

# REPORTS TO COUNCIL

*1<sup>st</sup> Week Council Trinity 2017*

Jack	Hampton	President	Received
Sandy	Downs	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	Received
Orla	White	VP Women	Received
Marina	Lambrakis	VP Graduates	Received
Eden	Bailey	VP Access & Academic Affairs	Received
Beth	Currie	VP Charities & Community	Received

## **SABBATICAL OFFICERS**

### **Jack Hampton – President**

Hi Council,

Sorry I am not at council this week – I am in sunny Brighton at NUS national conference! The last few weeks have been mad busy, below have been the major things I've been working on:

- Organising/promoting Springtide the Oxford Community festival
- Organising and launching OUSU thoughtless moments – a project to relive exam and revision stress for finalists and fresher's this term
- Conducting an all student consultation on the motions going to NUS national conference, including a digital question submission, an in person drop in session, the distribution of the full motion pack to all students and the segmenting of the motions and distribution of sections to relevant student groups in Oxford
- Preparing for the NUS conference
- Proof reading and advising JCR Presidents papers to their governing bodies regarding rent, suspension and facilities among other things

### **Eden Bailey – Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs)**

Hi Council!

It's been eight weeks since the last Council and a lot has happened since then. I've done a quick bullet point rundown of what I've been doing, and if you have any questions about any of this please do ask 😊

A lot of my time has gone into organising and putting things in place for the establishment of our new campaign, Class Act a proposed OUSU campaign for working class, state comp educated, first generation, and low income students, which is coming to OUSU Council today! I'm so excited about the campaign, and have been extremely impressed by the many students who've got involved in planning and helping prepare for the campaign. If you're interested, please do get in touch!

I've also been working hard on getting the word out about the final stage of the Higher Education Bill and ensuring students know what's going on, and are lobbying MPs, and bringing a paper to the Admissions Executive with recommendations about the use of student helpers during admissions, which currently poses various problems, both for student helpers and prospective students. I'm hopeful that with some concerted effort we'll see some real positive change in this area.

#### **Summary List Of Things I've Been Doing**

- Quality Assurance Working Group with Marina
- Spoke at the Access Panel at Hertford for Equalities Week
- Suspension policy equipping session for common room officers with SusCam
- Chaired REACH Scholarship selection panel
- OUSU Exec meeting
- Meeting with potential candidates for new Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of Division roles with Marina and Jack
- Education Committee
- Meeting with Social Science divisional and course reps campaigning against PGT fee hikes

- Meeting with Public Affair Directorate about coverage of access and admissions news and policy
- Produced resource on Trigger Warnings in Lectures with Orla and Sandy – I've now uploaded this alongside the Lecture Capture briefing booklet at <https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B9mDy9oMx6RTYU95Tkd4VTc2dIk> ☺
  - If you can think of any similar resources that would be helpful, please let me know!
- University Council with Marina and Jack
- Meeting with Head of Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach
- Several sabbatical officer team meetings and OUSU leadership team meetings
- OUSU Trustee Board
- Open Day planning
- Lots of work preparing and writing the Annual Quality Report with Marina and the Academic Representation Officer
- Papers and feedback for Contextual Data Working Group and Name Blind Admissions Working Group (under Admissions Executive)
- Working with Undergraduate Admissions and Outreach on student helpers at admissions, writing a paper, and bringing it to Admissions Executive
- Reading hundreds of nominations for the OUSU Teaching Awards
- Recruiting and chairing excellent student panels for selecting the shortlist and winner of Outstanding Tutor and Most Acclaimed Lecturer awards
- Meetings, planning, constitution writing and more for the new campaign Class Act!
- Preparing resources for Higher Education and Research Bill final lobbying, including [video you can watch here](#), email, social media content, contacting people with history of lobbying on the Bill
  - Adapting resources in light of announcement of General Election lol
  - Speaking to MPs and researchers directly about the Bill and importance of passing Lords' amendments for students
- Planning for major areas of work before I leave at the end of this term:
  - Unconscious Bias + cultural awareness training for admissions tutors
  - Class Act
  - Curriculum
  - Suspension
  - Lecture Capture
  - Student Helpers at Admissions
  - Final stage of HE Bill
- Two weeks of annual leave!
- Meeting the new proctors, and planning some work for the future..!
- Reading papers, prepping for, and representing students at Taught Degrees Panel with Marina
- Reading papers, prepping for, and representing students at Quality Assurance Subcommittee with Marina
- Meeting with the Pro Vice Chancellors for Education, Equality and Diversity, Junior Proctor, and Education Policy Support about curriculum reform – finally! (I have been trying to make this meeting happen all year..!)

