

# OUSU

## reports to council

*1st week trinity term 2009*

**Lewis Iwu**

**President**

### **2009 Staffing Review**

Over the Easter break the Student Union underwent the largest overhaul of its staffing structures in its history. In order to make sure that your Student Union is delivering the services that it should be providing and to ensure that the Student Union is equipped to maximise its income streams so we can put more resources into students. After sifting through over 50 applications for the four advertised positions the following were appointed:

#### General Manager - Malcolm Jenkins

Malcolm brings over 30 years worth of Student Union experience to OUSU. He was previously the General Manager of the Liverpool Guild of Students, A former General Manager of the Essex University Student Union, the Scotland Manager of the National Union of Students and an Officer at the University of Stirling.

#### General Office Assistant (Democratic Support) - Karen Irving

Karen has been working as a democratic support officer since January 2009. She was formally an Admin and Accounts consultant for Virtus Construction, an Estate Manager for a high net worth individual and a Public Relations assistant at the Private House.

#### General Office Assistant (Publications and Media) - Imogen Richardson

Imogen was a former Graphic Designer and Marketing Coordinator for Present Country Love Ceramics and a former Art Assistant at Oxford Montessori School.

#### Advertising Coordinator - Stuart Togneri

Stuart was a project coordinator at Omfax Systems and a former Senior Administrator at BTluk

I would like to thank Rosanna, Paul, Rachel, Angela Radford, Rich Hardiman and Sue Melliush for helping with the interview process. Appointing people to these positions is one of the most important decisions that a Student Union can make so it was great to have the support of those mentioned.

I would also like to thank Gill Vilnes for her years of dedication to and hard work for the Student Union. I would also like to thank Rich Hardiman and Henry Strivens for hard work. All of the above will be leaving at the end of the year.

### **NUS Conference**

NUS Conference report

For those of you who don't know every year the National Union of Students hosts a conference where representatives of all the affiliated unions congregate together to form the policy of the NUS and also to elect its officers and ratify any constitutional changes. The conference lasted 3 days and I alongside 7 other Oxford delegates travelled up Blackpool to represent Oxford Students.

## Day 1

After leaving Oxford at 6am I was fairly tired when arrived at Blackpool, luckily it seemed that I wasn't the only one. It turns out that people had traveled from all parts of the country such as Southampton and Exeter. The Conference kicked off at 1pm with about 1500 delegates present on the floor. I must admit it was some sight to see an incredibly diverse group of people. There were delegates who were 15 and there were delegates who were 50. There was a wide range of nationalities, ethnicities and regions represented. Wes Streeting, the National President and a former President of the Cambridge Student Union gave the opening remarks and we then began to debate policy until 11.30pm. A recurring theme within the policy debates was the apparent cleavage within the student movement between idealists, who believe that NUS should campaign on free education and not compromise and the pragmatists who believe that no government is realistically going to abolish fees so the NUS needs to move with the debate and propose an alternative funding system. After the first day of policy debates, a series of fringe events followed along with the informal Presidential Hustings.

I believe that one of the most important functions of NUS conference is to get people together in a room sharing best practices and listening to the experiences of others. From 1 learnt what areas OUSU could improve on and also what areas we are incredibly strong on. The best opportunity for socialising of this kind came at the drinks event held in the Bar Red which was a semi plush bar in Blackpool. Plenty of fun and dancing was had by the Oxford delegation with some seriously good moves being pulled off by Dom Weinberg!

## Day 2

The day kicked off with elections for National President and the incumbent Wes Streeting went up against Rob Owen a member of the socialist workers party. Wes incidentally was endorsed by Labour. After fairly passionate well delivered speeches Wes was elected by a landslide to serve for another term. On Day 2 the NUS reaffirmed its commitment to no platform after a fairly long debate, it also reaffirmed its policy on the cap on tuition fees and rejected a move to go back its free education position. After a hard day of listening to speeches and voting conference came to a close at 8pm and the Oxford delegation after being stood up for dinner by Cambridge (-:p) had a meal at pizza hut and much bonding took place over badly cooked pizza and bad service. Those who felt that they needed to dance away the grease (myself included) went to the official NUS clubnight at flares with a 70's disco theme. Once again Oxford dominated the dance floor - Cambridge didn't even show up.

