

Reports to Council

3rd Week Council Trinity 2015

Sabbatical Officers

Louis Trup – President

Yo. Things I've been doing these past few weeks are really boring. I apologise profusely to those of you who read these reports. To those of you who don't, I am not sorry.

- I have sorted the governance. It's all great now. The articles are well on their way to being sorted, the bye-laws have gone to the university, the changes in the regulations are ready to go, and life is good. (It's not completely done, but its pretty near.)
- Money. We made a budget. It's coming to this council. Ask me questions about it. We are going to give Mi-Voice to common rooms again. Rejoice.
- Rent negotiation breakfast – to give more specific advice to common rooms on rent negotiations, we ran a rent negotiation breakfast, which may or may not have been useful – I am writing this before it takes place.
- We have been considering how OUSU can better communicate following criticisms expressed at Oriol's referendum debate and in other places. We have discussed this with OUSU reps, the OUSU executive and others and will start implementing some changes soon.
- I am sorry I couldn't go to the Oriol disaffiliation debate, but I had to go to Nottingham for personal reasons at very short notice (the morning of). I took leave to do this – dw. Nottingham is a lovely place with very regular trams.
- With Anna, helping to sort out a return visit of Burmese students to Oxford. If you want to be involved, come find me or Anna après council.
- Impact report – finalised OUSU's annual impact report. It will be coming to council in 5th week hopefully.
- ICT steering committee was boring, IT committee had little to note in it, General purposes committee agreed to review the role of the assessor, and as usual, the committee for development and alumni relations spoke about raising money.
- Planning and discussions about the imminent decision the university has to take regarding fossil fuel divestment.

In the last set of council reports, Jack did a thing where he listed gifts. I also got a cool laser pen from the Grad Union of the National University of Singapore. It's awesome and you can see it if you come to visit me in the OUSU office. I got loads of freebies at NUS conference, I get tea and biscuits from the Uni on the regs, and we had scones at the OUSU rep meeting.

James Blythe – VP Access and Academic Affairs

Hi Council!

My two main focuses since 1st week have been:

- Target Schools - we've been working on sorting a constitution, a financial plan, a new evaluation of impact system, and improving our safeguarding procedures.
- Libraries – the student consultation on the possible consolidation of the Oriental Institute Library with the Sackler has occupied a lot of my time. I went with Jack to the open

meeting for students in Oriental Studies; I've visited both libraries, and am going to organise with Jack and OUSU staff a meeting for all relevant student reps next week. While this doesn't affect lots of students, for those it does affect the potential changes are very serious and I'm really pleased I can help them feel their voice is being heard in the discussion.

Other big things that have been going on:

- New Access Agreement – considerable discussions are still ongoing about the University's access agreement targets for 2015-2020, in committees and with OFFA, the Office for Fair Access (government regulator for access).
- General Election – unknown result at the time of writing, impact could be very considerable obviously!
- Teaching Awards – preparation is ongoing for the Teaching Awards on the 28th of May and I'm really excited. Thanks so much to the students who sat on the selection panels, and to Jack and Louis for chairing them.
- Higher Education Review – Jack & I have set ourselves the goal of having completed the 'progress since the last visit of the Quality Assurance Agency' section of the Student Written Submission (the student view that goes to the University's regulator ahead of their visit in Hilary 2016) before we leave, mainly so we can take advantage of Jack having been here when they came in 2008!
- Fees – I've been working with Jack on a proposal that the University won't approve any course increasing its fees without consulting students. This would greatly improve, in our view, the power of the student voice in departmental discussions on fees (other than the regulated Home/ EU undergraduate fee).
- Prelims feedback – now that the University has agreed to consult all colleges and departments on the issue, I've written our OUSU response which is on the Council agenda.

Committees: Joint Fees & Student Support Advisory Group; Education Committee; PPH Supervisory Committee; Joint Student Number Planning Committee; Moritz-Heyman Management Group; Exams Panel.

As always – a blow-by-blow commentary @ousu_acaff.

Anna Bradshaw – VP Women

Hi Council –

Lots of stuff is going on, see it all below. As always please do feel free to ask me any questions you have. You can also get in touch with me by emailing women@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

xAnna

Sexual Health & Sexual Violence

Free Periods (Pilot Scheme)

By the time of Council all of the orders should have been picked up ☺ In the end 28 common rooms ordered thousands of sanitary products through the scheme. I should be able to give an update on how many common rooms used the period match function, helping to provide sanitary products to homelessness services in Oxford, in person.

