

# Reports to Council

## 1<sup>st</sup> Week Council Trinity 2016

Becky	Howe	President	<b>Received</b>
Ali	Lennon	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	<b>Received</b>
Lucy	Delaney	VP Women	<b>Received</b>
Nick	Cooper	VP Graduates	<b>Received</b>
Cat	Jones	VP Access & Academic Affairs	<b>Received</b>
Emily	Silcock	VP Charities & Community	<b>Received</b>
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	<b>Received</b>
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	<b>Received</b>
Hilal	Yazan	Black & Minority Ethnic Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	<b>Received</b>
Yoni	Stone	Community Outreach & Charities Officer	<b>Received</b>
Fairlie	Kirkpatrick Baird	Environment & Ethics Officer	<b>Received</b>
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	<b>Received</b>
Gabe	Rusk	Grad International Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Rebecca	Kuperberg	Grad Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Kirthi	Bellamkonda	Grad Womens' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	<b>Received</b>
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students Officer	<b>Received</b>
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	<b>Received</b>
Dorkina	Myrick	Mature Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Holly	Roy	Student Parents and Carers' Officer	<b>Received</b>
Tuesday	Doherty	Womens' Campaign Officer	

## **Sabbatical Officers**

### **Becky Howe – President**

Hi Council!

Hope you're all well. It seems like ages since the last Council, and I've been up to loads over the vac. Here's some highlights:

- Welfare survey and report: the all-student survey Ali and I ran was open from 5th to 9th week last term. It gathered over 5500 responses, which is our biggest survey response ever. We hired two grad students over the vac to do data analysis - they both have stats backgrounds so gave us some brilliant data sets to work with. We're now writing up: a report on the whole University's results, and college-specific reports for common rooms who got a high enough response rate (50%). We'll then consult with you lovely lot to make a Welfare Vision, detailing our campaigning priorities and policies. Exciting times!
- APPG on sexual violence: a couple of weeks ago, I went to an All-Party Parliamentary Group on Sexual violence at university. I invited both of our MPs, and Andrew Smith came along which was great. The discussion was around: the Zellick guidelines, reporting, training, and campaigning. I spoke on the need for institutions to take greater responsibility for confronting sexual violence: arguing that whilst there is a great deal of work being done on training, policy-changing, information and resource-sharing, it is almost solely being led by student unions and activists. Lots of other student union reps present agreed, which I think struck a chord with the university administrators there. Great discussion that I'm glad I went to!
- NUS National Conference: last week I led the delegation to NUS National Conference. Our report is enclosed.
- I was on the departmental review panel for Theology and Religion – v interesting and looking forward to seeing the recommendations that come out of it.

There's been lots of other stuff going on, but I wanted to draw out the key ones that have been going on for me recently. Any questions, do get in touch - [president@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:president@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Becky x

### **Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities**

Hi Council,

Below are some points regarding what I've been working on. However, I would also like to state that I'm very proud that the OUSU Sabbatical Team took a strong stance during the NUS Presidential Election. It's very important that in the follow up to this series of events that we listen to the concerns of Jewish students and that we are resolute in tackling all forms of discrimination in the student movement. I'll continue to work on some of the issues raised here and I've put out a draft Anti-Semitism policy for consultation with the aim of bringing it to 3rd Week Council.

- Welfare Officer Training – this has been developed following the last series of sessions

and has been improved. There will be two further training sessions in 2nd Week for Officers.

