

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Michaelmas 2014

Sabbatical Officers

Louis Trup – President

It's been a hectic few weeks with strong general themes of governance and dealing with issues which seem to pop up.

Governance wise, I have been writing papers about governance to the Joint Sub-Committee of Education Committee with Student Members... a really cool university committee that deals with OUSU. Turns out, this takes loads of time.

I have also met with the editors and some associate editors of the OxStu in order to see if we can make the governance of the paper work better for everyone.

Everyone at OUSU has been starting to gear up for the elections which are happening soon. Whilst the whole of elections committee (which includes all the sabbatical officers, the Returning Officer and the Deputy Returning Officers) have been thinking about the governance and nominations pack, I have also been working on the new voting system. The officers last year decided to cancel our MiVoice subscription and move to Membership Solutions Limited. We are no longer offering the ability to run common room elections through OUSU but will be working on this in the future. This should explain certain Cherwell and OxStu news articles this past week (which have obvs been massively incorrect at times - classic).

There have been some other things including feeding in to discussions about a whole new student system that IT Services are bringing in, working with various people on voter registration and more, but it gets hard to remember what has happened when there are so many issues that pop up and catch you by surprise.

It is clear that any honeymoon period of working here is over. But I still love it. I would urge you all to think about running in the upcoming elections. Its loads of fun and you get to do real things.

All my love always and forever,

Louis

P.S. Last Council, I was asked for some clarity on my aims for the year. Please see below:

Things for the year:

Clubs and societies - Increase the level of support given to clubs and societies through arranging training on sponsorship and finances for all student clubs and societies and recognising the work students put in to their extra-curriculars.

Communications - improve OUSU's communications through making messages clear and engaging.

Governance - Make changes to OUSU's governing documents to ensure they work better for students. E.g. Campaigns review, OxStu governance and the Quinquennial Review. Also work

to make OUSU more transparent and open for all.

General Election - Provide as many opportunities as possible for students in Oxford to have their voices heard on local, national and international issues which affect them in the run up to the general election.

Innovation – Work to ensure students are better supported to get their ideas in action.

If you have more questions about what I'm doing, please drop me an email at president@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council,

Since I last reported to you, I've done the following:

Access

- I've been helping Teddy Hall & Merton get onto the Reach Oxford scholarship programme this year. This is an OUSU-run scholarship and the only scholarship for Oxford undergraduates targeted at applicants from the least economically developed countries in the world.
- I've written a draft budget proposal for the OUSU Access Summit, which has received internal support and will now go to the University Admissions Office, with whom we hope to partner.
- I've been part of the selection process for potential candidates for the new Director of Undergraduate Admissions & Outreach. I'm delighted that Dr Samina Khan, current Acting Director, has been appointed. Thanks too to Louis & Chris who joined me for the interviews.
- Went, along with Lisa from the Student Advice Service, to help with a budgeting workshop for new Moritz-Heyman scholars.
- Defended the proposals (on tonight's Council agenda) for access & bursaries at various Uni committees which are being consulted.
- I went to my first Target Schools committee meeting and set up (but then missed! Oops) a meeting with them & OUSU Chief Exec Amelia to talk about child protection issues for the Shadowing scheme. I was also Returning Officer for the election of new Co-Chairs: congratulations to Emily Lunnon & Archie Jones, who were elected from a strong field.

Academic Affairs

- Attended: Planning & Resource Allocation Committee; Curators of Libraries; Education Committee; Permanent Private Hall Supervisory Committee; Education IT Board; Exams Panel; Joint Student Number Planning Sub-Committee.
 - Key issues: the University's budget; a possible replacement for SOLO; the University Harassment Policy; reviewing each Permanent Private Hall in turn; spending money on improving Weblearn; how to expand the University without

damaging student experience or abandoning the principle of all students having a college.

