

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Michaelmas 2016

Jack	Hampton	President	RECEIVED
Sandy	Downs	VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities	RECEIVED
Orla	White	VP Women	RECEIVED
Marina	Lambrakis	VP Graduates	RECEIVED
Eden	Bailey	VP Access & Academic Affairs	RECEIVED
Beth	Currie	VP Charities & Community	RECEIVED
Tom	Wadsworth	Academic Affairs Campaign Officer	RECEIVED
Adam	Kellett	Access & Admissions Officer	RECEIVED
Eric	LeGresley	Clubs and Societies Support Officer	
Ronak	Patel	Disabled Students' Officer	RECEIVED
Bo	Zhang	Grad Academic Affairs Officer	
Katy	Haigh	Health & Welfare Officer	RECEIVED
Meera	Sachdeva	International Students' Officer	RECEIVED
Catherine	Kelly	LGBTQ Officer	
Holly	Roy	Student Parents and Carers' Officer	
Tuesday	Doherty	Womens' Campaign Officer	RECEIVED

Sabbatical Officers

Jack Hampton – President

Hi everyone, Happy 3rd week.

This week I have been doing four things:

1. This week I am having lots of meetings to try to convince people not to support the uni raising fees for continuing students or opting into the Teaching Excellence Framework.
2. I'm working with our suspended students campaign on a paper to improve the situation for students experiencing the suspension period
3. And I am preparing for OUSU council, which is this Wednesday evening 5-7pm
4. I have been running a new common room committee training workshop working on Team Strategy and Accountability. Anne's were the first college to experience it and they were brilliant!

I hope you all have a good week and if you have any questions please get in touch 😊

Eden Bailey – Vice-President (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hi everyone,

I'm sorry not to be with you all tonight, but I'm at NUS Higher Education Zones Conference! This means I'll be meeting with education officers from students' unions across the country to discuss and vote on policy specifically relating to Higher Education. This is such a critical time for Higher Education owing to all the changes being proposed in the HE Bill, so it's important to be as well-informed as possible, and contribute to the best possible strategy for tackling some of the government's proposals which if implemented would have terrible ramifications for access to education, and in fact, the whole Higher Education sector as we know it.

Relating to this – please be sure to support our motion urging the University not to opt into Year 2 of TEF, and also take a motion doing the same to your own common room! The more support we have from every corner of this somewhat unwieldy collegiate university, the better. If you would like a template motion condemning the TEF and/or requesting funding for coaches to the National Demo, please do get in touch with me at vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

A lot of my time this week has been spent equipping common room officers and other student campaigners to work against the damaging proposals in the HE Bill, and I've also been doing a lot of work behind the scenes in committees and other meetings. I'm looking forward to all of this hopefully bearing fruit before too long...

As well as dealing with matters arising from the HE Bill all the normal business of representing students and prospective students on committees and working groups has continued. A couple of the big committees this past week have been 'Curators of the University Libraries' (which deals with libraries) and Education Committee. I've also been catching up with various student reps, officers, and

campaigners to support them on their individual projects and initiatives.

I've started doing a daily 'Have Done' list update on twitter/Instagram. This is partially so you can all see what I've been doing each day (#accountability) but also for me to keep track and know that I have been getting through stuff. This job is really intense and an awful lot falls under the remit of 'access and academic affairs' even when the government aren't trying to fundamentally upheave all of Higher Education as we know it, so it is easy to get down and feel like I'm not getting very far or achieving things, whereas this has helped me realise that this is not the case! As a sidenote – if you've never tried writing a 'have done' list, I really recommend it as a way of looking at how much you are achieving, rather than how much you still have to do!

Thanks for reading, and please do get in touch if you have a question about anything to do with campaigning surrounding the HE Bill and/or want to get involved yourself, or if there are any other access/academic affairs related projects I can help or advise on!

vpaccaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk
@OUSU_AcAff

Beth Currie – Vice-President (Charities & Community)

Hey Council,

Weeks 3 and 4 of Michaelmas are super exciting and busy times for C&C! We have Homelessness Awareness Week and Zero Waste week in 3rd week and Living Wage week in 4th week. We have #VeggiePledge all November (get on the #VeggiePledge 2016 group on Facebook and get your pledge in! and you too can receive a very exciting Veggie Starter Pack) and we're launching our Move'm housing campaign this month as well! There is literally tons of stuff going on, so get involved!!