- Alcohol Safety – With the support of the Operations Manager I've created a Common Room alcohol service and event policy along with event checklists to enable student bar and entertainment officers to safely hold events. In addition to this, I've offered to organise training for Common Room Officers on this subject.
- Good Night Out – with the Vice-President for Women and the Operations Manager we've developed the Good Night Out course and aim to proceed with the project with a pilot training session in the coming term.
- OUSU Welfare Survey – this has taken a great deal of my time over the vacation. Things are proceeding incredibly well. We have a series of meetings with senior University officials planned and the data analysis is finished. We expect the report will be published in the coming term.
- Prevent – I've further meetings on this in the coming week and I'll be distributing further guidance to Common Room Presidents shortly.
- DSA – I've the first meeting with the DSA College Provision Working Group later this week. I'll work closely with the Disabled Students Officer and OSDC to ensure their views are represented at the appropriate level.
- Student Medical Confidentiality – I've repeatedly contacted the office of the Dr Payne who is responsible for the proposed alterations of student medical confidentiality. It appears he is ignoring not only me but several universities who are seeking clarification. One university went as far as making a Freedom of Information request which has not been answered in a manner which will allow for clarification. I am looking into making a complaint with the Care Quality Commission on this matter.
- Examination Preparation Sessions – on the request of the examination schools OUSU will be assisting again with running a preparation session for students concerned about their exams. The SAS and I will be in attendance. The preparation session is on the 3rd of May at the Examination Schools. You can sign up online on the Examination Schools website. Feedback has been immensely positive thus far and I would recommend the sessions.
- Sexual Health Screening – on May the 4th OUSU and the NHS with the assistance of St Catz JCR will be running a screening event. Details will be circulated via welfare officers.

As ever, if you have any questions get in touch via [vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

### **Lucy Delaney – VP Women**

#### Training

I have put together a training plan for this term, which includes more first respondent training, sexual consent workshop facilitator training, women's officer training, queer consent workshops and bystander training. I am also putting together a plan for making sure that MT 16's sexual consent workshops run smoothly and that colleges do not neglect other equally important workshops.

#### GNO

I have been working with Good Night Out and OUSU on developing their material for training bar and club staff in handling harassment, assault and discrimination in venues.

### Lad Culture

Last year OUSU were one of nine student unions to be selected to take part in the NUS' Lad Culture Pilot Audit scheme. The NUS provided tailored feedback, identifying specific ways in which we as a student union and university could improve and since then myself and Becky have been working hard on doing just that. This term myself and Becky will be launching 'Not in My University', a campaign to re-examine and look at lad culture today. We will be launching it with a half-day speaker event, looking at lad culture not just in terms of misogyny and sexism but as a wider problem of privilege, entitlement and oppression and we have invited a range of speakers, from student representatives to representatives from national organisations.

### Nick Cooper – VP Graduates

Evening, Council! I hope your Easter has (like mine) been full of eggs, sunshine and a pining for democratic chat. Since 7<sup>th</sup> week Council I've mostly been up to the following; longer than usual, but it'll be worth the read:

- **Consultation on DPhil supervision** – As mandated by Council, I have been asking DPhil students over the vacation about their supervision and working conditions. I have had almost 800 responses, which is incredible – thank you if you filled it out. I'm now analysing the results, and will be bringing findings to Council and to the University in approx. 5<sup>th</sup> week.
- **Masters focus groups and survey** – I ran 10 focus groups before term ended, and am now trying to set up more. I have also ran a survey, which has had over 500 responses, so ta again for those. I'm trying to assess satisfaction with especially feedback, assessment, contact hours and careers advice. I'll be compiling the results this term, and have a discussion booked in for 9<sup>th</sup> week with the University's Graduate Panel. I'm hoping for the University to consider a major review of their Masters provision, to ensure it improves across the board.
- **Graduate welfare** – We are reopening Ali and Becky's welfare survey for a week to graduate students only to improve the response rate. I'm going to be churning through the data we do have, but the sample size for graduate students is sadly low – even though I'm very concerned about welfare at Masters and DPhil level. I also met with the University's Director of Student Welfare to discuss how we can improve graduate welfare, and we had a very productive discussion.
- **Common Room support** – I've tried to meet with all new Graduate Common Room Presidents; a few more to go, but getting there. I've also been keeping an eye on rent negotiations within colleges – if anyone wants advice or support, just get in touch.
- **Committees and departmental reviews** – I sat on the review of the Maths Institute and the first part of the review of Computer Science, and hopefully helped to ensure student experience in these departments improves. We also got something of a win by securing an improvement in the minimum standard set for colleges with respect to College Advisors – colleges have now agreed to monitor the work of College Advisors more effectively, which hopefully gives students something of a safety net.

