

Reports to Council

3rd week council ht12

Martha Mackenzie

President

Evening Council,

So it feels like barely any time has elapsed since I last saw you all but here we are already. Term's been gathering speed and I've been focused on a less than ideal amount of governance but will hopefully be able to draw a line under some of this and move on from the beginning of next week.

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Budget:

On the advice of Budget Committee OUSU's first proposal to the Budget Sub-Committee has been made. Based on the outcome of this meeting we will be bringing a draft Budget to the final council of Hilary Term.

Careers' Guide:

I have been doing a lot of work on the Oxford Guide to Careers, our project in conjunction with the Careers Service. The basic content and layout has finally been confirmed and we will be recruiting for student contributors from next week.

Student Led Teaching Awards:

Our proposal for Student Led Teaching Awards has finally been accepted and we will be formally launching in fifth week. WATCH THIS SPACE!

Housing:

We held the second campaign breakfast this morning and all our roles have now been assigned. We also received the support of both Oxford MPs, Andrew Smith (Oxford East) and Nicola Blackwood (Oxford West and Abbingdon).

Bye-Laws:

After a lot of work OUSU's Bye-Laws are finally going through the relevant University Committees. More work has been spent on the re-write than I would have liked but we should be presenting a full set of Bye-Laws to Council no later than First Week, Trinity. I hope you're excited...

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Since first week I have also represented you on University Council and General Purposes Committee; I have convened the first Steering Committee and Budget Committee of term; I have attended two Prescoms and one OUSU Reps' meeting; I have met thirteen common room representatives; the editors of the Oxford Student and Oxide Radio; and held two training sessions.

Have a great week! As ever, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me or any of the other OUSU Officers.

Martha x

Happy New Year, and soon I will be wishing you **新年快乐!**

It's hard to sum up what happened since 7th Week of MT, so here is the vacation in numbers:

£2,000 - Amount won from National Union of Students funding for a leadership development scheme, in partnership with Ruskin Student Union.

Our bid is to develop future leaders to sustain Common Rooms and OUSU, and to **develop leaders** with a firm understanding of how to reach their constituents. We are now developing training with a professional trainer in **equality-aware** leadership.

The first phase will consist of two streams: firstly, a series of classes and seminars delivered by specially invited trainers. This is to complement the main stream: a set of development groups (or "peer mentoring" groups), which will be facilitated, and meet over a series of occasions.

171 - number of miles each way I am travelling on Tues and Wed of this week to work on the Springboard for Undergraduates programme. This is a personal and **professional development** program for female undergraduates that the Careers Service has put a lot of financial backing into, and I am excited to be working on it now. Watch out for it to be promoted in Trinity!

60 - the number of people at the last **Feminist Formal and Forum**, in 7th Week MT (remember when it was 7th week MT? Time flies). The energy in the room for the Forum was fantastic; we discussed, we debated, we set collective priority issues.

This is a consultative forum that the **University will be listening to**; we have a great opportunity this year to set objectives with the University on all aspects of equality, under the new legislation that asks Universities to **set achievable objectives for tackling inequality**.

This is why it is important for **your Common Room to be represented** in the process. We have a lot of ability to influence. Use it - come along yourself, with an equality officer if you can.

48 - the number of places booked in the last two days for the next Feminist Formal and Forum, on Mon 3rd Week - so if you don't have a place yet, get booking! www.tinyurl.com/fffbooking/.

12 - number of personal submissions I've been compiling for the Student Parent Consultation: "Is Oxford Fit For Families?" Students with childcare responsibilities can be a very socially isolated group within the University, and it is important we actively seek to integrate them into the university community. There will be TWO Student Parent Socials this term: Sat 1st Week and Sat 6th Week, 10am-12pm, Bradmore Road Nursery (near LMH).

10 - the number of one-to-one meetings I've had over the vacation with university and college staff to improve the response to high-risk forms of harassment. This has taken a great deal of time and strategising. I have now met with staff from Merton, Mansfield, New, Jesus, and St. Hilda's; in addition, Junior Deans from St. Anne's, Magdalen, Pembroke, and Hertford.