Supporting David's manifesto pledge and a motion that OUSU submitted to NUS Women's Conference

Consent Workshops

The evaluation is nearly there, just waiting to hear back from the big meeting I had with OSARCC (Oxford Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Centre) to go through all of the materials. Once this is completed I'll be able to start training facilitators for Freshers' Week 2016.

I'm also looking to refine the Disabled Consent Workshops we piloted last term, and am putting together a focus group to enable the pilot of a Kinky Consent Workshop before the end of this term, which should be really exciting.

I spent half a day with the Thames Valley Police, OSARCC and the Bucks Rape Crisis Centre on our joint work on sexual violence prevention through consent education in the Thames Valley. We are outlining the workshop at the moment, and it should start to reach Pupil Referral Units, colleges and schools for the start of next academic year.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will ... expand and develop the programme ... [and] introduce compulsory freshers' workshops in 1/3 colleges by the beginning for next year.'

Other Training

First Responder training continues, and I'm working with Rita to offer common rooms different ways that they can introduce a policy around their events that makes use of this training.

Related to manifesto pledges to do with 'actual first responders' and my focus on 'Sexual Health & Sexual Violence',

I've also had a really great meetings with the head of the Thames Valley Police Specially Trained Officers and with OSARCC towards hosting a Q&A event later in term that would give students the ability to talk directly to people who run lots of the services that are available to students who experience sexual violence.

Academic Attrition & Women in Leadership

On Friday of 1st me and Emma Alexander (Social Sciences Divisional Rep) ran a forum for academic reps, looking at the gender gap at finals. The forum included a presentation from Sara Smith, who works at the University Equality and Diversity Unit, and also one from me based on data collected in the Education Vision Survey.

I'm still working to sort all of the participants of the Women's Mentoring Scheme into families, as this is a more complicated task than I anticipated (this is what pilots are for!) – though hopefully this will be done by Council time. I will then be able to start sending out materials and training mentors.

I'm also getting ready to host the drinks event to mark the end of the Women's Leadership Development Programme. As part of the sponsorship deal negotiated, this has been expanded for the first time to be able to also invite women in leadership in Oxford more generally. It should be a great event that brings together lots of women leaders who wouldn't usually come into contact with each other.

I ran a Negotiation Training session, and, with Ruth, a public speaking training for women. The feedback was generally positive, and I think that we have the beginning of a really good training session.

Manifesto pledge: 'I will work closely with the Graduate Women's Officer to hold events that encourage undergraduate women to consider further study, including open nights in STEM departments, and Ask a Grad events in colleges.'

Manifesto pledge: 'I will make the continuation and expansion of OUSU's Women's Leadership Development Programme a priority. I want to enable facilitators to run parallel events in colleges and departments...'

Campaigns

WomCam

WomCam is holding elections on Friday of 2nd so by Council time we should have lots of lovely new faces on the committee, which is exciting. WomCam also teamed up with It Happens Here to host the app feedback session on Monday of 2nd.

It Happens Here

It Happens Here ran the first feedback session for the First Response App that the campaign is producing with Code4Rights. The feedback session was a little under-attended, but otherwise went really well, and we are ready to go into the next coding session with lots of useful thoughts. Me and some of the It Happens Here committee also met with OSARCC to develop the FAQ page of the app.

Women's Garden Party

We have booked the venue, confirmed catering, confirmed budgets, got more groups involved, and sorted publicity for this. Yay!

Events and Committees

- Gender Gap Forum with Academic Reps (1st May)

- WomCam & It Happens Here: App Feedback Session (4th May)
- Negotiation Training (4th May)
- Public Speaking Training (4th May)
- Joint PresCom (6th May)
- Panelist at Women at Wadham: Past, Present and Future (9th May)

Ruth Meredith – VP Charities and Community

Hi Council!

Since we've last spoken, I've been working on the following:

> E&E have been getting ready for University Council's decision on divestment on Monday of 4th week. I've been working with the Socially Responsible Investment Review Committee and with the campaign to ensure that we get the best outcome possible.

> I worked with Louis, Anna and Henna on an ill-fated campaign to nominate Grace Nichols for Professor of Poetry. After a massive push to get the nominee signatories we needed, Grace unfortunately had to withdraw.

> Worked with On Your Doorstep to write to bursars asking them to use Emmaus this term, and to keep pressure on the Council over their Public Spaces Protection Orders.

> Working with RAG on emergency Nepal fundraising, launching LOST next term, and supporting the exec team in renegotiating with two of our major event providers. The Ball planning is underway, and we've so far confirmed the venue and theme!

