

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Michaelmas 2015

Sabbatical Officers

Becky Howe – President

Hey everyone,

Hope it's been a good couple of weeks for all of you. Here's a bit of what I've been up to:

- I've been in a lot of **meetings**, many of which have been really exciting. I'll highlight some of my faves:
 - I've met with more JCR presidents over the last couple of weeks and that's been such a highlight.
 - I met with the NUS representative who's been assigned to our region. His name is Rob and he's great. He's been talking to us about how NUS can better support our students and OUSU's development.
 - I met with the organisers of the IT Innovation Challenges, details of which were in my 2nd week email newsletter.
 - I was invited to Linacre's first common room meeting to give an intro to OUSU and I felt so, so, so welcomed. Thank you so much and it was lovely to meet you all!
- Some of the **University committees** I have attended since last Council:
 - Estates' Bursars Committee was last week – this is the forum for all college bursars to meet.
 - General Purposes Committee also met last week – this does what it says on the tin. It's chaired by the Vice Chancellor and deals with matters that don't fall into the remit of other committees.
 - Planning and Resource Allocation Committee – this is about the major spending of the university.
 - Committee for Development and Alumni Relations
 - Joint Supervisory Committee for Visiting Students
- Every university department is reviewed on a rolling basis (every five or six years), and at each review, a student representative is asked to be on the panel. Usually Cat (VP Access and Academic Affairs) and Nick (VP Graduates) do this, but there are so many reviews this year that I've taken a couple. Last week I sat on the **review panel for the Oncology department**. This took two days out of my week, plus several hours of pre-reading, but it was very interesting and I hope I was able to give some helpful input from a student perspective.
- Common room presidents meet every other week in term time – this is called **PresCom** and there's one for undergrad presidents and grad presidents. I went to both meetings – both of which had some brilliant and very useful discussions.
- TRUSTEE STUFF: we have a **Trustee Board meeting** and strategy day on 29th October, so as Chair of Trustees I've been gathering and writing papers for that. We've also **co-opted a student trustee** to serve for this Michaelmas – welcome to Barney Willis from St. Antony's!
- I've also been working with the other sabbs on material for the **common room presidents' training day**.

That's all from me for now – any questions, please do get in touch – president@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Love and hugs,

Becky x

Cat Jones – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Supporting Student Representatives

My focus for the last two weeks has been on supporting other student representatives in make changes in their colleges, departments and divisions. Last week I hosted the first JCR Academic Rep Forum of the year. It was well attended and we had useful discussions about improving academic feedback sessions, suspended status, lecture recording and fresher's week deadlines. I have organised a similar forum for JCR Access Reps, which will take place before council. I will be holding these forums twice per term as pledged on my manifesto.

This week I have also met with Divisional Board Reps and the newly elected Academic Affairs Officer to discuss their priorities and begin to plan joint projects.

OUSU's Academic Representation Officer has also delivered training to 22 new Course Reps in Geography, Engineering and Modern Languages. Training sessions will be continuing until Christmas.

Suspended Status

We are launching a campaign to improve the experience of suspended status students. This will include looking at the information given to students, their tutors and their families. We will also be forming a working group to look at variations in access to college facilities and in college's re-entry requirements. Please get in touch if you want to be involved.

Student Written Submission (SWS)

As mentioned at 1st week council, Oxford is undergoing a Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency in March. The process requires the University to submit a Self-Evaluation Document in December. This will be accompanied by our SWS, which is currently out for consultation. It is really important that this document is representative so please take the time to read it and send us your comments.

Committees

A big part of my job is representing you on numerous committees. Much of what is discussed is covered by confidentiality agreements but I will continue to list here, in each council report, the meetings I have attended on your behalf.

