

OUSU

reports to council

3rd week trinity term 2011

David Barclay

President

Councillors,

Busy 2 weeks!

Organisation

- Started organising Handover.
- Held Open House in the new building.
- Held several meetings to discuss PG representation within OUSU.
- Gave a presentation to the University Finance Division on the Student Union.

Common Room Support

- Held several individual rent and College finance meetings.
- Chaired the very successful JCR Rent Summit.
- Attended JCR Prescom.
- Acquired and distributed VNI information.

Representation

- Spoke at Congregation.
- Started work on turning the Student Charter into an Oxford Covenant.
- Prepared papers on calling for a review of Student Representation in the University in light of the dangers of consumerism.
- Started work with the OLI on understanding the learning process and promoting holistic student development.
- Represented students in the media on Willett's latest plans.

Student Services

- Spent a day in Cambridge working on the new Oxbridge Student Careers Resource.
- Attended a CBI-NUS student employability event in London.

Katharine Terrell

VP (Women)

Hello everyone,

Since council, here's what I've been up to:

- the second workshop for common room officers supporting survivors of sexual harassment (run with Tom) went very well, and we've had some great feedback. We're using this to inform OUSU's support to officers and students in the future, and to improve the 'Love without Chains' handbook.

Student Parents

- I visited Mansion House Nursery (one of the university nurseries) and met with the manager and deputy manager about holding 'Tea and Toys' there in the future

reports to 3rd week council trinity term 2011

Common room support

- David and I ran a workshop at St Hilda's on effective husting. It was well-attended (thanks to Ugo) and we've had good feedback. If anyone else would like us to run something similar, let us know!
- Women's officer meeting on Friday where we discussed how to run effective events
- I've also met with lots of new common room women's officers and sent out resource packs.

Springboard

- Saturday was the follow-up day to the Springboard programme. Next steps are to gather feedback and move forward with getting funding from the university for next year.

Finals forums

- written up a report to be taken to the Gender Equality Steering Group

WomCam

- co-hosted an event with the Howard League for Penal Reform about women in prison
- am organising for a local artist to come in to speak to WomCam.

Beth Evans	VP (Graduates)
-------------------	-----------------------

Education Committee – plus a pre-meeting with Sally Mapstone (PVC for Education) and Richard Hughes (Secretary to the Education Committee). Again, discussed the new visa changes and the impact this may have on Graduate admissions figures, as well as the length of Masters courses.

Curators of University Libraries
OUSU Team Meeting
OUSU Exec

Spoke on the issue of visas to the Asia Pacific Society – thanks to International Officer Colin Jackson for organising the event. We know this is an issue many international students are concerned about and are happy to speak to any societies – please email international@ousu.org. We're also concerned that some students might be put off by the attitude of the current government towards international students and immigration. We want to step up our efforts on representing international students and so meeting international societies' members is a great way to begin this!

Focus Groups! ...are continuing - collecting data for the Postgraduate Taught Teaching Review from OUSU as part of the University's Review of Teaching. We've spoken to archaeologists and statisticians, classicists and pharmacologists... next up, International Relations!

Casework – many and various.

NUS LGBT Conference, Sheffield – I'm a committee member of the NUS LGBT Campaign. We held our annual conference in Sheffield this year, our biggest ever with around 400 delegates. OUSU sent a delegation headed up by our fab LGBTQ Officer – thanks, Katie C. Hectic but wonderful.

Interviewed for French TV channel TV3 on the changes to Higher Education funding in the UK, fee rises and bursaries.

Tom Perry Opportunities)	VP	(Welfare	&	Equal
-------------------------------------	-----------	-----------------	--------------	--------------

Hello Council!

I apologise for the rather sparse report this time around; I've been pretty solid with casework the past couple of weeks. Several big cases were coming to an end, and we've had an increase in students since terms started. If anyone in your common room would like some information or advice, about anything, please get in touch!