- **Student Written Submission/Quality Assurance Agency** – anyone around in Michaelmas will have heard us banging on about this 60-page report on the University's academic provision which we wrote earlier in the year. We had the visit from the QAA (who monitor universities) in 8<sup>th</sup> week of Hilary, and are awaiting the official report. Many thanks to all the students who came along. We will be taking our 36 recommendations to the University's Education Committee next week for their response.
- **OUSU internal stuff** – As ever, plenty of this. I've started writing my handover doc to Marina, did some governance, met most of my Part Time Executive etc. I've got things on the agenda about some of this.
- I also took a holiday, and ate at Wetherspoons for three meals a day for a week. Both of these were great fun.

I'm going to be holding a Graduate Forum in probably 3<sup>rd</sup> week to discuss what issues are particularly affecting all kinds of graduate student, what OUSU should be prioritising, and how OUSU can work better to engage graduate students. Come along. Please.

Until 3<sup>rd</sup> week,

Nick

### **Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs**

**Teaching Awards.** Many months of effort have gone in to our annual Teaching Awards, which are taking place at the Town Hall on Tuesday of Week 2. We received over 700 nominations from students and we will be recognising 95 members of staff that have made outstanding contributions as tutors, supervisors, lecturers or support staff.

**Suspended Status.** I am currently working with SusCam to produce an information booklet for students who suspend. I am collating information from across many different parts of the university on topics such as; the suspension process, its effects on visas and funding, sources of support available, accommodation, your rights, and returning to study. We aim to have this completed by the end of this term and hope it will be a hugely useful resource.

**Target Schools.** Over the vacation I've done a lot of work with Target Schools. I am excited to announce that we have just introduced travel bursaries for pupils attending the shadowing scheme. Less exciting – but of the utmost importance – we have also been working to improve our safeguarding procedures and I delivered safeguarding training to the committee over the weekend.

**Committees.** A big part of my job is representing you on numerous committees. Since my last report I have attended – and contributed to – the following committees on your behalf: Education Committee, University Council (x2), Curators, Quality Assurance Working Group, Access Target Working Group (x2), Regionalisation Working Group, Admissions Executive, Quality Assurance Sub-Committee.

## **Emily Silcock - VP Charities and Community**

Hi Council,

How did it get to Trinity already? Scarily, we now only have 9 weeks left to get done everything that we want to before we leave. My priorities over the next term are going to be:

- Voter Registration – ahead of the EU referendum I'll be campaigning to get as many students registered to vote as possible.
- Campaign review – I've been restructuring my campaigns and I'll be formalising this this term (look out for exciting governance in 3<sup>rd</sup> week council).
- Veggie starter packs – ahead of #VeggiePledge in Michaelmas, I'll be organising Veggie Starter packs to send out to all students who take part.

And here's what I've been up to since I last saw your lovely faces ...

### Environment and Sustainability

- Ran Clear Outs of food and household goods at the end of last term. Started getting ready for the Trinity Big Clear out already.
- Organised the final Environment and Ethics rep dinner of the year (tomorrow) – really excited to see this enthusiastic group of people again.
- Finished Green Impact (sustainability audit of OUSU) – fairly sure we got a Gold award.

### Project Incubator

I've been putting in the groundwork to see this up and running from Michaelmas.

### Community

- Trained new wardens last Sunday – they've been out door knocking this week and they'll be running community events throughout this term.
- Written a guide for Community groups on getting students more involved with their causes. This will be being sent out later in the term.

### Ethics

Very very excited to say that we have successfully set up a scholarship for refugee students and that hopefully there will be a student in receipt of this from October.

