality Assurance Working Group

Academic Data Management Workstream Implementation Group

Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

Hi Council,

*This report is going to be quite a lot longer than usual, because (unsurprisingly) more happens in a three-month vacation than in two weeks of term. There are a few miscellaneous things that I haven't reported on here, as I have tried to keep this succinct and focused on larger projects – but please ask if there's anything else you'd like to hear about.*

*It's been a really exciting start to the year for me, and I'm looking forward to a great term.*

Anna

## **Sexual Health & Sexual Violence**

### Consent Workshops

I have organized OUSU Sexual Consent Workshops in the JCRs of all colleges that take undergraduates, as well as in some MCRs and PPH JCRs. (College JCRs: 30/30 workshops, 22/30 compulsory. College MCRs: 11/38 workshops, 4/11 compulsory. PPH JCRs: Regent's Park, compulsory, & St Benet's, in 2<sup>nd</sup> week.)

This involved reviewing all of the materials for the workshops and (substantially) the training of facilitators for the workshops, and organizing the training and/or 'refreshing' of roughly 300 facilitators. I personally trained about 200 of these facilitators; Eden Tanner ran the other training sessions, and Lucy Delaney assisted with a large session.

I supported common room committee members to bring the workshops in, including by writing an FAQ sheet, and meeting with people in person to work out the best ways to run the workshops in very different colleges. I have also written a comprehensive press statement, and responded to about a dozen press requests, including interviews with BBC South Today and BBC Radio Oxford, and quotations in the Guardian and the Independent.

I have also set things up to run workshops with some non-Common Room organizations. So far, this includes The Union and The Oxford Student.

This has been the largest project of my summer and Freshers' Week, and has been simultaneously stressful, successful and rewarding.

*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 delivered OUSU's longer Sexual Violence Training to two full common room committees, and am in the process of editing the training so that it focuses more on the last section of the

training, which deals with being a first respondent, and adding a section to do with understanding college and University procedures and policies.

I am developing a two-hour first respondent training specifically for common room committees and other student leaders in colleges who are likely to receive disclosures. This training is based on the last section of the existing Sexual Violence Training, and I am working with the Student Advice Service to make the training applicable to harassment beyond sexual violence.

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

My pledge to lobby the University to make harassment advisers' *'training so that it is also offered (on a voluntary basis) to other members of colleges, who are the actual first responders'* was achieved before I took office by my predecessor, Sarah Pine, though improving the training and its provision is still a priority.

### Good Night Out

I have set up a meeting with OSARCC (Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre), the City Council, and Brookes Union to talk about bringing Good Night Out (a campaign that helps bars, clubs, venues and pubs to tackle and prevent harassment) to Oxford.

*This is an initiative from the Hollaback London via the NUS Women's Officer, and does not come from my manifesto (though it clearly chimes with my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence').*

## **Leadership**

### Women's Leadership Development Programme

One of the very first things that I did (during handover) was to write a comprehensive sponsorship proposal for the Women's Leadership Development Programme. I secured sponsorship for the programme from Morgan Stanley. The sponsorship includes stationary and publicity, one trainer, and a social for the end of the programme. I believe that if the programme runs well and the partnership works, then Morgan Stanley will be interested in a longer-term sponsorship agreement. I have begun advertising the programme, and have set a detailed timeline.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will make the continuation and expansion of OUSU's Leadership Development Programme a priority.'*

### Micro-Programmes

I have spent a lot of time thinking about this pledge, and the core idea behind it (that women in the sciences and graduate women have fewer opportunities for this kind of training). I am working with St John's 2000 Women organizers to pilot a micro-programme for graduate women at St John's college. My hope is that this will roll out in other colleges, and will fill gaps

left by Springboard better than extra Springboard programmes would. I have met with the student organizers, and arranged a meeting with the relevant staff member for early in term to plan this more comprehensively.