Also we are still looking for chairs of our Environment Campaign (to oversee the Climate Justice and Food Justice campaigns, the Edible Planting group, and VegSoc) and Community Campaign (to oversee OUSU's homelessness campaign On Your Doorstep and the Living Wage Campaign) – so if you're interested in either role, please do get in touch!

I've also been working on the lead up to the National Demo and gathering information on how PREVENT is being implemented in colleges.

Stay cool,
Beth

Community

Our wardens in Jericho have started their #KnowYourNeighbour campaign with enthusiasm and panache – make sure you follow Jericho Info on Facebook to keep up with what they are up to! We hope to have the East Oxford team up and running by 5th week - job pack is on the OUSU website – so if you want to make £45 a week doing good work improving community relations in East Oxford, then get in touch!

I have met with the City Council lead on the Christmas Lights festival to discuss how we can best involve students in the festival. We're doing promo work, but also hoping to get some student performers involved. If your group is interested in being paid £100 for a half an hour performance slot on the 25th or 26th of November then get in touch! There are also a wide variety of volunteer roles available for anyone who wanted to get involved.

Environment and Sustainability

We had the first E&E rep dinner of the year to discuss the different things E&E reps can get involved in this year.

We launched #VeggiePledge this week and there is loads more exciting stuff to come from that all month – so keep your eyes peeled!

I'm putting together a training morning for E&E reps to help better key them into the central E&E campaigns at Oxford.

We're all signed up to Green Impact Student Unions and have re-accredited as a Living Wage Employer.

RAG

The RAG VP reps met the RAG reps for a Charities rep dinner, which was a success. There is less than 100 tickets left for RAG ball now so make sure you get your ticket!

Training

Orla and I are in the final stages of planning the Campaigning for Change programme to run this Hilary. If you are an experienced campaigner who wants to facilitate a focus group (which will run a short micro-campaign) get in touch!

Housing

The next month or so will be focussed on getting as many students as possible to review their houses on Move'm (www.movem.co.uk - look you could do it right now!). Lots of local stakeholders have expressed how helpful they would find this sort of large scale data collection, and we're hopefully going to get some supportive endorsements and build a large set of reviews to start holding feudal landlords to account.

Marina Lambrakis – Vice-President (Graduates)

Hello Council! Since we last met two weeks ago I have been in a vortex of committees, subcommittees, and working groups, which means I've had not very much time for my own projects. (I actually worked it out and my total reading list for last week comes to 1477 pages, not including Annexes/Appendices/Any Other Additional Papers). However, never think that that means I haven't achieved anything productive! In fact, I have been arguing for:

- More/better **graduate accommodation!** We're making progress with this – the University is in the process of putting through a Joint Graduate Accommodation Strategy, working with the colleges to ensure that there is a unified approach to provision of accommodation for graduate students.
- A simpler method of charging graduate **fees**

