



reports to council 3rd week Trinity term 2003

Sean Sullivan **V-P (Finance)**

OUSU Shop - The trustees of OSSSL met during 2nd week. We agreed that a major advertising push is needed to promote the shop in its new location. I have produced posters, am awaiting postcards to return from the printers that advertise the shop. The trustees have also asked common rooms to consult their members on their use of the shop and we are grateful to those who are assisting us in this way. Please could everyone make sure that their colleges are aware of the shop being in its new premises and encourage as many students as possible to pay us a visit.

We currently have three trustee vacancies to fill at our next termly meeting before 5th week OUSU council and I would encourage any common room Presidents or OUSU reps who are interested to contact me for more information.

I have also done two rounds of deliveries for the shop to colleges in the last two weeks.

Computers – I have spoken with MacFaction, who supply our computer support, and a very kind student's father who came in to help, about our future computing needs. Much of our equipment is relatively old and I shall be preparing a plan during the rest of term about improving our facilities in the future.

Publications Board – I have been advertising and dealing with queries from those interested in taking up summer positions in OUSU. Publications Board will meet next week and hopefully editors and organisers will be getting to work as soon as possible after that.

Budget – I have been considering the budget and will hold a meeting on Thursday of 4th week open to all who wish to discuss the draft budget. This will be advertised shortly. The budget will come to OUSU council in 5th week.

OCCH – I have met with the designers of the Careers' Handbook and discussed plans for the look to this year's edition.

OxStu – two more impressive and relatively efficiently produced editions have come out. I have decreased the printing run from 6,000 to 5,000 which has saved us money and is certainly more environmentally friendly when one considers the surplus in some colleges each week.

PGA – I attended Postgraduate assembly and was impressed by what a productive meeting it was. The major issue of graduate representation was discussed and hopefully a graduate-led position will now be developed on the present unacceptable situation surrounding the position of Vice-President (Graduates)

Melanie Marshall **V-P (Women)**

As usual, meetings of various kinds form the back-bone of the last two weeks, with work squashed in where it can. Alas, university meetings have been thin on the ground since the utterly opaque rearrangements of the Equal Opportunities section and shambles surrounding its attendant committees and panels. The situation is unacceptable, and we are pursuing it.

A plug, in case you read no further: Caroline Spelman, Show Minister for Women, is coming to speak to Women's Campaign and OUCA at **5pm on Tuesday 20th May (4th week) in the Okinaga Room at Wadham**. It will be brilliant, please come and quiz her about women's issues.

The final stages of the ethics committee guide to socially responsible investment have taken up a lot of time over the last couple of weeks. It is now complete and will be distributed at various committees and elsewhere over the next week or so. Emailed versions are available from me, women@ousu.org. Please take the time to consider ethical investment for your college.

The review of the standing orders relations to elections has also been time consuming, and quite fun, though less effective than I had hoped because no one has yet come to either of my meetings. I will start drafting new versions based on the few suggestions I have unless there is a sudden upturn in interest. Final chance to have your say in person at noon on Tuesday in OUSU. Otherwise thoughts (submissions, questions, jotted ideas) to women@ousu.org. Thanks to those who have already sent me their contributions.

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The Women's Open Day is looking good but taking a bit of faffing and admin. Would women students who are interested in helping out please email me – the day is 14th June (Sat 7th week). I raised the issue of my manifesto idea for a Graduate Women's Open Day at PostGraduate Assembly and asked for feedback on this and other possible ways of attracting women graduate students. It may well be that an open day is not the access tool required: the new graduate Officer and I will be working on this.

I have been helping mature students committee to get off the ground from OUSU's side. They are very committed and I hope you will advertise their work in your common rooms. The meetings are **8pm on Tuesdays of odd weeks in HMC**, and open to anyone who feels that their priorities are being addressed in the committee's work. Email list now up and running: email women@ousu.org to be added.

The Nightbus has broken again and needed to be fixed, again. It was something to do with the brakes, this time, which is especially annoying when it has only just been MOTed. This takes hours of my day. I have sent nice new laminated cards advertising the Nightbus to every Head Porter in Oxford. If no nice laminated poster is displayed in your lodge, please grass your porter up to me so I can take one round personally.

Show me the Money: I have finally managed to find time to make the posters I promised last term encouraging women to apply for hardship money, as they are disproportionately unlikely to ask for financial help. I will be giving them out at **Women's Campaign on Monday (5pm, St John's)**, so I hope lots of women come. Otherwise they will be mailed to your women's officer. I am trying to produce a factsheet for women about financial aid in Oxford, but it's on a back burner at the moment, so send women with worries about applying for cash to me, so I can give them all the info and tell them there's nothing to be scared of.

Georgia Toynee

I am writing to let you know that I am resigning from OUSU Executive as of today. My current decision has been catalysed by some concerns I have with the institution as a whole. I no longer feel able to do my job as an Executive Officer with the appropriate amount of enthusiasm and vigour. I have not always found my role as Executive Officer as rewarding as I may have at first thought- in fact I finished Hilary term feeling thoroughly demoralised with the organisation of student politics in Oxford. This was mostly in relation to the seeming inertia of the Finance and Funding Campaign and I am surprised, that given the magnitude of the government proposals we are facing and the amount of media attention the issue has received, that the Campaign failed to get more than a hundred odd students involved. I cannot fault the co-chairs for their enthusiasm and concern for the Campaign, but I feel that it has lacked coherent leadership and strong executive support. Whilst I appreciate the under-resourcing of OUSU, and the difficulties that the fragmented collegiate system creates, I feel that OUSU lacks medium and long term planning and is to some extent flailing around, simply reacting to events. We should be intelligently helping to mould the university and national agenda, bringing about exciting clever innovative campaigns, as we already proved we can do in some areas of our work, such as College Inequality, Environment, and Women,s Campaign.

I feel that sometimes we have lost sight of the structures that are there in place to keep our Union upright and forward moving. There is nothing stupid or unfashionable about having principled policy, and all too often I feel that OUSU has been overly concerned with the views of the college based more vocal few, who present themselves as the majority, rather than moving to find out what our university wide constituents really believe.

I have complete admiration for the genuine dedication and hard work of the officers of our student union and wish you all good luck with all your future plans.