*Related to manifesto pledge: 'I will ... lobby or weekend [Springboard] programmes so that science students can attend.'*

### **Academic Attrition**

I have met with members of the university involved with Athena SWAN and Gender Charter Mark work, and will support the expansion of these charters this year. I have set up a meeting with the head of the MPLS Division and Eden to talk more about the ways in which we can work together.

### Ask-a-Grad Panels

I have supported the Eden in the organization of three panels in 6<sup>th</sup> week, though this has been pretty much entirely her project.

*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.'*

### **Student Parents**

I have met with a number of student parents, and have worked with Eden to prepare for lobbying for baby changing facilities in all colleges via motions to JCRs and MCRs and letters to colleges in the coming terms. I have supported Eden in her collation of data for the accommodation database. I have prepared for other ways in which I hope to make this a high priority this term.

*Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Graduate Women's Officer to lobby all colleges to provide baby changing facilities by the end of next year, and provide a well-publicized database for coupled students and student parents.'*

### **Common Room Superhero Handbook**

Chris Pike and I wrote a 24-page handbook for common room women's, welfare, equality and liberation officers and reps. This includes resources, ideas for change, and lots of other information. It is going online and to colleges in printed form in 1<sup>st</sup> week. I also did all of the layout and design work for the handbook.

*Moving towards all manifesto pledges that concern changes in colleges, including Morning After Pill and Solace Centre travel reimbursement, and the provision of baby changing facilities.*

### **Freshers' Week**

The consent workshops dominated my freshers' week, but I also gave intro-to-OUSU talks at five CRs, and spent a lot of time at Freshers' Fair, where I worked at both the OUSU stall and the It Happens Here stall. Due to big losses to the IHH committee over the summer, I produced all of the material for the stall and organized its staffing.

## **Campaign Review**

Please see my report in the sab team report on this.

### Yasser Bhatti – VP Graduates

During the summer I was involved with extensive trainings, committee allocations and building relationships with key people inside OUSU and in the University. Following is a snapshot of accomplishments and projects in progress (not an exhaustive list):

#### Wins

1. First ever Mature Students Orientation which was oversubscribed with 150+ attendees. Many thanks to Mature Students Campaign! University to adopt next year.
2. Successful exec team lobbying for graduate funding at University committees.
3. Preliminary campaigns review as mandated by council.
4. 12+ induction outreach events.
5. Best supervisor category agreed to be introduced in student led teaching awards thanks to James and Rachel.
6. University agreed to student representation on implementation of Oxford Innovation Working group report.

#### In progress

1. Council agenda shaped to be conducive to graduate concerns.
2. MCR wide newsletter facing resource obstacles but looking to resolve soon.
3. Part time students' education policy papers consultation.
4. Virtual open days for graduate students.
5. Bus card discounts.
6. And other important projects such as academic representation, research supervision expectations and co-supervision.

## Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council! I'm really excited that our undergrad population is finally back in Oxford, and that campaigning can get fully underway again! Here's a short list of highlights from what I've been up to this summer:

### **1. Community Wardens**

Our new community warden intake have been recruited and trained, and are ready to get out door knocking. This term, the wardens will be working on passing information about voter registration, recycling and organizing community events.

### **2. Raise and Give**

RAG's summer has been hectic. We're nearly there on finalizing last year's accounts, having tidied up loose ends around RAG's first ever Kilimanjaro Climb and setting the term card for this year. RAG President, Molly Gilmartin, and I have been working on some exciting RAG governance changes which we hope will make RAG even bigger, and provide support to all kinds of student groups across Oxford.

RAG Ball is nearly upon us – the committee's work over the summer has been excellent, and we've sold half of the tickets already!

### **3. Community Work**

I've been to about 30 different community group meetings during the vac, building relationships with leaders in our community, particularly in East Oxford and Jericho.

Louis and I have been doing a lot of work around student voter registration. We've been working with Oxford City Council, and members of the University to ensure all students eligible to vote in Parliamentary elections have received a flyer notifying them to it.