- Simplifying, clarifying, and expediting the process for **hardship** applications
- The involvement of students in drawing up the University's response to **Oxford City Council's Local Plan 2016-36**, which will guide the city's development over the next 20 years. Key considerations here include not just affordable housing (especially for students with caring responsibilities, and those who need accessible accommodation) and an increase in workspace provision for departments, but also sustainability and the ethical aspect of future University and college developments in Oxford and its environs, and the importance of community relations and the University's impact on the local community.
- Improving the **college adviser** system in colleges, so it is better monitored, with more robust guidelines in place for advisers to meet and be in contact with their advisees
- The crucial role played by **postgraduate research students** in the University's research activity – a new working group has been set up to explore this, particularly as regards support structures, supervision and other academic and skills training provision, how students contribute to research outputs and innovation work within the University
- The need to properly consider **part-time students and provision** in all the University's structures. This has been coming up again and again, in all sorts of fora – from accommodation, to welfare support, to supervision and academic provision.
- Improving **postgraduate taught** courses
- The role of **women postgrads** in the University and their particular needs, whether in terms of skills training, facilities, events and activities – this has included advising on the University's current provision of Springboard and Navigator (personal effectiveness courses aimed at women and men respectively).
- The needs of **student parents and carers**, particularly in terms of nursery provision in Oxford, the availability of affordable family housing, and more accessible and inclusive events for those with families
- **Skills training** for postgrads, especially in terms of research skills and preparing emotionally and mentally for conducting research and fieldwork
- How best to mitigate the likely effects from **Brexit** on international students (and staff) – for my sins I've added another working group to my long list and will be representing students on this particular issue in a more formal setting with the University.
- Mitigating the disastrous fallout from the **Higher Education & Research Bill**, including the **TEF**. We've been doing a lot of concerted lobbying on this in the last ten days – the TEF has been raised as an item for discussion in many committees (where we've been fighting it as hard as we can), and we've also been pushing hard outside these both with other student unions and in Oxford.

Apart from all this, I've been supporting Meera (the International Students' Officer) and the International Students' Campaign on a **week of events** to celebrate the cultural diversity of Oxford students, which will take place in 5th week, so keep your eyes peeled for that!

With Eden I've also started to prep the ground for the **OUSU Teaching Awards** later in the year – we're reviewing the current list of awards and will be introducing a new one for graduate tutors and teaching assistants, to help showcase the really valuable work done by grads in teaching and mentoring undergraduates.

That's it for this fortnight! Any questions or comments, you can always email me on vpgraduates@ousu.ox.ac.uk, tweet me @OUSU_Grads, or Facebook me (just search 'OUSU Graduates').

Sandy Downs – Vice-President (Welfare & Equal Opportunities)

Hi everyone!

Apologies I can't be there tonight, I'm at the NUS Zones Conference in Stratford Upon Avon!

I've been busy in various committees and meetings over the last couple of weeks. We had the first Conference of Colleges Equality & Diversity Forum, which was a great opportunity to meet college staff and see what they were doing to help students.

I went to the House of Lords to meet Baroness Royall, and have been in discussion with JSOC and UJS about how to tackle antisemitism in Oxford.

Preventing Prevent had a meeting and we've relaunched the Facebook page, so go like that to find out how to combat Prevent in your colleges!

Mind Your Head elections are upcoming, come get involved with all the incredible work they do as a campaign! Please share their info with your colleges, including their snazzy new video!

There's lots going on for my campaigns, and I'm also organising the next sexual health testing day (Wed 23rd November) and preparing for the Student Wellbeing Sub-Committee meeting next week. Get in touch if you have any questions or concerns!

Thanks! Sandy ☺

Orla White – Vice-President (Women)

Hello Council, has it been two whole weeks? Feels like yesterday. Here is what I've been up to:

Harassment Policy & UUK Report

WomCam and I staged a whiteboard campaign encouraging students to speak out about their experiences of harassment here at Oxford. Currently, the central University Harassment Policy is under review, so lots of input and guidance from students is essential. We're also concerned by the disparity in policies across colleges, and by what seems from anecdotal evidence to be a massive disparity in standards of care.

This is only part of our strategy to push for better policies. I'm doing it at a university level, but we are also making contacts among college staff in order to fight for joined-up policies which support all students who need them, especially those who need them most! Part of this is spurred on by the report of the UUK taskforce, which emphasises that institutions have a duty of care towards their students. This is quite a radical change from previous guidelines, which actively encouraged universities to ignore cases unless it was to signpost students to the police. We can build on this. If you want to be involved in

the fight for cohesive, thorough and clear Harassment Policies, get in touch with me or with Tuesday (Women's Officer/WomCam Chair)!

Training

I'm currently booking in First Respondent training sessions for the next two weeks; these sessions offer advice on how to support someone who makes a disclosure of sexual violence, whether that disclosure be historic or immediate. If you'd like to get trained or think others in your college would also benefit, get in contact with me!