## Day 3

There was an air of sadness in the room as the final day of conference dawned upon us. Most of the elected positions had been filled however since the conference had been running over and because the NUS employs a guillotine some motions were never discussed, such as the Gaza motion. The last day felt rushed and hurried and ended in controversy as two members of the NUS executive were censured for leading an occupation on the stage at the last NUS conference. Once the Guillotine, NUS conference 2009 ended. Over the past 3 days a few things that grabbed my attention

### The poor regulation of NUS elections

I, along with members of the Oxford delegation believed that the conduct of some of those campaigning for election was incredibly poor. When walking into the building one would be surrounded by over 40 people waving posters in your face, placing stickers on people without their consent and harassing people if they wanted to move on and ignore the campaigner. This type of atmosphere is something we would not accept within Oxford and this will be an issue that I will raise with the NUS President.

### The conduct of the NUS executive during speeches

During the entire conference the National Executive sat in front of the assembly on a raised stage. During speeches made by members of the floor the executive would regularly give standing ovations, cheers or on the flip side shake the heads violent and visibly show signs of disgust with something they disagreed with or if someone one from another slate made a speech from the floor. Again this practice seemed to be quite

intimidating and not good form for those who are supposed to be leading the organisation and trying to make the organisation more inclusive.

### **Tuition Fees**

A taskforce made up of common room Presidents met several times last term to discuss the implications of a proposed lifting of the cap on tuition fees and exploring possible alternatives to funding higher education. The final policy that the Student Union will work with in our attempts to lobby the relevant partners will be decided at this council and I would like to thank those who contributed the functioning of the working group.

I have also been asked to sit on a working group set up by the NUS President that will also look at creating an alternative model that will both be equitable for students and will resolve the funding needs of Higher Education institutions. I will both feed OUSU's policy into this process and use what is created as a way to refine OUSU policy.

### **OUSU Premises**

At the start of the month a summit was held between myself, Gary Crocker, the deputy director of finance within the University, the head and deputy head of the University Estates department, the Chair of the Joint consultative committee and the Head of Student Services to discuss the current location of the OUSU building and investigating the possibility of a move. At the end of this meeting the University committed themselves to moving the student union to a new premises with a location that is prominent and has a shop front, potentially on the high street.. The University will now look for central suitable premises and will report back on a list of venues in mid May.

### **Access Events**

Access is a key concern of the VP (Access and Academic Affairs) and over the break Paul and I travelled to the Emirates stadium to talk to thousands of sixth formers from London. I gave a presentation about University Life, Academic Life and the role of the Student Union. I've also given presentations to various schools coming up to Oxford.

### **Reach Oxford**

Martin Ceadel (a professor at New College), Sinni the International Students Officer, Helen Bagshaw from University admin and I spent a day in 8<sup>th</sup> Week sifting through application forms for scholarships that would allow students from countries where the standard of higher education is poor and where they do not have the resources to go elsewhere to come and study. After a long discussion over the candidates we were able to produce a shortlist, which will now be sent to the participating colleges for further consideration.

<b>Rosanna McBeath</b> <b>Opportunities)</b>	<b>V-P</b>	<b>(Welfare</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>Equal</b>
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Hello All,

I hope all the undergraduates had a good vacation and rested ready for the term ahead. And I hope all the graduates managed to have a break over the last couple weeks. The weather has been absolutely gorgeous and I've been jealously looking out of my window at all those outside enjoying it (though as I write this it is absolutely bucketing so now I'm quite glad to be inside). I can't believe its our last term in office, there are so many things that I want to get done, and we are quickly running out of time. It really doesn't feel that long ago that I was writing my first report for Michealmas.

There has been a lot happening here over the holidays. One of the big projects was our reorganisation of our permanent staff. Lewis and I spent many days looking at applications and interviewing, along with other office members and sabbaticals. I am so glad the process is now over. I would like to welcome Malcolm Jenkins, our new General Manager, and Stuart Togneri, our new Advertising and Entz Coordinator, they both started this week and I hope they enjoy their time at OUSU. I would also like to thank enormously Richard Hardiman and

Henry Strivens for all of their work. It has been invaluable to us. We will also be welcoming two more members of staff later this term, so watch this space!

