

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Trinity 2014

Tom Rutland

President

Hi Council,

It's been a busy couple of weeks since I last reported to you.

NUS LGBT Conference 2014

I spent the end of last week and the weekend at NUS LGBT Conference 2014, along with Dan Templeton (OUSU's LGBTQ Officer) and Crash Wigley (OUSU's LGBTQ Campaign Chair). We met with many other LGBT students from across the country, and voted in elections and policy decisions. We were also able to see a preview of the new report NUS LGBT have produced on the negative experiences of LGBT students in higher education, and will be looking at the recommendations from the report to see what can be implemented in Oxford.

NUS Referendum

Much of my time since the last Council has been spent running the YES2NUS campaign, as well as attending a couple of hustis in common rooms. For more information on the referendum, including statements from both sides, please check the OUSU website: <http://ousu.org/representing-you/elections/>

Miscellaneous

I have also received a letter from the Chair of Council as a result of last week's motion regarding the relationship between the Trustee Board and Council. I have responded, and we are arranging to meet in 5th Week to discuss ways that Council and the Board can communicate better with each other.

I have continued to help several common rooms with their rent negotiations, and Charlotte and I met with Nightline to discuss how OUSU and Nightline could work together to make sure students in Oxford are properly supported.

I hope you will stay and participate in the NUS Referendum hustings immediately after Council, as it will be helpful for you to be able to report back to your common room on what has been said. Please encourage your members to vote in the referendum!

All the best
Tom

Garlen Lo

VP (Graduates)

Grad funding

- Developed plans for grad funding awareness promotion.

- Met with the University's new Graduate Access Manager and discussed cultural and financial difficulties faced by students from low socioeconomic backgrounds and the importance of graduate funding more generally.

International students

- Attended international student summit at Warwick University where Exeter College students Challenger and Esther came in second place in NUS's International Student of the Year.

- Supported OUSU's International Student Officer in her proposal for International Student Reps in common rooms.

- Suggested International Students' Campaign prepare their elections and instructed that OUSU's International Student Officer, Yajing, and OUSU's Graduate International Student Officer, Aparna, to support them.

Masters Survey

Begun discussions about OUSU's second year of conducting a Masters survey.

MCR President's Guide to OUSU

Begun writing document, which aims to engage graduates.

Committees

- Advocated for opening hours in the Weston Library
- Advocated for the enlargement of the Careers Service Internship Programme

Division Reps

Encouraged reps to get emails and photos of reps on department websites and asked for progress reports. Also instructed them to begin writing their handover documents.

MCR Prescom

Discussed the streamlining of MCR newsletters and am chasing up GTC President to explore an effective GTC model.

Department Reviews

Preparation for Review of the School of Archaeology.

Charlotte Hendy	VP (Welfare and Equal Opportunities)
------------------------	---

Suspended Status Students

Rachel and I have run several negotiation skills training sessions for students who wish to begin conversations around this topic with their college. We've also been providing lots of advice and support on how to approach and respond to college. We'd love to hear how your conversations are going- please let us know, and get in touch if you need any support! 😊

Alcohol Awareness Training

Myself, OUSU's Student Advice Service, and the Lifeline Project partnered up to run an alcohol awareness session in 2nd week in which participants got to experience a group session, hear from someone who is in recovery, and take away lots of DrinkAware freebies! We are hoping to run similar sessions in the future, so if you or your college are interested, let me know!

Wellbeing Week

Lots of work has been put into OUSU's Wellbeing Week which I have organized along with Mind Your Head. If you haven't been to any events yet, make sure you come along to one- it's running all through this week. Take a look at www.ousu.org/ents/event/108/ for more information.

Reclaim Our Bodies

A new student campaign focusing on body image held their first meeting last week, and Sarah and I helped facilitate this. If you want to hear more, email sumil.thakrar@balliol.ox.ac.uk

Lots of meeting!!

I've also met with several of my part-time exec, and the Nightline Coordinators, to look at how we can work together in the future.

What do you want me to do next? Email welfare@ousu.org or tweet @OUSU_WEO!

Rachel Pickering	VP (Access & Academic Affairs)
------------------	--------------------------------

Hello Council ☺

I hope you're all enjoying this lovely Trinity term weather... Here's the main things I've been working on over the past two weeks.

OUSU and The Hub Education Conference

Happened on Saturday! I can't say much now (as I'm writing this the day before it happens) but can fill you all in tonight!

Student Led Teaching Awards (SLTA)

Nominations closed on Wednesday of 1st - we received nearly 400 nominations (over 70 more than last year) so I'm really happy about that. On Thursday we held the student review panel to decide on those shortlisted for each award and I'm hoping to have these announced soon. Thanks again to Will (St Anne's), Xani (Exeter) and Emma (Keble) who made up the student review panel alongside myself.

What's amazing, is the enthusiasm received for the award introduced this year for 'Best Support Staff'. And I'm hoping next year we expand our awards even more and am looking to create an award specifically for graduate supervisors - any more ideas do get in touch!

Suspended Status and Access to Facilities

Charlotte and I have run four negotiation training workshops over the last couple of weeks which have been a great success - lots of fun and over 30 students came in total.