- I've been organizing & running rep training with Matt, OUSU Academic Representation Officer, for JCR academic reps, department reps and divisional reps.
- I chaired the first Academic Forum of term, with divisional reps and JCR academic reps. We discussed the National Student Survey results, study buddy schemes and the bursary package.
- I've also been writing a paper on OUSU Education Strategy. The idea here is to have a specific version of the policy book with some evidence and analysis, passed by Council, that sets out OUSU's vision for an Oxford education and the academic experience of our students. This will be coming to Council later in term – stay tuned.

Follow me on twitter for a constant stream of updates of what I'm up to: @ousu_acaff.

Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

I was ill a lot of 1st week, so there isn't as much as usual to report here. As always, please feel free to ask me any questions if there's anything you'd like to know more about,

xAnna

Sexual Health & Sexual Violence

Consent Workshops

A lot of the work here has centered on gathering feedback forms and preparing for the evaluation of the Freshers' Week workshops. I have been receiving feedback forms from lots of Common Rooms, as well as dealing with a few pieces of email feedback from both participants and facilitators. I wrote a detailed proposal for the evaluation of the workshops, which includes employing a temporary member of staff to conduct this evaluation, which will include data analytics, focus groups and a review of best practice in other institutions. The sabbatical team and OUSU's Chief Executive approved this.

I also ran consent workshops with members of the committees of the Oxford Union and the Oxford Student, and put together an information and materials pack about the workshops for women's officers and Equality and Diversity staff at other Student Unions, and sent this out.

I have met with the LGBTQ Officer and the Women's PTE to plan the revision of the Queering Consent Workshops material. We have begun to take requests for holding these workshops, and will be running a large training session for facilitators on Thursday 30th October. I will be consulting the LGBTQ Campaign and LGBTQ Society's trans reps to make the most substantial revision to the materials.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will ... expand and develop the programme ... [and] introduce compulsory freshers' workshops in 1/3 colleges by the beginning for next year.'

Other Training

I have written the new First Respondent Training for common room committees and other student leaders who are likely to receive disclosures, and am piloting it with St John's MCR on Thursday 30th October.

I will be training new members of the Good Lad Project team on Sunday 26th October.

I am also delivering a workshop entitled *Queering Consent & Responding to Violence* at the *Feminism in Theory and Action* conference on 1st November.

Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.

Harassment Policies

Over the summer I worked quite a lot on the final drafts of the University's updated Harassment Policy and Procedures, which is (at the time of writing) about to be heard at two important University committees. There is student representation on one of these, and I have briefed the relevant sab for this meeting.

I have met with Caitlin Tickell, who is the head of the Harassment Policy Working Group that is based in WomCam and works with all of OUSU's liberation campaigns. The first meeting of the Working Group is on Sunday 26th October. I have also set up a meeting for Caitlin and myself with the University's Equality and Diversity Unit to plan the communication of the University's updated Harassment Policy and Procedure to students.

Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence'.

Academic Attrition

I have continued to support the Eden, the Graduate Women's Officer, in the organization of three panels in 6th week, though this has been pretty much entirely her project.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will work closely with the Graduate Women's Officer to hold events that encourage undergraduate women to consider further study, including open nights in STEM departments, and Ask a Grad events in colleges.'

Student Parents

I have organized two Tea & Toys events, socials for student parents and their children, at the end of 3rd and 6th week of this term. These will be at Thirsty Meeples Board Game Café.

I have worked with Eden to plan the final stages of collecting information for the accommodation database of couples and family accommodation, and we have added relevant questions to work being conducted by the Common Room Support Officer.

I have am preparing to bring motions to Council to introduce a new member of the Part-Time Executive: a Student Parents' Officer. I have briefed both the Executive and the Student Parents' mailing list on this, and have received very positive reactions. I will be submitting the motion to Internal Affairs Committee and working with the Graduate Women's Officer and some involved student parents to write the remit of the officer. This will come to 5th and 7th Week Councils.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will work with the Graduate Women's Officer to lobby all colleges to provide baby changing facilities by the end of next year, and provide a well-publicized database for coupled students and student parents.'

Common Room Superhero Handbook

Chris has organized the dissemination of the physical copies of the handbook, and I have organized the digital dissemination. This involved scanning the handbook, uploading it to the OUSU website, sending it out on relevant mailing lists, and publicizing it through social media.

