



reports to 3rd week council trinity 2004

Helena Puig-Larrauri

President

Student Aid Office

Dan, Rosie and I put together and submitted a paper about how OUSU sees the future of hardship support for students. The paper went along the lines of principle set out at the last OUSU council and included up to date figures on the cost of going to Oxford. I have since met with the Assessor to discuss the paper at length and decide how best OUSU can help lobby the appropriate people at the University and college level to ensure that some of our suggestions are taken on board.

Exam Celebrations

I have been in correspondence with the Proctors and the Clerk to the Proctors over this matter, and have passed on the views expressed by council. I have also been arranging ways in which OUSU can help publicise the code.

Entz

Freshers' Week ticket sales are going well, so contact me asap to make sure you get the tickets you want. Tickets available for The Bridge, The Studio and Jongleurs. All nights are exclusively for OUSU ticket holders. You can also get discount tickets for Jongleurs' Wednesday night 'Twister' from OUSU. We are having an end of term night on Wednesday of 8th week - School's Out at Jongleurs. Watch out for posters and we will be offering tickets for CRs to sell later on. Many thanks to Edd, Digo and Jamie for all their hard work on entz.

College Inequality

Ferdinando has been working extremely hard on this. We decided to concentrate on inequalities in hardship provision, rent and teaching provision. Our aim is to collect an accurate set of data and then publish it widely to ensure that students have the information they require to make application decisions to colleges. We are also looking at provision to graduates in more depth than before. We have gone a long way in collecting and collating information. We are also looking at the University website and making a list of the statements that we think are misleading in terms of college inequality.

F&F and Rent

Still keeping the pressure on the Lords and trying to get amendments put to the House. On rent I have mostly been talking to individual common room officers to help with their negotiations and have been collating more up to date information.

Clubs and Societies

More on this later - there is a motion to council today about increasing the provision that OUSU offers to clubs and societies. We have also been updating the website to include more useful information. I have also been answering a number of individual queries about setting up societies. The other major change is that there should soon be an online searchable database of all clubs and societies. Registration for Freshers' Fair will be online this year, and societies will be able to choose to be listed on the OUSU online database. They will also be able to opt for an OUSU live email list and space on the ousu.org. Many thanks to Digo and Edd for their work on this.

And a few random things I spoke at the rally for the public services organised by ODTUC on May 4th. I spent a considerable amount of time in Pubs Board. I wrote the papers on OUSU that have to go to JCC next week.

Catherine Wallis

V-P (Women)

I have been mainly dealing with three issues, viz 1) the Nightbus; 2) the Women's Open Day and 3) the VP (Women) by-election. See below for details...

1) the Nightbus is proving less problematic than usual, thankfully. I have spent more time than should be necessary doing relatively mundane things to it like getting spare keys cut and inspecting it for reported crash injuries (which proved to be unfounded). I have also prepared posters for colleges advertising the extended service we're running, these are stored on my computer and can go out in the short-term, interim period if necessary. However, it turns out we won't need them indefinitely as PWC has agreed to pay half the costs of having professionally printed posters, so I

go out in the short-term, interim period if necessary. However, it turns out we won't need them indefinitely as PWC has agreed to pay half the costs of having professionally printed posters, so I spent some time visiting printers to see how quickly they could be done and I think we'll have them here by the middle of next week – lots of lovely glossy posters and credit card-sized reminder cards, hurrah! The Nightbus has also been out for private hire more than usual which is nice as it means that some clubs and societies are getting some use from it and we're getting some revenue!

2) the Women's Open Day deadline for applications is fast approaching and the number of applicants is increasing steadily. I have been kept busy doing various administrative things related to this such as keeping a list of the order applications are received in, in case I need to turn people away; sending out more application forms to people who didn't receive them automatically (or have lost them) and answering many phone calls and emails with queries about the day – it looks like it will be fantastic, we even have applicants who are willing to come over from the US just to attend! In preparation for the Open Day I have also been contacting people in the University to give talks in the morning sessions and beginning to design a programme for the event. I would like to have a booklet to give to all attendees on the day with profiles of colleges and courses and various other information, as I found something similar in my office dating back to the 1997 Open Day; unfortunately things have been so hectic that I haven't had a chance to do anything towards it yet this term (although I did a little preparatory work in the vac), but I hope that once the deadline has closed for applications next Friday I'll be able to complete it. I would like to invite submissions from any women undergraduates towards this, as well as subject and college volunteers for the day itself (Saturday 7th Week); all offers to me at OUSU please.