3 - Training sessions planned this term with Gender Equality, Women's, and Equality Officers. Your CR officer should have an email!

2 - number of Varsity Events clubs with whom we are now in contact discussing the details of the Zero Tolerance to Assault campaign.

1 - the one and only Gender Gaps at Oxford 2010-12 Report, which I have been scoping over the vacation. This will be a statistical summary of all the different gender gaps we have yet to bridge at Oxford.

Am now rushing off on that train journey. See you Wed afternoon!

Hi Council,

Perhaps it's my inner economist struggling to get out, but I think summarizing my fortnight in numbers works pretty well. And so:

Student Charter on Gender Equality

140 - the number of people who signed up for the Feminist Forum and Formal this week

120 - the maximum capacity of St. John's Hall for hosting the Formal

As you can imagine, I've been spending a decent amount of time planning for the Forum - a consultative forum for students to set the agenda on issues of gender.

We have a great opportunity this year to set objectives with the University on all aspects of equality, under the new legislation that asks Universities to **set achievable objectives for tackling inequality**. I've sent out several notifications for submissions to the student agenda on gender equality, and will continue to consult with Common Rooms this term. My aim is to bring together your priorities in a **Student Charter on Gender Equality**, which will hold the University to practically achieve what is now a lofty ideal.

Empowering Students

Two big programs I'm working on: one focussing on leadership development, and one on professional development.

£2,000 - amount I won from National Union of Students funding before Christmas for a leadership development scheme, in partnership with Ruskin Student Union, the mature students' college in Oxford.

30 - the number of students of all genders, graduate and undergraduate, who will be participating in our first pilot Leadership Development Partnership.

15 - the increase in the number of female Presidents needed to achieve equality of representation for women in JCR and MCR Presidencies.

Our bid is to **develop leaders** with a firm understanding of how to reach their constituents. We are now developing training with a professional trainer in **equality-aware** leadership. It's a great opportunity to **challenge yourself** and meet students from a wide variety of backgrounds, students you wouldn't otherwise have the opportunity to meet and learn from.

The program will run from 5th Week Hilary - 3rd Week Trinity. We are still accepting applications. Think of someone you think would enjoy the program. **Pass this on to them.**

180,000 - the number of women worldwide who have benefitted from the Springboard Women's Development Programme, from businesswomen in Saudi Arabia to journalists in the BBC.

50 - the number of undergraduates that we will be developing and delivering the program for in Oxford University this Trinity term!

Springboard is a personal and **professional development** program for female undergraduates. It's a real OUSU success, as it was started off by the VP (Women) 3 years ago, who wanted to bring it to Oxford; now, after two successful pilots, the Careers Service have put a great deal of support behind it, and I am very happy to be able to develop the **first ever official Springboard program** specifically to suit the needs of undergraduate students.

Common Room & Student Support

I've met up with 6 new Common Room Officers and Presidents of student societies in the last fortnight, to build relationships, and support them in the many exciting projects they have for this term! Particular mention to Daisy Gibbs at Queen's JCR, who ran an Equality Week last term. I'll be speaking at events with OxWiP, OxWiB, and St. Hilda's Festival later this term.

11 - the number of Gender Equality, Women's, and Equality Officers who came to our first training session of the term. The session was on "How to communicate gender equality issues to your constituency". It went off with a lot of energy - it's hard to get 11 Common Room reps to stop talking! I was particularly happy to see a mix of male Equality Officers, female Women's Officers, undergrads and grads coming together. I'll be sending out details of the next training.

And that's not all...

Apart from this, I've been spending time on Student Advice Service casework, which is an important but sometimes under-recognised part of the job of the Student Advice Service sabbatical officers. Meetings with the University on harassment policy are still progressing (hooray!), and I'm planning some training sessions for the University, which you will hear the results of at next Council.