Since last council:

- Katharine and I hosted the second harassment workshop. I hope those that came found it useful. We've taken all the feedback on board and are ready to pass it on to next year's team
- As a team we've started planning the handover period
- I attended the Race Equality Steering Group, where we discussed the preliminary findings of the religion survey and the Race Equality report for the year
- We had our open house on Friday of 1st week; I hope those of you that came liked our new building!
- All last week was Well-Being Week; I hope you enjoyed the events. I spent some of last week helping out, although I'd like to thank everyone that took part as it pretty much ran itself! In particular I'd like to thank Laura Hancox who took the lead with a lot of it and got it off the ground!
- We've started work on hiring the second student advisor. We hope that they will be in post by September, ready for the new academic year.
- I met the new Welfare officers at Jesus MCR. If any of your Welfare or Equal Opportunities officers have just started this term get them to email me! Meeting new and enthusiastic student officers is one of the best parts of my job!
- Attended the Disability Equality Scheme Steering Group, though there wasn't much on the agenda!
- Started work on the AS buddy scheme ready for next term.
- Drafted the Student Advice Service report ready for the Joint Sub-Committee with Student Members and Sub-Committee of Student Health and Welfare. I'll be pulling out the more interesting parts for a report in a later Council.

Alex Bulfin

VP (Access & Academic Affairs)

Hi Council. Starting to feel the pressure of only 6 weeks left in the job and so much still to do. Here's a sample of what I'm trying to get through at the moment!

Access

- Target Schools Review: I'm still putting the finishing touches to my review of OUSU's access campaign, Target Schools, and will be spending the rest of this term working with the committee to talk about potential changes and how to go about implementing them.
- Shadowing Scheme 2012: We're preparing to start work on next year's Shadowing Scheme (already!) and have appointed next year's shadowing committee, headed up by Sophie Flynn (Hertford).
- Alternative Prospectus: Work is also beginning early on the biennial Alternative Prospectus. Since the last meeting of Council we have been shortlisting and interviewing candidates for a Design Editor/Project Manager and have received several great applications.
- University Groups: I have attended meetings of University working groups exploring bridging courses and possible areas for improvement in University access.
- Russell Group: I attended a meeting of the Russell Group widening participation officers in Sheffield to talk about engaging student unions in access work, alongside my counterpart from Cambridge.

Academic Affairs

- Committees: I have attended the usual run of Education Committee, Planning and Resource Allocation Committees and a whole host of sub-committees in the past two weeks. We also successfully requested representation at the University's Exams Panel and I attended the first meeting this week. I have also been involved in further work on the first public examination.
- Exam Guidance: I drafted and circulated pre-exam guidance to the University and have also redrafted the post-exam advice ready to be sent out in July.

Student Advice Service

We've had lots of students coming to the advice service lately for advice and information. I have represented students in disciplinary hearings and have advised a number of students on issues surrounding examinations.

So the next two weeks are going to be hectic thanks to my eyes-bigger-than-stomach attitude to running events. Here's the spark notes version

RAG

Last week: casino at Hilda's and Peter's balls, collected £500 for Kids in our first raid and sold ice cream at Wadstock

Saturday: MacMillan back to school sports day, Christchurch College School sports ground. Egg and Spoon race your way to victory

Sunday: Dodgeball Tournament teams of 6-10 players, 3pm East Oxford Community Centre. Email rag@ousu.org to enter

The Following Sunday: Firewalk, Hogacre common (old Corpus sports ground). Get sponsored to walk over burning coals (no serious injuries reported with our company!)

Environment and Ethics

Last week: Series Event: Incinerators – a burning issue

Thursday: Talk and dinner with Srinivas Krishnaswamy, environmental economist

Sunday: Campaigners Connected – throwing a dinner and mixer for all the E&E campaigners in the county

--

Then non-event based work: I'm finishing off my reps' handbooks for E&E, attended three NAGs and agreed to create a moving out pack for students leaving their houses over the summer, as large amounts of rubbish upset our neighbours. I was on the board to appoint our new freelancer to design the next alternative prospectus and had my last ever Sustainability Steering Group (sniff). We approved a new (120 page) strategy for waste management and another for sustainable buildings. The campaign for an externally accredited environmental management system was better received this time, but was shelved again (only one and a half years I've been working on that now...). Oh yeah, and I attended JCR prescom

As I write this I'm 3 and a half hours away from my last ever safety bus shift. This makes me cry very much on the inside **HOWEVER**, much like my 'last ever karaoke' night at brookes three weeks ago, up in headington they appear to have a different meaning of 'last ever' (karaoke has continued the past fortnight). SO I managed to wangle a deal whereby the Safety Bus will do a trial run next Wednesday to see if we Oxford students can work up enough of a demand to keep it worth running. The thing is 21st may is officially the last day it should run as Brookes are done then. So people, you know what to do: call 0771 44 5050 and get that ride home!