Education Committee; Quality Assurance Working Group; Curators; Exams Panel

Evening, Council! Hope you've had a great couple of weeks, graduates and undergraduates alike. Difficult to see how a fortnight has passed since the last one, but here are some of the things I've been up to:

- **Student Written Submission** – Continuing to redraft this. For those who don't know, the University is being reviewed by a Government agency (like hospitals/schools) in March, and we write a submission as part of this. See our Any Other Business for more details, but **consultation is open until the end of 4th week**. If you want to discuss it at a Common Room meeting (or just in person!), please let me know.
- **Review of the School of Geography & the Environment**. As I said in my last report, each Department is reviewed by the central University on a rolling cycle; I spent two days as the student representative on Geography's review. Although this takes up some time, it's a really great opportunity to make major changes to Departments. Luckily, Geography was in generally good form – but managed to make some recommendations on issues like **improving Joint Consultative Committees** and **increasing graduate teaching opportunities**.
- **International Students** – many thanks to Minerva, International Students Officer, for all her work so far this term on engaging international students in OUSU. She hosted, along with Lauren (Graduate International Students Officer) a great international freshers' event on Sunday, with really good attendance. We'll also be holding the **first meeting of the International Students Campaign – OUSU's campaign to hold events and lobby on issues affecting international students – on Saturday at 3pm**. Sign up here: <http://goo.gl/forms/GOltrLhkpZ>
- **Common Room engagement** – I've been creating a database for graduate Common Rooms (info on their committees, membership, travel grants etc.), and am about to send that round as I type. I got some very useful advice on what to ask about while attending Graduate Presidents' Committee. I also will be speaking at an event in Hertford MCR on OUSU & welfare; **very happy to come to other Common Rooms and talk about OUSU, welfare, graduate issues, other stuff...**
- **Committees** – my role involves a fair number of these. Most are really important for raising student issues, this fortnight including the University's **Education Committee** (discussing issues of student complaints & appeals, and gossip on the future of Higher Education funding), and **Quality Assurance Working Group** (more fun than it sounds, discussing differences between colleges' education provision).
- **OUSU internal stuff** – By the time Council meets, I'll have met my two new Part Time Executive (Lauren, Graduate International Students Officer, and Wagner, Mature Students Officer) and look forward to discussing what they'll be doing this term. I've also handed over the Returning Officership to Matthew Collyer, in time for elections! Nominations open **tomorrow (Thursday)** and are open for a week. Please consider running, especially if you're a graduate, mature or international student. Happy to talk to

anyone interested in any role with “graduate”, “mature” or “international” in the name (or others!)

- **Drafted my letter to Sajid David**, as mandated by Council, and will hopefully have sent this by the time Council comes round. I’ll continue to lobby on issues of graduate funding throughout the year.
- **Took a day off** that I was owed due to the number of hours worked in Freshers Week. That was good.

Any questions, comments, or suggestions for graduate, international or mature students’ issues, or life in general, please ask. Enjoy 3rd and 4th weeks!

Nick

Emily Silcock – VP Charities and Community

Hey Council,

How lovely to see you all again. I hope that the last couple of weeks have been nice to you.

Emily

Environment and Sustainability

Since last council, I had a dinner meeting with college E&E Reps, where we talked about their plans for the term and shared ideas – it was really successful! I also organised a meet-up of all the student groups working with students on the environment. Finally #VeggiePledge is starting before the next council – see Fairlie’s report form more detail.

University Ethics

The Oxford Student Refugee Campaign has their launch last Friday, which was really great to see how we’re gaining traction on this issue. I’ve also been talking to the University procurement team about how we can change their procurement policy to only include firms that pay their tax (both here and abroad).

RAG

We’re now very close to RAG Ball! And the end of 4th week it’s Lost, so it’s been a really busy time for RAG. We’ve also put in an application to the Careers Service to have 2 RAG intern on a micro-internship – you should be able to apply for this through Career Connect.

Grad Charity Reps

This was one of my manifesto promises! I’ve been researching which colleges have grad charity reps – or reps that are responsible for this, so that I can talk to the ones that don’t.

Third Sector Careers

I organised the first meeting of a third sector careers working group. We're still looking for ideas of ways to promote third sector careers and to help students get into them – so if you have any, drop me a line.

Training

I've delivered training for campaign treasurers and people planning to run in elections.