May you have peace in every season. (Chinese New Year greeting)

With best wishes, Yuan

Jim O'Connell

VP (Graduates)

Hello Council

I have a few things to report on this week:

- PGR Provision Review. The very attractively named exercise... We are now running at least 26 focus groups (and should be more, I'm looking for a minimum of 30) in departments and colleges. The feedback from students on DPhil and other research study is so far fascinating.
- Organising and running focus groups has dominated my life a bit at the moment so there's not too much more to report.
- Last week I was able to visit two excellent department-based student organisations: the English Graduate Organisation and the Materials JCCG. I gave a short talk as part of an EGO seminar on Transfer entitled 'Transfer: What Can Go Wrong', which was fun. Longer term, and ideally with more staffing support, OUSU must engage with these groups more. We need to provide support for these organisations like we do for Common Rooms, we need to make sure these organisations are standard across the University, and their representatives need to have votes at OUSU Council and the new graduate strategy forum.
- I'm taking these points up with the University on Thursday, building on a paper Hannah has written for our University oversight committee, JsC(EC)SM.
- Since last Council significant progress has been made on the College Fee issue. It's coming to Council this week, following consultation with both Conference of Colleges and MCR Prescom. If Council passes its endorsement of the paper attached and its principles, we will take it on to Conference again and JAGSSF, and use it as a bargaining position.
- I am still working on provision of Academic English courses to international students. The University has now convened a root-and-branch study of what it offers international students, from first principles, and the English Language issue will be considered in this context. Maryam and Yulin will be taking a lead on this group.
- I'm happy to say that on my two long-term goals of funding for all who need it and interviews for all graduates, many in the University are coming round to these ways of thinking. Happy to answer questions on this, but the challenge is of course translating agreement into action.

- I have made progress on persuading the University to adopt a Central Talks Database a la Linacre's Oxford Talks. OUCS is investigating this possibility, I will be meeting with them soon to develop a bid for the University's PICT Sub Committee (which dispenses money for these kinds of things).

Finally, a robust comment on student-journalist fuelled sensationalism. Last week both the OxStu and the Cherwell splashed with the dastardly plan by the University to shift the History Fac Library to the Rad Cam. Hannah and I represent students on the Curators of the University Libraries, where we have taken part in the discussions on this issue. **I am convinced that moving the HFL is the right decision to make for students, and for the University.** Some people may disagree, however as I see it the business case is overwhelming. The Bod will save over £100,000 per year by moving the Library, which will enable longer opening hours and more books - which, I would argue, is what most students want from the Bod. It's exactly the kind of consolidation and efficiency saving necessary in the current financial climate. I appreciate there are people with strong feelings the other way and I am open to discussion.

It is important to note that a final decision has not been taken. However, in the absence of being convinced to the contrary by students, I will be supporting the proposal.

'NUTS!'

Gen. Stanley McAuliffe, CO 101st Airborne, US Army, on the German request to surrender Bastogne in December 1944

Sebastian Baird	VP (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)
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Hi Council,

I hope everyone is doing well, and that you're enjoying term as we hit the middle of 3rd week.

- Meeting CR Reps: I have met another 6 sets of common room welfare and equality officers. I also hosted the first welfare officers' meeting of this year, where Alan Percy from the Counselling Service gave a well-received talk. In future weeks we will have Pete Quinn from the Disability Advisory Service, and Nicola Byrom from Student-Run Self Help.
- Meetings - attended JCR and MCR Prescoms, and OUSU's termly Feminist Forum.
- Mind Your Head: have been organising our launch reception in 8th week, planning for MYH Week, and helping to organise events in Exeter and St John's. Exciting! If OUSU Council passes the motion this week, we will have some funding with which to start planning a poster/leaflet campaign.
- Disability Seminar: with the Disability Advisory Service, I organised a seminar at Corpus Christi College on the topic of Autism and Asperger's Syndrome, with talks from Simon Wallace and Sir Christopher Ball. The talk was attended by over 40 staff.
- Student Advice Service - casework: the cases keep coming in, lots of which have been referred by common room officers. This is great, and please keep contacting us when you come a student with a query or problem that you can't deal with.
- Student Advice Service - organisation: I have been talking to Brona, our Chief Executive, about developing the resources of the Service so that it can perform better in future years. The cost of case management software will be included within OUSU's budget for next year, and Brona and I are currently undertaking research as to what will be the best package.
- Student Systems Replacement Programme: I am currently participating in the Fees and Funding Workstream for the SSRP, which aims to replace all the University's student-facing digital services. I attended the second meeting of the Workstream yesterday.

