

President's report

Kirsty McNeill

F and F: The finance and funding campaign continues to be a core area of OUSU's work. Whatever the criticisms of OUSU's campaigning strategy in general, it cannot be disputed that the amount of funding available to universities and the students they educate is the definition of relevant, and making a fuss about it the very epitome of a students as students strategy. The committee continues to go from strength to strength, most recently with the addition of three fantastic new co-chairs. After the success of the gold men demo, we are building towards the National Shutdown week, and towards Monday's demonstration in support of non-payers. It would be much appreciated if everybody came on Monday (gathering in Wadham lodge at 2pm) and brought people from their college with them. The co-chairs and myself will be in contact soon about the 7th week events, which will include a debate between our local parliamentary candidates, and the relaunch of OUSU entz. In the meantime, absolutely everyone is to be encouraged to wear gold ribbons and to display the post-cards advertising them. If anyone knows someone who would like to become an f and f rep (i.e. take responsibility for advertising the campaign in their college, attending meetings, and relaying information between the central campaign and their JCR) they should pass their name on to Rachel Logan @ New.

NUS: I have been endeavouring to organise a hustings between the candidates for NUS President, and details of this will be being sent to JCR committees. Everyone is welcome, and any NUS officers who are interested in co-ordinating with other Oxford officers in the run up to conference should get in contact with me at OUSU.

OUSU reps- I have organised a mailing to OUSU reps which I hope makes it clear the level of support available for them at the central level. Any OUSU rep should feel free to contact me at OUSU about any matter relating to their college or their role,

Ethics Committee: The ethics committee co-chairs have drafted a clean investment campaign pack for JCRs, and I am currently amending a clean investment paper for the University. Please come to the clean investment talk (7.30, next Tuesday in Balliol's lecture room 23), and advertise the event to others in your college.

JCR/SU relations: I have dealt on an individual basis with many queries, and am trying to organise a second sabs on tour for this term. Any JCR interested in having a sabbatical visit should contact me at OUSU to arrange the time and speaker.

Representation: I have attended numerous meetings with University officials and continue to put strenuous efforts into engendering constructively critical relations.

RO'dom: I issued the regs, to be discussed in council and continue to have dreams about the constitution. (no, really).

General; reviewing minutes, writing letters, updating website bits, helping Rhod organise the welfare training, etc.

Thank-you:

The fantastic f and f people: Will, Rachel, Philip and Kate, as well as everyone else who comes along, distributes posters, pins ribbons on people, gets naked etc etc etc. Helen and Cat for all your work last term and before. Steph, because of the ludicrous amount of background work you do, even for the trot campaigns. **All-round good sorts;** Fairclough, for being the only person other than Steve who writes to me about the SO's.. Abi and Colin, because OUSU is going to fall over and die when you become proper finalists. Simon Basey, Sonia, Mel, Mr Hewitt, Karim, and everyone else who is prepared to do all the boring but necessary bits involved in running the SU. **The JCR Presidents;** because so many of OUSU's most useful things only happen with your co-operation. **Stuart-** for acts of bravery only surpassed by...

Steve: because I never even have to ask.

Finally, **New College.** All of you. It was **snowing.** What a place.

Vice-President (Graduates)
Nick Smith (LMH)

At the time of writing I have attended meetings of Educational Policy and Standards Committee (together with a fortnightly briefing with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic)), Joint Committee of University Council with Junior Members, steering committee of Tutors for Graduates Committee, and OUSU International Students committee. Later this week I will attend meetings of the Management Committee of the University Club and Student Health and Welfare Committee. The scheduled meeting of the Committee on Diversity and Equal Opportunities has been cancelled owing to insufficient business.

EPSC: graduate business that would otherwise have been dealt with at this meeting has been deferred to 4th week's meeting, which has been dedicated to the discussion of graduate issues. At this meeting, Dr Robin Ostle, the former Chair of Graduate Studies Committee, will give an oral report on graduate provision within the collegiate university.

University Club: the management committee received and commented on the functional diagrams and detailed plans from Maguire & Co. Architects for the new University Club building. The revised plans will be presented to the Project Steering Group on 30 January.

Steering Committee of TfG: items for the agenda for the main meeting in 4th week include (among other things) the university graduate scholarships, college advisers, minimum kit provision. I have since written to the Chair asking that the proposals for reducing Bodley's opening hours be tabled for discussion.

Graduate Prospectus: at the last meeting the Board decided that it was not practicable, given the timetable for production this summer, to attempt to make radical changes to the 2002-3 edition. Instead, the Board would concentrate on improving the level of information provided with a view to making more significant changes for the 2003-4 edition. A number of graduates replied to my request for feedback, which has proved profitable. I have been asked to join a smaller group to explore alternative structures for the subject / degree listings.

Institute for the Advancement of University Learning: I have been in contact with the Institute's Director, Suzanne Shale, about setting up a meeting with Fiona Spensley who recently began work at the Institute and who will be dealing with graduate concerns, about graduate teaching opportunities and training.