Housing

I've been in contact with all housing officers in colleges that have student living out to tell them about the Living Out talks that we offer for them to have in their colleges. I'm also arranging training for them on housing law, run by Shelter. Finally, we are working to have a system where students living out can rate their houses, so future potential tenants have more information to go on

Street Lighting

I've spent a while looking into the level of street lighting on the roads between Cowley Road and Iffley Road. You will be (or at least I am) excited to know that at some point over the next two years, all the street lamps in this area will be changed from sodium to LED bulbs, which are significantly lighter. However, I will be putting in a request to make this part of next year's schedule. Therefore, if you have personal testimony that you would be happy to be included in this request, please get in touch.

Campaigns

Last, but definitely not least, my E&E campaign carried out an action on the Rad Cam last week (see the OxStu for more details). On Your Doorstep's Homelessness Awareness Week is in 4th week. AND ... the Living Wage campaign have been shortlisted for the Living Wage awards – winners are announced during Living Wage week.

As always, you can contact me at vpcandc@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

Ali Lennon – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Dear Council,

The past two weeks I've been working on a number of things including:

- Suspended Status Student Campaigning – I've been assisting common room officers and Cat Jones in the creation of a new campaigning group that will work on this matter.
- Harassment Training – Lucy and I started harassment training this week in order to assess whether the training is up to a decent standard.
- Prevent- I've been working very hard on Prevent, I'm trying to encourage the university to be more transparent and less intrusive with the measures required under this duty. I

believe that I'm having success in this area that will result in students being harassed and monitored less than expected by the university and the police. I'm also preparing a briefing which common room presidents should attend.

- NHS Feedback – I gave a presentation to GPs and Practice Managers about student health needs. My comments about a need for better equality and diversity training have been taken to a higher level in NHS management and I'm going to hold a focus group in OUSU to ensure the student voice is heard in the NHS.
- Hiring a New Student Advisor – lots of reading of applications and preparing for interviews.
- Campaigning Coordination – I went to a fantastic event organised by Jenny (the LGBTQ Officer) and one thing that was suggested to me was the preparation of Oxford specific protest/civil disobedience guidance. I'll work on this and hopefully have something useful for next term.
- Other- I've been doing lots of emails (several hundred), I've been answering enquiries from common room officers and students about a range of matters.

Any questions fire me an email using vpweo@ousu.ox.ac.uk

Yours truly,

Ali

Part-Time Executive Officers

Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer

This week my main focus has been on organising an event called Coalition Campaigning for all the liberation campaigns in Oxford which was held this Monday. It will hopefully be the start of more organised, practical links between the various campaigns so that we can put intersectionality at the heart of our work, for instance by collaborating on the Good Night Out campaign in order to broaden its scope to include race and disability into its training programs.

I also helped organise the first meeting of the LGBTQ Campaign, including elections for committee positions. Aside from that I've been lending out flags, linking up college buddies and working with the staff LGBT advisory board on some issues including trans health care and trans awareness at the counselling service. Ali (VP WEO) is helping me find funding for the transition fund.

Sam Shearn – Student Parents and Carers Officer

Last week I had a meeting with the Director of Graduate Funding and Admissions, Access Manager and Head of Student Funding to discuss paid parental leave. I was very encouraged by the attitude of these people who recognize that lack of maternity funding in particular as an equality issue which needs to be addressed. Through their inside-knowledge of the university they were able to assess the feasibility of my campaign and they confirmed that Hardship Funding is the only viable route at present to change student parent outcomes.

I also had contact with the Development Office. This encounter confirmed what I had been told

by others: that student parent funding is not something major donors are interested in. However, I still hold out hope that one day an alumnus of the university will step into the gap.

On Sunday we had another playground date for student parents, this time in Jericho.

Gareth Sessel – Academic Affairs Officer

Hello council. I met with Cat Jones on the 20th October to discuss her ongoing projects. I will be contributing towards the campaigns to improve feedback about colleges, and to improve the treatment of students with suspended statuses. I would also like to put procedures in place to improve digital feedback from surveys distributed by OUSU. I am very excited to be part of OUSU. Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions or questions:

academicaffairs@ousu.ox.ac.uk

Rita Nissim – Graduate Welfare Officer

Hi OUSU Council!

Over the last two weeks I have been in touch with the consent workshop leads from a couple of MCRs who are interested in making them compulsory and discussed how to achieve this; will be working with your new Graduate Women's Officer, Rebecca, on supporting them (and hopefully all the other MCRs who will all want to do the same!). Other than that, everything is as you know it and things have just been ticking along with the start of term.