- **Race Equality Steering Group:** I attended the last (sniff!) meeting of the Race Equality Steering Group on Tuesday of 3rd week. The existing system of Working Groups and Steering Groups for the University's equality work is being reconfigured, and at the meeting we discussed the future structure of groups for particular protected characteristics. There will still be a dedicated Race Equality group, as well as groups for some of the other characteristics, but it is not clear what shape these groups will take.
- **Religious Provision:** I'm continuing to work so that the outcome of the Prayer Space Working Group is the most positive one for our Muslim students. I also met with a couple of representatives from the Coexistence Trust, a national charity which works to combat anti-Semitism and islamophobia, to assist them with their efforts in Oxford.

Hannah Cusworth

VP (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hiya Council,

Hope that Hilary term is treating you well. Since we last met I've mostly been getting things up and running. And alongside that I've been focusing on Common Room support. That's mostly involved getting papers submitted in time for committee deadlines and meetings, supporting Target Schools with the shadowing scheme and the ACCESS FAIR. The Access Fair is taking place on Friday starting with a panel discussion at 2pm and places for that have almost disappeared so to reserve one email access@ousu.org asap.

Access

Smarter Access Work- Access Fair and Bridging and Foundation Provision

I'm really pleased that JCR officers have found the briefing note that I produced useful in their college discussions. It became apparent at PresCom that quite a few colleges have been discussing it in committees and the response has, on the whole, been positive. The college responses have to be in by the end of this week I think and it'll then be discussed at Senior Tutors Committee in 6th week. Keep me updated if it's been discussed at your college and I'll keep you updated about how it fares in committee meetings.

The Access Fair is happening. There will be 23 stalls showcasing the very best of Oxford's access activity. 4 panellists including the Sutton Trust's policy director, David Gustav from the Kid's Company, the Master of St Peters and me. 125 tea and coffees have been ordered and requests to save a place at the panel discussion keep coming in. I'm a bit nervous but really excited about the event and even more excited about what can be

Shadowing Scheme

The Shadowing Scheme is happening in Weeks 4 and 6 so not long to go now until 200 students descend on Oxford to shadow an undergraduate. Get ready if you're going to be shadowed and get involved by hosting a workshop if not. I've mostly been supporting the Shadowing committee with child protection and admin which has sometimes been time consumer but for a good cause, so I've not minded at all.

Common Room support

Mike Nicholson, Head of Undergraduate Admissions, is coming in to speak to Access Reps and I'll be opening it up to JCR Presidents to give a low-down on widening access to Oxford. They'll be a focus on the facts and figures, especially school attainment, regional disparities and application. Last week Target Schools gave a presentation to access reps since the great new co-chairs are keen to work more closely with colleges and strengthen the visits scheme. Keep encouraging you access rep to get involved, especially if it's written into your constitution that Target Schools are part of their remit!

Academic Affairs

Students as Partners- AFS, Student Lead Teaching Awards, Student Representation

Over the past two weeks I've run 2 training sessions on AFS for both new reps and officers who are trying to get AFS of the ground in their college. All the sessions went well, particularly the 'Running the

Sessions' training that Nick Cooper, the new Academic Affairs officer, helped with. I've also supported a number of Common Room officers one on one which I'm always happy to do.

Martha and I are continuing to work on Student Led Teaching Awards. We've off to an event run by the NUS next week to make sure we know all there is to know about SLTA. The Divisions appear to be on board and we're now looking at how we can get the website and digital media looking great. We met this morning to consider the timetable we want to run to so watch out for updates and the launch.