The Student Advice Service is running well and at a high capacity. The student Advisor and myself are looking into possibly ways of increasing the service. We are planning on starting dedicated drop in hours this term. They will be Thursday afternoons this term. If you want any more information or have any questions/queries anything at all please get in touch! The email address for the service is [advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org) and the telephone number is (2)88466 or get in contact with me directly on [welfare@ousu.org](mailto:welfare@ousu.org) We have also been working on creating a poster and leaflet bank. We now have lots of drug awareness, sexual health, and general health awareness posters. If you are interested either drop by the office and pick some up, or give me a shout and I'll gladly pidge them across. I am also currently writing a paper for the Joint Consultative Committee on role of the Student Advisor, if anyone has any feedback or comments, please feel free to send me an email at [welfare@ousu.org](mailto:welfare@ousu.org)

My big project over break has been the college equality report. The working group is now in stage three of information gathering and processing. The first part of the project saw me going through every college handbook for information. Next we created a survey for the common room officers. We had a great response with a reply from almost every common room. There were some issues with the data gathered (people in the same common room disagreeing about college provision mainly), so we have now contacted every college office for information directly from the college. I would be incredibly grateful if you could prompt your college to reply, as responses are taking a while. After this we are going to set up surveys for students asking them about services they are aware of in their college, and what services they would like to be available. Once we have all of this we're going to put together a report both for council and for the University Committee on Student Health and Welfare. We have had some good off shoots from this project. From the data gathered, I'm putting the final touches on a library hours database which will be circulated on prelist. I am also working on a provisions database, which will also be available to common room officers, outlining what each college has, so it can be used as a tool in negotiating with colleges. The preliminary data show that one area of concern is the separation within colleges of academic/disciplinary procedures and welfare ones. I will report back as we get more information in! If you are interested in joining the working group, please drop me an email on [welfare@ousu.org](mailto:welfare@ousu.org)

I met over break with members of the University's Equality and Diversity Unit, legal services, and CRAE. We are working on a new complaints procedure within the University. This was one of the recommendations that came back from the Quality Assurance Audit. I will report back with the progress of the discussion. We are looking to drafting a set of ideas that we would like colleges to sign up to. We also talked about establishing training for common room officers in diversity awareness, so that they are then able to run sessions within their own colleges. If you are interested in this, please let me know and we will try to get a workshop set up soon. On this topic, if there are any areas you would like to see workshops run this term, please let me know. I will be running a JCR/MCR president's listening skills training this term, as well as training for welfare officers.

Our first Welfare Officers Committee will be Thursday of 2<sup>nd</sup> week in OUSU. I will be sending around details to the welfare officers. Our first Equal Opps Officers Committee will be Thursday of 3<sup>rd</sup> week. More details to follow.

One last thing, I am glad to say that the second meeting of the campaign for Students with Disabilities was on Wednesday. We had a great turnout, and a lot of great discussion about where the campaign wanted to go. We are planning a large launch event for Michealmas, and hope to sort out the constitution this term. Keep an eye out for our Carnation Campaign as this term goes on! Meetings are Wednesdays of odd weeks at 6pm. If you would like to join the mailing list please send me an email and I will add you.

I am looking in to setting up a group similar to Enough! which aims to support students affected by self harm and those caring for them. If you are interested in helping organise this or have any ideas, please get in touch.

I haven't been able to cover everything in my report, so if you have questions or would like more information on any of the projects mentioned here please ask me questions in council or drop me an email.

I hope you all have had a great 1<sup>st</sup> week and best of luck for the term ahead!

Welfare love!

Rosanna xx

**Rachel Cummings**

**V-P (Women)**

Hope you've had an awesome vac, here's what I've been up to:

- **The Women Report:** it should be with you as you read this. Have a look, come and ask me questions or let me know if there are things you think should be added (either after council or by email [women@ousu.org](mailto:women@ousu.org)). Let your common rooms know about it, if anyone wants more copies again just let me know (there'll be one pidge to every women's officer or female welfare officer). There will be an **official launch** of the report and a joint event with the Oxford Women's Network on Wednesday 2nd week at 5:30pm to which you are all very welcome (venue TBC).