Moving towards all manifesto pledges that concern changes in colleges, including Morning After Pill and Solace Centre travel reimbursement, and the provision of baby changing facilities.

Events and Committees

- WomCam and St John's Gender Equality Festival's joint screening and discussion of *Miss Representation* (20th October)
- JCR PresCom (22nd October)
- Vice-Chancellor's invited lecture by Lord Browne of Madingley to discuss this book *The Glass Closet* +reception (23rd October)
- St John's Gender Equality Festival dinner (24th October)
- Feminism in London Conference (25th October)
- Athena SWAN and Gender Advisory Group (29th October)

Yasser Bhatti – VP Graduates

Hi Council,

Over the last two weeks (still in progress as I am submitting my 3rd week council report on Friday five days of council), I have been involved with:

WINS:

1. Successfully convinced the Oxford Innovation Implementation Group to include student reps not only on Entrepreneurship Education subcommittee but also crucially Innovation and Research subcommittee.
2. Received strong support from SSD Assistant Registrar Education on ways to use GSS system to remind BOTH students and supervisors of benchmarks and resources on good supervision. Key is now to extend this to other divisions.

REPRESENTATION:

3. Representing students on several committees including Education, Research, Council, Graduate Admissions, PG Scholarships, and Curators of Libraries committees; and others.
4. Met with Graduate Admissions Office to discuss PG open days. GAC agreed to consider having a desk at Open days.
5. Meeting with elected PG Divisional reps. Unfortunately Yinka has had to withdraw; and facilitating Matt's training sessions to academic reps.
6. Met with MCR Presidents Committee (now called Graduate Common Room Presidents Committee or Grad PresCom) on how to make OUSU more accessible to PGs.

IN PROGRESS:

7. In discussions with Estates and Facilities to extend the Bus Card discount from staff to students as well!
8. MCR notice board has been provided with necessary resources for development and prototyping.
9. Part time students' education policy papers consultation.

These coming days before OUSU council I will also be attending PG Support Scholarships reception, negotiating with Exam Schools for International Festival tentatively planned for 21 Feb, 2015, reviewing Mature Students Constitution, and gleaning data on research around well being of doctoral researchers.

Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council! Lovely to see you again.

These two weeks have been super busy. RAG Ball is in two days, and On Your Doorstep is in the middle of their Awareness week. Tonight right after Council is their Big Gig at Freuds, so make sure you all come!

I've also been doing other things:

RAG:

RAG's Firewalk! In 4th week, RAG are going to get 100 people to walk across hot coals to raise money for our charities. We've got a venue, and are now into signing people up.

I've also been working with the RAG exec on a one-year plan, and on tightening up their financial and logistical procedures. We're making a guide to event logistics, and creating plans for fundraising workshops to happen in 8th week. The goal is to make sure that student fundraisers have the greatest possible support, and can make events as successful as possible.

Community:

Last week, I sat on the University's Community Fund Grants Committee, which gave out over £15,000 to community projects. I was able to argue for funding for a Youth Club project in Rose Hill, which will work with young people to train them in filmmaking and communication.

I also attended a meeting of the Oxford University Education Deanery, a group which seeks to ensure that the University's teaching research directly benefits students and teachers in Central Oxford. We discussed their plan to work with more secondary schools in the area, and to focus on schools in particularly deprived parts of Oxford.

Louis and I have continued to work on student voter registration. Next Monday, we're going to give evidence to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Students.

E&E is going strong – this week we screened a film with discussion. We're continuing to lobby the University to divest from fossil fuels. I've also been working with Xav on #veggiepledge which you'll hear more about from him, I'm sure.

Living Wage have written to JCR president's whose colleges pay the Living Wage, and have a speaker event coming up in 4th week, along with several college events which we're planning.

I've also trained the committee in some community organizing skills, and am working with them to make that training sustainable. I intend to have members of the committee delivering the sessions in specific colleges during 4th week to guide and strengthen those campaigns already running. If you're interested, let me know!

Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Council Report 3rd week

Hi comrades! So we come to our second Council of the year. Here's what I've been up to over the past two weeks. Get involved!!

Mental Health Charter: I have been working with Georgie from Student Minds, and the OUSU Student Advice Service, to prepare a finalised document of a policy to push for colleges to introduce, with minimum standards of what is expected in terms of mental health and welfare provision, in a document which is accessible and easy to read for students.

Accessibility and OUSU: I have been working on the motion from 1st week Council mandating me to lead many officers on a review of accessibility within OUSU. We are consulting now, so get in touch!!!

Campaigns: I have been meeting with chairs of the campaigns in my portfolio, and working with our part-time executive, to push forward their aims and goals over the coming term and

year. I am also working on creating constitutions alongside the campaigns to better coordinate and structure the campaigns.

Welfare reps: I have been working to produce better provisions from OUSU to welfare reps in common rooms. I have organised a welfare forum ('WelfCom') for fourth week and am working on a training for welfare reps later in the term.

Suspended status students: Working with James Blythe, we have contacted officers about supporting them in their progress to allow suspended status ('rusticated') students to access college facilities, as well as running training for those who are not yet involved in campaigning.

Liberation reps: I have begun work on a joint student effort to introduce separate liberation reps into common rooms. I will producing supporting documents for students as well as organising planning and building meetings where interested students can come together. Look out for a motion at next week's Council!

Part-Time Executive Officers

Eden Tanner – Graduate Womens Officer

Hi Council!

The last two weeks have been completely action-packed!

Week Two was St John's Gender Equality Festival – we hosted a range of events, including Consent Workshops, collaboration with the Women's Campaign to screen and discuss 'Miss Representation', and a 'Trans 101' workshop. I'm also happy to take questions on the handling of the zine – as the only member of both the Women's Campaign Committee and the Gender Equality Festival Committee, I'm more than happy to be held to account in this capacity for the actions taken.

Last Council, we passed an Accessibility motion, which I've been working with Chris (Pike) to get the ball rolling on. If you're a graduate woman or transfeminine person with ideas about how OUSU could be more accessible to you, please get in touch at gradwomen@ousu.org.

Outstanding Manifesto Pledges:

The Couples and Family College Accommodation Database is still moving; Anna and I have been working together to get the remaining information together, and we'll be collaborating with Will Neaverson, the Common Room Support Officer.

The Ask A Grad panels are coming together nicely. If you're an undergraduate scientist, the panels will be happening on **Monday and Tuesday of 6th Week**, so please come along! I still

need a few more panellists, so if you're a MPLS or MedSci graduate woman or transfeminine person who could spare an hour of your time to help out, shoot me an email!

I will be helping Anna work for Student Parents this term – watch this space!

See you in 5th Week!

Niina Tamura – Graduate Welfare Officer

I am still working on the survey for graduates. The draft is currently with Chris Pike while I am reading up on survey making to make it methodologically sound.

Xavier Cohen – Environment and Ethics Officer

While the divestment campaign is still trying to build momentum and support following our motion passing in 1st week OUSU Council, I'm bringing brand new and hopefully exciting campaign to university for this term. I don't want to say too much as things aren't set in stone yet (but hopefully will be by the time council meets), but it is essentially a fun campaign to promote vegetarianism and veganism in the university. I'm working hard on this at the moment and the fruits(!) of my labour are yet to be available for public consumption, but keep your eyes peeled for more on this front very soon.

Emily Silcock – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hey council,

Really sorry I couldn't be with you today.

By the time you're reading this we'll be bang in the middle of Homelessness Awareness Week - so no surprises about what I've been up to over the last couple of weeks. Hope to see you all at Freud after council (£6 tickets including a cocktail) for our Wednesday night Big Gig, featuring our very own Louis Trup.

Other than that all I really want to say is that if you, or anyone else, is thinking of running for my role, then please drop me an email. I'm very friendly - I promise.