### **4. Training Course**

I've created a new training course, which I'll be running in Hilary, which focuses on giving those interested in campaigning and social enterprise the skills to do that. I'm in the last stages of booking speakers, so look out for more!

### **5. Campaigns**

**E&E:** After a lot of reading, I now know what stranded assets and pooled vehicles are! I'm working with our new E&E Chair, Ellen Gibson, and with Xav Cohen to communicate the need for divestment to the University – we've got an important meeting coming up in 3<sup>rd</sup> week.

**Living Wage:** I have worked with the Living Wage chairs this year to create a term plan, including a speaker event in 4<sup>th</sup> week, and several training events for in-college campaigns. This term we've set a goal of getting the first college to become an accredited Living Wage employer, so you'll definitely be hearing more on this!

**On Your Doorstep:** On Your Doorstep's Awareness Week in 3<sup>rd</sup> week is looking amazing, mostly through the efforts of Emily Silcock and the campaign members. I've been working with Emily on setting long-term goals for OYD, making sure that the great work so far is sustained.

## **6. Student Safety**

After cancelling the Safety Bus scheme last term, Council mandated me to find alternatives. I've designed a taxi safety scheme which should be launching in 2<sup>nd</sup> week, and have worked with Nightline to develop and promote their 'Get Home Safe' scheme, which is open to all students.

I've also been working with Thames Valley Police on crime in Oxford City in an advisory capacity, and will be putting on an event in 2<sup>nd</sup> week at which students can ask questions about procedure and performance specifically around stop and search, sexual harassment and assault, and crime prevention.

## **7. Oxford Hub Mandate**

I was mandated last term to investigate issues around the funding of Student Hubs. Having spoken to the manager of the Oxford Hub (Lucie Coussmaker), I am satisfied that the relationship between Student Hubs and their commercial subsidiary meets the relevant regulatory standards. I am also satisfied that all money donated to OxHub from JCR/MCRs goes only to OxHub, not to Student Hubs. Below is an explanation of the relationship between Student Hubs, OxHub and Hub Commercial Ventures CIC (HCV) from Lucie:

*All the money which comes to Oxford Hub from the University of Oxford, and individual colleges, stays within Oxford Hub's budget and is used for project costs; both frontline expenses and staff support.*

*Student Hubs is Hub Commercial Venture's 'Community of Benefit'. For what that means in detail the best place to look is the [CIC Regulator](#). The best way to describe it simply, and the way we talk about it internally, is that any 'excess profit' has to flow to Student Hubs, and cannot flow to shareholders or otherwise. Though they haven't distributed any grants to Student Hubs, HCV has provided Oxford Hub (and Student Hubs) a significant amount of benefit over the past few years by, for example, allowing us to have a building in the centre of Oxford, which is really convenient for students to drop by to and have meetings, speaker events etc in, which we wouldn't have any chance of getting otherwise.*

*The money that goes from Oxford Hub to HCV is for the services I think I mentioned previously (mainly rent and occasionally food from TSK) at well below market rate.*

*For the rest of the HCV questions, as I'm the Oxford Hub manager, and so not involved in the running of HCV I'm not in a position to answer them. There's a presentation [here](#) which outlines a lot of HCV's work (it's a few years old so a few things may have changed).*

*I'd suggest that the student takes up these questions with HCV directly.*

I would strongly suggest that students with further concerns should contact HCV or OxHub

directly for more detailed answers.

### Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Hey comrades, I hope you all had fab summers. I have been busy in Oxford for the WHOLE summer (with the exception of two weeks spent trying to order fast food in poor French and German) preparing for the academic year ahead to put my manifesto plans into action and to make sure welfare and equal opps projects are running smoothly. Now that term is beginning we need more people involved in our welfare and equal opps campaigns: Mind Your Head, the LGBTQ Campaign, the Disabled Students Campaign, and CRAE. If you're interested, just send me a quick email! There's no commitment until you feel comfortable doing so and they're all great opportunities. Now onto what I've been doing while you've been away:

**Sexual Health:** I've been working with Sexual Health Oxfordshire to allow common rooms to access the free local C-Card scheme and have organised two training sessions, already gone ahead, for welfare reps on how the scheme works. I also facilitated the purchase of 2000 condoms with the message 'Got consent?' which have now been sold to common rooms.

**Liberation Reps:** I have compiled data on which common rooms have which liberation reps (students of colour reps, disabled students reps, and/or LGBTQ reps), and have now begun meeting with interested people to support them in bringing motions to common rooms. I have made a sample motion and a Q&A sheet, and I intend to strengthen this with a document on responding to common counter arguments.

**Suspended Status Students:** Working with James (and continuing the good work of Charlotte and Rachel), we have redone the training for common rooms and will be organising more training sessions for students who want to make a change in their college, as well as providing support for those who have already been trained.

**Supporting Common Room Officers:** I provided half of the material for our glorious 'Common Room Superhero' pack for WEO and women's officers (fantastically cowritten and (solely) designed by Anna). I reran a training session on freshers' week for reps with Jamie, part-time Health and Welfare Officer. I am now in the process of designing a training session for welfare reps to be offered towards the end of Michaelmas, as well as a 'WelfCom' to bring welfare reps together.

**Gender Neutral Toilets:** The Access Guide team has begun work on including info on where gender-neutral toilets are across the university, so that hopefully we will eventually have a full database of where they are located.

**External Organisations:** A priority is in bringing external organisations working on welfare and mental health (and other WEO things) together. Along with the Counselling Service I organised a forum for various organisations to come together and discuss how they could collaborate. I have also had individual meetings with Oxfordshire Mind, Restore, Sexpression, Nightline, and other groups.

**Counselling:** Along with Eden, part-time Graduate Women's Officer, we have worked on a consultation to provide to students on accessing medium to long term counselling services, which will be being distributed soon. Please fill out if it's relevant to you!

There's much much more going on behind the scenes, including supporting all of the part-time executive and campaigns in the work they do. Feel free to get in touch at any time if you'd like to get involved with anything WEO-related. :3

## **Part-Time Executive Officers**

Eden Tanner – Graduate Womens Officer

I've had a very busy summer working for the graduate women of Oxford.

At the final Executive Meeting of last term, it was decided that in response to the findings of the Scrutiny Committee, a **Part-Time Executive Handbook** needed to be constructed. Over the summer, Louis Trup and I, with help from the Executive Committee, have established all of the content, and at present it is undergoing formatting for release before the elections.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of June, I visited Liverpool Life Sciences UTC to give an **access** presentation, and talk with young women students considering Oxford for further study in STEM subjects.

In support of our affiliation with **Abortion Rights** last term, I attended the 'Obvious Child' screening and panel discussion in London with Anna. It was really useful to strengthen ties with the volunteers who work with Abortion Rights.

As an ex-officio member of the **Women's Campaign Committee**, I have organised all of the room bookings for this term – all of the Monday meetings will be held in St John's College. I also represented WomCam at the Open Day.

Aside from my very close work with Anna on all projects, I have also been working closely at the consultation stage with Chris Pike (VP(WEO)) on **mental health provisions** through the University Counselling Service, an issue that disproportionately affects graduate women.

In terms of my manifesto pledges:

1. **Couples and Family Accommodation Database:** I'm working closely with Anna and the Communications team on making the publicly available and collecting the remaining information.

2. **The Sexual Consent Workshops:**

As a trained facilitator, and someone who trains facilitators, this has been a huge project this summer. As you will have heard in Anna's report, we well exceeded our goal of 1/3 of common rooms having compulsory consent workshops in Freshers' Weeks. This has involved lots of training sessions over the last few weeks.