I'm taking a paper tomorrow to the Joint Committee with Student Members (with both university and college representatives) about student representation and asking the university if we need to look more closely at how well it's working in departments. The paper is pinned on the idea that students should be partners in their education

Head of Education Policy Support

For the past two weeks I have been involved in the selection process for the new Head of Education Policy Support. This role is key both for VP Access and Academic Affairs and VP Grads and the Student Advice Service sabbs too. The appointment process has been really rigorous and I'm really glad I've been able to add a student viewpoint to it. I'm hopeful we'll be able to appoint someone as good as Richard who is almost impossible to replace.

Feedback- Feedback Strategy Meeting and pushing the university

The feedback strategy meeting held last week was great! Big thanks to all who came along. It was really helpful for me to see what the priority issues are and ideas on what the next steps should be. The main issues were exam feedback, collections, making in expectations clearer and end of term feedback. I'll be getting in touch very soon to give an update to the group and organise the next meeting to review progress and keep the momentum up.

I had a meeting yesterday with the Pro Vice Chancellor for Education to push forward to issue of feedback. The result is a tool that can be used in induction and will hopefully go some way towards creating a climate where students can ask for the feedback they need to improve. I'll also be taking the paper to the university's Undergraduate Panel in 1st week of next term. I think we'll be able to get someone on this issue, but it needs not just me but also JCR officers to take the conversation to their colleges, something that I want to facilitate.

Collections

Based on the discussions at the Feedback Strategy Meeting I submitted a paper to the Standing Committee of Senior Tutors Committee and I'm waiting to hear back about whether it'll go forward to Senior Tutors Committee. I'll keep you updated and will most likely be bringing a motion to Council in 5th week to get your views on the paper's approach.

Daniel Stone

VP (Charities & Community)

Dear Council,

For those of you who missed my catwalk last week, I can tell you that I was fabulous! I will now saunter through the past two weeks in OUSU; as always if you'd like me to expand on anything written below please email me at charities@ousu.org

Community

In the past week I've started the Safety Bus Review. Around 200 students have responded to the online survey and I've visited a number of Common Rooms to collect quantitative data on general usage and knowledge about the Safety Bus. I have a few more visits lined up for the coming week and would like to visit a few more if possible.

- The Student Community Warden scheme has reached its next stage. We will be shortlisting and interviewing applicants, and should have our wardens identified in time for the next OUSU Council.
- This afternoon was another meeting of the Oxford Student Community Group where we discussed housing and a proposal for a citywide forum to discuss building 'stronger community' in Oxford.

- Last Tuesday I spoke at the Cowley Area Forum, addressing the concerns of residents and seeking to give a balanced perspective to local issues.
- I've been thinking about ways to better engage the student population with the upcoming City Council Elections. The motion titled 'Student Husts' offers one possible vehicle but I'm open to other ideas and suggestions.

Charity

Nominations for the selected RAG charities will close at 12 noon on Thursday 4th Week. A message should already have been sent around your Common Room mailing list but please ensure that your members are aware of the deadline.

- On Thursday there will be a Graduate Charity Reps meeting and formal in Queen's College. This provides an opportunity for charity reps to share best practice and learn more about the support available through OUSU and RAG.
- RAG Blind Date has started to coincide with Valentine's Day. A message should be on its way around your Common Rooms shortly, so fill out a form and let Cupid do the rest...
- I've now completed the database of 'charity days'. I've been working on this with Karen, the OUSU Democratic Support Officer and we'll be uploading the database onto the OUSU website shortly.
- RAG Club Nights are every Saturday in No.9. If you haven't been there yet, what are you waiting for?

Environment and Ethics

Yesterday along with two other members of the Environment and Ethics Committee, I presented the findings of the Recycling with Honours report to the Domestic Bursars Committee. The report seeks to improve recycling provision across colleges by giving a snapshot of current services and by sharing best practice among colleges.

Since last Council I have:

- Continued to organise an Ethical Careers Speaker Event with the Careers' Service and the Oxford Hub. We now have speakers, a date and a time, set as Saturday 3rd March from 11-3.30pm in the Examination Schools.
- Continued to plan and formalise the city-wide End of Year Recycling Scheme. I have the next meeting with charities, Oxford Brookes and others stakeholders next week
- Modelled in the City Council's 'Refashion' event.
- Began work with Environment and Ethics Reps to adopt College Sustainability policies. I held a training and information session on what these policies are and how to get them implemented.