### Voter Reg

- I've put together lots of informational gifs about Voter Reg.
- Get ready to see #Pledge2Reg up and running again – with lots of prizes for the common rooms that get people to register.
- I'll also be sending out Voter Reg kits to Common Room presidents so that you can run Voter Reg sessions in colleges.

### RAG

- We had 6 lovely RAG interns in the office in 9<sup>th</sup> week, who put together a fabulous bid for the RAG National conference 2017.
- The RAG ball team is up and running – they've chosen a venue and theme and a date.
- We've got two Student Consultancy teams working with RAG this term to look at new areas for fundraising.

Handover

And finally, I've written my handover and started putting planning in place to get Beth set up to have the best year possible.

As always, please do get in contact at [vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Emily

### **Part-Time Executive Officers**

#### **Tom Wadsworth – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer**

Over the vacation I have been sorting out things I want to do this term. I will continue to help out with SusCam and am also in discussion with Cat about other projects I can take on this term.

#### **Adam Kellett – Access and Admission Officer**

Working with Target Schools to improve safeguarding and child protection rules, as well as reviewing how we co-ordinate the shadowing days to make them better for the visiting students! Other than that, got involved with the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conferences over the break: great to see so many people volunteering for it and getting involved with access!

#### **Hilal Yazan – BME Students Officer**

I attended Dr Patricia Daley's presentation for her report on Race Equality (which can be accessed here <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/proctors/assessorsproject2015-16/>) and it should hopefully be a fantastic resource for us to continue to push for race equality. I'm also working on a blog post about the Tutor for Race for the Race Equality Charter blog set up by the Equality and Diversity Unit.

#### **Eric LeGresley – Clubs and Societies Support Officer**

Over the end of last term and the break things have been relatively quiet. I have helped set up several societies including the new Hip-Hop Society and the upcoming Canadian Society. I have been returning many emails and have a couple of meet-ups in person to discuss society

related matters with members of the student body. Access to the OUSU Societies website would greatly improve my ability to carry out my duties as the Clubs Officer. I hope to set up a flowchart this term outlining the process required to set up a society and have it uploaded onto the website.

### **Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer**

There are currently 9 JCRs offering a Pint for a Pint, with more to come soon hopefully (potentially even including some at the other place). Oxford Donors now has a bank account so is a step closer to becoming a society. I am planning a joint event with NHS Blood and Transplant for 6th week which is good news.

### **Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environment and Ethics Officer**

Hi Council!

Over the vac, I primarily worked on the Guide to Being a Sustainable Student. I hope to have the content of this finalised by the end of this term. I supported the committee in their research, which is going very well, and have begun to go through the first drafts of their sections with an eye to editing them as a committee in our first meeting of term. I've also been working on several smaller projects that I hope to trial in my college and then spread to other colleges if successful. These include getting bicycles in colleges to enable students to travel more sustainably, and instituting a "waste race" in which students would compete to produce the least amount of waste in a week.

### **Bo Zhang – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer**

I'm currently going through the results from the D.Phil supervision consultation data and the results from Students Barometer. I will continue to analyze the responses and comments from the surveys and compile the highlights. The summary and proposed resolutions will contribute to the final report to the university and colleges.

### **Gabe Rusk – Graduate International Students' Officer**

Dear Council,

I am excited to be back for Trinity Term. As per my platform and the goals of the previous term, I continue to focus on one key tenet: Inclusion. For this term my efforts will continue on that front. This will manifest itself three-fold: Increased focus on representation on the MCR level. I have long indicated this local model of representation needs to increase in number. Secondly, I will continue my efforts to increase networking on the issues of interfaith. I hope to host a like event on such matters. Lastly, inclusion requires awareness. My final goal of the term is to put together a diagnostic of the key concerns facing international graduate students. Hopefully this information can be used for more targeted changes.



