

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Hilary Term 2014

Tom Rutland

President

Hi Council,

Rent Meetings

I've met with a few Common Room Presidents and spent several hours working through rent negotiations with them, and there are many more of these meetings in the diary. Any Common Room is welcome to get in touch to discuss rent negotiations.

Training & Empowering Students

As a resource-poor organization, we rely heavily on the ability of our members to form close working relationships and be empowered to lead and change within their common rooms or other groups. I've worked with an external trainer/facilitator for a trial run of training for JCR Presidents and the Part-Time Executive - on everything from lobbying skills, to ironing out exactly how to achieve manifesto goals. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive (especially from the JCR Presidents) so I'll be ensuring OUSU runs it again, twice a year for JCR & MCR Presidents dependent on when they hand over, and annually for the Part-Time Executive.

Strategy & Funding

As of the time I write this report, no official news on the success or otherwise of our funding bid, but the decision is expected to be made on the day this report is delivered verbally at OUSU Council, so there may be more news then. The draft Referenda Regulations are presented to Council this week. Please email any suggestions for changes to president@ousu.org by Monday 4th Week so that the Internal Affairs Committee can consider them, before the first vote in 5th Week.

Other

I went to the Aldwych Group (the Student Unions of the Russell Group) meeting last weekend, where I learned a lot about the Immigration Bill and its damaging impact on international students (read more on the News section on the website) and also about successful campaigns for fixed fee guarantees for international students - which we may try to start here in Oxford. I also met with some student ambassadors from a South Korean university, and explained what British student unions do and what we do for students here in Oxford. I've appointed a new Democratic Support Officer to hopefully start within a couple of weeks, which should reduce the admin burden on Sabbatical Officers and give us more time to spend with students.

See you in 2 weeks.

Tom

Garlen Lo

VP (Graduates)

Charlotte Hendy

VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)

Common Room Support

Following a survey conducted by Jamie Wells, Health and Welfare Officer, we've reviewed our Welfare supplies, and are looking into expanding our range of stock so it reflects what students want and need. I've also met several Welfare Reps, and held a social for them to meet each other and discuss the similarities and differences of welfare in their colleges, to hopefully encourage them to go back to their college and make positive changes.

Access to Facilities and Services

Rachel and I have been working hard on pushing the University to allow suspended status students (formerly 'rusticated' students) to have access to all University facilities and services e.g. Counseling Service, University emails, Bodleian libraries. It went to its final committee on Friday, so we'll give you their verdict at Council! 😊

Race Summit

I've been working closely with CRAE (the Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality) on the University's upcoming Race Summit, planning the day and its programme, and helping to prepare what CRAE will be presenting to the University.

King's Arms Crossing

After a Council motion last year looking at the safety of this crossing, Dan and I have had several meetings with relevant individuals, and this week we met the Head of St Catz to talk through the University and the Council's plans for Broad Street and its new development. When the consultation phase opens, we'll be passing it on to students to have an input!

Wellbeing Week

Along with Mind Your Head, I've been looking at Wellbeing Week which this year takes place in 3rd week of Trinity Term, the same week as National Mental Health Awareness Week. If you'd like to get involved and be part of the planning team, email welfare@ousu.org

Safe Zones

I've continued working on this manifesto pledge, and this week met with somebody from the Council, and from Thames Valley Police to look at the feasibility of such a scheme in Oxford. They think the scheme is great and gave me several useful contacts and pointers of what to do next. So watch this space 😊

What do you want me to do next? Email welfare@ousu.org or tweet @OUSU_WEO!

Rachel Pickering	VP (Access & Academic Affairs)
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Dan Tomlinson	VP (Charities & Community)
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Sarah Pine	VP (Women)
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FemJam at Leeds

Since last council, I've been working with Charlotte (the editor of Cuntry Living) to organise transport to and from Leeds for FemJam14. It looks like it going to be really great! Lots of people have signed up for coach space and putting this together has been really fun! This is a massive project but I'm really happy about it. If you want to come it's really, really cheap and easy. Email me at women@ousu.org for a coach ticket.

Sexual consent

I've trained more facilitators, and have more sessions planned in the next few weeks. This is something that I really enjoy and like doing alongside other projects so this point will probably be in all of my reports for the rest of the year.

I've worked with Oxford Brookes Feminist Society to introduce consent workshops into Brookes and train

facilitators there.

Over the past few weeks I've been working with Eden Tanner, the graduate women's officer, to introduce consent workshops in MCRs. We're getting together an action plan to get more workshops into graduate communities.

Sexual Assault Referral Centre Access

This has been a really big project of mine over the past two weeks. Sexual Assault Referral Centres are really crucial services for lots of people as they are the only place that someone can get immediate medical and forensic support after experiencing sexual assault, as well as being a gatekeeper to long-term emotional support. Similarly they can provide Independent Sexual Violence Advisors, who are people trained to advice on the reporting and prosecuting processes, as well as other practical concerns. However, the nearest one is in Slough, which is an hour away. A most students do not have cars, it is basically inaccessible to Oxford Students.