Living Wage

The Living Wage Campaign has a huge speaker event planned for Thursday 6th week (23rd Feb). Confirmed speakers include Donald Hirsch, Head of Income Studies at the Centre for Research in Social Policy, Jane Wills, fellow of Queen Mary, University of London and Rhys Moore, Director of the Living Wage Foundation.

I've contacted the NHS Trusts in Oxfordshire in order to develop a better picture of low paid work in Oxford and will be meeting the Pro Vice Chancellor for Personnel and Equality to build on the meeting we held at the back end of last term.

PART TIME OFFICERS

Nick Cooper

Academic Affairs Officer

Evening Council,

Sorry for the lack of report last week - somewhat missed the boat on that one! I'm Nick, the new Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer. I'll quickly go through what I hope to achieve over the next year, and then what I've done in the last three weeks.

My manifesto pledges were to: improve equality in academic issues between colleges; support Common Room officers in academic affairs issues, especially Academic Feedback Sessions; and communicate with all students to keep them informed on what's happening within OUSU (this pledge starts from now!) I'm hoping that through better communication with the central University, colleges, JCR officers and all students, these goals are more than achievable (we shall return to this in a year's time...)

This term so far, I have been working with Hannah to bring a number of schemes into fruition. In 1st week, we met to discuss Complaints and Appeals: the system for these, although sometimes with good reason, is highly convoluted and can be very difficult to fight your way through - especially when the appeals are on health grounds. I'm hoping, through communication with the Proctors and University staff, to simplify this system and ensure that students have it explained at all times what is happening, and why.

Other than this, Hannah and I ran a session for Academic Affairs Officers and JCR Presidents on Academic Feedback Sessions - something I'm very keen to work on this year - and I participated in an OUSU discussion on feedback from tutorial work, lectures and seminars, and examinations. So lots of things going on - if you have any comments, feedback or questions on academic feedback, or complaints and appeals procedures, please feel free to email either Hannah, or me at academicaffairs@ousu.org. Look forward to meeting as many people as possible this year!

Nick

Emily Cousens

Access & Admissions Officer

Hey Council,

This week I my main task is helping publicise the Access fair and assist in the workings and running of the day.

We are all very excited about the breadth of stalls that are to be showcased as well as the panel discussion which includes wadham alumnus and "social visionary" David Gustave, an incredible individual who has been nicknamed "the British Obama".

It would be fantastic to see you there!

Last week I attended the Target Schools committee meeting and am very excited about working with the new committee during my time on exec.

I also met the access reps from other colleges and introduced myself so they have a better understanding of how we can help each other out, and colleges can work on projects not just individually but alongside OUSU as well.

Oliver Gleeson

Community Outreach & Charities Officer

Hi Council,

As this is my first council report, I think it's best if I introduce myself: I am Oliver Gleeson, a second year undergraduate at Christ Church studying PPE. I have been involved with RAG since March 2011 as

Sponsorship Officer on the RAG Exec. I am very pleased to have been elected as Community Outreach and Charities Officer and I will do my best to follow in Sarah's footsteps.

In terms of things going on this term, there are many exciting projects, events and campaign work coming up in the next few weeks.

RAG has been working hard to bring two exciting events to Oxford students in the coming weeks: Blind Date and Oxford's Got Talent. I've been working hard finalising details for Oxford's Got Talent as well as promoting Saturday @ No.9 (the new Varsity Events and RAG Collaboration). Get in touch if you want to find out more!

My email address is communityandcharity@ousu.org and I urge anyone who wants to get involved to get in touch.

Oliver

Adrian Lo

Clubs & Societies Officer

Hello Council

I am Adrian and I am the new Clubs and Societies Officer in case you haven't met me before. I am a second year reading Engineering Science so please do forgive my poor writing skills! It has been a very busy yet fulfilling two weeks accompanied with the usual questions on how to of setting up a new society. In the space of several days, I have already received requests including the setting up of a recorder society, scottish society , cribbage society (not entirely sure what it means...) and even with people who didn't even have a name for the society that they want to set up!

