

# OUSU

## reports to council

3<sup>rd</sup> Week Michaelmas 2008

<b>Lewis Iwu</b>	<b>President</b>
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Welcome to second week council

### **OUSU Funding**

JCC sat this week and reported that it is now in the final stages of preparing a final report about the way in which OUSU is funded and introducing colleges as a funding stream.

### **NUS/External Relations**

Extraordinary conference has been called and OUSU will send its delegates to sit on the 12<sup>th</sup> November in Wolverhampton.

### **Aldwych**

The Aldwych Group is a group comprised of sabbatical officers from Russel Group University Student Unions. We discussed ways in which Russel Group Universities can coordinate to furthering widening participation

### **VC Nominating Committee**

I am working with Daniel Zougbe to put together a paper for submission to JCC about gaining full representation on the VC nominating committee. More details will follow.

<b>Rosanna McBeath</b>	<b>V-P(Welfare and Equal Opportunities)</b>
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Hello everyone. I hope term is going well!

My report this week is going to be fairly short, as I've been home sick for a good chunk of the last two weeks with freshers flu! But I'm all better now and making up for lost time. We had our first meetings for JCR and MCR welfare officers. We got a great turn out at the undergraduate meeting in 2<sup>nd</sup> week, but not so good at the graduate one on Wednesday. If everyone could encourage their welfare officers to come along to the meetings that would be fantastic! They take place on Wednesday at 5.30 in the OUSU offices. The next JCR welfare officer meeting is 4<sup>th</sup> week and the next MCR welfare officer meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> week. My officer training was cancelled because we didn't have enough interest unfortunately, so I will be rescheduling that very soon.

The Student Advice Service is working at full steam. We have had a lot of casework the last couple of weeks, which has been taking up a lot of time. The service is working really well with Lisa helping out now. It has increased our capacity hugely!

Have a great 4<sup>th</sup> week everyone!

Welfare love,  
Rosanna xx

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Please feel free to ask any questions about the above, or any other aspect of the work I do to support students. Email me at [welfare@ousu.org](mailto:welfare@ousu.org) or phone me on (2)88261.

Thanks for reading this!

Welfare love!

**Rachel Cummings**

**V-P (Women)**

Safety Bus

- Held the first ever training session for Oxford Uni volunteers, which went really well. I have around 30 people on my maillist interested in getting involved. Please spread the word about it- driving and co-driving is a great way to volunteer, you only need to give a small amount of time, you get a free hoodie and free dominoes pizza on shift, and it'll be really great to have more Oxford students involved with the scheme. Anyone who's interested, email me: women@ousu.org.

Student Parents

- Student Parent Orientation was great, we had speakers from the county council, oxfordshire children's information service and the university childcare department. A good turnout and interesting discussion. Attendees ranged from those will families just starting their degrees to those pregnant wanting to prepare themselves for becoming a student parent.  
- Tea and Toys was a huge success, over 30 people attended. Everyone chatted informally over refreshments and met other student parents. The next session will be Nov 9th, please let anyone you think might be interested know about the event.

Enough (Disordered Eating Support Group)

- We had our biggest turn out ever on Tuesday. A really useful and productive session. Thanks for putting it out on maillist, please continue to publicise it whenever possible.

Gender Equality Week

- Has been \*amazing\*. Thanks to Kat Wall for all the organising. We had over 70 people at the launch event on Sunday evening and raised lots of money for Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre. WomCam had its termly open session where men are invited, 3 brave men came and we had a really interesting discussion about how men can promote and be involved in feminism. The Magd Film Soc showing of two films on Monday night was excellent, great turnout. Interesting discussion on Tuesday with Oxfam on Women in Development and a great debate on Wednesday about positive Discrimination. Hope to see you all at the Union this evening for the debate 'This House Believes We Are All Feminists Now'.

University Meetings

I've attended meetings with:

- Felicity Cooke head of the Equality and Diversity Unit, Louise Edwards University Childcare Manager and Caroline King, co-ordinator of the Harassment Advice Line
- Keith Zimmerman, new head of Student Services
- MCR prescom,
- St John's Women's Lunch,
- The Joint Consultative Committee
- OUSU reps meeting

WomCam

- We had our inaugural meeting of the Feminist Bookgroup, which was fantastic. The next one will be this Tuesday in Borders at 5pm, discussing The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Email me (women@ousu.org) for more details. Everyone's very welcome.  
- Jointly run with Magdalene Film Society we also had our first 'Women in Film' session, where we watched and then discussed (with a lecturer in film studies) the 1939 version of the recently released film 'The Women'. The next session will be this Thursday at 7:30pm in Magdalene, all welcome. We'll be watching 'Raise The Red Lantern'

Women's Officers

- I held a meeting for Common Room women's officers on Thursday 2nd Week. It was really productive, we discussed different events people want to run in their colleges, and issues that have arisen. We then had a short workshop on gaining sponsorship for events in college.

The Union and Debating

- Anna Williams, Kirini Kopcke, Katy Theobald (of OxWip) and I have been planning an event to encourage more women to get involved in the Union. This will take place on Sunday evening at 7:30pm in The Union. All women are very welcome to come along, find out more about the Union, have a free drink and ask any questions about getting involved.  
- I'm also working with Melanie Bunce and Lewis Turner of the Debate Select Committee to run a session about getting involved with debating, which will probably happening towards the end of next week. I'll send info through the maillists, so please send it on.

JCR Presidents

- I've been talking to a couple of the female JCR presidents about trying to encourage more women to stand for the position this term. We're going to make this a very informal email-me-if-you're-interested system, but hopefully get the

ball rolling. If you're a female JCR president reading this and are interested in getting involve do email me (women@ousu.org) otherwise, again just look out from info posted on prescom.

Think that's everything. Any questions, come and find me or email.