- **Finals Forums:** five more are happening this term. There will be history and modern languages this week, and the following are next week:

Biochemistry: 4pm, Monday 2nd Week (4th May), New Biochemistry building Seminar Room with Dr. Mark Sansom and a recent finalist

Law: 5:30-6:30pm, Tuesday 2nd Week (5th May), Law Faculty Lecture Room 1 with Dr. Rebecca Williams, Dr Alison Young and Dr Anne Davies

Physics: 5:30-6:30pm, Thursday 2nd Week (7th May) Clarendon Lab Audrey Wood Seminar Room with Dr Ana Lopez and Suzannah Merchant (PhD student)

Tell people! Bring people! Non-finalists welcome too. Type 'women's finals forums' into facebook and invite your friends to the event.

- Domestic Abuse: Lisa, our wonderful Student Adviser is now a fully trained **Domestic Abuse Champion** which means she's up-to-date on the relevant legislation, is a point of contact about it for OUSU/students and is able to train others on the issue. This term there's going to be a **half-day training** session for any sort of welfare provider in the University on domestic abuse (like the sexual violence awareness workshop last term). It'll be 1-5pm on June 5th, which is Friday 6th week, run by two people who work in the area from the County Council. Everyone's welcome so send me a quick email if you're interested. I'm also currently working with the same people to run an **awareness campaign** about both domestic abuse and sexual violence in the University. At the moment we're waiting to hear back about funding, but look out for posters, stickers etc with information and places to go for help.

- **Public Speaking Training:** working with the Union over the vac to appoint their new Women's Officer (Zara McGlone) part of her line up for the Union Women's Initiative next term will be public speaking training which I'll be organising with some seasoned debaters. Open to everyone this follows on from individual sessions held in the last two terms; they'll now be fortnightly leading to an all-women's debate tournament at the end of term, but open and also aimed at those who just want to improve their public speaking skills for presentations, elections, general social interaction etc. They'll be Mondays of even weeks from 7:30pm in the Union (but open to non-members).

- **Access:** plans for the Women in Politics Access day are going very well. We opened applications and got about 170 responses, but have limited attendees to 110. The day includes Ann Cryer MP

speaking, lunch, a forum on political journalism (with Bridget Kendall, Amanda Farnsworth and Rosa Prince) and taster politics seminars run by graduates. OxWip are kindly supplying volunteers and running an alternative seminar on student life.

- **WomCam** enjoyed an away weekend this vacation. We planned for the term ahead, which will see: Ladyfest the all women's music and arts festival during 4th week ([www.ladyfestoxford.org.uk](http://www.ladyfestoxford.org.uk) <<http://www.ladyfestoxford.org.uk>> ), Love Your Body Garden Party Saturday 6th week at Hilda's, a forum on single sex versus mixed education, a bigger and better clothes swap and an event on international feminism. The theme for the term is 'Mind The Gap'. This week saw the first WomCam meeting of Trinity, a filming as part of our join 'Sex and the Cinema' series and a WomCam committee meeting.

- **Publicity Committee:** we designed a 'what your student union achieved this Hilary' poster and a second round of longer-term achievements. Lots should be up around colleges and departments already, but I have some with me and would appreciate if anyone wants to put them up. We're also working on OUSU publicity to the new freshers, adding more to the website and working with designers.

**Other events:** this week saw the first Tea and Toys (student parent event) of term, the first Enough! (disordered eating support group) meeting, a meeting with Felicity Cooke (head of the Equality and Diversity Unit) and a Women's Officers meeting on Thursday.

**Kaushal Vidyarthee**

**V-P (Graduates)**

Welcome to the first week council. I hope you all had a very nice Easter break. Even though I had to take a week off due to my illness, there's been lots going on, specifically on the International Students' Campaign.

**University Council:** Since the last OUSU council meeting, I have been to two University council meeting. The University governance report (prepared by the Audit and Scrutiny Committee) was discussed at length in the second last meeting.