I successfully coordinated the workshops for the St John's MCR, and also facilitated the workshop that the Sabbatical Officers have previously been mandated to attend.

3. **Ask A Grad Panels:**

These are being held in 6<sup>th</sup> Week. Three panels – Life Sciences, Medical Sciences, and Physical Sciences – have been mostly organised (still a small amount of work to do around coordinating speakers and confirming venues).

#### **4. Student Parents:**

I've met with Student Parents over the summer (with Anna), and we have set in motions for next term, in terms of getting baby-changing facilities into more Colleges, and helping common rooms to have more family friendly events. This will be a large priority over the coming term.

*Until next Council!*

#### Niina Tamura – Graduate Welfare Officer

I am working on a survey to be distributed among graduates in second week. This survey will ask about welfare provision and issues specifically relevant to graduates. Based on the results I will produce a written report that can be used to inform graduate welfare at Oxford.

#### Xavier Cohen – Environment and Ethics Officer

The E&E campaign is finding itself at a bit of a crossroads. If our OUSU Council motion passes, then our divestment report will soon be evaluated and responded to by the university's Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee (SRIRC) who could then potentially bring divestment to be reviewed by university's Council, the principal executive and policy making body. Our petition continues to grow and is currently the largest of its kind in the UK. It is very possible that the divestment campaign is in its final stages, and so we as a campaign are looking to bring members - old and new - together as part of a democratic collective to decide what new campaigns and projects E&E should be taking on for the term and year to come.

#### Emily Silcock – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi Council,

Hope you all had a lovely summer. As normal, most of the stuff that I have been doing is with the homelessness campaign. This term's main challenge is going to be handing it over to a fully fledged committee.

Excitingly, we're running a Homelessness Awareness Week in 3rd week, which most importantly for you guys means Freud after 3rd week council for our Big Gig. (£6 tickets including a cocktail - how could you say no?)

Happy 1st week everyone  
Emily

#### Will Neaverson – Common Room Support Officer

Firstly – **welcome back to Trinity and Oriel JCRs**, who reaffiliated at the end of last term and automatically this term respectively. This is such a positive step as we have for the first time in years all Oxford's undergraduate Common Rooms engaged and actively involved in OUSU! I am going to continue to talk to the few graduate Common Rooms that remain unaffiliated, and try to see what we can be doing better to support them.

I'm going to send out a new and exciting survey to all Common Room Presidents over the next week. The idea is to get a centralised set of data – similar to the old Common Room Information Service (CRIS) – that Presidents and their committees can use in negotiation with their College/PPH on common practise. Once all the results are in, I'm hoping to crunch the numbers and see if there are any anomalies that can be discussed! If you're a Common Room President – please take the time to fill it in – it'll hopefully save you loads of time in the future.

Finally – my work with this term's OUSU Reps has already begun with some productive one-to-one meetings. If any OUSU contacts ever want to talk, I am open to meeting with you to discuss anything about what OUSU does or can do for your Common Room!

You can always email me at: [commonrooms@ousu.org](mailto:commonrooms@ousu.org)

#### Sophie Terrett – Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hello, council! The summer vac has been full of fielding queries from students regarding availability of accommodation and establishing links between the Oxford Tenants Union and other housing-related organisations, such as the House of the Commons. It was great to see so many students at Freshers Fair interested in us, and my main goal this term is to raise awareness of the Tenants Union in JCRs and MCRs. I've spent a lot of time analysing Oxford-specific data from the NUS about our students' experiences of housing in the city and am currently identifying the major issues that I can tackle in my final term in office; vermin and rodents are a recurring theme!