bisous

PART TIME OFFICERS

Harriet Green

Access & Admissions Officer

- Access Forum with the Union
Apologies – I'm sure this will be coming up in several reports! However, I would like to take this opportunity in my window of space to encourage, nay urge, everyone to come along. Thursday of 4th, and OUSU and the Union will be coming together to talk about Access, collaboration, and to hear your views. Please encourage others to come along, too – I think we could all learn and get a lot out of this event.
- The Oxford University Access Fair
Following discussions with the University, which have been really helpful in helping us make this happen, it's exciting that we're going to be able to keep a hold on a lot of the work, responsibility and credit for the Access Fair. If anyone wants to get involved, please let me know. It's also important that we tell the student body about the fair as quickly as possible. The more people involved, the bigger it'll be as an event, and also as a catalyst. The University is keen to hand over much of the publicity we thought they might do towards the event. This means we need to pool resources and ideas. I'm really excited about getting people on board, and making connections and contacting people over the summer. Again, ideas, particularly for publicity/potential contacts, please do let me know.
- OMMP
From last time: Oxford My Generation Mentoring Programme is a really exciting initiative. It sees the coming together of a prolific and successful charity and Oxford students, directly benefitting the West London students they work with. Assigning an Oxford student mentor to every child involved, the programme is designed to further relations between Oxford and school students, and to raise aspiration. Having been involved in the recent visit, I'd urge common rooms to encourage their members to get involved with this. It's quickly becoming one of the largest mentoring projects in the university. OMMP is always looking for people to help it grow. With a visit last Saturday, and, I'm told, more booked in, it really is a great way to get involved quickly and effectively.
- E-mentoring
The person to contact is Emma Bausch in Widening Participation if you're interested in hearing more/starting a scheme in college.
Catz and New College have been liaising on a joint mentoring programme to serve the shared regionalised area of Northern Ireland. Once it's taken off, this initiative will prove a great model for other colleges wanting to use e-mentoring. Please do let me know if you'd like to have a chat about this.
- FWP
The Fred Walker Prize essay competition has been, to date, a great success. With a winner in the bag, a visit to Canon Slade School will take place in June, allowing us to meet and interact with all the students involved. There will be chats with tutors, talks on admissions, and workshops. I hope FWP will be as sustainable as it should be, and will run again next year, hopefully attracting even more involvement.
- South Africa Scholarship
Over the vac I was working on setting up a scholarship programme for South African Students from disadvantaged backgrounds. I'll update everyone when everything's a bit more solid, but I hope this will be a great opportunity for us to talk about what kind of scholarship programmes we should be looking to procure, and how we can engage individuals and groups interested in being part of a programme.
- Working with common room officers
Last term we had two really interesting talks delivered to college access officers. This term, I'm hoping to chat to and help out where needs be more officers who may feel like they've missed the boat on things, or are having difficulty getting things off the ground. I'm trying to compile a list of colleges and how they're getting on. Please do let me know if you'd like any help or advice, or let you officer know that I'll be available, particularly this term, to assist them wherever they need.

- Access and Advertising
Quad Ad Agency (an adjunct of Oxford Advertising Society) and OUSU will hopefully be teaming up this Michaelmas to bring local school children into advertising workshops lead by the student-run Quad. This is a fantastic Outreach opportunity, but it also means that the individuals involved will get an insight into a particular career, as well as student life.

Jacob Diggle
Officer

Clubs & Societies Support

This has been a very busy two weeks - so busy that I only have time for a very short report.

Have sent out official invites for upcoming Clubs Council to all clubs and Society Presidents. There are still a few places available: email societies@OUSU.org if you're interested.

Spoke at Asia-Pacific Society event about OUSU as part of ongoing project to increase societal cooperation with OUSU. Lots of interesting questions about running for part-time exec, dealing with the Proctors and society finance matters.

Had regular meetings with David Barclay about my role and the planning for Clubs Council and how University figures can help with current projects.

Liasing with Sports federation about how sports clubs can help with access activities.

Continuing to help with the setting up of a Visiting Students Society and how this can help OUSU set up mini 're-freshest fairs' to expose new visiting students in Hilary and Trinity to what's on offer in Oxford and the services that OUSU can provide in particular.

Helped with the setting up of two very different societies: paediatrics and poledancing!

Preparing for upcoming University Clubs Committee and helping clubs submit funding applications.

Sitting on OUSU Appointmets Committee to find a new editor for the 2012-14 Alternative Prospectus.

As ever, any comments, questions or concerns - please don't hesitate to ht in touch at societies@OUSU.org

Chris O'Connor
Officer

Common Room Support

Council,

Hope you are all well and are enjoying the (occasional) Trinity sunshine!