I'm also working with Beth on Campaign For Change -- this is a series of workshops and working groups aimed at first year students, designed to give people new to the Oxford scene both a way in to campaigning and all the skills necessary to create effective change

Other:

- Sandy and I have been involved in the logistics of inviting Sophie LaBelle, a trans activist and artist well-known for her comic 'Assigned Male', down to talk at Wadham on the 10th November. Get excited!
- I had a meeting with the counselling service and got in touch with sex worker-led organisations to talk about training for student-facing staff on responding appropriately and supportively to the needs of student sex workers.
- I'll be joining the demo to close down Campsfield this Saturday. Meet at the C4 bus stop outside the Randolph hotel to catch the 11.15 S4 bus to Kidlington – if you're worried about going alone, let me know.

Part Time Executive Officers

Tom Wadsworth - Academic Affairs Campaigns Officer

Since last council I have held a meeting with Eden in order to assess priorities for the term. We decided that I should focus on organising a shared folder of resources that would be useful for JCR academic reps to use if wanting to pressure for change. On top of this I have continued to work with SusCam after our first social, attending their committee meeting and so on. Beyond this I have been helping out with Free Education Oxford, and helping preparations for the National Demo though promoting its presence. (EVERYONE GET INVOLVED IN FREE ED OXFORD - SCRAP TUITION FEES, DEFEND EDUCATION)

Adam Kellett – Access and Admissions Officer

The past couple of weeks has involved gearing up for Target Schools elections, as well as the first shadowing day of the year. Other than that, I've met with Eden (VP AcAff) to discuss how best to provide the same support to JCR Access Reps once this role is removed and what support to provide to interview helpers so that we can make the admissions process as comfortable as possible for interviewees!

Ronak Patel – Disabled Students' Officer

Over the last couple of weeks I have been continuing work on the college disabled students feedback initiative and material for lobbying colleges to take up accessibility audits. The feedback initiative material is complete and will hopefully be rolled out to some colleges at least by the end of term. Three colleges have shown interest in taking up an accessibility audit so far. We hope that more will be interested over time, and I will look for more testimonies about the benefits of these audits.

I also went to the Oxford mental health support network launch last week which was a productive evening where different societies and organisations including OSDC (Oxford Students' Disability Community) got together and networked to help with future initiatives. It looks like there are a lot of promising ways OSDC can work with other organisations who appeared, such as fundraising groups of stand up comedians. I will be briefing OSDC more on this at the next meeting.

Katy Haigh – Health & Welfare Officer

Dear Council,

I am working on fulfilling my remaining manifesto points before this term ends and have arranged to meet with the VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities in the coming week to discuss how I can be helpful to her this term. That's all for now folks.

Meera Sachdeva – International Students' Officer

I've spent the last couple of weeks organising International Week, which will be in 5th week of this term. International week is a week of culturally themed events aimed at international students but open to all Oxford students to celebrate multiculturalism at Oxford and to allow international students from different colleges to interact with each other. Some of the events we have planned are a panel discussion by CRAE, a workshop by the campaign #UnisResistBorderControls, a salsa dancing class, an international-themed pub quiz and potentially also a cultural formal hall at a college. We have the venues and dates sorted out and are going to be focussing on publicity over the next couple of weeks.

Tuesday Doherty – Women's Campaign Officer

WomCam has held 2 events since the beginning of term, sticking to our term card, and further broadening the reach of our events within Oxford. We hosted a self care survival event where we provided small gifts and boxes for students to come and make boxes with art supplies to help them or friends recover from fresher's week. We got many new students coming and the event was successful with around 40-50 people attending across the event. Within WomCam we have also set up a harassment policy subcommittee. This group, alongside Orla White, set up a photo campaign under the title "harassment policy is important because" where we got students to come and be photographed with their messages under the RadCam. We got over 40 photos and OUSU created a video for WomCam to show the photo campaign and introduce how we are attempting to improve the policy across all colleges within Oxford University. We are optimistic about the impact we can have this year. We have finalised our club night and are now just planning for our elections in 4th week.