#### Leonie Smith – Mature Students' Officer

##### Mature Students' Orientation Day

Last Saturday, we held the first Mature Students orientation day, after several months of planning, fundraising and organising speakers and logistics. We held this event with two main aims: To help mature students feel genuinely welcome at the university; and to allow MS to meet one another and begin to forge the links of a real community for support and engagement. The event was a success on both counts, with several attendees contacting either me or our MS Campaign chair to let us know how valuable they found the event, and to ask how they can get involved in mature student life and campaigning in Oxford, as well as making new individual contacts. We now need to work with the university to make this an annual central part of the university's induction processes, and we will be meeting with the university soon to continue campaigning for this; the comments after the event itself

demonstrated its need and its value.

### Mature Student Access and Admissions

The existing access and admissions processes fail to consider mature students and their specific requirements at multiple points in the journey. After providing feedback on website content, and engaging with the senior tutor at HMC (the MS college), we jointly held a meeting with members of the University access and admissions teams this summer. The meeting was a starting point, and the attendees were very open to the idea of holding follow up sessions to generate ideas for how we can welcome and encourage mature students to the university, and we will continue this work in Michaelmas term.

### Mature Students Campaign

Thanks to the Orientation day, after a relatively low level of engagement last year despite the best efforts of a very active campaign chair, we now have a number of volunteers interested in supporting the MS Campaign and asking to take on specific roles. We intend to hold the first social and first campaign meetings of the term very soon, in order to keep the momentum going on this. We are in a great position to have the best year yet for the MS campaign, and to build a foundation for the future, and the chair and I are incredibly keen to move forwards with this.

### **Divisional Board Representatives**

#### Raj Dattani – Medical Sciences – Undergraduate

1. As the Medical Sciences Undergraduate Divisional Board Member (elected by OUSU council) I sit on the: Board, its sub-committee the Education and Policy Standards Committee (EPSC). This committee receives input from the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) and the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC). The USC receives input from the Pre-Clinical Medicine Education Committee, the Clinical Medicine Education Committee and the Graduate Entry Medicine Committee, and each the course committees for science undergraduate courses (e.g Biochemistry, Experimental Psychology). These in turn receive input from the relevant JCCs or equivalent bodies where grassroots student representation occurs. Council will note that there are four layers of committee structures before matters reach the final decision making body - the Board itself. In practice much of the powers of the Board are executed and delegated to EPSC.
2. I have received and read through the agendas and minutes of the six Board meetings of the last academic year (13/14) as well as a copy of the Divisional Review undertaken in 2011.
3. I have received and read through the agendas and minutes of the three meetings of EPSC of the last academic year (13/14).
4. I have received and read through the summary report to EPSC of the two meetings of USC of the last academic year (13/14).
5. I am meeting with Ms Jane Dale (Secretary to EPSC) and Mrs Shelley Mann (Secretary to USC) on 14/10/14 by way of induction to the role and also to raise my priorities/student issues

for the coming academic year.

6. In the interests of time I am not meeting with Dr David Bryan (Secretary to the Board) as I had an induction meeting with him in the last academic year when I was erroneously elected as the Graduate Board Member.

7. Council should note that the GMC is reviewing Oxford Medical School this November. An in-depth Internal Review of the six year undergraduate medical course is currently underway and will be reporting to EPSC this term.

8. I am grateful to Divisional Administration and Mark Frith (13/14 Board Member) for their assistance in getting me up to speed with current issues in the Division.

9. In the coming term I will attend 2 meetings of the Board itself and 1 meeting of EPSC. I will be making reports to Council on these in due course.

10. As my meeting with Ms Dale and Mrs Mann falls after the date for papers to Council (it is the day before), I will report orally on this at Council.

#### Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate

Hi Council! I'm Emma, your Undergraduate Social Sciences Divisional Board rep for the year. If anyone has any questions or would like some help with anything to do with the social sciences, please do get in touch, and I will either help you directly or find someone who can. I'm really excited about working with James, Yasser and Matt this year to help improve the system of academic representation. Over the summer I met with them to discuss our plans for the year; I've also met with member of staff at the Division to discuss increasing the visibility of academic representatives within the division, such as online. I'm looking forward to a busy year.