Finally, enjoy the rest of first week, and don't forget to register to vote!

Thanks, Eden ☺

([vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk) // @OUSU\_AcAff // [work facebook](#))

## **Beth Currie – Vice-President (Charities & Community)**

Hey Council,

Hope everyone had an ace vacation and is super buzzed for Trinity!

Over the vac and the next term I'll be working on lots of exciting stuff and tying up some loose ends before I hand over to the excellent and wonderful Thomas Barringer.

Following on from the OUSU mandate concerning the 'One Oxfordshire' proposal last term, I got in contact with the heads of both the City and the County Councils and we have received a response from Ian Hudspeth, Leader of the County Council, which I will read out in Council.

### **Graduates in Employment**

Marina and I are continuing our work on graduate students in employment and this term we will be working with the Student Advice Service to pull together online resources to help empower and support graduate students in their capacities as employees of the university. We are also looking at putting together a basic training package that can be delivered from next year.

### **Housing**

I have been working with the Student Advice Service to put together a Housing Code of Agreement, which we can use with the major student letting agencies in Oxford. We are also in discussion with NOPS and Finders Keepers about how we can put an end to the student queuing when the lists are released in November.

### **Creative Use of Spaces**

Following on from the mandate of OUSU council last term, Marina and I have been talking to the University about ways in which we can use the empty spaces we have in the University to best support our local community and we will be supporting the work the University are doing in this area.

### **#PledgeToReg #GE17**

Because the excitement of county council elections just was not enough!! Now you have YET ANOTHER chance to #TellThem and get your voice heard as #GenerationVote. But for reals this time we actually are finally deciding on the future of the country so make sure you get registered - [goo.gl/sJmqcm](http://goo.gl/sJmqcm)

. Students can register at both their University and home addresses. I'll be running a #PledgeToReg drive from next week to get more students on the electoral register and we are organising student hustings for the candidates in Oxford East and Oxford West in Abingdon.

### **Community Warden Recruitment**

We are going to be recruiting 5 new Community Wardens for next year so if you are interested in helping improve student-community relations in Oxford and getting paid £9/hr while you do it then drop me a line on [vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk) for more info!

Stay cool,

Beth

### **Marina Lambrakis – Vice-President (Graduates)**

Hello Council – happy Trinity!

It's so bizarre to think we're on the final stretch! Here's a rundown of the key things I did over the vac, and my priorities for the last few weeks in office:

#### ***Annual Quality Report***

I spent the bulk of the Easter Vacation working on the OUSU Annual Quality Report. This is a document we produce every year to report on student engagement, and to lobby the University on issues of academic quality and standards by bringing together some key areas of work that we think the University should prioritise. As a result of changes to the quality assurance processes for Higher Education providers in the last year, the AQR has changed in scope a bit this year. We have used the opportunity to follow up on many of the recommendations OUSU made last year in the Student Written Submission, which involved a huge amount of effort into data collection and analysis. We've looked at where progress has been made, and where change is still lacking, and the Report takes the University to task on some of those areas that we think are most pressing and in need of serious examination. By the time you read this, we will have presented the AQR to Quality Assurance Sub-Committee – updates to come. As I said, preparing the AQR took a considerable amount of time, and thanks must go to Oliver Holdsworth (Academic Representation Officer) and Eden for their work on it.