3) Well, here I am at 8.30 am on Thursday scrutineering a ballot box in a building that has no-one else in it but the Returning Officer and a fridge delivery man (I'm keeping an eye on them, though, in case they try anything). Seriously, though, I have been doing some work towards the election, both as a member of Elections Committee and as the natural point of contact for people who don't know who the RO et al. Are. I've designed posters, miniuted the Central Hust (which took me all day to write up since it was 15 pages of my notebook) and so on, you get the point.

Other things I have been doing include updating the Unplanned Pregnancy: Your Options Guide. I will be working this term with the Pro-Choice committee to do this properly, but given the time constraints (a college nurse was asking for it quickly) I just did a brief check and re-wrote a few sentences. I did a quick look over the Student Parent Handbook as well, although this needed less work done to it as I only wrote it last summer. I met with the WomCam co-chairs and exec to discuss plans for the term and there were a couple of ideas which will hopefully work out into fun and informative events. We're meeting with a student tomorrow who hopes to set up a women's magazine in Oxford and would like some assistance and the CUSU Women's Officer came to Women's Campaign this week to launch the Gender Agenda magazine (hitherto a Cambridge project) as a joint venture.

Dan Paskins V-P (Graduates)

Over the past couple of weeks, I have mainly been organising the Vice-President (Women) election and preparing for One World Week next week. For both of these, I have received a huge amount of assistance from a number of student volunteers. Organising events and elections is neither the most glamorous nor the most thrilling job in the world, so particular thanks to Sinead Mandlik, Ros Stanley, Dan Simpson and Felicia Gottman, Anna Wolmuth. I should also thank all my fellow sabs, but they get paid at nearly the minimum wage to do this sort of thing. I'm not sure whether more people will read the OUSU budget than read my report, but I think it is really excellent. I'd like particularly to mention the big increase in the mature students budget, which I know is something which will be put to very good use by the campaign and will enable my successor to fulfil his pledge to focus on improving OUSU's provision for mature students. Also, the increase in salary for next year's sabs - it's never going to be popular to increase wages when there are so many pressing needs for OUSU's income, but the fact that the current salary level has been declared obsolete by the university because they cannot believe that anyone would work for so little makes the point that this is needed. Speaking of the university, I attended the Educational Policy and Standards Committee last week, and helped with OUSU's submission about the Student Aid Office. There's lots more I could write, but I've got an election to run today and a submission to the university to ensure that they continue to fund the VP (Grads) position, so I'll leave it there.

Josefa Henry-Bochan V-P (Charities and Communities)

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Well RAG week has begun with some ups and downs. The raids made £1200 in total. The skydive was rained off on Saturday and we are having to reschedule all of that. Ragstonbury on Sunday was great and raised £1000. Danceworks on Monday was completely sold out and raised loads. If only we had had a central student venue we could have made lots of money on the bar, we also wouldn't be at the mercy of college administration. A couple of plans have been foiled/made very difficult by the bursars/deans of a couple of colleges, notably St. John's and Merton. Finding a suitable venue is the hardest part of organising events in Oxford. Also, for next year my recommendation would be to have RAG week in Hilary Term, to avoid exam fever. However, this year I felt that we needed the time to build up a base of support, which hopefully is in place for next year. Our pub crawl was fine, although I expected a higher attendance. Punting and Pimms was great fun and I now wait with anticipation for Pop Idol and Sports Day.

The exec appointed two community co-chairs Alice Robson and Jo Lee-Morrison, who are both very competent and enthusiastic. Hopefully we will be able to organise some events for national volunteering week (June 1st-5th). Environment Committee are also looking for another co-chair.

They are currently planning for Environment Day on June 5th and are concerned about the University reviewing its commitment to Green Energy. Jamie Audsley is, at last, a good exec officer for them. Also to mention that there will be a meeting on the future of Broad Street on Tuesday 18th May, at 5.45 pm in Lecture Room 4, New College.