

OUSU

reports to council

3rd week michaelmas term 2010

David Barclay

President

Hi Council,

Since 'speed-council' of 1st week I've been busy on a number of hugely important projects:

Browne Review and Comprehensive Spending Review

Since the Browne Review came out I have spoken on BBC Radio Oxford and written in the Oxford Mail, the Telegraph, the Independent and the Student Press. I also gave briefings on the Browne Review to MCR Prescom, academic affairs reps and JCR Prescom.

On Tuesday of 2nd week I went to London to meet Nicola Blackwood and expressed Oxford students anger at the report and the planned cuts to Higher Education. Whilst she did not share our deep concerns about the impact of a market on Oxford access, she said she had deep concerns about students being asked to pay more to get less, and agreed in principle to come to a public meeting when a White paper is produced to explain how she will represent her constituents on this issue.

Preparations for the National Demonstration on November 10th continue apace, with the Fund our Future maillist now up and running. There will be a meeting directly after this Council which will be a briefing on the Demonstration and a training session on how to build turnout and get students involved in the Demo.

I've now also had a number of meetings with the University's senior management team about the impact of Browne and the CSR on Oxford. Issues discussed included Student Charters, students working whilst at Oxford, possibilities for joint press/campaign action and bursaries.

A Stars

I have had a series of meetings with University committee members about A stars, including the Proctors, the Academic Registrar, and the Pro Vice-Chancellor for Education. The lobbying campaign to postpone a decision on A stars until we have more evidence appears to have enormous potential to succeed, but will depend hugely on students in colleges using their opportunities to lobby the relevant decision-makers.

Misc

Since the last OUSU Council I have also:

- Met 2 more JCR Presidents, 2 Society Presidents and 1 Community leader one on one.
- Helped to produce 4 papers for JCCSM, including reporting the effects to the OUSU budget of the recent staff changes.
- Continued the search for External Trustees.
- Continued discussions with the Estates Directorate on OUSU moving premises.

Katharine Terrell
(Women)

V-P

Hi Council,

This fortnight I've:

- Finalised Reclaim the Night which happened on Friday (logistics, publicity, WomCam and GenCam contribution, outreach etc)
- Attended Reclaim the Night (I'm writing this on Friday morning so hopefully it is/was successful);
- Worked on casework for the Student Advice Service;
- Met with uni officials discussing careers, childcare, harassment;
- Met with women's officers;
- Planned 'Springboard' logistics (funding allowing);
- Attended training at the NUS;
- Met with women's officers;
- Finalised events for Gender Equality Festival;

I'm currently working on:

- Childcare – giving student parents priority on the waiting lists;
- Parents – reinstating tea and toys;
- Careers – speaking on work/life balance panel;
- Springboard – lobbying colleges to fund places for their students;
- Harassment procedures (with Student Advice Service and Uni);
- Training for college staff on dealing with relationship abuse;
- Working with the Union Women's Officer to put on assertiveness training and election training;
- With Alex, looking at providing cheaper stash to clubs and societies;
- Continuing to collect data for the Gender Equality Report.

After writing this, but hopefully before council:

- Finalised an event for student parents;
- Started work on the Safety Bus.

Also, I spent 2 hours shifting the new OCCHs with Lisa, Alex, Tom and Daniel and accidentally deleted the front page of the website. But I figured out how to get it back, so it's fine.

Quote for the fortnight: "I have yet to hear a man ask for advice on how to combine marriage and a career." – Gloria Steinem

Beth Evans (Graduates)	V-P
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OUSU Council Report, 3rd Week MT. Beth Evans, VP (Grads).

Committee Meetings:

- Curators of the University Libraries
- Fees Policy Group
- Education Committee
- Research Committee
- Graduate Admissions Committee
- GSAPG (Graduate Studies Admin & Procedures Group)
- OUSU Executive Committee

MCR visits:

- St. John's MCR meeting
- Mansfield MCR meeting

Meetings with **MCR Presidents & Divisional Board Reps.**

- **Oxford Education Campaign** Meeting at Wadham, 18/10

- **Oxfordshire Save our Services** demo in Bonn Square, 20/10

Presented a paper with the Head of Communications (Tara Jewell) on student engagement with the Graduate Supervision System at GSAPG (Graduate Studies Admin & Procedures Group).

MCR President's Committee at St. Hilda's: discussed Browne Review and Comprehensive Spending Review, ongoing work on improving student engagement with the Graduate Supervision System and the University consultation on Probationer Research Student status. Also discussed college fees, graduate accommodation, OUSU elections, membership of University Club gym for JYAs.

Meeting with the **Oxford Learning Institute**: discussed plans for graduate submission to Teaching Review.