#### ***Teaching Awards***

Over the vac I also convened student panels to decide shortlists and winners for two of the categories that will be presented at the OUSU Teaching Awards in the Town Hall on 11<sup>th</sup> May: Outstanding Graduate Supervisor, and Best Postgraduate Teacher. Such great nominations – it was a really tough job! Thanks to all my wonderful panellists (Luiz Guidi, Marianne Melsen, and Jonas Bovijn) for their time and thoughtful consideration of the nominations. I'm really looking forward to meeting the shortlisted nominees, winners, and students who submitted nominations at the Teaching Awards ceremony – and also I'm super excited for my debut as compere! My involvement in the Teaching Awards has shown me how important it is for us not only to criticise academic provision and push for change, but also to showcase best practice and celebrate those individuals who make a real difference to students' lives on a day-to-day basis.

#### ***Employment of Graduates***

Beth and I are progressing this project – we've put in meetings this week with University stakeholders to clarify the rules re student employment, and what scope there might be for pushing for fairer, more centralised systems of advertising and allocating teaching, as well as the HR processes to which employed grads are subject. Teaching done by graduates features in the AQR, so we'll be pushing this in more than one forum.

#### ***Graduate Welfare***

In my plan for the year that I drew up last summer, I had earmarked Trinity Term to focus on graduate welfare, which as I've said all along is a subject that is very close

to my heart. I have three main projects on this. The first is to work alongside SusCam on **graduate suspension of status**. To this end I'm running a couple of focus groups on Thursday and Friday this week, which I hope will illuminate the barriers and issues that arise in the process of suspending or returning to study. Hearing the experiences of students will be invaluable data that I will take to the University's working group on graduate suspension, and has the power to really make an impact.

Secondly, with Sandy's support I am in contact with Anne Ford, who coordinates the Peer Support Programme. I'd like to see **departmental networks of Peer Supporters**, to help tackle the isolation faced by many research students in particular in their departments. I'd also like for grad peer supporters to receive some additional training in grad-specific issues.

Finally, closer to the end of term I intend to run a workshop we piloted last year, on **emotional wellbeing in research and fieldwork**, and to roll this out on a wider scale and in conjunction with Divisions. The pilot was extremely successful, and I think there's a lot of opportunity for this to help equip grads as researchers, to deal with the vagaries of conducting research and fieldwork.

### *Under-represented Groups*

I've recently been in contact with several students who are all incredibly keen to do work in particular areas that interest them, which is so great to see - I'll be helping support them in their projects and finding ways for OUSU to lend support, be it financial or logistical. One project is on **equality and diversity at grad level**: the aim is to run a half day conference for equal opps or liberation reps in MCRs and staff members. I've also been speaking to **student parents and carers** who are really eager to restart OUSU's work on this issue, most probably through StudentsPlus (who have elections coming up in the next couple of weeks). More info on this to come! The International Students Campaign committee has now changed over, and hopefully we'll be able to get things going in terms of events and campaigning for the term ahead.

### *Graduate By-Election*

The very final thing is, of course, that on THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL (tomorrow!), **nominations open in the VP (Graduates) By-Election!!!!** The nominations period is for a week, and then in 3<sup>rd</sup> week we'll have hustings, with voting taking place Tuesday-Thursday of 4<sup>th</sup> week. **If you know a grad who is finishing their course and in need of a job, or a grad in desperate need of a break from DPhil life (like me!), please draw this to their attention.** I can't overstate how valuable a year in this job is in terms of the skills you develop and the huge amount/range of experience you build up. Drop me an email, even if it's the merest glimmer of a thought crossing your mind, and we can chat about what's involved: [vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Thanks for listening pals - sorry this was such a long one! Figured I had to stop somewhere. I'm also supporting Beth on the creative housing project she's doing, helping the Social Sciences grad course and Divisional reps to fight fee increases, and continuing to lobby on Brexit. Until next time!