**University and College Committees:** - The Easter break time was quiet in general. I presented the paper on college libraries and graduate facilities to the committee of the college librarians in 9<sup>th</sup> week HT. The committee members felt sympathetic to raised issues and agreed to investigate various options to tackle them. Moreover, the University has now received from the QAA the letter providing an early indication of the key findings. Confidence has been given for both the University's management of the academic standards of its awards and its management of the quality of learning opportunities. Moreover, one of the recommendations made to the University is that the University should ensure equality of practice across colleges, especially where this affects student progression. This was possible due to our student written submission.

**Meeting the University Officials:**

I met the director of the International Students Advisory Services to discuss the issues related to organisation of the international orientation day and Meet and Greet scheme. I also met the funding officer to discuss the issues of Graduate Financial Guarantees.

**Graduate Financial Guarantees and Funding:** The piloting of a standardised graduate financial guarantee process by the University is an attempt to streamline the current process (the ways graduate students deal with finances i.e. fees, sources of funding) and making it more stringent on students' side. I was able to fix a meeting with the University offices to have a focused group discussion with the graduate students. We are meeting in the second week.

**Graduate Admissions:** The Graduate Admission Office observed an enormous increase in the number of applications this year (in the range of 30-40% for most of the departments). Approximately 90% of the applications were submitted online. It was a great achievement for the new online system. Work on this is continuing and developing. I'm sitting on four committees/working groups covering all areas of graduate admissions.

**International Students' Campaign:** We are meeting on Thursday in the first week to discuss the progress of various projects, which include festival, access scheme, handbook and PSW visa workshop.

**Oxford International Festival:** I was able to secure the University Club venue (free of cost) for the international festival. The festival will be held on Saturday, 23rd May - Week 4 of this term. Join us between 10.00 am to 4.00 pm for performances, workshops and authentic cuisines from all over the world.

**International Access Scheme:** Besides putting the profiles of students from the under-represented countries, we have decided to go ahead with the International Open Days. These open days will be similar to the Target Schools programme UK in which current students go to make presentations and meet prospective students. We are holding a training programme for international student volunteers in 5th week.

**International Student Handbook:** We are editing and adding some new chapters to the handbook at this stage. Moreover, we were able to convince the Oxford University Press to sponsor the publication of the Handbook and got 1000GBP. We also secured 500 pounds from the Abbey bank.

**Post Study Visa Workshop:** Working in collaboration with the Careers Services and the International Advisory Services, a post study visa workshop (for international students who wants to continue working after their study) is being organised at the Careers Services on 6<sup>th</sup> May. Depending on the successes of the event, we plan to organise more workshops.

**Mature Students' Evening:** A drinks evening (Tea-Coffee and Dinner) has been organised for mature students at Harris Manchester College on Thursday of the first week.

**Student Advice Service:** I've had few case-works (mostly revisiting ones) besides lots of graduate admissions enquiries.

**Common Rooms-** I interacted with all new MCR presidents who took over the charge over the break or at the end of the HT. We are having our first PresCom of this term on Tuesday of the third week at St Catz.

**Paul Dwyer**

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

As Trinity gets under way, with all the punting and festivities that it entails, things remain fairly busy in the office, although you will all be thankful that it isn't long before you can all be rid of me!

Recent activities:

Regional conferences

Over the Easter Vacation I spent two weeks running around the country like a mad man, trying to spread the good word of Oxford University, all in the name of providing 6<sup>th</sup> form students with more information about applying to the University and life at Oxford.

The cities covered were:

Edinburgh

Newcastle (I will be the bigger man here, and not make any jokes about the conference being the most successful thing to grace St James' Park this season)

Leicester

Liverpool (well, Haydock Park, which is kinda between Liverpool and Manchester)

Cardiff

London

The conferences allow students from all over the areas covered to come and listen to presentations by both Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Such presentations covered not only general information about applying to the universities and what life was like, but also subject specific information and guidance on what to expect from interviews.

From an OUSU point of view, the conferences allowed me the opportunity to reach a lot of students in a relatively short period of time, as well as distribute the Alternative Prospectus. In this respect, the conferences were a huge success. Over the two weeks, at 7 events we gave out over 1000 APs, and spoke to hundreds of students, all of whom offered extremely positive feedback on our prospectus, as well as the work that we were doing. In London alone we managed to shift 16 boxes of APs in just under 20 minutes!