**Kaushal Vidyarthee**

**V-P (Graduates)**

**Hello!!! I hope you had a fantastic week. Last two weeks have been really very busy for me.**

#### **University Committees**

**I sat on more than dozen university committees' and working groups' meetings which include**

- **On Course Administration Steering Group**
- **Career Services-International Students' Focus Group**
- **Graduate Admission Committee**
- **Meeting with the Director of Students Administration Office**
- **Graduate Panel Meeting**
- **Meeting with Pro Vice-Chancellor (Education)- Ewan Mackendrik**
- **Fees and funding committee- Funding Forum**
- **EPSC (Education Committee)**
- **OUCS Management Committee**
- **CETL Steering Group**
- **Graduate Skill Advisory Group Meeting**
- **Fees Policy Group Meeting and**
- **JCC Meeting.**

**Some of these were really very important. The most notable outcomes from these meetings are steps towards creation of 'Funding Forum', setting up an online fee calculator, and policy for enhancing teaching opportunities for PGR.**

#### **MCR PresCom**

**I also organised and chaired the first meeting of the MCR Presidents' Committee for this academic year. It was very well attended. We had a very constructive discussion about how OUSU can enhance values offered to graduate students and improve the supports given to middle common rooms. Anna Lewis, MCR President of Balliol College was elected as the PresCom representative for the Graduate Committee of the Conference of Colleges. The issue regarding suitability of the international students' reps or overseas reps in middle common rooms were also discussed.**

#### **International Students' Campaign (ISC)**

**I coordinated with the ISC committee to send officers for the workshop -International Students and Students' Unions: Inclusion and Innovation- organised by the NUS in London. I am going to meet the core members of the committee this afternoon.**

#### **Mature Students' Campaign (MSC)**

**This campaign is getting bigger day by day. We had a very successful Tea and Coffee event which was organised in this week at Harris-Manchester College.**

#### **Student Advice Service (SAS)**

**We had a very useful in-house training for dealing with caseworks when students visit us in our office. The number of caseworks has been really staggering over past couple of weeks.**

**Jack Wellby**

**V-P (Charities & Community)**

**Hello! I've had an extremely active and busy 2 weeks so I'll try to summarise what's been going on in the world of Charities and Community.**

#### **RAG**

- Chose the ten charities we'll be supporting for the coming year. I am delighted to inform you all that these will be:
  - o Student Run - Engineers Without Borders; Students Supporting Street Kids
  - o Local - Asylum Welcome; Jacari; KEEN; OxPAT; SeeSaw

- o National - Oaktree UK
- o International - ODA; SightSavers
- Ran a successful launch event on Monday of 2<sup>nd</sup> in St Peter's college
- Attended Accenture recruitment event as a representative of a society that they are sponsoring. Gave the Chief Executive a RAG charity bug. He laughed.
- Our first RAG raid took place on Saturday and we had 28 students take part in the bright red RAG t-shirts in Oxford and raised a terrific £903.05 for Whizz-Kidz – a disabled children charity.
- On Monday we elected our RAG exec committee for the coming terms. The following positions have been filled:
  - o President: Tom Haynes (St Catz)
  - o Vice-President: Miriam Thake (Merton)
  - o Secretary: Lizzy Charlton (Queens)
  - o Events Coordinator: Eorann Lean (St Hugh's)
  - o Publicity Officer: Rachel Dedman (St John's)
  - o Raids officer: Bryony Tayler (Somerville)
  - o Sponsorship Officers: Daniel Lowe (SEH) and Deepak Jhamb (Kellog)
  - o Webmaster: Jack Wellby (Jesus)
  - o Reps social secretary: Andy White (SEH)
  - o Non-portfolio officers: Katy Tooth (Exeter), Jack Turner (St Peter's), Claire Handel (Hertford), Laura Davies (Merton)
- On Wednesday we had our first RAG exec meeting chaired by Tom Haynes and it was again a bit success.
- Coming up before next council we have:
  - o RAG @ Eelectric on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> week (Baby Love)
  - o Wear it Pink on Thursday of 5<sup>th</sup> week (St Peter's)

#### Environment and Ethics

- Attended the university's Environment Panel meeting. All very active – university committed to 80% reduction in carbon footprint by 2050 when compared with 1990 levels. 40% by 2020.
- Council will be put under pressure by home bursars over their rubbish recycling system (see what I did there?). It'll be a case of improve or we take our business elsewhere.
- Fair trade status is an aim of the university
- Everyone wants the 'Examination regulations' (printed each year) to be only available on request or online. I'm sure we'll all agree with this.
- Wrote an article entitled 'A Climate of Change' for the Cherwell published today. Take a look!

#### Funding application

- Met with Richard Jarman and Ellen Hudspith to discuss trying to squeeze some more money out of the HEACF fund to fund part of the VP(C&C) and some volunteering projects. Submitted 6 page proposal today.

#### General

- Attended the Aldwich group meeting which I assume Lewis has written about above.
- MCR prescom on Tuesday was constructive, fascinating and really positive. Thoroughly enjoyable if a little long!
- See motion about cycle safety as well.

I'm sure there's other stuff but I can't write it now. Please email me with any questions about any of this at [charities@ousu.org](mailto:charities@ousu.org).

Jack Wellby, Vice President (Charities and Community)

**'Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going**

**PART TIME OFFICERS**

**Daniel Lowe**

**Environment and Ethics**

Hello Council,

A short one today. I attended university Environment Panel this week which was very positive. The university are making plans to cut their carbon emissions by 80% by 2050 and 40% by 2020. The green survey of colleges is going reasonably well, with some colleges submitting four entries (JCR rep, MCR rep, Bursar and some other person) but some colleges haven't replied at all. If the reps haven't gt back to me by next council I'll name and shame!