I've had a busy start to term, and there is plenty more to come, here is a quick round-up:

- Rent Breakfasts: Together with David and Eleanor, I've helped host 'rent breakfasts' for JCR and MCR Presidents. We had the opportunity to discuss negotiating strategies and share our experience in previous years.
- OUSU RepCom: despite a late change of date, we have held our first meeting at LMH; thanks to those who could make it and for Colin for hosting. Our next meeting is in 4th week, at St Hilda's, hosted by Ugo. It would be great to see as many reps there as possible.
- Sky Briefing Note: I have produced an explanation of the current situation with the Sky Campaign, with data on college payments and some suggested strategies for lowering costs. It has been sent to JCR Presidents, if anyone else would like it please get in touch.
- Access Forum at the Union: Myself, Simran and Harriet have been working with the Union to co-host an Access Forum and 'Presidents' President's Drinks'. There will be a discussion before the 4th week debate and drinks after the debate. More details will follow, it will be great to see you there!

As always, please drop me an email if you have any issues and would like to meet up to discuss how I can help you out - commonrooms@ousu.org

Cheers,

Chris
Common Room Support Officer

Sarah Santhosham	Community Outreach & Charities Officer
-------------------------	---

Hi Council,

The last couple of weeks have been a busy blur of activities and meetings. Here's a summary of what I've been up to:

Community Organising Workshops – the first one went really well. Thanks to everyone who came and thanks especially to Tom Chigbo and Jim O'Connell for running the session. The next workshop is going to be on 'Power' – how to make your organisation more Powerful and how to build relationships with Power. It's going to be on Wednesday of 4th week at 5.30pm in the Rainolds Room, Corpus Christi College. Hope to see you there!

Living Wage – The campaign is building up to a community action in 6th week. To this end I've been organising this by having group meeting to plan this as well as many one-to-one meetings with interested people in the community and proper community organisers to make this successful. We're also working on our first round of accreditations and more Freedom of Information requests. I've been in contact with Oxfam HQ in Oxford about their LW plans and with some common rooms individually to talk about strategies for their colleges. Please direct any LW related queries to livingwage@ousu.org

RAG – Planning for 'Choose a Challenge', a quasi-fair for exciting and exhilarating fund raising adventures, is coming along nicely.

As ever if you have any questions or want to get involved with anything I've mentioned feel free to get in touch with me at communityandcharity@ousu.org

Sarah

Jonny Medland	Grad Academic Affairs Officer
----------------------	--------------------------------------

Virtually everything I've been doing on Exec since 1st week is to do with the Graduate Teaching Review. I'm afraid I have to send apologies again since I'm going to be running a focus group for History students at 5pm so will be late. What I've done since we last met is:

* Run focus groups in Classics, English, Law & Finance, Global Governance & Diplomacy, Biology, Archaeology and Linacre. Thanks to Beth Evans & Simran Dhaliwal who ran them in Refugee & Migration Studies and Psychological Research when I was in London for the day. Groups in Politics and Law were organised but abandoned owing to poor attendance. Such is life. By the end of week 3 ones in Pharmacology, Statistics, International Relations, Experimental Psychology, Neuroscience, History, for MBA students, Women's Studies, Theology, Modern Languages and Comparative Social Policy should also have run as well as one at St. Antony's College. Everything will be written up by the end of week 4 and will be circulated for week 5 Council.

* All of these focus groups wouldn't be possible without the time being given up by student reps in individual subjects. Beth and I have contacted literally every student departmental rep in a department with Taught Masters programs that we can get details for. Where we're not running a focus group it's either because they don't think Masters students would come (understandable...we all have exams this term) or because they simply won't respond to my emails.

* Other stuff includes going to Exec in 2nd week, a dinner about improving graduate fundraising with the University Development Office on Tuesday of 3rd week and (as a Trustee and Divisional Board rep) going to

Social Sciences Divisional Board and a briefing for one of our external Trustees about OUSU's governance structure to make sure that he can do the bulk of the work around drafting Bye-Laws for the Student Union. This will be a huge improvement on the ad hoc situation that's existed ever since OUSU came into existence where people like me did this to varying degrees of competence.

As I say, apologies that I can't be there today. Hopefully I'll be there by the end of Council. If you've got any questions I'm on gradacaff@ousu.org

David Bowe

Grad Welfare Officer

Apologies for my absence today.