Not much more from me I'm afraid as my big focus over the start of term has been the Education Conference. Next Council I am sure there will be lots more to update you on!

If you have any questions for me about this report or anything else, you're always welcome to get in touch with me at access@ousu.org. Also you can add me on twitter (@OUSU_AcAff) and I'll make sure to keep tweeting about access and academic affairs issues and events and that you might be interested in :D.

Rachel

Dan Tomlinson	VP (Charities & Community)
---------------	----------------------------

Hello, we've hit double figures with the number of OUSU Council's this term so I thought I'd mention 10 things I've been working on since we last met (still contained under the usual headings).

Community

I've started work on figuring out what to do now that OUSU Council has decided to cancel the Safety Bus. I've been in touch with the City Council and they've given some advice on how taxis in Oxford work, and hopefully by the end of this week I'll have met with someone from Royal Cars, one of Oxford's largest taxi companies, to see what we can do.

OUSU and the University Security Services have commissioned a student consultancy group to do some initial work in preparation for the new 'student safety plan' and it has been agreed with the University that once the plan is in draft from we will bring it to Council!

I've met with both teams of community wardens and they are now planning to put on some form of community initiative in each area this term to reach out to long-term residents.

I visited the Oxford Food Bank to find out more about what they do to inform a campaign that I'm working on with the Proctors to reduce food waste at trashings.

Environment and Ethics (E&E)

OUSU got its NUS Green Impact Student Union certificate in the post last week. And we have now been officially accredited with a Silver Award.

I went on Oxide radio to chat about the divestment campaign - this was fun even though I faced some difficult questions from the interviewer.

I've offered my advice to the divestment campaign on how best to contact alumni, students and staff.

Raise and Give (RAG)

I've been working with the event leader of the Kilimanjaro climb happening in 11th week to make sure that the 27 climbers hit their fundraising targets; hopefully we will have £27,000 raised by May 18th!

I've also been working hard with the RAG Exec on sorting out our events for this term, I'm looking forward to our stall down on the river at Summer Eights ☺.

Living Wage

I've been looking into the people on the committees that are still to have their say on Living Wage accreditation, the first of these committees is coming up in 5th week and then another in 9th week, then another in the long vac. Slow and steady.

Sarah Pine	VP (Women)
-------------------	-------------------

Hello lovely council, these are some things that I have done:

Sexual violence training

This is training students on what sexual violence is, penetrator tactics, survivor responses (in both the long term and short term) and how to support peers through these experiences. This has come from Rape Crisis South London and is really valuable training. If you're interested in coming or advertising to your common rooms please do let me know!

Harassment policies

The university has confirmed a timeline for the edits to the harassment policy to include sexual violence. This is something I've been pushing for all year, so I'm really happy about this! Watch this space for more specific details.

Harassment advisors and welfare staff

For years, OUSU has been particularly concerned about the lack of training that harassment advisors and other welfare staff have about sexual harassment and abuse. (See the It Happens Here zine for some recent examples). I've been working with the Equality and Diversity Unit all year to develop this training (with my idol, Liz Jones, from Oxford City Council). Together WomCam and It Happens Here are

finding ways to push for college and department staff to get this training.

Consent stuff

I've trained some more facilitators, and have planned more so that people can run them in their freshers' weeks. Email me if you want to be trained!

May Day!

OUSU celebrated our 40th worth Itchy Feet - it was great! I was really happy to meet so many students there who hadn't engaged with OUSU before.

It happens here:

Abigail and I were interviewed by Buzzfeed to raise awareness of sexual violence. We were the MOST READ STORY ON BUZZFEED THAT DAY.

We've also been updating the blog, and publicising our campaign more.

Women's societies garden party

We've finished the planning and now will be publishing it. Please keep an eye out in mailing lists for it! Do come for women's empowerment, entertainment, tons of free stuff and a 1 in 70 chance of winning a Nexus 5! (Which is pretty good odds when you come to think about it.)

Additionally, I've met with students who want to make their women's officers more trans inclusive, and linked them up to trans students who can help on this issue. I was part of SoapBox city speaking about gender inequality at Oxford, supported students that want to remove references to sexual violence in their exam texts, have followed up on the possibility of the counselling service providing more specialist support for survivors of sexual violence and have been following up on how departments prepare/fail to prepare students for the dangers of sexual violence when sending them on fieldwork.

Sarah

PART TME OFFICERS

Sophie Terrett	Rent and Accommodation Officer
-----------------------	---------------------------------------

Hello, Council,

The Oxford Tenants' Union is continuing to flourish, with some exciting campaigns in the pipeline for this term. I've begun research on discounts for vacation storage, and I hope to meet with Charlotte soon to discuss the Living Out Guide.

Dan Templeton	LBGTQ Officer
----------------------	----------------------

I recently attended NUS LGBT Conference in Nottingham. I represented Oxford LGBTQ students by voting in elections to committee, voting on policy for the coming year and attending training and workshops. The Conference was a fantastic opportunity to meet the heads of other LGBTQ campaigns and to learn some new skills and ideas that I hope to bring to the OUSU LGBTQ Campaign. Myself and the chair of the campaign will be producing a report in the coming week regarding our conference experience.