The conferences also offered the chance for me to talk to teachers from schools around the country and tell them about the work that Target Schools carries out throughout the year. Special thanks has to go to Jonathan Lafferty here, who joined me at the Edinburgh conference and did a fantastic job at engaging the local teachers and students!

### Alternative Prospectus

I met with Gabriella Wells from the University Admissions team earlier this week regarding the Alternative Prospectus, and talked over a few different ideas about how we might like to proceed with the new edition of the guide for next year. We are working to a deadline of March, so that it can be ready for the next admissions round, and have taken a number of positive steps in order to hit the ground running come the summer. Watch this space regarding updates and information on editorships etc.

### Target Schools

Target Schools are looking to expand their operations throughout Trinity Term, so make sure to keep your eye out for their publicity material! We are hoping to train a good number of students this term, so that they might go back to their own areas and spread the good word of Oxford, and will be recruiting accordingly. The committee are also looking to expand their operation into the colleges more effectively, which can hopefully be achieved through setting up Target School 'cells' in each college, whereby the Access rep would be given comprehensive training which they can then deliver to their own common room students as they see fit.

### Access Reps

After a meeting with Access reps across the common rooms on Wednesday, OUSU is taking a number of positive steps to better support such common room officers. We are revamping the mailing list, in order to encourage more sharing of best practice between officers, and I will be putting together a comprehensive Access reps handbook in order to make the handover between different officers a little bit easier.

### OUSU Big Sister Scheme

After a huge level of interest from students across the university, the OUSU Big Sister scheme has gotten underway this term. Myself and Jack have selected 4 mentors who we think are going to be fantastic in taking the scheme forward, and who hopefully allow us to grow and expand going into next year. Our first activity day will be on Sunday, followed by the e-mentoring programme, so it's proving to be an extremely exciting time at the minute!

### Exam Feedback

Last term saw me take my paper on entitlement to exam scripts in cases of failure to Education Committee for consideration. This paper had already been through the Undergraduate Panel, and was now ready for a wider discussion and consultation. The paper was fairly well received, albeit with one or two reservations on the part of some of the committee members. The paper was discussed at some length, before going back to the divisions for consultation, and hopefully there should be some more headway made at some point later in term.

### Exam Lists

After discussion in Education Committee, it has been decided that display lists are no longer going to be published when examination results are available. There are a number of reasons for this, including the fact that such display lists were no longer an accurate reflection of the number of students who had actually sat the

exams. From now on, results will be made available to each student individually through their OSS log in, and more details will be made available to those students affected by the change.

### Exam Preparation Guidance

As a result of a meeting with Academic Affairs reps and JCR Presidents last week, I am currently putting together a dossier of information that will be helpful for common room officers whose students are taking exams this term. I was a little optimistic in putting together a time frame for getting the information out, but am now on top of it. It should be available to common room officers at some point over the weekend or on Monday morning.

<b>Jack Wellby Community)</b>	<b>V-P</b>	<b>(Charities</b>	<b>&amp;</b>
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Trinity Term is upon us. The Easter Holiday was a chance to take stock and plan where I want this position to be in two months time. It has thus been a busy Easter spent formulating policy and getting down to the less glamorous knitty gritty.

Here's what I've been up to:

- Planning with Stuart Cullen from the Oxford Union a forum on refugees and asylum seekers to take place 5pm on the 26<sup>th</sup> May.
- Working with the new RAG committee (elected in 8<sup>th</sup> week last term) to plan the term ahead. So far in our termcard the events are:
  - Charity coppers sponsorship day
  - Summer Eights barbeque and Pimms sale
  - Charity Debate in the Union
  - RAG @ Eelectric in 6<sup>th</sup> week
  - 5-a-side football tournament
  - The RAG Casino has been hired by five balls
- Working with the Oxford Hub to produce a memorandum of understanding between OxHub and OUSU which will be brought to council for your views in 3<sup>rd</sup> week
- The working group looking into Common Room contributions to charity will be meeting in 2<sup>nd</sup> week and a paper will be produced hopefully by 5<sup>th</sup> week council
- I've been looking into the job descriptions of the VP (Charities and Community) and the two part-time exec officers who I coordinate Part-Time Exec (Environment and Ethics) and (Charity and Community Outreach). These new job descriptions will be brought to 3<sup>rd</sup> week council.
- We've been working on providing a much more comprehensive online support to Environment, Ethics and Green representatives from Common Rooms. This will be online very soon.
- Met with GroupSpaces to continue efforts to make the OUSU website more interactive.
- The charities committee meetings continue to be very well attended with representatives from 70% of common rooms attending each week. I have distributed the charity rep handbook to every newly elected rep who I know of.