Marina

## Sandy Downs – Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

Council Report, TT 1<sup>st</sup> week, VP WEO

Hi everyone!

Hope you had a wonderful vac and a fabulous break! Good luck to everyone with exams this term, and all the best to those without – try to enjoy the summer weather!

Speaking of, I'll use this as an opportunity to remind you of our exciting Trinity term project – OUSU Thoughtless Moments! We'll be offering fun freebies, amazing experiences, and weekly dog walks, amongst other things, so follow our facebook page to find out more and make sure you come along to take a break from term <3

iSoc and Preventing Prevent's impact report on Prevent is well underway – thanks to everyone who came to the first focus group, contact iSoc if you'd like to come along to one of the other two this term. The survey will launch after this term, so keep an eye out for that and do get in touch if you have any comments or questions!

FreshersCom is on Monday and I'm super excited. We've got some great talks, followed by pizza and a discussion group. As a reminder, this is open to Freshers Week leads from all common rooms – contact your CR president if you want to be signed up.

We've got another exam session next week which Marina and I are preparing for, one for undergrads and one for grads. These will be in exam schools, watch out for a sign up link this week!

The BME welfare sub group at Uni level met yesterday and are coming up with a list of suggestions for colleges to consider. Thanks to everyone that came to my focus group last term – another is coming out, so if you're a BME student who wants to feed into these college recommendations then drop me an email.

I've been working with a group of Uni staff to create new guidelines about what happens in the case of a Student Tragedy. These guidelines have previously been really out of date, secretive, and to be honest relatively unhelpful, so we're hoping the new ones will allow things to be dealt with far more sensitively and coherently.

We're also finalising the new University Mental Health Policy, including some helpful case studies and best practice examples. This has been fully consulted on by many student reps and all colleges and most departments, so we've got our fingers crossed that it will pass. Mind Your Head and I will be working to provide a draft motion so that you can get your common room to offer support to the policy and encourage your college to adopt it.

Do get in touch if you have any questions about my report or if you've got anything you'd like my help with this term!

Thanks! Sandy ☺

## Orla White – Vice-President (Women)

Hello Councill,

Welcome to Trinity Term. As well as organisational projects like the Teaching Awards and the Springtide Festival, I've been hard at work at my own projects. Here's what I've been up to:

- Consent Workshop Facilitator Training: if you want to sign up for a session in your college, contact me, there are training slots available. I am not going to be able to go to every single college, so the sessions are open. I'm running grad and undergrad sessions.
- I'm writing a report for the Sub-Committee for Student Wellbeing looking back at three years of consent workshops, including some of the statistics we have from feedback forms and looking at how we can continue to improve the process.
- We've submitted the Consent Workshop project for consideration in the NUS SU awards!
- I'm sitting on the University's Working Group on Sexual Violence along with some representatives from WomCam and It Happens Here, and we're excited to put together the Working Group's recommendations at the end of the term. As mandated by this Council, we have been pushing for a clear, transparent, centralised system for reporting sexual violence.
- I'm also producing a report on the work done by OUSU on supporting student sex workers, urging the University to formally commit to a partnership approach and think about how to make its welfare services accessible to students engaging in sex work. This also touches on Oxford students and work more generally.
- I've been assisting Sandy with the Freshers' Com plans, helping to put together a program of discussion topics and workshops on running an inclusive, successful and safe Freshers' Week. In particular I'm going to be talking about the logistics of running consent workshops, how to raise attendance and how to lobby your college about them - slightly different from the facilitator training.
- On May 13th, Movement for Justice have called a protest against Yarl's Wood. I'll be talking more about this this Council, and how you can get involved, and I'll also flag it at next Council closer to the date. But look it up on Facebook, buy tickets and publicise the demonstration; there's a coach going from Oxford, and we'd love to get a good turnout.

As ever, if you have any concerns, questions, ideas or anything else, please feel free to contact me on [vpwomen@ousu.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vpwomen@ousu.ox.ac.uk)!