I've been working with Keble women's officer, some students at Teddy Hall and Johns JCR President to introduce schemes in their colleges that provide taxis to the Solace Centre to support any students that experience sexual assault.

Sexual Violence

I've been working with common rooms on introducing Zero Tolerance in some colleges and common rooms.

Have been in conversation with the NUS Women's Officer, Kelley Temple. The work that she is doing around the Lad Culture summit later this term fits with the policy work that It Happens Here is doing with the university.

It Happens Here

The committee is really great, and have been doing wonderful work, putting together anti-violence Valentine's week. We're coupling with WomCam for some events, and putting on our own too. The group is doing lots of policy work too. We've produced a lot more zines and are getting more out to colleges and common rooms.

Women's Leadership Development Programme

We've started and had one training session already, which was great. Administering the programme is time consuming but really fun. I've met loads of great women through it.

International Women's Day - Oxford Women in Sport.

I've been working with Atalantas and Sportsfed for a big women in sport event for international women's day. We've now got sponsorship and are finalising lots of logistics, and tickets will be on sale soon!

Finals Forums

I've been working with common rooms to get these ingrained into colleges. This is really important because most undergrad students feel a lot closer to their college than their department. Finals forums can challenge exam anxieties, particularly for women, so they're really helpful in the run up to exams. I've been supporting some students to work with their senior tutors and get them into their common rooms.

PART TIME OFFICERS

Jamie Wells	Health and Welfare Officer
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- Collected the results of the Welfare Supplies shortly, and we are now reassessing the current welfare stock and seeing what new items we can feasibly provide to common rooms
- Attended a workshop with Students Against Depression
- Attended Welfare Rep Forum and talked to common room Welfare Reps

Eden Tanner	Graduate Women's Officer
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In the past two weeks, I have been focusing on Compulsory Consent Workshops, Master's Final Forums,

Couples and Families Accommodation, and women in STEM activities, in addition to being an active committee member and participant in the Women's Campaign.

Currently, Consent Workshops are conducted in twelve colleges, six of which have them as compulsory activity. One of my election promises was to make compulsory consent workshops available in one third of all colleges (this translates to 13 colleges) by 2014/15 Freshers' Week. Last week, St John's College MCR successfully passed a motion through regarding the introduction of Consent Workshops as a compulsory activity during Freshers' Week. I wrote and, in conjunction with the Women's and Welfare Officers, presented the motion. It will be presented to the JCR at their upcoming General Meeting. Over the next two weeks, I will be working with Sarah Pine (VP (Women)) and Lucy Delaney (Women's Campaign Officer) to establish information sessions to gauge interest across more of the colleges, and to provide support and materials to students who wish to raise the issue of Compulsory Consent Workshops within their common room.

The Gender Final Gap that we see within the undergraduate community largely does not exist within the graduate community. However, there is still a gap between the number of male and female students achieving Distinctions in one year Master's courses. I undertook a survey to gauge interest in providing a "Finals Forum" for one year Master's students. The next two weeks will involve analysis of the data gathered and a decision about future directions will be made.

I have been consulting with Sophie Terrett (Rent and Accommodation) on establishing a more comprehensive database of college-based couples and family accommodation. We are currently workshopping the questions we want to approach the colleges with, and over the coming weeks, we will begin contacting the Domestic Offices at the relevant colleges.

Lastly, in conjunction with OxFEST (Oxford Females in Engineering, Science, and Technology), I co-chaired a panel titled "[Showcase of Oxford's women in science: panel discussion on becoming a successful scientist.](#)" It was an extremely engaging event, with a large audience, and provided an excellent opportunity for me to familiarise myself with the female STEM graduate community.

Aparnareddy Mummadi

Graduate International Student's Officer

Hello. I am excited about taking up the role of graduate international student's officer.

This term with the help of the team at OUSU I hope to make a difference to international students in particular focussing on mental health issues.

I had my initial meeting with Garlan (Vice President-Graduates) to discuss my role and the ideas I had for the future.

Garlan and I attended a meeting with the 'Graduate Panel' working group discussing Graduate (inc International) Student's induction and ways we can improve this. The working group consisted of administrative and welfare staff from the central university and colleges. A very productive meeting where they were trying to make changes based on the 'International Students' Teaching and Support Project Report'. They hope to deliver an induction that is efficient, student-centred, without duplication and with improved academic skills support.

James Elliott

Disabled Students Officer

Since my election at the last council meeting, I have made plans to hold the first meeting of the Disabled Students Campaign at 7pm on Tuesday of 3rd week. I have met members of Balliol JCR who are interested in campaigning on mental health rustication issues. I have also spoke with members of the NUS Disabled Students Committee, who are focused on setting up and expanding disabled students societies, for guidance on how to get more students involved. Finally, I have written a short article on request for the Cherwell, speaking about my mental health difficulties and academia, and encouraging students with similar problems to engage with the disabled students campaign.