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions/issues! Email me at gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk!

Rita

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Officer

A relatively quiet couple of weeks – I have been responding to email enquiries, many being from freshers wondering if a society for x or y already exists; further proof that the information we currently offer, or the way in which we offer it, is inadequate.

I've been preparing a survey which I hope to carry out later this term, which will aim to record feedback from clubs and societies on OUSU's current performance in this area, and also to establish the ways in which OUSU might improve.

Rebecca Kuperberg – Graduate Womens' Officer

Hi OUSU Council!

This was my first week in my new role, so much of the week consisted of accessing the email inbox and having some meetings to get up to speed. I met with Lucy to discuss how we could work together in the next term as well as Eden, who held the position previously. I hope to help

finish up some of the projects that Eden worked on during her tenure, including the report on postgraduate parents/partners and Ask a Grad Panel videos.
More details on new projects will be included in my next report!
Feel free to get in touch with me at gradwomenofficer@ousu.ox.ac.uk with any questions or comments.

Stephanie Kelley – Womens' Campaign Officer

The past two weeks of WomCam have been extremely busy and fun! In second week, I organised and chaired a well-attended event on student activism for decriminalisation of sex work and sex workers' rights, with representatives coming from London from the English Collective of Prostitutes, the International Union of Sex Workers, and Queer Women's Strike. Considering the usual problem of attendance numbers dropping off significantly after first week events, the enthusiasm & turnout is very encouraging and exciting.

After hearing the perspectives of those from ECP, IUSW, and Queer Women's Strike, I put together a list of books, journal articles, and research reports concerning decriminalisation and sex workers' rights (and the extent to which the current UK state systematically violates them.) This resource has been publicly distributed online to those who attended the event. For the convenience of already-overburdened Oxford students, I've included notes about Bodleian and college library availability where applicable. I'll link it here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/r1pxb0kt0afyhwb/Decrim%20Reading%20List.docx?dl=0>

By Wednesday's council, we will have held our 3rd week event (Monday evening) in conjunction with CRAE, LGBTQ, RMF, OSDC, First Gen Students, Refugee Campaign, and others on campaign coalitioning and how activists can best come together to tackle various causes and issues.

Lastly, as it turned out, 2nd week was likely too early to schedule WomCam committee elections: 1st years haven't yet decided what activities they would like to be involved in, and all students are universally busy/overworked at the beginning of term. Taking this into account, we postponed elections to Monday 5th week, to be held before the Women with Disabilities working group's workshop on the intersection of ableism and sexism. As many have expressed interest in running, the extra week or two will help those think more about husts or provide opportunity to ask any questions.

Other than general organisation for the rest of term's events (the termcard can be found online or in my 1st week report for council) that's about all!

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students' Officer

This past Saturday (Oct 24) we hosted the Disability, Sex and Relationships workshop! I will be giving a full report to Council, but overall the day went extremely well. Staff and students both had a very open discussion about the issues and identified gaps in knowledge and support at

Oxford. It would not have been possible without the support of OUSU Council, so thank you! Look out for my full report for more detail. We are hoping to harness the enthusiasm for this event to do further campaigning work and training. As always, email me at disability@ousu.ox.ac.uk with any questions or comments.

Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird – Environments and Ethics Officer

Hi Council!

This past week I've been primarily focussing on Veggie Pledge, which is being formally launched in 3rd week! Since Veggie Pledge itself starts in 4th week, I've been preparing with Emily our publicity plans, deciding on prizes we can give colleges and individuals to encourage people to get involved, strategies to spread to other colleges, and various other things. We'll be putting up posters in 3rd week to ensure that everyone is aware of the campaign. I've also been researching statistics on the impact a less meat-heavy diet can have, to motivate pledgers and encourage others to join. Further to this, I've had meetings both in my college and in St. John's about improving the veggie and vegan options in both colleges, which will really support Veggie Pledge should they be implemented. I've also been speaking to an ex-OUSU E&E PTE, Xav, about what happened when he ran Veggie Pledge last year, and getting advice about how to run it differently this year.