Best regards, Gabe Rusk

**Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Welfare Officer**

Hi Council-

Happy Trinity! I've been busy writing up over break, but will be planning a few more events for Trinity once I submit my thesis (yay). After a successful first meeting of the Emotional Wellbeing in Fieldwork and Research group, I will be running at least one (hopefully two) more meetings this term. I am also aiming to hold a Grad WelfCom in the middle of the term. As always, please feel free to get in touch with questions, concerns, or suggestions ([gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk)).

**Kirthi Bellamkonda – Graduates Womens' Officer**

Over break, Lucy and I made some plans for this term, including a panel discussion and a social for the MCR officers. More details as more people get back from break.

**Katy Haigh – Health and Welfare Officer**

Hi Council,

I have been in correspondence with Ali over the Easter break. I have completed the information on our drugs harm reduction leaflets and we are waiting on a response from the companies who's information we used before we begin printing and distributing; I'm looking forward to seeing this project come to an end and I hope that students find the information helpful and insightful.

I am currently looking into organising a WelfCom this Trinity term for undergraduate common room welfare officers, this is still in the initial stages.

Looking forward to working with OUSU for another term, and I am looking ahead too, as I am planning a meeting with Ali's successor (Sandy Downs) to discuss her manifesto points and how I can be of use to her over the summer and Michaelmas '16.

Best, Katy

**Meera Sachdeva – International Students' Officer**

One of the biggest things we're trying to do this term is encouraging JCRs to mandate their college to allow international freshers to arrive before freshers week. We've put out a motion for this week's OUSU council so that OUSU can support it first and then I'll be giving the motion to international reps to put it to their JCRs. We'll also be releasing a survey for international students to ask them what other changes they'd like to see. Finally, I'll be working with Anne Ford to develop the BME and international students Peer Support group.

## **Catherine Kelly – LGBTQ Officer**

Over the vacation I focused on putting together the LGBTQ 101 Workshop template. I have now put together a planning group for the workshops and uploaded a draft of the workshop template which I have discussed with the members of this group. I will continue to work on this template over the next week or so with the aim of piloting the workshop and training facilitators as soon as possible.

I have also organised a launch event for the LGBTQ Campaign's zine 'Missing', which will take place in the Oxford Hub on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April. Contributors to the zine will be reading from their work at the launch, and all money raised from the sale of the zine itself will go towards Broken Rainbow, the UK's only LGBTQ domestic violence charity.

I have also spent time planning events and meetings for the term ahead, including rep meetings, committee meetings as well as an open meeting and elections for the LGBTQ Campaign and the Queer Women's Discussion Group.

## **Dorkina Myrick – Mature Students Officer**

### Activities Since Last Meeting

I attended the NUS Mature and Part-Time Students Conference in Milton Keynes on Saturday, 12 March 2016, with Rizwana Rashid, leader of StudentsPlus for Mature and Part-Time Students. I proposed (and Rizwana seconded) the RESPECT motion, which is summarized as follows and was passed that day:

### RESPECT Motion

(Resources, Equity, Sensitivity, Pastoral care, Engagement, Child care, Time flexible)

“Conference Believes:

That Colleges and Universities should take measures to raise awareness and increase sensitivity and understanding of the concerns of mature students. We intend to accomplish this goal through education to:

- Raising awareness and increase sensitivity for the concerns and needs of Mature and Part-Time students
- Challenge stereotypes and taboos concerning Mature and Part-Time students
- Provide friendly, open, and supportive spaces for Mature and Part-Time students interact and have their concerns addressed.”

OUSU StudentsPlus co-hosted a brunch with the Brazilian Society on March 13.

A curry social is currently being planned for the beginning of Trinity Term.

I am still supporting OUSU StudentsPlus in their effort to establish a scholarship for a Bangladeshi Mature Student.

Please feel free to e-mail me at [maturestudents@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:maturestudents@ousu.ox.ac.uk) with questions, concerns, or comments.