Have a lovely third week

Emily

Jamie Wells – Health and Welfare Officer

Recently a lot of my work has been focused on delivering and reviewing Freshers' Week training for college reps, enabling them to think about the key problems faced in Freshers' Week and how they might be able to troubleshoot them. The main area of improvement that I would recommend for next year would be to get the graduate OUSU reps involved to try and produce specific graduate workshops for MCRs. I have also been looking into the campaigns

on sex and relationship education, in light of the bill currently being discussed in parliament, and have contacted various people about ways in which we may be able to support the campaign in the future.

Sophie Terrett – Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hi council, nothing much to report this week; I've been plodding on with analysis of the NUS data on 'Homes Fit for Study' and responding to the usual housing queries.

Lucy Delaney – Women's Campaign Officer

WomCam is going very well. Last week we collaborated with St. John's Gender Equality Festival to screen the film 'Miss Representation' and afterwards, we had a discussion about it, where we talked about the issues explored, as well as pointing to some of the problematic elements in it. Next week we will be hosting a talk by Meg Barker, which looks set to be a very exciting event! Meanwhile, we're also continuing to ensure that we get as much feedback as possible - with our new feedback forms. All rooms this term are accessible and notes are now being taken at every meeting so that those who wish to obtain them can; however, we are looking into more ways in which we can be even more accessible.

Divisional Board Representatives

Kristin Schmidt – Medical Sciences – Postgraduate

1. I have received and read through the most recent papers of the MSD Board meetings. Unfortunately I was unable to attend the first board meeting (Week 2) due to a conference but received the papers. I am meeting with Dr David Bryan (Secretary to the Board) in Week 4 and will attend 1 board meeting this term.
2. I received and read through the papers of the Education and Policy Standards Committee and will attend their termly meeting in Week 7.
3. I have received the contacts of the newly elected GJCC members (departmental representatives) and the student members of the Graduate Studies Committee.
4. I met with Matt Tennant and Yasser Bhatti by way of introduction and to discuss priorities for the academic year.
5. I met with Ms Jane Dale, Ms Shelley Mann, and Ms Clare Hayes for an initial meeting at which I raised some postgraduate items - this was a joint meeting with Raj Dattani (MSD UG rep). As there was no MSD PG representative last year, postgraduate issues include gathering students' priorities and strengthening the departmental student support systems,

initially by way of finding out which departments have strong student representation and which ones need development.

Emma Alexander – Social Sciences – Undergraduate

Hi Council! As always, if anyone has any questions or issues relating to the Social Sciences, please get in touch and I will do my best to help out! One of my aims this year is to try and ensure lots more students know about the existence of the divisional reps, and hence make use of us - I'll keep you posted on how that one goes. Over the last two weeks I've attended OUSU's first Academic Rep forum of the year, a university consultation on the efficacy/quantity of surveying, and the Social Sciences Divisional Board. I'm currently writing a report on weaknesses, mostly related to academic feedback, identified in the last academic year's NSS data (thanks to Matt for help with that) which I will raise in the upcoming Divisional Undergraduate Discussion forum - hopefully the discussion there will be useful. I'd like to encourage all JCC and academic reps who can to attend this meeting, as last term it was very productive.

Hilary Chow – Social Sciences – Postgraduate

I'm Hilary of Kellogg College (a relatively new graduate college), and I'm the newly elected division board representative for social sciences postgraduate students. This is the first council meeting after my appointment and so I'll first introduce myself a little. I'm reading a one-year Master of Science degree in Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition offered by the Department of Education where only graduate students are admitted, and I'm also at the same time a school governor of a sixth form college. I was a student representative within the Faculty of Education at The University of Hong Kong where I did my Bachelor of Education degree in English, education, and history; and qualified as a registered teacher in the region. Apart from that, I likewise had experience representing other organisations and societies, and was a Healthy Young Ambassador of the Hong Kong AIDS Foundation, though none of my previous role involved representing a constituency as large as this.

In the past few days after the election, I have kept in contact with a couple of people in the Student Union as well as the University and met them to discuss my responsibilities, what I can do, and some of my plans. I'm really thankful for their support and their time.

In this coming academic year, I will strike to let people know about me and the position so they can communicate to them any issue they wish the University to consider, and also for them to spread the words about the position itself.