I've also continued being involved with the Divestment campaign. We did a banner drop on Saturday of 1st week, aimed at showing the university that we still exist and are still campaigning for full divestment. We've been having a variety of meetings to discuss our strategy going forward, and are having a meeting Monday of 3rd week with new volunteers to introduce them to the campaign.

Finally, I attended St. John's JCR meeting Sunday of 3rd week to support their E&E officers, who were facing demotion. I attempted to give an outside view of the role of an E&E officer from the point of view of OUSU and illustrate why E&E is important. The motion was rejected, and the E&E officers retained their current status.

Elliot Parrott – Trans Officer

This week I have been working on strategies to approach colleges about updating their policies on trans individuals, and I've begun to compile a list of those colleges whose policies are already satisfactory. I've also discussed the idea of approaching Exam Schools about gender-neutral toilets before approaching libraries and faculty buildings, because Exam Schools are already known to be willing and would set a good example.

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hi Council!

First off, apologies for not submitting a written report last week. I've had a pretty rough summer and start of term, so haven't been working at full capacity. This means I haven't been able to do as much as I had planned at the end of Trinity I'm afraid - confirmation has caught up with me! Over the summer I helped out at the University Open Days on the OUSU stall, coordinated a meeting with outgoing Div Reps and academic affairs roles, and had a strategy meeting with Jack and Nick about the grad access agenda.

I worked quite hard during Freshers' Week to support the sabbs and particularly Nick by working the International Students' Orientation and Freshers' Fair. I also visited several grad common rooms to explain a bit about who we are and what we do at OUSU, and to try and catch new students while they're still super keen. So far this term I've attended PresCom at GTC and a meeting about the University's professional development programmes, and I'm subbing in for Nick at Research Committee on Thursday this week. My main project for the term will be the Ask-A-Grad panels - I'll be liaising with Nick on this. We're trying to rethink how these happen, in order to broaden them out a bit and tie them into the wider agenda of grad access in general. If you have any questions or comments on how you think this could best work (or on anything else!), drop me a line on gradacaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk. Have a lovely 3rd week!

Marina

Minerva Lim – International Students' Officer

Hi Council, it's been a great week for me organising and hosting the International Freshers' Get-Together which was held last Sunday, 25 October. Over 50 international students came along to network and meet their representatives and had a great time! It was the first welcome event that's ever been held for international students, so we are really happy that it worked out and grateful to everyone who supported it. We're moving on speedily to the next event which will be this Saturday, 31st October, 3-5pm venue TBC. It will be the first-ever meeting of the International Students' Campaign where we will meet to elect a committee and plan events for the next year, so please so come along if you're interested to get involved!

Danny Waldman – Rent ad Accommodation Officer

Danny has been ill since the previous meeting of council and therefore has not been able to attend or report. He sends his apologies.

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Hi Council

Just a quick overview of what I've been up to - hopefully you've seen around that the refugee campaign is starting to take shape and I will publicise it to you as and when we have something more concrete. The launch event on Friday was successful - despite not being large in numbers the group was large in enthusiasm and we are now looking to convert this into representation for the campaign in colleges, JCRs, MCRs and SCR. We will be going over our strategy and running training for anyone interested in campaigning in their college a little later

this term so please ask anyone you think might be interested in being involved to get in touch.
oxrefugeecampaign@gmail.com

In other news, I have been to Access Forum this week and will be helping to take what was discussed there forward with Cat. We have met to outline our plans for the term so I'm looking forward to getting them done outside the refugee stuff which I am focussing on. I am also meeting with potential candidates for my position - I am very easy to get hold of (please don't be afraid to just drop me a Facebook message) and I am eager to meet as many people interested in the role as possible so please let me know if you, or anyone you know might be.

That's all for now

Henna xxx

Yoni Stone – Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi Council, The last couple of weeks have had two main aims. The first was to encourage as many colleges as possible to offer a Pint for a Pint (if you're interested in getting this to your college or JCR then definitely get in touch!). The second was to finalise the application for a bank account which has now been submitted so Oxford Donors is now very close to being able to be registered as a university society.

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hey Council,

First of all an apology for last council meeting as I did not submit a report in time and could not be at the meeting to give a verbal report. I am sorry about this and will work to make sure I get all my reports in for the rest of this term.