This term I am looking forward to working with the rest of the graduate exec members on issues of graduate funding and fees and co-ordinating with graduate common room welfare reps to support them in their activities wherever I can.

Dai
(gradwelfare@ousu.org)

Laura Hancox

Health & Welfare Officer

Hi everyone,

Well-Being week (2nd week) was a great success this year! We ran around 20 events, each with good attendance.

I think it helped get knowledge of OUSU and its work out to more people within the uni too, which is great.

Thanks to all those who helped out with the organisation and to those who came along.

Information about further health and welfare projects for this term will be published in my next report.

Laura xxx

**Colin Jackson
Officer**

International Students

This term I have made a conscious effort to focus on fostering ties between OUSU and Oxford's East Asian community. The executive members of Chinese and Asian societies I have met with have all expressed interest in OUSU - they see it is a resource their club's members know little about but would like to be more involved with. I think this is a great opportunity to foster involvement from a group of students that tends not to be involved with OUSU, and also to increase student involvement more generally. To this end I co-hosted an International Students' dinner with the Asia-Pacific Society this past Thursday (12/05), where David, Beth Evans, Jacob Diggle and I each briefly spoke about what OUSU is working towards for the betterment of international students' experiences, how we can help and how to get involved. The event was well-attended and well-received, and we found out about many issues international students are facing that we otherwise would not have heard. I am currently in the process of scheduling another meeting with an East Asian club sometime in fourth week.

My current focus for helping to implement the suggestions I've gotten from international students is in working towards improving the storage situation for those of us who cannot drive our belongings back home. At the time of writing I am waiting for a response from the Chair of the Domestic Bursars to a request for information on precisely which colleges do and do not provide vacation storage for international students. Once I have that, I will collect some more information on the situations in individual colleges from JCRs' international students officers before collating my findings into a report and presenting it to the university's Office for International Strategy. The sooner I can get input from JCRs on the state of their international vacation storage

reports to 3rd week council trinity term 2011

the better though, so feel free to pre-empt my emailing you or your international students officers directly by sending me a short description detailing things like location, ease of access, adequacy of the size and such if your college does provide it, or simply saying so if your college does not, at the email address below.

As always, if you or anyone in your JCR has any questions or issues concerning the international students' experience at Oxford, please do not hesitate to email me at international@ousu.org.

Kate Colliver

LGBTQ Officer

Hi guys! It's been a busy couple of weeks. I attended the NUS LGBT Campaign Conference over the weekend of 6-8th May. This included

- participating in workshops on feminism and networking
- attending caucuses bi students, women and queer students, in which issues specific to those minority groups were under discussion
- attending motion debates, in which new NUS LGBTQ Campaign policy is formed. New policy includes (but is by no means limited to)
- support for campaigns against the stigma of LGBT and mental health
- support for trans healthcare in the face of cuts
- challenging racial and religious phobias, and promoting positive role models of Muslim LGBT people
- opposing this government's austerity agenda and raising awareness of the disproportionate effects it is having on the LGBT community
- supporting academic, academic-related and professional support staff in fighting for their jobs
- supporting the 'National Youth Chances Project' which is one of the biggest studies into the needs of LGBT youth.
- supporting LGBT monitoring in higher education and further education institutions in order to aid assessments of the adequacy of resources directed towards LGBT students.

Last week saw the launch of the 'Agender Agenda' campaign in Oxford, which seeks to make the university a more trans-friendly environment. This will include putting motions to common rooms to adopt gender-neutral language, trying to stop gender policing of sub fusc and demanding that any future building works include at least one gender neutral toilet.

We've also started planning an 'It Gets Better' project. This campaign was started off in America following a spate of LGBTQ teen suicides at the start of the year. The aim is to spread a message of hope and support for those who are facing difficulties because of their sexuality or gender identity. We want to show that Oxford is a welcoming community which helps you grow and flourish as an individual, by telling our stories and looking to the future. To get involved, come along to meetings at OUSU every Thursday 5pm.

Nicola Sugden

Women's Campaign Officer

In the last week, womcam has reached out to students by holding joint events with the Orchid Society and Daughters of Eve to discuss Female Genital Mutilation (thanks to Tania, the graduate women's officer) and the Howard League Student Society for Penal Reform to discuss the plight of women in prison -both events threw light on underrepresented issues and were informative and really interesting. In the coming weeks, our main priority is making sure that OUSU policies which benefit women are not left to lapse, but our meetings will continue to be discussions of topical issues as well. Hopefully by the time you read this, we will have policy on the recent phenomenon of Slutwalks.