My main duties will be to attend and give feedback to senior academics and administrators in Graduate Studies Meetings and Division Board Meetings, as well as to report to the council my work regularly. Additionally, I'm also hoping that I will be able to convey messages and their responses to suggestions from the university administration to the students the best I could so as to become not only a 'reporter', but also a bridge between different stakeholders.

Should you have any queries or comments, do drop me a note at pg-socsci@ousu.org or post

to either Kellogg College or the Department of Education, and I will respond as soon as possible!

Regarding the council meetings themselves, unfortunately I have a scheduled class overlapping with the meeting, so it will be quite unlikely for me to be able to attend the meetings in both Michaelmas and Hilary Terms; but I will try my best to come to the meeting (if it hasn't been concluded) as soon as my classes are finished!

Eden Bailey – Humanities – Undergraduate

A Short Introduction

Since this is my first report for OUSU Council, it is longer than I expect it ever will be again! I have tried to retain some level of detail, in pursuit of clearly representing what I have done in my role back to the students I am representing. With transparency and access to information in mind, I have also confirmed that I can discuss matters from board meetings with any students, unless it is explicitly stated otherwise, so if you wish to look at minutes from meetings, or talk to me about how issues have been dealt with, please do get in touch. I may also write about some things of interest, and will certainly write about some things of little to no interest, on twitter (@eden_vb) (#transparency #etc).

Yours, loyally,

Eden

ug-humanities@ousu.org

The Actual Report

June

- Meeting with Mirela Ivanova, the last UG Humanities rep to discuss the role and her experiences
 - A main concern was not being able to contact course reps, Matt Tennant is now working with James Blythe and the divisional reps to make links with student reps in all faculties

July

- Meeting with James Blythe to discuss the role, and both of our plans and ideas for the year

September

- Attended Humanities Teaching Forum on 'Diversifying Assessment'
 - Agenda included computer use in exams, gender divide in results and assessment types, assessment in graduate seminars, assessment

diversification in history and assessment of class participation and team work (mainly relevant to graduate programmes)

- Meeting with James Blythe and Matt Tennant, who explained his new role
- Attended meeting with Chris Pike (OUSU), Anne Meeker (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality), Sally Mapstone (Pro-Vice Chancellor for Education), and Philippa O'Connor (Deputy Director, Education Policy Support) to discuss curricula reform
 - Positive reception, particularly regarding gender equality, which is a big focus for the University this year
 - Pilot projects hopefully taking place in some faculties
 - Symposium between 2014-2016 is another goal

October

- Meeting with James Blythe
 - Discussed logistics of a survey of humanities students to assess workloads and impact on welfare, in view of developing guidelines students can draw upon if unreasonable demands are being placed upon them by tutors
 - Raised issue of supporting students before beginning studies at Oxford, following offers. James has given me a report of some existing 'bridging' schemes to read, and think about possibilities in the humanities
- Contacting students from each faculty in the division with regards to developing the best possible survey, encompassing all work types
 - Matt Tennant will develop survey drafts in third week
- Meeting with Lynne Hirsch, Secretary to the Humanities Divisional Board, to discuss the way board meetings work, and what the input of student reps might be
- Attending Humanities Divisional Board meeting on 24th October
 - This report was due for submission before the meeting took place, feel free to ask me any questions you may have about the meeting
 - I will note key issues in the next written report for OUSU Council

Kristina Carney – Humanities - Postgraduate

In week 2, I met with Lynne Hirsch, Head of Humanities Administration and Divisional Secretary, to discuss the role that a student divisional representative has during the Humanities Board meetings. I also attended the Humanities Board meeting, and listened to discussions about faculty diversity and the current situations regarding part-time students. During week 3 I met with Matt Tennant, the Academic Representation Officer and Yesser Bhatti, the Vice President of Graduates. We discussed my role as a divisional representative, and some of the communication problems that are currently being worked on. My first plan is to gather more information on the individual academic representatives for each faculty and department, and to then establish stronger connections between them, myself, and the Humanities Board.