### **Ronak Patel – Disabled Students' Officer**

Over the holidays I have been working on various projects which should hopefully be running this term. Firstly, I have planned a workshop on disabled student allowance changes with the DAS which is happening Thursday 1st week.

Also in the pipeline is for feedback focus groups for disabled students in common rooms to be organised with the help of disabled student reps; I have been working on guides for facilitators of these workshops. We hope to make these an annual occurrence.

I am also working with university staff to see how we can lobby for more accessible college grounds. I will meet with staff this week to discuss the best way to do this - mostly likely by lobbying colleges to carry out an accessibility audit. There is also a possibility of conducting our own accessibility checklists to measure colleges against to see where best to campaign for accessibility. More on this as it develops.

### **Holly Roy – Student Parents and Carers' Officer**

Over the break we had a small student parent social at Christchurch Meadow. This was a good way for me to get to know a few more student parents. We are also organising a barbecue for student parents in May at GTC. There has been lots of interest in this, so I think it will be a popular event.

Finally, we have made some headway into drafting a document to send to heads of different departments about discrepancies in maternity leave funding and information provided to students if they become pregnant.

### **Divisional Board Representatives**

#### **Eric LeGresley – Medical Sciences Undergraduate Representative**

The break was very quiet apart from a meeting with two representatives from the Bodleian Libraries. This meeting was very productive and I was able to give a student angle on several policy changes and undergraduate training opportunities. One major conclusion was the necessity for improved training around primary literature search engines.

## Report from OUSU's Delegates to the National Union of Students Conference 2016

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This report seeks to give an impression of the way in which OUSU's delegates to NUS conference represented students and their thoughts from conference. It does not give information about every single decision made by delegates, but delegates will be happy to respond to specific questions about conference.

The OUSU delegation consisted of:

- Becky Howe (delegation leader, ex-officio)
- Anne Cremin (delegate, elected MT 15)
- David Klemperer (delegate, elected MT 15)
- Harry Samuels (delegate, elected MT 15)
- Matt Sumption (delegate, elected MT 15)
- Rowan Davis (delegate, elected MT 15)
- Vivian Holmes (delegate, elected MT 15)

*NB: Usually, the President-elect of OUSU attends as an observer. This is to give them experience of the Conference, to help them lead the delegation in the following year. However, President-elect, Jack Hampton, has already led a delegation to NUS National Conference when he was the President of his Further Education college. In this context, and with collections scheduled on two of the days of National Conference, the President and President-elect decided that the President-elect would not attend as an observer.*

### **Motions**

Prior to the conference, the OUSU delegation went through the OUSU policy book and marked which motions OUSU has policy on. Therefore, with motions such as 'Liberate My Degree', 'Keep Wednesday Afternoons Free', and 'Preventing Prevent', OUSU delegates all voted in line with OUSU's policy (for, for, and for respectively).

Members of the delegation were mandated to vote for 'A full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation Campaign'. The motion passed almost unanimously.

Other motions which have since attracted attention are listed below, with the voting breakdown for OUSU's delegation:

Motion 303, 'Safe Social Elections':

- For - 3
- Against - 3
- Abstain - 1

Amendment 404a, 'NUS should officially commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day':

- For – 7
- Against – 0
- Abstain - 0

**OUSU submitted four motions to NUS conference and they all passed.** They were as follows:

Motion 405, ‘Prioritise Students’ Mental Health - Now!’

- We were one of five student unions to propose a motion on student mental health, so the motions were composited (pulled together to form one motion).
- All seven delegates voted in favour.

Motion 404, ‘Antisemitism on Campus’

- David Klemperer spoke on this motion.
- All seven delegates voted in favour.

Amendment 511b, ‘Shut Down All Detention Centres’

- This was submitted as a motion by Vivian Holmes and Rowan Davis. NUS’ Democratic Procedures Committee moved it to be an amendment to another motion.
- Vivian Holmes spoke on this amendment.
- As per OUSU policy, all seven delegates voted in favour.