> I will be running the referendum campaign to say YES to moving OUSU's elections to Hilary term. I believe that opening OUSU up to more students means that we need to have more capacity in Michaelmas to run projects and events, and that our positions should be hustled for at the same time as most other clubs and socs committee positions.

> I interviewed a new intake of community wardens, who I'll be training this Friday. I've also been working with them on providing a flyer for students on how to move out without disturbing their community, and getting their deposit back.

Jack Matthews – VP Graduates

Hello Council,

Here's what I have been working on in the past few weeks:

Student Barometer

Following my analysis of the datasets, I have now prepared Common Room and Course specific personalised reports on the data for Student Representatives. These reports are ready

for Postgraduate Taught Data, and following representations from the Vice President Access and Academic Affairs on how Undergraduates are important too, I have also processed and produced reports for the Undergraduate data. Postgraduate Research reports should be ready by the end of 3rd Week. I hope these will be useful in supporting Common Room and Course Rep campaigns.

Libraries

I continue to work with the Vice President Access and Academic Affairs on the matter of Libraries. We have met with a number of students from across the Humanities to discuss issues surrounding the future of the Sakler Library, and have also visited a number of the Humanities Libraries to see the issues first hand.

Common Room Support

I continue to offer personalised support to a number of Common Rooms on issues that may arise. At the most recent Joint-Presidents Committee Meeting I presented on the issue of 'Common Rooms and the Law' and will be making a guide for Common Room Presidents on this topic.

Committee Work and Meetings Attended

MPLS Divisional Board
Education Committee
Property Management Sub-Committee
Research Committee
Graduate Panel
Joint meeting of JCR and MCR Presidents' Committees
Joint Fees and Student Support Advisory Group
St. Catherine's College JCR
Co-ordinating International Activities Group

Other Projects

I also continue to work on the following projects;
Student Consultation Benchmark; Response to Government Consultation on Postgraduate Study Support; International Students Festival; OUSU Complaints Procedures Working Group; Work to build new Graduate Accommodation; Graduate Access; Suspended Students Status; University Policy on Student Representation; University Policy on Setting Fees; OUSU Articles.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me,
With all good wishes,
Jack J. Matthews

Chris Pike – VP Welfare and Equal Opportunities

Hi Council,

Here are some of the things I've been up to this fortnight!

Accessibility: I have been working on a full 'Accessible Venues' paper to inform OUSU's event organisation in the future (in particular for Council). I've also created an anonymous

accessibility request form, due to launch soon, so that individuals can submit accessibility requirements to attend Council. Hopefully this platform can be used in future for all OUSU events.

Alcohol awareness: I have been working with Rita, Graduate Welfare Officer, and Turning Point, Oxfordshire's drug and alcohol support service, to launch a consultation into problems related to alcohol which welfare reps and social secs come into contact. This will inform a training session on alcohol awareness.

Action for Trans* Health: I have begun work with the newly invigorated (thanks to our fantastic LGBTQ Officer Jenny) LGBTQ Campaign on a club night celebrating all things queer, especially the relaunch of the Campaign. This will be used to raise money for Action for Trans* Health. Watch this space!

OSDC: I am setting up a new autism working group within OSDC to fight for autistic liberation. I also ran the OSDC's elections for delegate and observer to the NUS Disabled Students Conference.

CRAE: I have been working with CRAE on the launch of their 100 Voices report, an exciting piece of work which will be being released for public viewing soon.

Welfare reps: I held a welfare reps training which was well attended and successful, equipping welfare reps with the skills to make positive changes in their colleges. I have also organised WelfCom, a chance for welfare reps to come together and share plans as well as network.

Mental health info packs: I have been working with David, Health and Welfare Officer, on mental health info packs providing information on mental health (with the aim of combatting some of the myths on the issue) as well as information on how to get support in a way to suit you.

I've also been drafting constitutions for all of the campaigns in my remit, I've been interviewed for BBC Radio Oxford on the Mental Health Charter work, and I've lost two pub quizzes.

In solidarity,

Chris xx

Part-Time Executive Officers

Minerva Lim – International Students’ Officer

Hi Council, over the past two weeks I've been busy trying to organise the International Students' Festival with the help of the International Students' Campaign and our VP (Graduates), Jack. The event is tentatively set for Saturday of 7th Week at Bonn Square (opposite Westgate Shopping Centre), so mark the date in your calendars! I've also been busy campaigning on a number of issues that affect international students, such as the additional visa regulations and legislative checks introduced by the UKBA and the University. Finally, I'm looking to organise a meeting for all representatives for International Students in Week 3 to further discuss how we can better support the people we represent.