Meeting with the **International Students Campaign** chairs.

Meeting with the **Careers Service**: discussed Oxford University International Internship Programme and how to provide services specifically for one-year Taught Masters and also Mature students.

**Tom Perry
Opportunities)**

V-P (Welfare & Equal

I believe that this will be the case with many of my reports but a lot of my time is obviously spent on the Student Advice Service. Outside of that however I have also:

- Finalised Advocacy Training with Alex. This will be in for Presidents and Academic Affairs Officers, and it's going to be held on Thursday of 5th week.
- Finished off preparations for Disability Awareness Week which has been happening this week (hopefully you've all seen the posters!)
- Met 15 Welfare and Equal Opportunities officers to discuss their plans for the year and how OUSU can help them
- Been to the Careers Service to give a talk on the Student Advice Service, which was very well received
- Held the first Welfare Committee meeting of term with 18 Common Room Officers, which included a talk from Nicola at Student Run Self Help
- Worked with the rest of the team on the papers to JCCSM which is happening next week
- Moved over 16 tonnes of OCCHs into storage!
- Attended the first CRAE meeting of the year, and excited to see what is going to happen this year!

What will happen between writing this report and Council:

- First meeting of the term of Equal Opportunities committee. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend!
- Meeting the Counselling Service about Chinese Nightline
- Meeting of MCR Welfare officers will be happening on Monday at 1pm so we can discuss welfare issues for graduates and how best to support them
- Going to the Counselling Service to give a talk on the Student Advice Service

Please find me with any questions you may have!

**Alex Bulfin
Affairs)**

V-P (Access & Academic

With the CSR and Browne Review it has been an exciting but frantic and fragmented week; here's a snapshot of some of the things I've been working on.

Update on Council mandates (also verbal report in Council)

In the last OUSU Council I was mandated to lobby the University against the introduction of the A* grade into its standard offer for the 2011/12 admissions round. Since then I have already been involved with a number of

University committees and meetings with University staff to express students concerns with the proposals, and the initial feedback has been positive. I have also been working with student representatives in the academic divisions and common room presidents, academic affairs and access officers so that they have been able to lobby against the proposals as they have progressed the college and departmental channels. We are still in the early stages of this campaign and there is an awful lot of work still to be done with a lot of meetings still to go, but the initial signs are promising. There will be a further update in 5th week.

Representation

In the last fortnight I have represented Oxford students at the University's Education Committee and its main planning and budgeting committees, as well as holding a number of smaller meetings with University officers on a range of issues including A*s, Higher Education Funding and Careers Services.

Common Room Support

In the last week I have conducted meetings for common room access officers and for academic affairs officers. The items discussed covered a range of areas, including bursary provision, A*s and the Browne Review. Together with Tom Perry (VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities) I have been working on enhancing last year's advocacy training, to be delivered on Thursday of 5th week of this term. Emails are currently going out advertising this training and judging by last year's take up it will be one of the more popular sessions OUSU runs (book early!)

Website

Quotes are still coming in for possible developers for a new OUSU website and I will shortly be producing a summary paper laying out the options available to us so a decision can be reached before the next meeting of Council.

Student Advice Service

I have taken on a number of new cases over the past fortnight and many cases are continuing. On the policy side of the service I have been working with other OUSU sabbaticals and the student advisor on proposals for reforming University harassment procedures which we are in the process of discussing with University officers.

Target Schools re-structuring

Work on restructuring Target Schools and introducing a database are progressing well and the database itself is starting to take shape. I will be presenting the project to a meeting of collegiate access officers this week and outlining the benefits that the new system will have for colleges.

I have also been liaising with Target Schools about possible improvements for our training sessions and further thought is currently being given to this topic.

Daniel Lowe Community)	V-P (Charities &
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Council Report W3MT10

Hi Council. Now that we're all streamlined and everything I won't be reading this out to you. Have a gander and if you've got any questions email charities@ousu.org or come find me in the bar later, at the National Demo or in my office. Also, a big thank you to those of you that got back to me with feedback for the last council, comments have been taken on board, do you like the new colours for the projector? To see which of you has read this, the first one to stick their tongue out at me gets a lollipop.