Over the summer and past few weeks, I have been:

- Helping to organise visits during fresher's week to the Common Rooms alongside the Sabbatical team
- Updating information on Common Room Officers that I had collected in Hilary term
- Attending meetings of Graduate President's Committee and the Executive Committee
- Been elected to the nominations committee who work with the nominations of external trustees.
- Preparing for OUSU Representative Committee meetings to start again (hopefully all OUSU reps should have had an email but if not - email me on commonrooms@ousu.ox.ac.uk)

Have a good council

Joe

Nikhil Venkatesh – Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer

Over the past fortnight I have helped organise two meetings of CRAE (Campaign for Racial Awareness and Equality). Attendance at CRAE's meetings has grown rapidly over the past term, and we now have so many enthusiastic activists that we are setting up subgroups for

curriculum review, events, research and race workshops - which went so well this year that we would like to push all colleges to make them compulsory at next year's freshers week.

Just before last Council, but after my report was written, I met with the Race, Religion and Belief advisors from the Equality and Diversity Unit and made some proposals for the Race Equality Charter Mark process. A Race Equality Working Group is being established, and I am pleased to say I will be sitting ex officio on the Equality and Diversity Panel, which will be the body that reviews our compliance with Race Equality Charter Mark targets. (For more information on the RECM process, please e-mail me.

Aside from that I have been investigating the dangers of the government's 'Prevent' strategy for students in Oxford, and I hope that Council will join me in voting for the motion proposed today which will condemn 'Prevent' in the strongest possible terms.

Divisional Board Representatives

Greg Auger – Undergraduate MPLS

We had our first Divisional Board meeting on Friday. Despite the number of people involved, it looks surprisingly easy to make our voice heard. The business this time was mostly of only indirect reference to students (though was fascinating to see how it is always money that gets people talking...)

The support staff in MPLS have been very generous with their time and expertise. Has also been good to meet with other DivReps and the college academic reps (shout out to Matt Tennant and Cat for being generally awesome in making that happen).

Eden Bailey – Postgraduate Humanities

Not a lot to report this fortnight, as things are just getting started. All of the Div Reps had a good briefing and discussion meeting with Cat, Matt, Ami, and Nick looking at our roles, expectations, and aims. Friday of 2nd week was the first Divisional Board of the year, and the unreserved items on the agenda included supporting academics from Syria, the new legal duty on 'Public Sector Equality', and concerns relating to access raised by the External Advisory Board (which members of the Board feel they can do little about, given this is primarily the responsibility of Colleges). The new Chair also outlined the huge unpredictability of the situation in higher education which may or may not become clearer once the government release its (now postponed) green paper on Universities, which could propose significant changes to HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England, and the funding universities receive on the basis of their outcomes in the REF (Research Excellence Framework).

If you have any questions about any of this, or there is something you would like to discuss relating to graduate studies in the Humanities more generally, please don't hesitate to get in touch (pg-humanities@ousu.ox.ac.uk).

Jacob Page – Graduate MPLS

It's been a pretty busy fortnight with committee's and science getting into full swing. Since the last meeting of council I've had a couple of introductory meetings and briefings from members of the division which have proved to be very useful. Last week I attended the MPLS Graduate Student Forum in which we discussed how the GJCC's could best deliver a presentation called "Owning your DPhil". This presentation is designed to help new DPhil students navigate the often turbulent waters of research and supervisor management. I also attended my first divisional board meeting on Friday.

Outside of committees, I very happy to report that the division has began student consultation on variation of working hours across the departments. Once the results have been collated I'm hoping to work with the division to standardise working practices. Before the next meeting of council I will be attending the MPLS CLiPs committee.

Duncan Shepherd – Undergraduate Humanities

The divisional board met last week, and while there was little substantive discussion involving the student reps, it was useful to hear about the priorities of the new head of division and to have student support for the acceptance of Syrian academics heard and more detail added to the departments' information.