Casework: I have been dealing with a complex case that will probably not be resolved for sometime yet. Otherwise, the usual phone and email enquiries.

Vice-President (Access and Academic Affairs)
Rhodri Thomas (St Anne's)

Access

The Target Schools Handbook and Teachers' Guide were sent to every state school in the country during the weekend. We are currently dealing with lots of enquiries from teachers and pupils about applying to Oxford. The planning for the first Open Day in Christ Church and the Regional Events in Leeds and Belfast is well under way. We have already had a lot of booking forms from schools and we hope that the events will be well attended.

The Target Schools Co-Chairs are currently getting everything ready for the Visiting Scheme. Letters asking for volunteers will be sent to every student in the University. If you don't receive the information can you please inform us as we are reliant upon the college reps to deliver the information to their students.

The Target Schools web-site is in the process of being completely updated. I worked on the main site and hopefully Heenal (the Target Schools web- manager) will be able to put the Handbook, Teachers' Guide and Interview reports on the web soon.

The Admissions Working Party report is in the process of being finalised. I would have liked to bring it to this Council but thought that it would be best to leave it until 5th Week due to the already packed agenda.

I have been working with the University to launch the National Mentoring Pilot Project. Two awareness meetings were organised on Wednesday which were well attended and I am hopeful that the scheme will be successfully launched in Oxford later this term.

Academic Affairs

The Library Campaign is still gathering momentum. More JCRs and MCRs have passed motions opposing the move and more will be considering the motion this week. The Campaign has been incredibly successful and the new batch of 5,000 postcards have been distributed to JCRs and MCRs. We have also managed to attract considerable support from tutors and academics. I am hopeful that the University will back down soon and that the campaign will be successful. A big thank you to all the JCR and MCR Presidents for their help and support.

I have been working on the Academic Affairs web-site over the last week. I have updated the main site and the Academic Affairs Handbook will be online in the next week.

I along with Kirsty organised the Listening Skills Training for JCR and MCR Presidents, Welfare Officers, Academic Affairs Officers, LGB Officers and Women's Officers. Hopefully the JCR Officers will find the training useful.

I have also been working on a report about tutorial feedback forms which will be distributed to all JCRs after the Academic Affairs Committee meeting next Tuesday.

Vice-President (Finance) **Steph Gray**

Publications

The Oxford and Cambridge Law Careers Handbook remains on track, and due to be published in 5th Week. With the Business Manager, I'll be going to Cambridge to review the performance of the Careers Handbooks generally, but early indications show that this year's publications have increased profitability on both sides by a five-figure sum.

The Oxford Student required significant work this week, but looks better than I have seen it so far, with the gift of a truly tabloid front page story. It is also still profitable, and the future still looks bright - it really is a stunning success story in business terms, as the Amended Budget in 5th Week will demonstrate (more five-figure profits here too).

The Web Site has been slow going, but I've spent a lot of unpaid time working on it over the last two weeks. Templates are ready, and the sitebuilding is accelerating rapidly, especially now Rhodri has discovered the joys of web site design and is converting dozens of documents to HTML pages, almost faster than the rest of us can write them. The resulting resource will assist current and prospective students, plus have sections dedicated to Student Officers in CRs, plus the Press and our contacts in the world of Student Marketing.

Shop

The OSSL AGM next Council will consider the Trustees' Report, which makes disappointing reading. However, the worrying figures belie the changes put in place since Michaelmas, which are already making the Shop visibly busier than it has been for some time. New stock includes Fairtrade chocolate and Creme Eggs... get there quickly, as they're flying out of the door!

Other

I've resurrected the Treasurers' Email list to run in parallel with the Presidents' list, as a forum for discussion in battels, subscriptions, Ultra Vires and other issues - this will be publicised shortly. I've been helping Jane with the final bits of the Nightbus contract, which is now signed and sealed - a truly monumental achievement on the part of V-Ps (Women) past and present. I've also been devising training materials for pagesetters; producing an applicants' pack for 'Tom's Job' (OUSU Business Manager); and assisting Kirsty with the F&F ribbons campaign and event.

V-P Women **Jane Blumer**

Over the past two weeks I have worked on various things, ranging from planning a Reclaim the Night march next week (Wednesday 4th week, 7:30pm, meeting at the Rad Cam) and Women's Cabaret (Thursday 8th week, International Women's Day), to work on finals forums and childcare.

The nightbus contract from Goldman Sachs has been signed, so it's just a matter of time now before we actually buy the bus - it seems likely that, logistically, the bus will start running at the beginning of Trinity.

Hurrah.

I've also been busy working on access issues, with a very successful school visit last week - 33 pupils from London, all from an Indian background, who had previously never considered studying in Oxford as a viable possibility. Hurrah, again.

I've spent a lot of time on casework - what is it about 2nd and 3rd weeks of a term?? - and work on the Eating Distress Support Group is on-going.