Even though I have only been in my new role for a very short while. I am truly shocked by the diversity of the clubs and societies here at Oxford as well as their needs for assistance in setting up, running and passing on a society. But the emails that I received only represent a very small segment of a very big picture as many people are simply unaware of my existence. In the end, they will either find the right way after a lot of hard work or give up completely. This is the very reason why I think a substantial increase in support for student-run societies at Oxford is extremely important.

Following the footsteps of my predecessor Jacob, I have several goals that are high on my priority list. Firstly, compiling a database that covers most of the student societies at Oxford. I know this might sound impossible, but with the assistance of Proctors Office, Freshers' Fair stalls list and word of mouth, I am sure it can be done eventually. Secondly, continue the organisation of the Clubs Council. Jacob has set up the first Club Council last year and the response has been very positive. It is an occasion where we give advice to presidents of societies on how to run a society, and the presidents will share their concerns and problems with us. It is quite a good two-way mechanism that increases the interaction between the societies and me. The topic of interests can range from opening and passing on a bank account to writing a constitution for a newly established society. I also see this as an excellent opportunity for societies' president to mingle and explore the opportunities of holding joint-society events. Thirdly, I intend to set up formal treasurers and president trainings with the Career Services. This is yet to be explored but the lack of training of executive committees often results in the decline and eventual death of societies, so this is definitely an area that has a lot of room for improvement.

Also it would be great if you can ask your friends to email me if they feel like they haven't had enough support from the clubs and societies officer or if they still haven't received any emails from me so far. If you have any questions, comments or concerns in this area, please do not hesitate to get in touch: societies@ousu.org.

Beth Hanson-Jones

Environment & Ethics Officer

I have been working on setting up a swap shop within colleges for unused or unwanted items. I am in the process of researching possible formats for this and if anyone has a swap shop at their college I would be grateful if you could e-mail me some of the details of how this is run, my e-mail is eande@ousu.org. I am in contact with the University Sustainable Development Officer who set up the Departmental Swap

Shop and she has offered to help discuss the logistics and has suggested a college trial. I will be looking to take a paper to the University Environment panel in 6th week for their advice, and we will hopefully get the project up and running during Trinity term. As usual, if you need anything then let me know on the e-mail address above.

Jess Pumphrey

LGBTQ Officer

This week I've been collating events happening during Queer History Month in order to publish them, held a meeting with the college LGBTQ Reps and attended a meeting of the LGBTQ campaign.

David Butler

Rent and Accommodation Officer

As stated in my previous report, I have sent out the rent survey to all the JCR presidents. I repeat my plea for a prompt filling in of the survey, but I understand the time constraints placed on Common Room presidents.

Just before council today, I attend the Student Community Partnership meeting alongside the VP C&C. This report was submitted before the meeting took place and hence I cannot report the content to the meeting. I will do so in my next report to council.

I am continuing to work with the President on preparing for rent negotiation training.

David

Sarah Pine

Women's Campaign Officer

Hey again council!

The Women's Campaign has started their consultation on the development of our constitution, so that we can effectively input into the review of OUSU's by-laws and also have some clarity within the group. We're clarifying membership criteria, criteria to run for committee positions and roles within the committee.

We also hosted a film night, to engage with the more relaxed, social side of the campaign.

Also, we've finalised our plans for our Open Mic night, to be taking place on Wednesday of 4th week.

Sarah

James Raynor

Common Room Support Officer

Hey Council,

First of all, my apologies not being at council this week. I'm taking my girlfriend to Snow Patrol for her birthday and this was the only date! If you have any questions please just email me at commonrooms@ousu.org or address them to Martha who'll be able to answer them and if not she'll pass them on to me.

I've been discussing Sky contracts with various people in preparation for taking action on how much common rooms are paying. I will be sending out a briefing document for common rooms which are particularly worried about this. It will highlight exactly what the problems are and how you can save money on your budgets if applicable. Its remarkably easy.

Finally a thank you to all the OUSU reps who attended the meeting last week. Both Marth and I though it went really well.

Best as always,

James