E&E

- E&E have picked 2/3 of their campaigns for the time being – one is to ensure all university apparel is sweatshop free, the other is to create a minimum standard across the colleges for recycling.
- The third campaign will be selected on Thursday 3rd Week, 5.30pm so if you care about any green or ethical issue in the university, country or beyond come down and pitch your idea!
- JCR/MCR Environment and/or Ethics officer training will be on Wednesday 4th Week please encourage your officers and anyone who you think might be interested in becoming an officer to come along. Email charities@ousu.org for details

Charities and RAG

- The RAG bungee jump is this Saturday. At the time of writing we had over 100 jumpers. Come down to watch, there's even a chance that someone will do it in a mankini (sources say that 'he's the sort of man you want to see in a mankini')
- RAG Ball is Saturday of 7th Week. Tickets are £55 but will go up to £60 next week so hurry up and buy! Also, If you get a group of 10 to buy together, we'll give you an extra free ticket!
- Since 0th week RAG has banked over £4,000 from a charity auction at Linacre, selling glowsticks in Freshers Week, a MacMillan tea party and a street collection in Southampton.
- November is now Movember – men are invited to grow a moustache for the upcoming month, get sponsored to do so and give the money to the charity Everyman. Want to know more? Email me! There are a couple of Movember 'teams' signed up so you won't be alone in your efforts.

Community

- Big Brother Big Sister information sessions were last week, I'm now interviewing candidates
- Attended East Oxford and Central South and West Council area Committees. Where, among other things, it was suggested we get the Vice Chancellor to go to Fuzzy Ducks. The residents of East Oxford in particular really don't like students at the moment, but were very happy to see me along there. I spoke about the Browne review and they all agreed it was bad for everyone.
- I've now done 2 shifts on the Safety Bus. Everybody should volunteer for this as it's the most fun I've had after midnight whilst sober. If you ever need it call 0771 444 5050 and who knows, you may hear my dulcet voice answering 'hello safety bus!'
- The OUSU/OxHub memorandum of understanding is now under review. If you feel strongly about any of its contents send comments to charities@ousu.org

PART TIME OFFICERS

Hannah Cusworth Campaign Officer	Academic	Affairs
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Hi Council,

Since we last met I've mostly been focused on the Browne Review. But here's a few other things I've been up to since we last met:

- I met with Kathleen Quinlan from the Oxford Learning Institute on how to push forward on our project to help students understand the criteria against which they are being marked. The National Student Survey results are out and show that this is an issue for yet another year of Oxford students. Alex and I are now having weekly meetings to get the project to Common Rooms
- I led some of the discussions at the latest Academic Affairs meeting. I gave the officers an update on how the Teaching Review has been taken forward since the end of last term and spoke about some of its key achievements so far and where we are taking it next.
- Presented the Teaching Review and took questions on its conclusions at the Economics faculty meeting.

To chat more about what I've been up to over the past week or drop me an email at academicaffairs@ousu.org

Jack Matthews Officer	Common Room Support
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Since last we met I have been working on the following:

- Societies Workshop: Meeting went well and we went through how to register with the Proctors and how to apply for University funding. If anyone else is interested in setting up a society, please send me an email

- CRiS: I have been working to update CRiS and add extra databases as CR presidents needs dictate. I have also been working on getting the Graduate Common Room version ready; 'Big CRiS' should hopefully go live in the next few weeks.
- Clubs and Societies Bank Account: After a years worth of working with Santander, the special bank account specifically designed for student clubs and societies in consultation with OUSU is ready to go. Full details of what the account offers will follow shortly.

Jasper Minton-Taylor Officer	LGBTQ
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The first few weeks have been successful. I worked with Taylor Leonard (also building on designs from Imogen Richardson), publisher for OUSU, to create two poster designs with accompanying cards in time for fresher's fair: one which details everything LGBTQ happening in Oxford, town and gown; and one for LGBTQ Campaign. We also held a successful brunch with LGBTsoc for fresher's, where the committee and OUSU introduced themselves.

Since then, LGBTQ Campaign has been off to a slow start due to a member of our team being ill. Briony Beckett has not only created a document detailing what LGBTQ Campaign is, but is also organising what things we'll be doing each week. We are now meeting every Thursday, 7-8pm, in the Graves Room, St John's College.

I would also like the campaign, LGBTsoc, and any other LGBTQ groups in Oxford, to work with the OxfordEducation Campaign and OUSU to co-ordinate efforts against higher education cuts as proposed by the Browne Review. For questions about LGBTQ Campaign or how the cuts specifically affect LGBT students, please email me at lgbtqofficer@ousu.org.

David Bowe Officer	Grad Welfare
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David Bowe – Graduate Welfare Officer (gradwelfare@ousu.org)

Before term I helped run drop-ins for early arriving international students, providing information, internet access and tea. Reactions were very positive.

I enjoyed helping out on the OUSU stall at Fresher's Fair and seeing new undergrads and grads signing up to get involved with OUSU.

I have organised a meeting with MCR Welfare Reps to discuss graduate welfare issues across common rooms. I will be circulating follow up information from this meeting for those who could not attend.

Elections are coming up, so if you are interested in running for the Graduate Welfare position please do email me with any questions about the role!