Lindsay Lee – Disabled Students’ Officer

Hello council! Along with the Oxford Students’ Disability Community (OSDC) (formerly known as OUSU the Disabled Students Campaign), I’ve started working with Anwen Jones, the director of the Disability Advisory Service, about the long-term project they are undertaking called the “Common Framework.” This is going to be a document that clearly maps out all the support available to disabled students and how to access it. It’s a project in its infancy, but it’s going to be immensely helpful once it is finished. If you have any suggestions for things that should be included in the Framework, please email me! disability@ousu.ox.ac.uk

OSDC and I also are planning a campaign to lobby local businesses to make their establishments more accessible. More on this forthcoming.

Also, thank you for giving us £800 to host a disability and sexuality day-long workshop for staff and students! If you have any comments or questions or suggestions for that, please let me know!

Jenny Walker – LGBTQ Officer

This week we had a really fantastic first Trinity meeting of the LGBTQ Campaign. We elected a full committee, including working group leaders and Henrx Holmes as Chair. We have a lot planned for this term, including a fundraiser for Action for Trans Health and an introductory session to the Campaign open to everybody. I’m also bringing a motion to Council proposing a Graduate LGBTQ Officer position be created. I’ve been talking to trans students about the possibility of introducing a Trans Officer as well. Oh, and my rainbow, trans, and bunting flags finally arrived!

Rita Nissim – Graduate Welfare Officer

Hi OUSU Council!

It's been a fairly busy couple of weeks with term starting. What has taken most of my time is thinking of what works/doesn't work re **First Responders Policy**. I've been in touch with a few welfare officers as well which has been really productive. Chris (Pike) and I also met with a representative from Turning Point and are now putting together a preliminary structure for Alcohol **Awareness Training** as well as questions for a consultation with Welfare Officers. At my meeting with the MPLS students who are interested in setting up an **LGBTQ+ Science Society**, we finalised details such as committee structure. They are currently thinking of a name, after which point we'll start thinking of a constitution etc. The above, along with the start of term, meant that I took a step back from the **Welfare Survey Report & Leaflet** but I'll get back to it.

Lastly, the **HIV & Chlamydia testing** at St. John's last week went really well and, like last time, I don't have much to report on some things that are currently shaping up but I will be able to do so soon 😊

As always, don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions/issues! Email me at gradwelfare@ousu.ox.ac.uk!

Rita

Nikhil Venkatesh – Black and Minority Ethnic Students Officer

Since last council I have met with the Director of Undergraduate Admissions, and with the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Diversity, to argue for a fairer admissions process - currently BME candidates are significantly less likely to be offered a place at Oxford and we need to understand why and to address it. I have also chaired a CRAE (Campaign for Racial and Awareness Equality) meeting which elected Annie Teriba as our delegate to the NUS Black Students' conference later this term. CRAE's work towards a more diverse curriculum is gathering pace, and I am happy to report successes on two fronts: the university is trialling name-blind recruitment for non-academic staff, and is making bias training compulsory for interviewing tutors: these two measures should begin to address the unconscious discrimination in the election of staff and students at Oxford.

Will Brown – Clubs and Societies Officer

I've been advising a number of prospective societies, in relation to registration, funding, and details of Fresher's Fair.

With the list of registered societies now come through, I've started working to develop a system of categorisation for clubs and societies. This is with an aim to identify which clubs and societies could potentially have shared interests; which could work together or hold joint events.

This should also help with subsequent plans to encourage JCR's/MCR's to register their college clubs and societies, hopefully providing a more comprehensive and accessible network of clubs, societies, and contact details to draw from."

Julien Coyne – Academic Affairs Campaign Officer

After a bit of a slow start to term, OUSU-wise (there was lots of submitted coursework for me to finish at the start of Trinity), I met with Matt (the academic representation officer) on Monday to catch up on projects I'd been missing. So over the course of the rest of the term, I'll do my best to help out with... a) setup and organization for the OUSU Teaching Awards later this term, b) making the SharePoint site for sharing information amongst academic reps across the university better, c) writing the annual quality report (in preparation for the student written submission to the review of the university next year), d) being involved in a general discussion of how academic roles (like mine, the divisional reps, etc.) work at the moment.

And I'll still be on the lookout for someone keen to take over from me next year! If you have any interest (or know someone who might be), email me at academicaffairs@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

David Parton – Health and Welfare Officer

I have had a meeting with VP for Welfare and Equal Opportunities and the Grad Welfare Officer where we discussed our plans for the rest of term and our upcoming projects. My most pressing objective is completing the mental health awareness and service-signposting packs by 5th Week. In order to do this I had a productive meeting with the Student Advice Service and OUSU's Comms team, and I'm currently waiting for feedback from the SAS about the information I have collated before proceeding.