See you in two weeks,
Duncan

Chris Jacobi – Graduate Social Sciences

I currently serve both the role of common room president and Div Rep Graduate for the Social Sciences and this double role might prove to be too time-demanding. I have therefore spoken with Nick Cooper (VP-Graduates) and offered to vacate my post if someone else has interest in serving. I, do, however, continue attend the most important meetings and respond to any issues in the meantime. As such, I have consulted course reps on the introduction of a Merit system at Masters Level

OUSU Campaigns

Rizwana Rashid – STUDENTSplus

We had a very successful orientation and signed up new members. We are currently getting our new committee together (Adi Ali and Jiang) and planning the first social of term. Kellogg College has said that our mature student group can attend their Halloween event evening on 31st October.

Me and Jenny are meeting Nick Cooper on Friday 30th October.

Sam Pugh – Oxford Students' Disability Community

What we've been up to so far this term (weeks 0 -3):

- Campaign President Hannah Prescott stepped down just before beginning of term, and appointed Vice-President Sam Pugh to take over Campaign until our first elections (which should hopefully take place in Hilary Term). Susanna Riley has been appointed as VP.
- Katy Haigh has taken over as Secretary, Sophia Miller as Events Officer, Shannon Guild as IT/Publications Officer, and Olivier Lennon has joined the committee in a general capacity.
- Met with Ali and Lindsay Lee to discuss accessibility forms for college freshers' events
- Contributed to Disability Advisory Service events for incoming students
- Freshers' Fair – really successful. Had 150 people sign up to our mailing list and plenty of new members for the Facebook group.
- Published our Freshers' Guide on website.
- Saturday of 0th week we ran an event at Turl Street Kitchen for World Mental Health Day – v well attended.
- Met with Matt Tennant to discuss disability section of student written submission for audit. OSDC will be taking lead in writing this section.
- Have had 3 socials so far with another coming up on Thursday. We are cycling between typical tea and biscuit based socials and activity based socials following feedback from members who said they found social events inaccessible. Having some socials based around activities instead of straight up socialising switches the focus onto the activity and takes away some of anxiety/pressure.
- We are also in the process of establishing a 'buddy' system, whereby volunteers from the committee will offer to meet up before socials with anyone who is anxious or unsure about attending and walk over to the social together.
- We are also running weekly mental health events, cycling between Art for the Heart, our mental health themed arts and craft group, and our new Support and Recovery Group, both run by our Mental Health Officer Jessie See.

We are in the process of creating an art blog where we publish the themes of each A4tH session, enabling people to participate at home (if they are not well enough to attend the event, if they are suspended, and to spread the idea generally). We are also hoping

to use it to showcase what people have made at the sessions (or in participating at home!), with their permission.

- We have been working closely with the other OUSU liberation campaigns to form a coalition. We have our first open event coming up in third week to discuss how best the campaigns can work together and support each other. OSDC and WomCam are running a joint event in fifth week on the intersectionality between sexism and disability, and we are beginning to plan with CRAE for an 'Everyone Deserves Representation' Event to campaign for BME and Disability Reps to be a fixture on all JCR Committees.
- OUSU's Sex, Relationship and Disability Workshop took place last Saturday (Lindsay Lee can tell you more ☺)
- Had meeting with Lindsay Lee and Anwen Jones (head of Disability Advisory Service) to discuss progress on Common Framework, and results of a survey conducted last year by the DAS on disability support at the University.

Eden Tanner and Tiana Dias - It Happens Here

It Happens Here has just launched the First Response App, which provides survivors of sexual violence and friends of survivors with information about optional ways to respond, essential knowledge about support resources, critical contact details, and answers to frequently asked questions. It can be found and downloaded for free on <http://www.firstresponseoxford.org/>.

'A Bad Kiss', an exhibition to raise awareness of sexual violence within our community and to raise money for OSARCC, is being held at St John's Wednesday to Friday of 5th week (11th – 13th November). Artists from across the university have been working hard to create some fantastic work on the theme of sexual violence. We will also have extracts from our zine displayed around the room alongside the wide variety of art work.

On Wednesday the founder of Freedom charity, Aneeta Prem, will be coming to open the exhibition with a discussion of how FGM affects the UK community.

On Thursday we will have poetry readings and a spoken word event.

On Friday there will be a performance of an original song that fits within our theme.

Hope to see you there!