In addition to this, I have been conducting research into LGBTQ provision in PPH's and I am looking into improving the experience of LGBTQ students in the PPH's. I have also continued working towards producing a handbook for newly elected reps and compiling a database of resources for reps. In addition to this, I have continued to oversee the Campaign's work on implementing the new university

policy for transitioning students and I have also started to look into the situation regarding changes to degree certificates etc. for those who transition after graduation.

Finally, I have gained access to the OUSU LGBTQ Campaign Facebook, which is now active along with the Twitter account!

Xavier Cohen

Environment and Ethics Officer

Most of my work is still orientated around organising the 'Fossil Free Future!' demonstration and rally on Saturday May 31st. More specifically, this has meant contacting and organising a meeting with as many college E&E reps as possible on Monday of 3rd week, and trying to make contact with groups like teaching trade unions who can offer support to the event, and potentially put us in contact with relevant bodies in schools so that as many local people know about the event as possible. Preliminary plans are also being made about a response to the university's Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee's recent statement about divestment. Unfortunately, due to two incidents of misfortune with room bookings, the first meeting for the new arms divestment campaign has had to be delayed until a later date.

Emily Silcock

Community Outreach and Charities Officer

Hi Council,

Thanks for voting for my motion at the last council! The On Your Doorstep Homeless Campaign has had a pretty good week. Our survey went out on Thursday of 1st and at the last count 1155 people have filled it out, which is just over 1 in 20 students in the university - it's given us a really good idea of what people's attitudes towards homelessness are and how much people know about it.

One more thing from me: if your college has a group doing any action at all on homelessness, then I'd really like to hear from you (homeless@ousu.org) - we're trying to get more of an idea of different student groups in Oxford so we can all support each other.

Eden Tanner

Grad Women's Officer

G'day Council!

On the 4th of May, I held the Student Parent Summit in the University Parks. I met some really great Student Parents and got to hear what OUSU can do for them. Seminal issues include the availability and cost of childcare, which an ongoing battle, and feel excluded from their common rooms, which is something OUSU can definitely work to rectify.

I also passed a motion through the St John's MCR to provide gender-neutral toilet facilities, and to have baby-changing facilities installed. I ran a Consent Workshop for a portion of the incoming committee, and am doing work with the MCR Welfare Officers on the College's harassment policy and instating a Zero Tolerance Policy into the MCR.

Planning of the Garden Party is going well - we have secured a venue and food, and are ironing out entertainment. Registration has opened and the event is being publicised.

Sarah Pine, Lucy Delaney, Anna Bradshaw and I had a meeting on the 8th of May to discuss progress on Compulsory Consent Workshops. We have calculated that 26 common rooms would need to pass the motions or have the workshops mandated by College, and are on target to reach that within my tenure.

I'm on holiday from the 13-27th of May, but I intend to speak at the Oxford Education Conference on the 10th, and continue to work remotely on the Couples and Family Accommodation Database, and organising a series of 'Ask A Grad' events in conjunction with Lucy and OxFEST to be held in Michaelmas.

James Elliot

Disabled Students Officer

Over the vac I have worked on producing a new website for the Disabled Students Campaign, with information about campaigns and resources for students with disabilities, as well as a system for students to register any problems at university where their disability has adversely affected them, to take into consideration in the Campaign. I have also been focusing on the cut to Disabled Students Allowance, working with students at Brookes and FE colleges.

In the next few weeks I aim to prepare a public rally over DSA cuts, attend the Building and Estates Subcommittee which we have won representation on, and continue our search for a permanent Chair for the Campaign.

Aparna Mummadi

Graduate International Students Officer

I was busy these last two weeks gathering the data of the contacts for the various societies international students are a part of in Oxford University. I am also chasing up the health leaflet I created during the Easter break. I hope that by sending copies of this leaflet to these clubs and societies I can promote the health in international students. I am also working out the feasibility of meeting with these clubs to give a short presentation on this topic.

Yajing Xu

International Students Officer

I've sent out an email to follow up on the letter I sent out towards the end of last term concerning international reps in common rooms. I have asked the common room presidents to inform me of the situation regarding international reps and other possible support international students receive in their common rooms (Thanks a lot for all the replies!) and am currently analysing the data of all the emails. The next steps I take will depend on these results.

Lucy Delaney

Women's Campaign Officer

WomCam has got off to a good start this term. In first week we held a college harassment policy workshop, which took students through the steps of approaching colleges and persuading them to review, and where appropriate, make changes to their harassment policy, with a view to creating a more unified and supportive process. This is something which WomCam will be working on throughout term. In week two, our Global Women's Working Group screened a film by Camfed, 'Where the Water Meets the Sky'. The rest of term is set to look promising, with a Transgender 101 talk planned and hopefully another huge feminist social (watch out for WomJam TAKE TWO). Aside from committee-based events, I am also working towards completing my manifesto pledge of establishing consent workshops in a third of common rooms by Michaelmas.