Marina Lambrakis – Graduate Academic Affairs Officer

Hi Council!

Not much to report from me this week, things are just ticking along. I attended PresCom and a couple of other committees last week, and I'm working on organising another Masters forum later this term, but it's been a busy start to the term, so I've been slower than expected getting things set up. As ever, you can get in touch at gradacaff@ousu.ox.ac.uk with any questions or ideas :)

Marina

Joe Reason – Common Room Support Officer

Hello Council,

Over the past two weeks I have attended Exeter JCR meeting - if you would like to have a part time executive member or a sabbatical officer come to your common room meeting then send me an email. I have, alongside Rita (Graduate Welfare Officer) and Louis (OUSU President)

taken part in the shortlisting of candidates for the Teaching Awards that are coming up in 5th Week of this term.

I have met on a one-to-one basis with OUSU Representatives and held the first OUSU Rep Committee of term in which the Chief Executive of OUSU, the Digital Communications Officer and President of OUSU themselves were in attendance. The next OUSU Rep Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday of 4th Week at 5:15pm so keep an eye on those emails.

I have also attended the Presidents Committee of both undergraduates and graduates and have met with the Vice President of Graduates prior to this to touch base and discuss any issues we had had over the vacation.

As always, any questions or to invite me or another OUSU officer to your common room meeting at commonrooms@ousu.ox.ac.uk.

3rd Week Love.

Danny Waldman – Rent and Accommodation Officer

Hello Council! I've met with the Oxford Tenants Union for a general meeting - there was lots of good discussion to try and focus the Union towards some key goals, and some useful assistance from accommodation action groups in London too. The Union has become "town"-driven in the drop-off after the students who set it up moved on, so I'll aim to try and bring more student interaction back. We're also having a Rent Negotiation Breakfast to support common room Presidents in their own battles to decrease battles. I'll also be sending round reminders for the College Accommodation Database, which sadly hasn't had the response I would've liked, but all in all things looking a bit busier this term for R&A which is good.

Henna Shah – Access and Admissions Officer

Hi Council

Unfortunately I've been a bit poorly over the past week, so haven't been able to make as much progress as I'd hoped. I do have some fun things to report though - the session I held at Catz with the help of Target Schools on Friday was really successful and is something I'm keen to roll out to more JCRs - it seemed having an informal Q&A about access and admissions in general was useful so if your JCR would like the same please let me know. Our meeting with Samina Khan about BME access was also really useful. ACS helped run a great shadowing day last term and it would be great to do more like it with members of other minority communities. If you are a BME officer/part of a relevant student society that would like to get involved do drop me a line.

Henna

Zuleyka Shahin – Graduate Women’s Officer

I gave a talk at the St John’s Women’s lunch which was a great success. I spoke on “Women in the Workplace and Self-care” to a room of about 20-30 women. It was a fantastic event, allowing me to connect with quite a few undergraduate and graduate women.

I am currently preparing to run a workshop as a part of the Women’s Garden Party. Still supporting graduate women and dealing with individual requests.

Worked on helping to draft motion for an LGBTQIA+ Graduate Officer.

Divisional Board Representatives

Hilary Chow – Social Sciences Graduate Rep

1. I have attended the Graduate Studies Committee.
2. I have sent out a consultation email on postgraduate teaching opportunities.
3. I’m on OUSU’s website on division representatives! Please vote in the election!
4. I have attended OUSU council.
5. I’m attending Manor Road Building Committee on 18 May to discuss the issues of the gendered unisex lavatories at the Social Sciences Library, and I have consulted more people in preparation.
6. I have attended OUSU’s negotiation training.
7. The divisional board will meet 8 May.

Julien Coyne – MPLS Undergraduate Rep

The beginning of this term has mostly been occupied with commitments in the physics department (I’m secretary of the physics joint consultative committee), handing over roles to the new chair and secretary of the JCC. This has been making me think about general organization, handover procedure, etc. for departmental JCC’s in general in MPLS. So as this term progresses I’m going to try to talk with reps from other departments about how and whether they think things could work better, and if there’s anything I (or the person in my role generally) could do to help them. This seems perennially important to me, and something that probably there should be ongoing discussion about, but it’s difficult to figure out how to implement good communication of this kind!

On a more divisional-admin side, I was unable to make the first meeting of this term of the working group for the future of the Radcliffe Science Library, but Marina (the graduate academic affairs officer) was able to go in my stead, so I will be chatting with her about that imminently.

Still looking for someone to do this job next year, too!