Motion 605, ‘A full time paid NUS Trans Officer and an autonomous NUS Trans Liberation Campaign’

- We were one of four student unions to propose this motion as well as the NUS LGBT+ Committee
- As per OUSU policy, all seven delegates voted in favour.

## **Elections**

Although elections for the President and Vice-Presidents are conducted by secret ballot, OUSU’s delegation believed it best to share the breakdown of first preference votes from our delegation (the candidates in **bold** were elected):

### **President**

Megan Dunn – 0

**Malia Bouattia** – 1

Adil Waraich - 0

RON – 6

### **Vice President Higher Education**

Priscilla Mensah - 2

**Sorana Vieru** – 1

RON - 4

**Vice President Welfare**

**Shelly Asquith** – 3

Munya Mudarikiri – 0

RON – 4

**Vice President Union Development**

**Richard Brookes** – 1

Sahaya James – 3

RON – 3

**Vice President Society and Citizenship**

Samayya Afzal – 3

Chloe Schendel-Wilson – 0

**Robbie Young** – 0

RON – 4

There were also elections for Vice President Further Education, which OUSU's delegates could not vote in, as OUSU is a Higher Education affiliate to the NUS. Shakira Martin was re-elected.

Elections for the NUS's National Executive Committee took place as did elections for Democratic Procedures Committee and the NUS's Trustee Board. We do not yet know the results of these elections

## **Recommendations for NUS**

OUSU's delegation felt that there was some notable issues with the conference and so have written these recommendations. These recommendations will be sent to NUS's Democratic Procedures Committee (DPC) who organise the conference so as to hopefully ensure improvements are made.

### **The Chair**

The chair could not stop delegates whooping or yelling into the microphone, which had implications on many people at the conference who have access requirements and also made for an unwelcoming atmosphere during debates. The chair should have greater power to sanction those who make the conference inaccessible in this way which would hopefully alleviate this problem.

### **The National Executive Committee**

The National Executive Committee of NUS were censured for their behaviour at Conference. This was related to their reluctance to decide as a committee motions that were not debated at Conference due to time constraints. However, they were also the worst offenders in terms of excessive noise and whooping. We believe that as the National Executive Committee, they should be upholding NUS' rules rather than ignoring them.

### **Running of the conference**

The time-plan for the conference had only a limited number of access breaks. More careful consideration of the conference schedule, especially with regards to these concerns would make conference better.

The length of each day was a particular concern, as it made conference very tiring. Spreading conference out over an extra day could alleviate this issue, but sadly the guillotine fell just before a motion to do precisely that.

### **Video reports**

Each zone/Vice President reports to the Conference through a video. The video did not have captions for delegates who are deaf or hard or hearing. Captions should be added for next year.

## **Recommendations for OUSU**

### **Submitting motions**

Given OUSU Elections will be running in Hilary term from 2016/2017 onwards and as it is required by the NUS that any motions submitted be approved by OUSU Council, we should not wait until the delegates are elected for them to submit motions for approval by council. Instead it should be recommended that motions be passed mandated the delegation to submit certain motions to conference, either by OUSU executive or candidates for NUS delegate or any student activist.

It should also be better communicated how easy it is to submit a motion, as it really only requires a little more detail than a council motion, and given the NUS's substantial resource base then adding policy to the NUS that benefits our students more should be encouraged. #

### **Recommendation from David Klemperer, Anne Cremin, Matt Sumption and Harry Samuels:**

Given how obviously controversial NUS affiliation is amongst students, and how a majority of this year's OUSU delegation now support disaffiliation, OUSU ought to hold a referendum on NUS affiliation as soon as possible, so that the issue can be resolved by Oxford students themselves.

Becky Howe

OUSU President (on behalf of OUSU's NUS delegation 2016)

president@ousu.ox.ac.uk