**'Nothing is so hard for those who abound in riches to conceive how others can be in want.'**

Jonathan Swift

## **PART TIME OFFICERS**

**Daniel Lowe**

**Environment & Ethics Officer**

Hi Council

Coming up on Wednesday 6th of May (2nd Week) is Lights, Climate, Action! An evening of entertainment at the Cellar featuring In the Pink, The Teddy Hall Alternative Choir stand up comedy and two of Oxford's Slam Poetry Champions.

Tickets cost £3 in advance, £4 on the door. Doors open 6pm.

The University SRI Committee has FINALLY been formed. I,m now waiting for details of the first meeting.. Only 13 months. I,m also going to be working this term on getting Fairtrade status for OUSU. We had a motion passed last year in support, and fulfil all the other criteria so we just need to set up a supervisory committee and send in our application.

Green Love

Daniel

**Ian Lyons**

**Grad Access and Admissions Officer**

Hey everyone,

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter break! There are several issues that I've been working on with the rest of the exec. As ever, any queries or questions don't hesitate to e-mail me at [gradacaff@ousu.org](mailto:gradacaff@ousu.org).

### **Financial guarantee forms**

The university is looking at introducing a single form for students to fill out regarding their means of financial support and funding for their course. This form will be sent out by every student offered a place and must be completed for them to secure their place. The university has agreed to let the student have some input on the content of this, and we are hoping to recruit a few individuals from as wide a group of graduate students as possible, to reflect the diversity of funding situations at the university. Anyone interested in being involved, do e-mail myself ([gradacaff@ousu.org](mailto:gradacaff@ousu.org)) or the VP (Graduates) ([graduates@ousu.org](mailto:graduates@ousu.org)).

### **Reform of PGA**

The postgraduate assembly is the major forum, other than council, through which graduate students can put forward policy to OUSU, however at present it is poorly attended. Kaushal, myself and members of the graduate student body are currently looking into PGA, whether it needs to be reformed, how ensure it is well utilised by the graduate students and how it will fit into the OUSU structure. At present the group looking into this are meeting regularly and consulting members of the student body. We hope to present our findings at some point this term.

### **Library opening hours**

Many libraries in Oxford reduce their opening hours during their vacation. Particularly during the Easter vacation, where space to work is at a premium due to the large numbers of students revising, the shorter opening hours that many faculty libraries operate can be a problem. We're currently lobbying the university to see if we can get this reverse.

In addition, there is some inconsistency in the library facilities that colleges provide their students – whilst many colleges now offer 24 hours opening, others provide far less. We've sent a proposal regarding this to the libraries committee in the university to encourage all colleges to convert to a 24/7 opening.

**Jack Matthews**

**Common Room Support Officer**

Hi Council, hope you all had a good Easter Holiday and are looking forward to the joys of OUSU Council this term.

Over the holidays I have worked on the Sky TV Campaign - this is going slower than expected and is a more delicate situation also - more news to follow soon.

I have also begun to make plans to hold a workshop on how to set up a university club or society, how to register with the proctors, and provide information on the support that is available. This is now looking like it will be in 3rd Week, if anyone is interested, do get in touch.

At the start of the holidays, in an attempt to research how to better engage with students as a student union, I attended Keele Student Union's general meeting. This was an interesting occasion as they have some very different rules and ways of doing things (e.g. each candidate in an election is only allowed 2 activists!). The trip was well worth it, and I be continuing to look into ways we can improve what we do for students.

As always, if you have any questions, please do get in touch - [commonrooms@ousu.org](mailto:commonrooms@ousu.org)

Regards

Jack Matthews

