

Reports to OUSU 3rd week Council

**President
Hunt**

Ruth

Despite popular belief most of what I do has very little to do with the mechanisms of council. Last week I met with the Vice Chancellor who is a very nice man and genuinely interested in what the students are up to these days. He seems receptive to the need for a central student venue with disabled access though has not got quite as excited as the *Cherwell* about the subject. Venues do come up that are by no means a large Warwick style metropolis but would serve the purpose of housing the shop and the welfare centre. When plans are a little more secure, I hope that the issue will be taken to GMs for discussion because if you do not want a CSV, then I am more than happy to cease making it a priority. However, I think it would be wise to relocate somewhere a little more accessible.

Finance and Funding campaigning group are working well at this somewhat weird time regarding student finance. It seems to have been forgotten that tuition fees have not yet been repealed and there is no secure line on the extent of the restoration of the grant. There are still major decisions to be made in F&F and such decisions should be made with good knowledge how different people feel about the issue. The front of the *Oxford Gazette* this week is an article from a don who states that it was much easier in his day and comments on how difficult it must be for those of us who have to get jobs. I'm pleased some of the brightest minds in the country grasped this concept so quickly and it is an indication that we are on the threshold of change. More input is needed though all the co-chairs and the lovely Mr Sullivan all work very hard to make it a success.

Much of my time has also been taken up with the long but necessary task of running a free and fair election. Letters have been sent out asking for husting times and college returning officers. We also appointed a returning officer and deputy returning officer in exec but there is another vacancy for DRO so please, please, please get in touch with me if you are interested. As we have the highest turn out in Europe, the more trust worthy, reliable and sensible people involved in it from this end, the better. There are still many vacancies in OUSU and please get in touch if you think some might interest you.

**Vice-President (Welfare)
Rowlands**

James

Much of my time over the last two weeks has been spent on casework, or related issues. I have spent a lot of time in addition to this working with common room officers. The Student Advice Service is being heavily promoted as a resource available to students and Annily Campbell, the Student Adviser, and I have been engaged on a number of projects to get the Service out into colleges. The Service is also going to be promoted in Departments and Faculties, thanks to the assistance of the Chair of the University Health and Welfare Committee, and this should ensure that graduates who do not spend much time in College are equally able to make use of it. The first welfare training of term was a bit disappointing in terms of the numbers, but the training itself was useful and my thanks go to Annily for her help. Next week the training will be on disability issues and will be held in Somerville West JCR on Wednesday between 2.30 and 4.30.

I have attended a number of rather long University meetings, but several useful new proposals have emerged from them that should see OUSU take an active role in new schemes such as the healthier college and University programme that I shall bring to Council later in the term. Anti-Racism has started on an excellent series of events laid out this term. Disabilities Action has its first meeting next week, as does the Oxford Dyslexia Network and the Health and Welfare group continues to provide a good forum for training for welfare officers. I have also started to work with equal opportunities officers where they exist and hope to provide them with training and support .

I have started working on the Living Out Guide with the help on the University Accommodation Officer, Kate Davenport, and this should be printed and distributed towards the end of this term. The Disabilities Briefing, a key part of the OUSU Disability Guide (due for next term) is currently being updated. I am continuing to work on a number of major proposals, including the central college disability fund (which was

approved by Council last year) and a comprehensive sexual health strategy which will link into work around National AIDS day later this term.

**Vice-President (Women)
Bance**

Antonia

I've spent the last two weeks doing all sorts of stuff, and I can't believe it's third week council already. I've been sorting out the new drivers and navigators for the Nightbus and regularising their payment, as well as drumming up extra business for the bus to bring in more money for OUSU and even occasionally doing shifts myself when people drop out at short notice!

I've been organising the Student Parent Welcome event, which is going to be fabulous, finally sending off the Childcare Guide to the printers and dealing with volumes of queries about childcare, which will only increase when the University Childcare Project Officer post is abolished by the university next week.

I've been helping to organise women's committee events for the term, including the Real Women's Careers Event in seventh week and the fantastically well-attended video evening about women in Afghanistan last Tuesday. I've been planning to get lots of Oxford people to the NUS March for Women's Rights on Weds 7th November (it's open to men too, so no-one has any excuse for not coming!) I've also been variously working on police rights in colleges, defending women's officers, Nestle, eating disorders and on changing the status of the representative committees - which you will see in motion form at the next council. I've also organised two careers presentations solely for women, with UBS Warburg and Accenture.

As usual I've done my share of casework, and have advised several women's officers, female welfare offices and new SCR advisors to women students. I've been to university committees and to a training session for harassment advisors. I've been working with my other committees - One World and Ethics - on their projects for the term. As a member of elections committee, I've also been helping the RO prepare for the election, and done lots of VP stuff, generally promoting OUSU and encouraging people to get involved.

Finally, cynics may sneer, but my job is important to the functioning of OUSU, and I would encourage any enthusiastic women to consider standing for VP(Women) in the elections.

**Vice-President (Graduates)
Sangster**

Catherine

Since the last OUSU council, I've been busy with several initiatives and duties. Most importantly, I held a Postgraduate Assembly on Tuesday 16th October, at which several new graduate representatives were appointed. I'm looking forward to working with the new divisional reps, committee reps and the graduate exec officers John and Heidi. I have spoken in a few more graduate CRs (St. Peter's, Oriel and St. Antony's), wrapping up my sab tours. I've had two bits of training; one to help me advise students who are being harassed, and the other to enable me drive the minibus. I have attended several meetings in my capacity as VP (Graduates) including EPSC, the standing committee of the Tutors for Graduates' Committee, the University Club Management Committee and the Committee for Diversity and Equal Opportunities.

**Vice President (Access and Academic Affairs)
Craig**

John

The Target Schools web site was launched successfully on Monday of 2nd Week, and the rate at which volunteers have been signing up has picked up steadily since then. Posters have gone out to colleges, but all mentions in JCR and MCR meetings of how easy it now is to volunteer for Target Schools (go to www.targetschools.com) are greatly appreciated. Student profiles and a subject enquiry facility will follow soon. The Target Schools Freshers lunch also went extremely well, and has encouraged still more people to become involved with the committee.

I attended Educational Policy and Standards Committee, which discussed the University's new strategy on widening participation in higher education. I am very happy with the broad thrust of the strategy, and have since had meetings with both the University Admissions Office and the Access Scheme to ensure that we work together as effectively as possible in the coming years. I was also invited to meet, along with representatives of the University, with a representative of DfES to discuss access to Oxford and higher education funding.

Academic Affairs Committee had its first meeting of term in second week and agreed on a number of priorities for the year ahead. In bringing together Academic Affairs Officers, the committee, as it has done in the past, also provided valuable support for the work of JCRs, and I would encourage all Academic Affairs Officers to attend the next meeting, which is at 1pm on Thursday in New College.

I have had quite a heavy casework load in the last two weeks, but hope that the time I have spent has been worthwhile for those concerned. Oh yes, and I'm now qualified to drive the Nighthbus.